



AD ASTRA

MUSIC FESTIVAL

5 YEARS

JULY

13

7:30 PM

BRAHMS REQUIEM

St. John Lutheran Church | \$10

The Russell Community Choir, Ad Astra High School Honor Choir, and Ad Astra Chamber Choir will join forces to sing one of the most beloved pieces of music in the entire Western canon. Departing from the traditional liturgical Requiem, Brahms sets biblical texts of comfort for grief. Near the end of his life, Brahms wished he had named the work "A Human Requiem" instead of "A German Requiem" because the work was meant for all.

Madeline Apple Healey, soprano | Dan Moore, baritone
Patrick Murray, pianist | César Cañón, pianist
John Irving, conductor

JULY

14

8:00 PM

JAZZ AT THE BARN

Granny Mae's | \$10

Russell native and Ft. Hays State University trumpet and jazz professor Brad Dawson returns to Ad Astra with his crew of Kansas City Jazz musicians for an evening of swinging rhythms under the stars. Cocktails and popcorn available.

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

JULY

15

2:00 PM

HERE BE SIRENS

Deines Cultural Center | \$10

Pulitzer Prize finalist Kate Soper's *Here Be Sirens* is an opera/theatre work blending music, terrifying noise, screwball comedy, and Aristotelian tragedy to present the mythological sirens as real beings, invested in their own origins and obsessed with the possibility of escape from the tedium of endless, irresistible desire. *The New Yorker* calls this 2014 work "an hilarious, furiously inventive meditation on the siren myth."

Aani Bourassa, soprano | Janie Brokenicky, soprano
Jorie Moss, soprano | Patrick Murray, music director
Sasha Hildebrand, stage director

JULY

15

6:30 PM

WESLEY & IVES

Trinity United Methodist Church | Free admission

In the first program of our Sunday Evening Series, famed Methodist hymnodist Charles Wesley meets the music of infamous twentieth-century American composer Charles Ives—a born Methodist who was influenced by the Wesley family throughout his life. Come ready to sing along to your favorite Methodist hymns alongside the musicians of Ad Astra, featuring the Trinity organ!

Preshow sandwiches at 6:30 pm
Performance begins at 7:00 pm

JULY

20

7:30 PM

THE ELEMENTS

Deines Cultural Center | \$10

The festival's Young Artists sing the music of Franz Schubert with Matthew Piatt at the piano. In 1820s Vienna, Schubert hosted his artist and philosopher friends to share their music, poetry, paintings, and prose. We have chosen music about earth, wind, fire, and water and invited Kansas artists and writers to share their work alongside Schubert's timeless music. Kevin Rabas, the current Kansas Poet Laureate, will share his work, Russell's Angela Muller will display some of her element-rich pieces, photographer Greg Rud's work will already be on display at the Deines Cultural Center, and Emporia State University faculty member Amy Sage Webb will share some of her literature.

Victoria Lawal, soprano | Alexandra Galla, mezzo-soprano
Logan Barat, tenor | Cooper McGuire, baritone
Matthew Piatt, piano

JULY

21

7:30 PM

CANNONBALLS FLY

Deines Cultural Center | \$10

An evening of exploring musical responses to war and peace. The terrifying string quartet *Black Angels* by George Crumb depicts the brutal violence and political unrest at the height of the Vietnam War, while Libby Larsen's *Sifting Through the Ruins* uses words written in New York City immediately after 9/11. Interwoven throughout the evening are songs of peace by Nobel laureate Bob Dylan.

Ad Astra String Quartet | Katelyn Mattson-Levy, mezzo-soprano | Michael Davidson, tenor | Matthew Piatt, piano

JULY

22

2:00 PM

SEMICONSIOUSNESS

Trinity United Methodist Church | \$10

Dreams. Memory. Inner monologue. Comprising music composed within the last decade, this program explores our hopes, fears, unspoken ideas, and even parts of us we're not sure exist. The music comes from Princeton PhD student Emma O'Halloran, chair of the University of Michigan's music theory and composition department Erik Santos, and internationally celebrated Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho. The brilliant New York-based soprano Madeline Healey will join Yale voice teacher Gene Stenger and San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellow in collaborative piano César Cañón in this daring and thrilling concert.

JULY

22

6:30 PM

BACH CANTATA 70

St. John Lutheran Church | Free admission

Conductor Austin McWilliams leads keyboardist Patrick Murray, the Ad Astra String Quartet and Young Artists, and other festival musicians in BWV 70: *Wachet! betet! betet! wachet!*, bringing the music of the Lutheran Church home to St. John's.

Preshow sandwiches at 6:30
Performance begins at 7:00

JULY

28

7:30 PM

ST. MATTHEW PASSION

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

The season ends with a performance of J.S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. One of the most influential works in all of music, our performance of Bach's masterpiece will take audiences immersively through modern stations of the cross. The Russell Community Choir will sing parts of the work, while our visiting artists will perform the bulk of the piece in a style close to what would have been heard in Bach's time. The visiting artists are brought to Russell in part with a grant from the Russell County Area Community Foundation.

Madeline Apple Healey, soprano | Aani Bourassa, soprano
Tim Parsons, countertenor | Kim Leeds, alto
Nate Hodgson, tenor | Gene Stenger, tenor
Dan Moore, baritone | Edmund Milly, baritone

Evangelist: Brian Thorsett, tenor | Jesus: Robert Ward, baritone
Alex Underwood, conductor | Sasha Hildebrand, stage director

JULY

29

8:00 PM

COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT

The Basilica of St. Fidelis | Free admission

The 2018 festival concludes with the final performance of the Sunday Evening Series: a foreboding meditation on Psalm 51, *Have mercy on me, O God*. An octet of unaccompanied singers lead this 30-minute service, illuminated only by the candlelight of congregants and the setting Kansas sun.






AD ASTRA MUSIC FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC IN RUSSELL, KANSAS

For three weekends each July, the Ad Astra Music Festival, founded in 2014 by Russell native Alex Underwood, colors central Kansas with classical music by integrating emerging young artists, community members, and professional musicians. Audiences have come to expect fresh, new music alongside vibrant performances of history's richest musical works of art. From our string quartet at the Deines Cultural Center, to a candlelight evening service at the picturesque Basilica of St. Fidelis, to a live jazz band at Granny Mae's barn, our ten performances offer something for every Kansan to enjoy.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

-  Online at adastramusicfestival.org
-  In person at Espresso Etc. or at the Russell County Economic Development Office
-  At the door to each event

SAVE \$20 BY BUYING A \$50 SEASON PASS

MAIN STAGE

Our four main stage performances are large-scale events featuring world-class performers, suitable for large audiences. Tickets to each event are \$10.

- July 13 // Brahms Requiem
- July 14 // Jazz at the Barn
- July 22 // Semiconsciousness
- July 28 // Bach's Matthew Passion

CHAMBER MUSIC

These three events in the Deines Cultural Center place audiences intimately close to smaller casts of performers. Limited seating available. Tickets to each event are \$10.

- July 15 // Here Be Sirens
- July 20 // The Elements
- July 21 // Cannonballs Fly

SUNDAY EVENING SERIES

This series of three, half-hour Sunday evening performances brings the historic music of the Church home to Russell and brings members of all denominations together. Free admission.

- July 15 // Charles Wesley & Charles Ives
- July 22 // Bach Cantata 70
- July 29 // Compline by Candlelight

adastramusicfestival.org



Ad Astra Music Festival



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MUSIC FESTIVAL
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