

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Thirteen to Receive Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

Washington, DC (February 4, 2021) — The Thirteen has been approved for a Grants for Arts Projects award to support their March 27 performance, [Passion Transfigured](#). This project will help fund the cost to compensate performing musicians, staff, and logistical aspects of the staged performance. The Thirteen's project is among 1,073 projects across America totaling nearly \$25 million that were selected during this first round of fiscal year 2021 funding in the Grants for Arts Projects funding category.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support this project from The Thirteen," said Arts Endowment Acting Chairman Ann Eilers. "The Thirteen is among the arts organizations across the country that have demonstrated creativity, excellence, and resilience during this very challenging year."

Bach's *St. John Passion* was originally written for the composer's first Good Friday services in Leipzig, and it has since firmly established itself as a staple of the choral-orchestral repertoire. Yet the work's dramatic and touching narrative demands that it be staged to bring its dramatic music to life. Timothy Nelson, called "The Future of Opera" by The New York Times, will stage this production by The Thirteen. Of this production, Nelson writes, "I look forward to making Bach's universal themes of glorification through debasement, and the importance of community and ritual palpable and vibrant."

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

### **UPCOMING PERFORMANCES FOR THE THIRTEEN**

#### **PASSION TRANSFIGURED**

J.S. Bach | *St. John Passion*

**Saturday, March 27, 2021 at 7:30 PM** – Livestream

Matthew Hill, *Evangelist*

Jonathan Woody, *Jesus*

Timothy Nelson, *stage director*

Matthew Robertson, *conductor*

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**MONTEVERDI: THE LOST MASS OF 1641**

**Friday, April 30, 2021 at 7:30 PM** – Alexandria, Virginia

**Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 7:30 PM** – Downtown Washington, D.C.

**Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 5:00 PM** – Bethesda, Maryland

*Monteverdi Selva morale e spirituale*

Following our acclaimed November 2019 production, *Monteverdi: The Lost Vespers of 1641*, The Thirteen returns again to the music of Monteverdi's end-of-life magnum opus, *Selva morale e spirituale* – the moral and spiritual wood. Hidden in plain sight within this monumental volume is a "*Mass of 1641*" that The Thirteen has assembled, with his beloved *Gloria* at its core. Unlike Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, which sees performances yearly in nearly every major metropolitan area, the gems in *Selva morale e spirituale* are virtually unknown; and yet, they rival his earlier compositions in virtuosity, invention, and beauty.

Join The Thirteen and many of the country's finest period instrumentalists for *Monteverdi: The Lost Mass (1641)* in a concert replete with artistry, elegance, and exploration.

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**The Thirteen**

Described as singing "...with striking color and richness..." ([Anne Midgette, Washington Post](#)), The Thirteen is an all-star professional choir known for inspired and powerful live performance. Since its founding in 2012, the choir has been at the forefront of bringing invigorating performances to the American choral community in repertoire ranging from the Renaissance to the Romantic, from Bach to Bruckner; and from Gregorian chant to the world premieres of new American composers.

The Thirteen draws its artists from among the finest ensembles in the world, including Chanticleer, Seraphic Fire, Apollo's Fire, Conspirare, I Fagiolini, Opera Philadelphia, Boston Early Music Festival and Trinity Wall Street. The choir's peerless singers are best described by

National Public Radio commentator M.D. Ridge: "to talk about the remarkable abilities and sound of the individual singers would...be like trying to say which whitecaps on the ocean reflect the sun most beautifully, or which leaves on a tree dance most gracefully with the wind... I stand in awe."

The Thirteen's growing discography includes "Voice Eternal," which was recently submitted 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 throughout the United States.

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.

<https://thethirteenchoir.org>



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