

13 | THE THIRTEEN

CHOIR & ORCHESTRA | MATTHEW ROBERTSON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2023-2024 | SEASON XII

Beautiful as the Sky

IN PERSON & VIRTUAL | SUBSCRIPTIONS: WWW.THETHIRTEENCHOIR.ORG

BEAUTIFUL AS THE SKY | 2023-2024 | SEASON XII

This season and its final concert take their title from Walt Whitman's poem *Reconciliation*, featured in Jeffrey Van's *A Procession Winding Around Me*, which we will perform in May. This season highlights the theme of awe and I can think of few things so wonder-inspiring as the sky.

Awe is what we feel when we cannot make sense of what we experience. We feel it when we observe the night sky or a glaciated mountain range, when we admire extraordinary courage or generosity, and when we sit at a loved one's side as life enters or departs the world.

This experience of wonder connects us to the cosmos and to the community around us. It compels us to shed ego and reach for an unnamable truth.

This season – our twelfth – serves as an exploration of this feeling of awe in song. It concludes with a study on the awe of moral beauty, featuring a World Premiere by the Leonard Bernstein Award-winning composer Hilary Purrington, Francis Poulenc's *Figure Humaine*, and Jeffrey Van's *A Procession Winding Around Me*. Monteverdi's *The 'Lost' Vespers of 1650* and our performances of Bach's *B Minor Mass* allow us to marvel at the inspired handiwork of these two master composers. In between we find wonder in the sky and in a cradle. In each of our concerts this season, I am, above all, seeking to share this experience of awe with you as a way of building community.

I hope that you will continue to believe in the art that The Thirteen creates by **subscribing** to our 2023-2024 season today. For the first time this year, due to increased demand, we are offering Preferred Seating options for our patrons; I invite you to take advantage of this opportunity. I encourage you to subscribe rather than rely on individual tickets so that you can attend each and every one of our performances. We will also continue to offer each of our programs virtually on demand. Finally, I invite you to go one step beyond subscribing and to consider sustaining the art we make with a donation to The Thirteen.

- Matthew Robertson | Artistic Director



*The Thirteen's 2023-2024 season is made possible by the generosity of our Season Sponsors,
Charles Cerf & Cindy Dunbar, J. Penny Clark, and Walter Hill & Cheryl Naulty.*

SUBSCRIBE NOW

We invite you to join The Thirteen for our entire season of exceptional artistry and life-affirming performances. Season subscribers enjoy the following benefits:

Date-transferrable tickets; choose the concerts that work best for your schedule (depending on availability) – just send an email to info@thethirteenchoir.org if you need to change your ticket

Transferrable tickets; if you need to miss one of your concerts, your friends can use your tickets at no additional cost

In-person attendance at our concerts

Significant savings over individual ticket prices

Discounted ticketing fees

Access to our performances virtually

PREFERRED SEATING SUBSCRIPTION

Due to increased demand, The Thirteen is instituting a Preferred Seating option for subscriptions and individual tickets. In addition to the benefits enjoyed by all subscribers, Preferred Seating Subscribers will enjoy:

The best 25% of seats at each of our venues

A 25% discount over individual ticket prices; our biggest discount

No ticketing fees

Periodic invitations to exclusive and complimentary receptions

THE THIRTEEN'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As The Thirteen looks forward to our 2023-2024 season, *Beautiful as the Sky*, your health and the health of our musicians and staff is our top priority. The Thirteen will abide by all federal, state, and local guidelines, as well as best practices. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at info@thethirteenchoir.org.

MONTEVERDI: THE LOST VESPERS OF 1650

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023 | 7:30PM

St. Luke's Church | Alexandria, VA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023 | 7:30PM

St. Peter's Capitol Hill | Washington, D.C.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 | 5:00PM

Bradley Hills Church | Bethesda, MD

It is testament to the esteem in which Claudio Monteverdi was held during his lifetime that, a full seven years after his death, his colleagues banded together to publish his late compositions. The results were the *Messa et salmi* of 1650 and the *Madrigalie e canzonnette* of 1651, crowning achievements of this master composer who had, nearly singlehandedly, ushered in the Baroque period in musical history. The musical ideas presented in these volumes reflect Monteverdi in his prime: endlessly creative, varied, and passionate. Within these pages lie the building blocks for a majestic 'lost' *Vespers* that rivals the composer's famous *Vespers of 1610*.

Join the peerless singers and players of The Thirteen for the triumphant conclusion of our exploration of Monteverdi's sacred music in concerts replete with artistry, elegance, and passion.

This program is made possible by a generous gift from Sara Fein.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:

Preferred Seating: \$65 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | General Admission: \$45 (\$10 more if purchased at the door)

Student Tickets with Current Student ID: \$15 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | Non-resident virtual only ticket: \$40

All in person tickets include access to the virtual performance On Demand.



“...transfigures
the listener..”

- *THE WASHINGTON POST*



“[The Thirteen] is confident and responsive, allowing Robertson to shape flowing lines and dramatic climaxes.”

- *FANFARE MAGAZINE*

I WONDER AS I WANDER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023 | 7:30PM

Washington Street Church | Alexandria, VA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023 | 7:30PM

Holy Trinity Church, Georgetown | Washington, D.C.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 | 5:00PM

Bradley Hills Church | Bethesda, MD

In depression-era Appalachia the ethnomusicologist John Jacob Niles encountered a camp meeting where “a girl stepped out to the edge of the little platform attached to the automobile [and] began to sing. She smiled as she sang and sang only a single line of a song.” This simple tune became the beloved carol *I wonder as I wander* and is the starting point for The Thirteen’s celebration of the Christmas story in song, as we sing music of wonder and joy for the holidays. Featuring works from the 16th century to today, including works written for The Thirteen, *I Wonder as I Wander* explores the intersection between the holiday story and awe, celebration, warmth, and joy!

This program is made possible by generous gifts from Walter Hill & Cheryl Naulty and J. Penny Clark.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:

Preferred Seating: \$65 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | General Admission: \$45 (\$10 more if purchased at the door)

Student Tickets with Current Student ID: \$15 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | Non-resident virtual only ticket: \$40

All in person tickets include access to the virtual performance On Demand.

PATH OF MIRACLES

Joby Talbot | Path of Miracles | Washington, D.C. Premiere

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024 | 7:30PM

St. Luke's Church | Alexandria, VA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024 | 7:30PM

St. Mark's Capitol Hill | Washington, D.C.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024 | 5:00PM

Bradley Hills Church | Bethesda, MD

In *Path of Miracles* British composer Joby Talbot takes the listener on a musical journey of the mystical Camino de Santiago de Compostela. The pace of a spiritual Camino is built into the structure of the work, with the four movements of Talbot's modern masterpiece titled after the four main posts along the Camino. The composer incorporates medieval texts in several languages, featuring musical styles as diverse as those of Taiwanese Bunun people and medieval chant. Paired with projected images of the cosmos, The Thirteen's performances of *Path of Miracles* promise to be replete with beauty and wonder.

This program is made possible by a generous gift from Clinton & Missy Kelly. The Thirteen's Vocal Fellows Program is made possible by a gift from the Andrew Warnock Clarke & Martin 'Chip' Sherrill Family Foundation.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:

Preferred Seating: \$65 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | General Admission: \$45 (\$10 more if purchased at the door)

Student Tickets with Current Student ID: \$15 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | Non-resident virtual only ticket: \$40

All in person tickets include access to the virtual performance On Demand.

B MINOR MASS

Johann Sebastian Bach | B Minor Mass

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 | 7:30PM

National City Christian Church | Washington, D.C.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024 | 7:30PM

National City Christian Church | Washington, D.C.

It was 300 years ago, in 1724, when Bach began writing the music that would become his *B Minor Mass*. Composed over the course of 25 years and likely never performed within his lifetime, the *Mass* is the culmination of the composer's life's work, the summation of his creative output.

Replete with driving choruses and time-suspending solos, the *B Minor Mass* is one of the crowning achievements of the Baroque, and indeed all classical music.

Performed by The Thirteen with over twenty singers and thirty of the world's finest period instrumentalists including trumpets, timpani, oboes, and organ, Bach's iconic masterpiece should not be missed.

This program is made possible by generous gifts from Sherman & Maureen Katz and Charles Cerf & Cindy Dunbar. The orchestra and choir are sponsored by a gift to The Thirteen's Building for Tomorrow fund by Margaret Colgate Love. A subsequent commercial video recording of this concert is made possible by a gift to The Thirteen's Building for Tomorrow fund by Martha Harris.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:

Preferred Seating: \$65 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | General Admission: \$45 (\$10 more if purchased at the door)

Student Tickets with Current Student ID: \$15 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | Non-resident virtual only ticket: \$40

All in person tickets include access to the virtual performance On Demand.

“...the singers’ voices are distinctive,
blending in a sound that’s more colorful
than the average early-music group...”

-THE WASHINGTON POST

BEAUTIFUL AS THE SKY

Francis Poulenc | *Figure Humaine* • Hilary Purrington | World Premiere • Jeffrey Van | *A Procession Winding Around Me*

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 | 7:30PM

Washington Street Church | Alexandria, VA

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 | 7:30PM

Holy Trinity Church, Georgetown | Washington, D.C.

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024 | 5:00PM

River Road U.U.C. | Bethesda, MD

In this program The Thirteen explores moral beauty in three guises: the second World War, the American Civil War, and the women's rights movement in America. Poulenc secretly composed his *Figure Humaine* in Vichy France with the intention that it should be performed in Paris upon liberation from Nazi rule. Last performed by The Thirteen in 2018, this twelve-part *tour de force* is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and to the practice of remembrance.

Leonard Bernstein Award-winning composer Hilary Purrington writes a new work for The Thirteen that traces the progress and intimate stories of the American women's rights movement. Jeffrey Van's *A Procession Winding Around Me* sets Civil War poems by Walt Whitman for choir and solo classical guitar with music as evocative and transcendent as the poetry.

This program is made possible by a generous gift from Margaret Colgate Love. The commissioning of the World Premiere by Hilary Purrington is made possible by a gift to The Thirteen's Building for Tomorrow fund by J. Penny Clark.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:

Preferred Seating: \$65 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | General Admission: \$45 (\$10 more if purchased at the door)

Student Tickets with Current Student ID: \$15 (\$10 more if purchased at the door) | Non-resident virtual only ticket: \$40

All in person tickets include access to the virtual performance On Demand.



“The Thirteen
is exquisite in
every way.”

- GRAMOPHONE

THE THIRTEEN

The Thirteen is a professional choir and orchestra celebrated for reimagining the potential of vocal music from many periods. Praised for performing with “striking color and richness” that “transfigures the listener” (The Washington Post) and as “exquisite in every way” (Gramophone), for a decade the ensemble has been at the forefront of invigorating performances of masterworks ranging from early chant to world premieres and the centuries in between.

The Thirteen’s growing discography includes “Monteverdi’s *Vespers of 1610*,” “*The Outer Edge of Youth*,” “*Truth and Fable*,” “*Voice Eternal*,” which was pre-nominated for a Grammy® award, the critically-acclaimed Christmas album “*Snow on Snow*,” “*RADIANT DARK*,” which features the finest works of the late Tudor period and reached #28 on the iTunes Classical Charts, as well as The Thirteen’s debut recording “...to St. Cecilia.”

In past seasons, The Thirteen has performed and been in residency at Yale University, Bowling Green State University, Eastern Illinois University, the University of Central Oklahoma, York College, The University of Tampa, Virginia Wesleyan University, St. Ambrose University, Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, Guilford College, as well as concerts at colleges and concert series throughout the United States. In 2018 The Thirteen was awarded the Greater Washington Area Choral Excellence award for Most Creative Programming.

The Thirteen is committed to educating and inspiring the next generation of musicians, and frequently coaches students at the high school and collegiate levels in masterclass, workshop and collaborative performance sessions.

For more information about The Thirteen, please visit www.TheThirteenChoir.org

“The Thirteen is clearly a tight-knit ensemble of accomplished soloists with a vocal signature of becoming tonal beauty.”

-*CHOIR & ORGAN*



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

When Matthew Robertson founded The Thirteen in 2012, he initially imagined a collaborative ensemble that performed and toured with twelve singers and one conductor, making music that was best suited for that configuration. Since then, The Thirteen's artistic ambitions have outstripped our name, and we now perform with varying numbers of musicians as required by the music we program, from eight to 50. This led us in 2022 to add "Choir & Orchestra" to our name. Still, while our numbers may expand or contract according to the music we perform, our commitment to touching each member of our audience remains unchanged. So too does our commitment to the collaborative music-making environment that was the initial inspiration for our name, The Thirteen.

TICKET ORDER FORM

Like other musical organizations in America, The Thirteen's ticket sales account for only a small portion of our operating costs. We rely on your generous donations to help us with the remainder of our operating budget. Please consider giving as you are able when you purchase your season tickets. The Thirteen is a 501(c)(3) organization: donations in excess of ticket subscriptions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

STEP 1: CHOOSE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Preferred Seating Subscription* _____ x \$250 = \$ _____

General Admission Subscription* _____ x \$200 = \$ _____

Non-Resident Virtual-Only Subscription* _____ x \$175 = \$ _____

*door prices for the entire season are \$375, \$275, \$200 for Preferred Seating, General Admission, and Non-Resident Virtual-Only, respectively.

STEP 2: CHOOSE YOUR CONCERTS

FRIDAY SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

7:30PM | Alexandria, VA

Monteverdi: The Lost Vespers of 1650
I Wonder as I Wander
Path of Miracles
Bach's B Minor Mass
Beautiful as the Sky

Friday, October 13, 2023
Friday, December 15, 2023
Friday, February 9, 2024
Saturday, March 16, 2024 | *Washington, D.C.*
Friday, May 17, 2024

SATURDAY SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

7:30PM | Washington, DC

Monteverdi: The Lost Vespers of 1650
I Wonder as I Wander
Path of Miracles
Bach's B Minor Mass
Beautiful as the Sky

Saturday, October 14, 2023
Saturday, December 16, 2023
Saturday, February 10, 2024
Saturday, March 16, 2024
Saturday, May 18, 2024

SUNDAY SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

5:00 PM OR 7:30PM | Bethesda, MD

Monteverdi: The Lost Vespers of 1650
I Wonder as I Wander
Path of Miracles
Bach's B Minor Mass
Beautiful as the Sky

Sunday, October 15, 2023 | 5:00pm
Sunday, December 17, 2023 | 5:00pm
Sunday, February 11, 2024 | 5:00pm
Sunday, March 17, 2024 | 7:30pm | *Washington, D.C.*
Sunday, May 19, 2024 | 5:00pm

Ticket form continued on reverse

Ticket form continued

STEP 3: ADD A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____

STEP 4: CALCULATE YOUR GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

STEP 5: FILL OUT YOUR PAYMENT INFORMATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ CVV CODE _____

Please note on this order form what additional tickets you would like and enclose payment, or email info@thethirteenchoir.org
Please detach this page and mail your complete order with check or payment information to:

THE THIRTEEN | P.O. BOX 32065 | WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007
or purchase your season tickets online at www.TheThirteenChoir.org

Tickets will arrive via email.

Questions? Email us at info@thethirteenchoir.org

SUPPORT US

Like most arts organizations, The Thirteen depends for its continued existence upon the generosity of those who have come to know and love the music we make. We ask you to please consider giving now to support our upcoming season. We invite you to explore the suggested giving levels below and hope you will donate as generously as possible by check, credit card, or at www.TheThirteenChoir.org.

No matter how much you give, it is most important to us that as much of our audience as possible is part of our musical family. Join us in making music.

SEASON SPONSOR | \$25,000

Name recognition as a Season Sponsor on website and in all concert materials, four reserved seating subscriptions, two complimentary tickets to The Thirteen's annual Gala, and all benefits listed below.

CONCERT SPONSOR | \$10,000

Recognition as Concert Sponsor on website and in all concert materials for one concert program, two reserved seating subscriptions plus four additional reserved seating tickets for sponsored concert, and all benefits listed below.

ANGEL | \$5,000

Two preferred seating season subscriptions, and all benefits listed below.

MAESTRO'S CIRCLE | \$2,500

An exclusive dinner with The Thirteen's Founder and Artistic Director, Matthew Robertson, and all benefits listed below.

BENEFACTOR | \$1,000

Exclusive donor only season highlights recording, and all benefits listed below.

PATRON | \$500

Two complimentary preferred seating tickets to one concert of your choice, and all benefits listed below.

SPONSOR | \$250

Invitation to closed rehearsals, a specially branded Bumper Magnet, and all benefits listed below.

DONOR | \$100

A copy of the latest CD released by The Thirteen, and all benefits listed below.

FRIEND | \$50

Acknowledgment in our concert programs & on our website.

13 | THE THIRTEEN

CHOIR & ORCHESTRA | MATTHEW ROBERTSON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 32065 | Washington, D.C. 20007 | 202.990.7679

info@thethirteenchoir.org

www.TheThirteenChoir.org

2023-2024 SEASON SNAPSHOT

October 13-15 | **Monteverdi: The 'Lost' Vespers of 1650**

December 15-17 | **I Wonder as I Wander**

February 9-11 | **Path of Miracles**

March 16-17 | **Bach | B Minor Mass**

May 17-19 | **Beautiful as the Sky**