Tickets & Subscriptions

Tickets are available at the door, payable with cash, check, or credit card: $30 general, $25 senior (age 60+). You can also visit www.early-music.org for season subscriptions, single concert tickets, or donations. Season subscriptions can also be purchased using the order form on this brochure, payable by cash, check, or credit card. Discount tickets for students with ID are available for purchase at the concert door for $5.

Special Services for Subscribers

Subscriber Concierge: Avoid the box office lines and go directly to the Preferred Seating area, where you will check in with our concierge.

Bring a Friend: Each subscriber can bring a friend FOR FREE to one concert this Season. However, you must contact us at least 5 days in advance of the concert to reserve a seat for your friend. Call 512-377-6961 and leave a message or send an email to boxoffice@early-music.org.

About the Founder & Artistic Director, Daniel Johnson

Since its creation by founder and Artistic Director, Daniel Johnson, Texas Early Music Project has delighted central Texas audiences with intriguing, evocative, and innovative concerts. Johnson specializes in the music of Medieval and Renaissance Spain and France, the Sephardim, the early Baroque works of Monteverdi and Charpentier, and ballads from 17th and 18th century Scotland. He directs the Texas Toot Early Music Workshop and is a co-director of the Amherst Early Music Festival. He was inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame in the spring of 2009.

Preserving the Past.
Enriching the Present.
Engaging the Future.

love’s illusion

“When I saw you I fell in love. And you smiled because you knew.”

A charming thought, no? about the immediacy and the discernible nature of love, and perhaps even the inevitability of its fulfillment.

“My dream wouldn’t be complete without you in it.” — The Princess and the Frog

And again, a sense of certainty, faith, that the ‘other’ is the answer to our fantasies and hopes, and they lived happily ever after.

Well, guess what? This isn’t really a new idea! Although we reference Joni Mitchell for the title of our 21st concert season, we could easily have invoked a troubadour from the 12th century or a singer-songwriter from the 17th century to evoke the same inspiration: the jumble of emotions we may feel about the noun love and the verb to love and the collective fascination regarding both.

“Love’s illusion” could suggest a bittersweet encounter, of course, much like the often painful and anguished love that prompted marvelous compositions by Purcell, Monteverdi, Barbara Strozzi, and many anonymous composers of all time periods. There’s a sort of comfort in sadness, and many composers seem most at home in this vein. But there are also many wonderful songs about the delights of blissful love, and their exuberance and enthusiasm set them apart from their less happy cousins.

“A mighty pain to love it is, And ‘t is a pain that pain to miss; But of all pains, the greatest pain it is to love, but love in vain.”

This apt quote by English poet Abraham Cowley, several of whose poems were set to music by Purcell, presents a pithy summary of the pleasures/pains/illusions of love. Franco-Flemish masters of polyphony, like Josquin and Isaac and Wert, set poems and verses of the Song of Songs from the Hebrew Bible with a combination of agape and eros. That music is rich with both joy and longing, not necessarily qualities one expects to find in 16th century polyphony at its zenith.

Our 21st concert season will include moments that inspire toe tapping and joy, melancholy and empathy, and, we hope, awe that such musical beauty has existed in this world for hundreds of years and we get to experience it here and now. Join us for a little nostalgia and a lot of amazement.

This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.
Oh, Henry!
The World According to Purcell
Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 7:30 PM
Reedemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander Ave.
Sunday, September 22 at 3:00 PM
St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St.

Henry Purcell was the greatest English composer before Ralph Vaughan Williams in the 20th century. We celebrate him with a variety of works for the church, the stage, and the court. Special Guests: Peter Walker (baritone) and Ryland Angel (countertenor).

Praising the Beloved:
The Song of Songs
Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 7:30 PM
St. John’s United Methodist Church, 2140 Allandale Rd.
Sunday, October 20 at 3:00 PM
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Dr.

The Song of Songs or Song of Solomon from the Hebrew Bible provided the texts for many of the most polished, sensual, and beautiful compositions by the master composers of the Renaissance and early Baroque. TEMP performs them with a small vocal ensemble and a consort of viols. Special Guest: Mary Springfeld (viola da gamba).

An Early Christmas
Friday, December 13, 2019 at 7:30 PM
St. John’s United Methodist Church, 2140 Allandale Rd.
Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 PM
First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis Ave.
Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 PM
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Dr.

We explore the intangible essence of Christmas as TEMP puts its unique stamp on beautiful and joyful carols, motets, dances, and traditional songs. Special Guests: Therese Honey (harps) and Ryland Angel (countertenor).

She Loves and She Confesses:
Love Songs from the Baroque
Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 7:30 PM
Reedemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander Ave.
Sunday, February 23 at 3:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church, 8002 Mesa Dr.

Beautiful, often bittersweet love songs from the 17th century in Italy (Strozzi, Sances, Rossii), France (airs de cour by Guédron & Moulinié), and England (Johnson & Lanier).

Ah, Sweet Lady
Passion in Medieval France
Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 7:30 PM
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Dr.
Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church, 8002 Mesa Dr.

The music from the 12th-14th centuries in France takes us back to days of yore with knights, monks, and poets. Songs of unrequited love and daily challenges are a natural reflection of the society at that time. Special Guests: Peter Maund (percussion), singer and piper Peter Walker (New York).

The Student Becomes the Master:
Monteverdi & Cavalli in Venice
Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 7:30 PM
Reedemer Presbyterian Church, 2111 Alexander Ave.
Sunday, May 10 at 3:00 PM
St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St.

Claudio Monteverdi and his student Francesces Cavalli created musical wonders in the 17th-century with ravishing works for soloists, choir, and orchestra for the court, the opera, and the cathedral.