

2015-2016 Season

BARTLESVILLE CHORAL SOCIETY

presents

Messiah

By George Frideric Handel

Featuring

Skye Singleton, soprano

Kathryn Stewart, alto

Jeffrey Picón, tenor

Jonathan Stewart, bass

Susan Mueller, conductor

Dolores McCreary, accompanist

Mark Beckwith, assistant conductor

Kathryn Stewart, assistant accompanist

Becca Yates, soprano section leader

Concert sponsored by

SIEMENS

Sunday, December 6, 2015 2:00 pm

BARTLESVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER



From the Conductor

Handel's monumental "Messiah" was composed over a 24-day span in the year 1741. Although Handel lived the first third of his life in Germany and the last two-thirds in England, the site of his most famous work's premiere was Dublin. He was commissioned to compose a work to benefit three Irish charities - prisoners' debt relief, the Mercer's Hospital, and the Charitable Infirmary. (Money raised at the premiere freed 142 debtors from prison.) And although today's audiences think of "Messiah" as a Christmas work performed by

gigantic forces, the initial chorus boasted 20 singers, accompanied by 24 players and took place in April. The first performance in The Great Music Hall was sold out with an SRO crowd of 700 people, possible only because gentlemen were asked not to bring their swords to the concert and ladies refrained from wearing hoops in their skirts.

We are so pleased to present this magnificent work for you today. I think I can speak for the chorus, orchestra and soloists in saying Messiah has inspired us all and we are honored to be a part of its long tradition. The Choral Society is excited to welcome four remarkable soloists to our stage, and most especially Skye Singleton who grew up singing with the Choral Society and is now pursuing a career in opera at the University of Indiana.

Susan Mueller, Conductor

Special Thanks to Lauren Green for use of the harpsichord.

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Messiah Selections

Overture	Orchestra
Comfort Ye My People	Tenor Recitative
Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted	Tenor Aria
And the Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed	Chorus
Thus Saith the Lord of Hosts	Bass Recitative
But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming	Bass Aria
Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive	Alto Recitative
O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion	Alto Aria and Chorus
For Unto Us a Child is Born	Chorus
Pastoral Symphony	Orchestra
There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field	Soprano Recitative
And Lo! The Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them	Soprano Recitative
And the Angel Said Unto Them "Fear Not"	Soprano Recitative
And Suddenly There Was With the Angel a Multitude	Soprano Recitative
Glory to God	Chorus
Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion	Soprano Aria
Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind Be Opened	Alto Recitative
He Shall Feed His Flock	Alto and Soprano Aria
His Yoke is Easy and His Burden Light	Chorus

..... Intermision

Behold the Lamb of God	Chorus
He Was Despised and Rejected of Men	Alto Aria
Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs	Chorus
And With His Stripes We Are Healed	Chorus
All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray	Chorus
He Was Cut Off Out of the Land of the Living	Tenor Recitative
But Thou Didst Not Leave His Soul in Hell	Tenor Aria
Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates	Chorus
Why Do the Nations So Furiously Rage	Bass Aria
He That Dwelleth in Heaven Shall Laugh Them to Scorn	Tenor Recitative
Thou Shalt Break Them	Tenor Aria
Hallelujah!	Chorus
I Know That My Redeemer Liveth	Soprano Aria
Since By Man Came Death	Chorus
Behold, I Tell You a Mystery	Bass Recitative
The Trumpet Shall Sound and the Dead Shall Be Raised	Bass Aria
Worthy Is the Lamb That Was Slain	Chorus
Amen	Chorus



Skye Singleton recently graduated with special distinction from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance under the tutelage of Metropolitan Opera singer, Kim Josephson. Skye's next step is to pursue a Master of Music in Voice Performance at the prestigious Indiana University to study with Metropolitan Opera singer, Carol Vaness. She has received the Marilyn Horne award and Dame Eva Turner award, to name a few. She was named the Outstanding Senior of the OU School of Music. Some of her credits while at the University of Oklahoma include: *Frasquita*, *Carmen*; *Oberto*, *Alcina*; *Guardian Angel*, *Incipit Danielis Ludus*. Additionally, she was the soloist for numerous performances of the OU Chorale under Dr. Richard Zielinski. She was

selected on numerous occasions as a Marilyn Horne Masterclass participant, and also had the pleasure to work with Molly Fillmore in a masterclass. Skye has performed internationally. She sang Madame Herz from Mozart's *Der Schauspieldirektor* in scenes at the *Tyrolean Opera Program*. Other Austrian adventures include the *Classical Music Festival* and the *International Haydnstage Festival*. Skye was also the Soprano soloist for the Norman Philharmonic performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St. John Passion* in collaboration with McFarlin Memorial Methodist Church. Her last engagement was as a soloist for the President's Concert of the *Beethoven Choral Fantasy* at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. Skye is from Bartlesville, OK and is excited to be coming back to perform!



Kathryn Stewart, Contralto, is a Bartlesville native and is currently Director of Traditional Music at First Presbyterian Church of Bartlesville. Kathy has performed with the Los Angeles Opera, Opera Pacific, Long Beach Opera, Tulsa Opera and many others. She toured nationally with America's foremost Gilbert & Sullivan repertory company, Opera A La Carte. Roles Kathy has performed include *Carmen*, Berta in *The Barber of Seville*, Katisha in *The Mikado*, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* and a host of others. She has also appeared as soloist with symphony orchestras and choruses throughout the country, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Canterbury Chorale, the Phoenix Symphony and the Colorado Symphony, under the direction of conductors such as

Simon Rattle, Andre Previn and Leonard Slatkin. Locally, Kathy has performed with the Bartlesville Symphony, Signature Symphony, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, LOOK Festival and Tulsa Oratorio Chorus. She is married to Mark Beckwith, and they live in Bartlesville with their daughter, Megan, and a host of dogs and cats.



Tenor **Jeffrey Picón** has proven his versatility as a concert and opera singer in a diverse selection of repertoire. Highlights of recent seasons include his New York City Opera debut in performances of *Carmen*, *Cendrillon*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Tosca*. Debuts with the Oregon Bach Festival, the Rochester Philharmonic, Long Island Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, and the United States tour of *Bernstein on Broadway* with the Israel Philharmonic conducted by Michael Barrett and featuring Leonard's daughter, Jamie Bernstein. His Arizona Opera debut in *Zemire et Azor*, *Almaviva* in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with the Opera Company of North Carolina; both Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*, and *Don Ottavio* in *Don Giovanni* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City; Paolino in *Il Matrimonio Segreto* with Opera

Theatre of Saint Louis; *Trouble in Tahiti* with the Caramoor Festival; Fenton in *Falstaff* with Mississippi Opera; and Tony in *West Side Story* with the Ash Lawn Opera Festival.



Dr. Jonathan Stewart is chair of the music department at Oklahoma Wesleyan University where he oversees music major and minor degrees in the area of performance, music education, music business, and worship arts. He was instrumental in the initiation of both the OKWU Choral Festival and the OKWU Choral Camp, which are annual events that attract high school music students from around the state. He received a bachelor of music in vocal performance from Southeast Missouri State University, a master of music in choral conducting from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and a doctorate of musical arts in music education from Boston University. Dr. Stewart's experience as a music minister, elementary and collegiate music teacher, professional soloist, and professional choral

conductor has provided a great breadth of musical expertise that he now shares with his students. He currently directs OKWU's traditional Chorale, contemporary a cappella group, Relentless, and the newly formed Handbell Ensemble. As a vocal soloist, Dr. Stewart has performed many vocal/orchestral works including solos in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Haydn's *Creation*, Vaughan Williams' *Hodie*, and several performances of Handel's *Messiah*. This past summer, Dr. Stewart sang solos in a performance of J. S. Bach's *Magnificat* and in a program of show tunes as part of the OK Mozart Festival. Dr. Stewart lives in Bartlesville with his beautiful wife, Ellynn, and two youngest children, Heather and Joshua.

Bartlesville Choral Society Singers

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Please send requests for corrections to membership@bvillechoralsociety.org

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BARTLESVILLE CHORAL SOCIETY

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