



2024 EMERGING ARTISTS

Friday, June 7, 2024 | noon

First United Methodist Church
407 N. Bridge Street

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685 – 1750)

**Qui sedes ad dextram Patris, from Mass in B minor,
BWV 232**

Sam Higgins, *countertenor*

Bobby Harris, *oboe*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

NINO ROTA (1911 – 1979)

Elegia

Bobby Harris, *oboe*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678 – 1741)

Vedrò con mio diletto, from Giustino

Sam Higgins, *countertenor*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

SPONSORS

Dodie Griffin

John Griffin
&
Lynn Knaupp

ANTONIO VIVALDI

Oboe Sonata in C minor

Allegro

Bobby Harris, *oboe*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872 – 1958)

Linden Lea

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913 – 1976)

The Salley Gardens

The Plough Boy

Sam Higgins, *countertenor*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

BENJAMIN GODARD (1849 – 1895)

Légende Pastorale, Op. 138

Bobby Harris, *oboe*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845 – 1924)

En sourdine

Mandoline

Sam Higgins, *countertenor*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

FRANCIS POULENC (1899 – 1963)

Oboe Sonata

Elégie : Paisiblement, sans presser

Scherzo : Très animé

Bobby Harris, *oboe*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685 – 1759)

La bocca vaga, from Alcina

Sam Higgins, *countertenor*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Gott ist unser Sonn' und Schild, from Gott, der Herr,

ist Sonn' und Schild, BWV 79

Sam Higgins, *countertenor*

Bobby Harris, *oboe*

Faith DeBow, *piano*

Texts and Translations

- Johann Sebastian Bach – Qui sedes ad dextram Patris ~ You who sit at the right hand of the Father

Qui sedes ad dextram Patris

Qui sedes ad dextram Patris, miserere
nobis

**You who sit at the right hand of
the Father**

You who sit at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us

– Antonio Vivaldi – Vedrò con mio diletto ~ I will see with joy

Vedrò con mio diletto

Vedrò con mio diletto

l'alma dell'alma mia

Il core del mio cor

pien di contento.

E se dal caro oggetto

lungi convien che sia

Sospirerò penando ogni momento...

I will see, to my delight

I will see, to my delight

The soul of my soul

The heart of my heart

Full of happiness.

And if from the one I love

I must be parted,

I will spend every moment

Sighing and suffering.

– Gabriel Fauré – En sourdine ~ Muted

En Sourdine

Calmes dans le demi-jour

Que les branches hautes font,

Pénétrons bien notre amour

De ce silence profond.

Mêlons nos âmes, nos cœurs

Et nos sens extasiés,

Parmi les vagues langueurs

Des pins et des arbousiers.

Ferme tes yeux à demi,

Croise tes bras sur ton sein,

Et de ton cœur endormi

Chasse à jamais tout dessein.

Muted

Calm in the twilight

Cast by loft boughs,

Let us steep our love

In this deep quiet.

Let us mingle our souls, our hearts

And our enraptured senses

With the hazy languor

Of arbutus and pine.

Half-close your eyes,

Fold your arms across your breast,

And from your heart now lulled to rest

Banish forever all intent.

Laissons-nous persuader
Au souffle berceur et doux
Qui vient, à tes pieds, rider
Les ondes des gazons roux.

Et quand, solennel, le soir
Des chênes noirs tombera
Voix de notre désespoir,
Le rossignol chantera.

Let us both succumb
To the gentle and lulling breeze
That comes to ruffle at your feet
The waves of russet grass.

And when, solemnly, evening Falls
from the black oaks,
That voice of our despair,
The nightingale shall sing.

Translation © Richard Stokes, from
A French Song Companion (Oxford,
2000)

– Gabriel Fauré – Mandoline ~ Mandolin

Mandoline

Les donneurs de sérénades
Et les belles écouteuses
Échangent des propos fades
Sous les ramures chanteuses.

C'est Tircis et c'est Aminte,
Et c'est l'éternel Clitandre,
Et c'est Damis qui pour mainte
Cruelle fait maint vers tendre.

Leurs courtes vestes de soie,
Leurs longues robes à queues,
Leur élégance, leur joie
Et leurs molles ombres bleues,

Mandolin

The gallant serenaders
And their fair listeners
Exchange sweet nothings
Beneath singing boughs.

Tirsis is there, Aminte is there,
And tedious Clitandre too,
And Damis who for many a cruel maid
Writes many a tender song.

Their short silken doublets,
Their long trailing gowns,
Their elegance, their joy,
And their soft blue shadows

Tourbillonnent dans l'extase
D'une lune rose et grise,
Et la mandoline jase
Parmi les frissons de brise.

Whirl madly in the rapture
Of a grey and roseate moon,
And the mandolin jangles on
In the shivering breeze.

Translation © Richard Stokes, from
A French Song Companion (Oxford,
2000)

– George Frideric Handel – La bocca vaga ~ The mouth is vague

La bocca vaga
La bocca vaga,
quell'occhio nero,
lo so, t'impiaga;
ma è fida ancora;
chi t'innamora
per te non è.

Va, che sei stolto;
cangia pensiero!
Piace quel volto,
ma datti pace,
non è per te.

The mouth is vague
The mouth is vague,
that black eye,
I know, it's a business;
but he is still trusting;
who falls in love with you
it's not for you.

Go, you are foolish;
change your mind!
Like that face,
but give peace,
it's not for you.

- Johann Sebastian Bach – Gott ist unsre Sonn und Schild ~ God is our sun and shield

Gott ist unsre Sonn und Schild
Gott ist unsre Sonn und Schild!
Darum rühmet dessen Güte
Unser dankbares Gemüte,
Die er für sein Häuflein hegt.
Denn er will uns ferner schützen,
Ob die Feinde Pfeile schnitzen
Und ein Lästerhund gleich billt.

God is our sun and shield
God is our sun and shield!
Therefore our grateful hearts
praise the kindness
with which he cares for his little
flock.
For he will protect us hereafter,
although our enemies sharpen their
arrows
and a vicious dog now barks.

About the Artists



BOBBY HARRIS,
OBOE

Originally from El Paso, Texas, **Bobby Harris** has spent time as principal oboist in the Lux Solaris Philharmonia, the Gilbert and Sullivan and opera company orchestra, and as a guest soloist with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and El Paso Winds. He has also performed with the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Bobby is now a freelance oboist based in San Marcos, Texas. In Central Texas he has appeared as a soloist with choirs in the area, played chamber music, and been in a number of large ensembles. He appeared as a concerto soloist with the Texas State University Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he teaches private lessons to young students in Hays County.

Bobby's summer activities include attendance at the Rocky Ridge Summer Music Institute outside of Estes Park, Colorado where he

studied with Peter Cooper and Jason Lichtenwalter, two oboists from the Colorado Symphony. He has spent other summers in Twin Lake, Michigan where he performed with the Blue Lake Festival Band live on the radio, played in various chamber groups, and served as a teacher and staff member.

Bobby currently studies oboe at the Texas State University School of Music under Dr. Ian Davidson. Masterclasses at Texas State include John Dee, Andrea Ridilla, Johanna Cox Pennington, Mark Ackerman, Stephen Caplan, and Jared Hauser.



SAM HIGGINS,
COUNTERTENOR

Countertenor **Sam Higgins** has received national recognition for his “innate musicality” and his “complex understanding of music.” He has been singing with orchestras since the age of 11. His most recent prizes include first place at the 2023 Schmidt Undergraduate Awards, second place in the International MIOpera Competition, and his win of the 2023 Barbara E. Maze award presented by the Handel and Haydn Society. In 2018, he was named a Grand Prize Winner in the Fidelity Young Artists Competition at the Boston Symphony Pops. The Grand Prize award included a solo performance of “Bereite dich, Zion” from the Christmas Oratorio of J.S. Bach with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Symphony Orchestra Pops in Symphony Hall. On February 29th, 2020, Sam performed Handel’s aria “Dove sei, amato bene” from *Rodelinda* on NPR’s “From the Top.” In May of 2021, he was awarded first place at the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition. His win at the National Classical Singer Competition came in May of 2020, where he was then featured in the summer issue of Classical Singer Magazine. In February of 2019, he participated in the Metropolitan Opera Guild’s High School Singers Intensive as one of only ten singers selected nationwide. In May of 2021, Higgins was

awarded first place at the Boston Schmidt Vocal Competition. Sam attended the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Vocal program in the summer of 2019. In August of 2021, he entered the esteemed Curtis Institute of Music studying under Julia Faulkner and selected by baritone Eric Owens.

Higgins' 2023-24 Season starts with his participation in Opera Philadelphia's "Festival O'23," where he will perform Britten's *Canticle II*. He then performs the alto part in Handel's Oratorio *L'allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* at Curtis in mid-November. Throughout the year, he will perform Bach's *Ich habe genug* (BWV 82), *Kreuz und Krone* from BWV 12, and *Vergnügte ruh, beliebte seelenlust* (BWV 170), as well as many other standalone arias with Emmanuel Music in Boston. In the 2023-24 season, Higgins is set to perform new works by composers Juan Pablo Carreño, Maya Miro Johnson, Adrian Wong, and Leigha Amick. He will also attend the Houston Grand Opera YAVA program in May, and the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory in July, where he will perform the lead role of "Ruggiero" in G.F. Handel's *Alcina*.

Between the ages of 12 and 14, Sam performed the boy soprano solo in Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* nine times with seven different organizations. In December of 2015 at the age of 13, Sam was the boy soprano soloist with the New England Philharmonic under the direction of Richard Pittman in a performance of Robert Kapilow's *Elijah's Angel* with baritones David Kravitz and Dana Whiteside. Sam performed the boy soprano solo in the world premiere of Howard Franzin's *The Voice of Isaac* in March of 2016 with Baritone David Kravitz and Coro Allegro under the direction of David Hodgkins. Also in 2016, Sam performed Peter Child's *Peace Poem after a Ugartic Inscription* for the dedication of the Trygve Lie Plaza at the United Nations compound in N.Y.C. for the Prime Minister of Norway and other dignitaries. Sam has previously studied voice with Corey Hart at NEC, the Director of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, James Burton, Kerry Deal of the

Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Ellie Shattles of the University of Texas at Austin, and Eiji Muira of MIT.



**FAITH DEBOW,
EMERGING
ARTIST
COORDINATOR**

Faith DeBow has served as collaborative pianist and Emerging Artist Coordinator on the leadership team of the Victoria Bach Festival since 2010. Faith is sought after for both solo and collaborative performances as well as choral accompaniment and teaching. She enjoys a vibrant career based in the Central Texas region. Her playing has been heard in outer space at the International Space Station, performing Christmas music on video for astronauts working there during the holiday season.

Ms. DeBow has performed with opera singer Renée Fleming; conductors Peter Bay, Anton Coppola, Craig Hella Johnson, and Sebastian Lang-Lessing; and has performed the works of composers Jake Heggie, Libby Larsen, Roberto Sierra, and Michael Schelle. She has also premiered works by Donald Grantham, Cary Ratcliff, Jake Runestad, and John Muehleisen. In 2012, Ms. DeBow commissioned and premiered *Brilliant Sky*, a solo piano work by Colin Sorgi. She has served as rehearsal pianist in premieres composed by Stephen Paulus, Kevin Puts, Nico Muhly, Tarik O'Regan, Dan Welcher, Eric Banks, and Robert Kyr.

Faith maintains a longstanding collaboration with the Grammy®-winning choral ensemble Conspirare. Ms. DeBow has performed with the choir in Texas cities such as San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Fredericksburg, Round Top, and its home base of Austin. Outside the state, she toured the greater US: New York City, San Francisco, Omaha, Oklahoma City, and Goshen (Indiana); internationally, Copenhagen, Paris, and Saint-Lo (France).

Ms. DeBow also regularly performs with Musica Viva's Susan Doering (violin), and Dieter Wulforst (cello) across California's Central Valley.

In 2010, she traveled to Reykjavik to collaborate with Tim Buzbee, Principal Tuba of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. DeBow and Buzbee gave a recital at the Hallgrímskirkja national cathedral and recorded a CD for Albany Records, *Angels and Demons*.

Her performances have been broadcast on PBS, NPR's *Performance Today*, Georgia Public Radio, KPAC San Antonio, KMFA Austin, and Victoria Public Radio. Ms. DeBow appeared in Conspirare's one-hour television special for PBS broadcast nationally in March 2009; the CD of that concert, *A Company of Voices: Conspirare in Concert*, was nominated for a 2010 Grammy® Award for "Best Classical Crossover Album."

Faith DeBow has also recorded for Harmonia Mundi with Conspirare (*Pablo Neruda: The Poet Sings*, 2015 and *Samuel Barber: An American Romantic*, 2012) and for Albany Records with tuba player Tim Buzbee (*Angels and Demons*, 2012, featuring *Sonata del Angel Caído* by Ferrer Ferran; *Apocalyptic Voices* by James Meador; and *Three Miniatures for Tuba and Piano* by Anthony Plog).

She teaches class piano and collaborative piano as a Senior Lecturer at Texas State University, a position she has held since 2001. She also accompanies instrumental students at Trinity University and is the pianist for the boy choir at the historic San Antonio Academy. Ms. DeBow often plays orchestral keyboard with the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

Emerging Artists

The Emerging Artists program (formerly the New Young Artists program) began in 1992 and has featured over sixty of the nation's most promising young musicians. During Festival week, the Emerging Artists perform a formal recital and a series of outreach concerts at the public library, assisted living centers, and children's summer camps.