



# AD ASTRA MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY

14

7:30 PM

## METAMORPHOSIS *St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church | \$10*

BYRD | Corpus Christi Propers  
BRITTEN | Evening Primrose, Ballad of Green Broom  
HARRIS | Bring Us, O Lord God  
BENNETT | A Good-Night  
THEOFANIDIS | Messages to Myself III  
SMILEY | Loud, My Soul (2017 Festival Commission)

The festival kicks off with a choral concert meditating on themes of transformation, change, and metamorphosis, including the world premiere of a commission from Moira Smiley featuring the Ad Astra Chamber Choir and Kansas bluegrass duo Scenic Roots. The commission is made possible by a grant from the Russell County Area Community Foundation and the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

JULY

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8:00 PM

## JAZZ AT THE BARN *Granny Mae's | \$10*

Russell native and Ft. Hays State University jazz professor Brad Dawson leads Kansas City Jazz in an evening performance at Granny Mae's Barn. Cocktails and bar snacks will be served.

Matt Otto, saxophone | Brad Dawson, trumpet | Roger Wilder, piano | Gerald Spaits, bass | Todd Strait, drums

JULY

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2:00 PM

## SECOND NATURE *Deines Cultural Center | \$10*

Aani Bourassa, Janie Brokenicky, Calder Craig, Michael Davidson, Dan Moore, and Katelyn Mattson-Levy perform *Second Nature*, composed in 2015 by rising opera hot-shot Matthew Aucoin. Conducted by Max Holman, this post-apocalyptic tale delves into themes of generational conflict and temptation to explore the unknown. Mary Box (piano), Kristin Pisano (clarinet), and Allison Lint (violin) round out the chamber ensemble.

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7:30 PM

## AMERICAN VOICES *Trinity United Methodist Church | \$10*

BERNSTEIN | Chichester Psalms  
STILL | Ennanga  
LARSEN | Cowboy Songs  
MECHEM | Dan-u-el

Leonard Bernstein's colorful choral masterpiece will feature the community choir, Noël Wan on harp, Russellites Jacob Long and Alex Lofland on percussion, and, returning to play the magnificent organ at Trinity United Methodist Church, Jonathan Young. This all-American program spotlights a collaboration between the Ad Astra String Quartet and our guest harpist and showcases soprano Megan

Pachecano and pianist Matthew Piatt. The evening closes with a chorus from Kansas composer Kirke Mechem's opera *John Brown*.

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7:30 PM

## CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE DEINES Deines Cultural Center | \$10

PRESTINI | *Body Maps*  
SHAW | *Entr'acte*  
HAYDN | *Op. 77, No. 2 in F Major*  
DVORAK | *American Quartet mvt. 4*

Ben Cline and Aani Bourassa perform the work of Paola Prestini for the Kansas premiere of this interdisciplinary work. Combining the visual art of Erika Harrsch, *Body Maps* features cello and soprano in an exploration of the strengths and vulnerabilities of our bodies. The Ad Astra String Quartet plays a work by 2013 Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw and ends again this year with the finale of Dvorak's *American Quartet*.

JULY

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10:30 AM

## BACH CANTATA 115 St. John Lutheran Church | Free admission

Max Holman leads the festival musicians from the harpsichord during worship at St. John Lutheran Church. BWV 115: *Mache dich, mein Geist, bereit*.

JULY

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2:00 PM

## MEMORIES NEVER FINISH Deines Cultural Center | \$10

HAILSTORK | *Ventriloquist Acts of God*  
MANDEL | *Poetry of E.E. Cummings*  
LARSEN | *My Antonia*  
KOUYOUMDJIAN | *Where Once & Everlastingness (from "Gorky")*

The festival's 2017 Young Artists champion new music, singing sets of songs composed in the last fifteen years. Designed by Katelyn Mattson-Levy, *Memories never finish* is a program exploring varying recollections: visceral, foggy, haunting, comforting, complex. Accompanying the Young Artists is the endlessly talented Victoria native Matthew Piatt.

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7:30 PM

## SAMSON Trinity United Methodist Church | \$10

The festival will close with a semi-staged performance of Handel's *Samson*. Based on John Milton's tragedy and the Old Testament's Book of Judges, the title character is found in captivity after Dalila depletes his strength by cutting his hair. Handel's masterpiece utilizes metaphors of light and besieging darkness to achieve a gripping re-telling of this famous story. John Irving leads a cast of James Reese, Megan Pachecano, Tim Parsons, and Dan Moore alongside the Ad Astra Chamber Choir and Festival Orchestra.

JULY

30

10:00 AM

## JÄGER MASS The Basilica of St. Fidelis | Free Admission

Our 2017 Young Artists perform Orlande de Lassus' 'Jäger' Mass—composed to be a brief service for a huntsman (or *Jäger* in German) so that he could quickly worship and begin hunting—during the Sunday morning mass at the picturesque Basilica of St. Fidelis.