

March 26, 2021

Release by The Thirteen

The Thirteen's Artistic Director, Matthew Robertson, was horrified to see a rope tied into a noose on a tree outside St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where The Thirteen is rehearsing for a livestreamed performance of Bach's St. John's Passion. We do not know whether the person or persons who did this were referencing our upcoming performance, or whether they even knew about it. What we do know is that our production of the St. John's Passion seeks to explore the subject of systemic racism, and that the singer performing the role of Jesus is Black. He is Jonathan Woody, an exceptionally talented baritone who is from the D.C. area and performs internationally. Whether this crime of hatred was directed at our production, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, or at someone else, we deplore it absolutely, and we will take appropriate steps to provide security for our personnel.

*The Thirteen is a professional chamber choir incorporated as a nonprofit arts organization in the District of Columbia. The Artistic Director is Matthew Robertson. [www.thethirteenchoir.org](http://www.thethirteenchoir.org).*

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