2021-2022 SEASON

Robert Simpson
Founder and
Artistic Director

Sing Out the New Day
Welcome to the Houston Chamber Choir’s 2021-2022 Season, Sing Out the New Day!

There is an excitement that precedes the start of every season. But this season is different. This season we sense a spirit of reawakening, of starting fresh in some profound way. All of us have been through a lot and the Houston Chamber Choir is ready to Sing Out the New Day that awaits us all.

This is perhaps the biggest season we have ever presented. There are premieres and masterpieces and flights of fancy. We start with the world première of Two Streams, composed by the young American composer, Daniel Knaggs, written in memory of his father. We then gather as a community to experience the tender comfort of Brahms’ Requiem, a work he wrote expressly for those who mourn. On this occasion we also honor the medical field that fought so hard for us.

The Villa de Matel will not be open to the public this December and so we are delighted to bring Candlelight Christmas to Christ Church Cathedral, a Houston landmark. Few settings in the city are more beautiful or historic. In March, we welcome back one of our all-time favorite guests, the incomparable Venezuelan conductor, María Guinand to lead us in a super charged evening of music from South and Central America.

The Edythe Bates Old Recital Hall and Grand Organ at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music is an ideal setting in which to experience Rachmaninoff’s ethereal All-Night Vigil. We are pleased to offer two performances of this masterpiece in that magnificent acoustic. And our season comes to a storybook close with fairy tales by Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Anderson, as set by American composer Benedict Sheehan.

For the first time this year your subscription will allow you to enjoy each concert both in-person and via our digital stage. There is also a digital only option for those who live outside Houston.

We have missed you! Welcome back to the Houston Chamber Choir as we Sing Out the New Day.

Robert Simpson
Founder and Artistic Director
The Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts
Artistic Director Chair
Two Streams, a Cantata

The Houston Chamber Choir opens its season with Two Streams, a cantata scored for choir and string orchestra composed by the brilliant young American composer, Daniel Knaggs. Based on Biblical texts and the writings of Polish nun Saint Faustina, this 70-minute work was composed in memory of the composer’s father. Joining us are Kinetic, the dynamic Houston-based string ensemble, and international soloists Caitlin Aloia, soprano; Sasha Cooke, mezzosoprano; Christopher Bozeka, tenor; and Mark Diamond, baritone. Following these performances, this work will be recorded in Rice University’s Stude Concert Hall for the world premiere recording produced by Grammy® Award-winning producer Blanton Alspaugh.

To Bring Comfort
Brahms
Ein deutsches Requiem

Brahms wrote his Requiem for the living. He conceived of it as a “human requiem” to offer comfort to those who mourn. Given the losses of the past and the heroic efforts of researchers and medical professionals, Brahms’ masterpiece expresses our emotions of sorrow and gratitude like no other. Joining us in Brahms’ own four hand piano arrangement are noted period piano specialist Brian Connelly, Artist Teacher at the Shepherd School of Music and Chelsea de Souza, award-winning Steinway artist playing a 19th century Bösendorfer piano similar to one Brahms might have played. Our featured soloists are soprano, Cynthia Clayton and baritone, Hector Vasquez, distinguished members of the Moores School of Music faculty. The concert opens with the premiere of a new composition dedicated to caregivers with words by Houston Poet Laureate Emmanuelle Bean and music by Todd Frazier.

Presented in partnership with the Houston Methodist Center for Performing Arts Medicine.
Candelight Christmas

Fri. Dec. 10, 2021 | 7:30 pm CT
Sat. Dec. 11, 2021 | 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm CT
Christ Church Cathedral, Houston

Sun. Dec. 26, 2021 | 2:00 pm
Hear the Future
Virtual Release

Joyful music of the season will resound through the candlelit beauty of Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Houston as the Houston Chamber Choir once again offers carols both new and old to welcome the Yuletide season. Our special guest will be international organ recitalist Daryl Robinson, Director of Organ Studies at the Moores School of Music and Organist at Christ Church Cathedral. We are delighted to welcome back the Treble Choir of Houston, directed by Marianna Parnas-Simpson. Make this an occasion to join family and friends in a Houston holiday tradition!

This concert is sponsored in part by a generous gift from InfoVine.

Sun. Jan. 30, 2022 | 4:00 pm CT
South Main Baptist Church, Houston

Free Community Concert

Each year the Houston Chamber Choir invites three outstanding school choirs from the Greater Houston area to participate in its annual invitational choral festival. Now celebrating its 22nd year, thousands of students from the area’s finest K-12 choral programs have participated in Hear the Future. This year we are pleased to welcome the Parker Elementary School Advanced Chorus directed by Marianna Parnas-Simpson (Houston ISD), the North Shore Middle School Choir under the direction of Erin Huston (Galena Park ISD), and the Cy-Fair Chorale conducted by Nicholas Likos (Cypress-Fairbanks ISD). To further its positive impact on our region’s school choral programs, Hear the Future now includes a VIP Choral Clinic for eight high schools, many Title I, that will take place on Saturday, January 29, 2022. This season’s clinic will be led by Dr. Eduardo García-Novelli, a University of Houston graduate who is the newly appointed Director of Choral Activities at the University of Kansas.

Marianna Parnas-Simpson
Daryl Robinson
Marianna Parnas-Simpson
Erin Huston
Nicholas Likos
Dr. Eduardo García-Novelli
InfoVine™
We eagerly await the return of Venezuelan conductor María Guinand, one of our most popular guests. In demand around the world, María brings a master’s touch to the exuberant and passionate music of Central and South America. Seven years ago, our audience erupted in applause at the conclusion of her concert. What a joyous reunion of conductor and choir this will be!

We were on the eve of presenting Rachmaninoff’s sublime All-Night Vigil in March 2020 when the world abruptly shut down. We return to unfinished business as we offer this masterpiece within the warm acoustics of the Edythe Bates Old Recital Hall and Grand Organ at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music. It was the ideal location for our 2002 performances, and 20 years later, we invite you back to experience what many feel is Rachmaninoff’s greatest work.
The Houston Chamber Choir concludes its season with an evening of enchantment to delight children and adults alike. *Once Upon a Time* features the magical retelling of “Snow White and the Seven Dwarves” by the Brothers Grimm and “The Little Mermaid” by Hans Christian Andersen as interpreted by young American composer Benedict Sheehan. Scored for choir and narrator, this is sure to be a perfect outing for the entire family. We are excited to welcome Courtney Zavala, KPRC 2’s *Houston Life* Co-Host and Emmy® Award-nominated journalist, as our narrator for this concert.

**DIGITAL STAGE**

*The Houston Chamber Choir Digital Stage* brings choral music straight to your fingertips - anytime and anywhere. Enjoy year-long access to all our concerts, dynamic original programming, favorites from the archives, and our highly successful podcast, *With One Accord*.

The Digital Stage is accessible from the web and can easily be viewed on computers using most web browsers. It is also available on iOS and Android phones via the Houston Chamber Choir App.

We’ve created content just for you, so sit back, relax, and enjoy.
Are you (or do you know) a middle school or high school student passionate about choral music? Looking for more access to premiere choral performances or expert guidance from career professionals? Celebrate your love for singing and learning in style as an official Houston Chamber Choir Youth Ambassador!

Youth Ambassadors Enjoy the Following Benefits:

- Full Subscription to the 2021-2022 Season, *Sing Out the New Day* (6 in-person concerts with reserved concert seating).* Complimentary dinner is provided before each subscription concert.

- Youth Ambassador members may request complimentary “Guardian Passes” for one parent or guardian to accompany them to the Houston Chamber Choir’s in-person concerts (one pass per concert).

- Youth Ambassador members will also be granted complimentary access to all concerts released virtually on the Houston Chamber Choir Digital Stage.**

- Exclusive entry to Houston Chamber Choir invited rehearsals and other Youth Ambassador events.

- Network with Houston Chamber Choir singers, Artistic Director Robert Simpson, and other choral students from around the greater Houston area.*

- High school members looking for more hands-on, behind-the-scenes opportunities with the Houston Chamber Choir are encouraged to sign up for Youth Ambassador exclusive volunteer projects!

- Share your choral joy with your peers! Nominate your school choir to attend an in-person Houston Chamber Choir concert or host a special digital concert viewing FREE OF CHARGE.***

* Transportation vouchers can be arranged for select events upon request. Please contact 713-224-5566 for more information.

** Choir Directors can nominate their middle school grade 6-8 and high school grade 9-12 students to receive a complimentary Digital Stage Season Subscription (virtual concerts only). Please contact 713-224-5566 for more information.

*** Event must be confirmed by School/Choir Director

Questions? Contact General Manager April Harris via email: April@HoustonChamberChoir.org or please visit us online: HoustonChamberChoir.org/youth-ambassadors

Learn more about *Sing Out the New Day* and subscribe NOW!

HoustonChamberChoir.org/2021-2022season
SEASON SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS
★ Exceptional Savings
★ Exclusive Updates
★ Discount on Additional Tickets
★ Flexible and FREE Ticket Exchanges
★ Ticket Replacement
★ Reserved Priority Seating (this is open-seating within our Reserved section)
★ One “Friend Pass”: one free single ticket to any concert (excludes the Candlelight Christmas concert)
★ Can’t make a concert? No worries! Full season subscribers will also be granted complimentary access to all concerts released virtually on the Houston Chamber Choir Digital Stage

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS