

13 | THE THIRTEEN

CHOIR & ORCHESTRA | MATTHEW ROBERTSON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Acclaimed Professional Vocal Ensemble The Thirteen Announces 2023 Vocal Fellows
Vocal Fellows Program seeks to Increase Diversity in the Professional Choral/Oratorio Field

The Thirteen is thrilled to announce our 2023 Vocal Fellows: bass-baritone John Collins, soprano Sea Han, alto Jared Marshall, and tenor David Morales. The Thirteen's Vocal Fellowships are awarded to early career choral/oratorio singers from significantly underrepresented demographics with the goal of diversifying our field and playing a formative role in the fellows' careers. Our Board of Trustees began working on this initiative in 2019 and we experienced great success with our inaugural class in 2022. Former fellows Denique Isaac and Shaina Martinez describe their fellowship as "an exhilarating and thrilling experience" that gave them the opportunity to work with a "top-tier ensemble of professionals."

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with these young professionals and we are confident that their talent, work ethic, and dedication will lead them to great success. As we look to the future, we are excited to present our 2023 Vocal Fellows:

Bass-baritone John Solomon Collins (he/him) was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Prince George's County, Maryland. His love for music began early with roots in the church where he and his mother participated in the praise team and choir. While music was an early interest, his passion for it became clear as he decided to major in Vocal Performance at the University of Maryland, College Park where he is currently a third-year student. His accomplishments include winning first place in the CAAPA (Coalition of African Americans in the Performing Arts) Scholarship Competition in 2020, studying vocal performance under renowned musician Kevin Short, performing in the UMD production of the opera *La bohème* as a member of the chorus, and receiving an honorable mention at the Sue Goetz Ross Memorial Competition presented by the Friday Morning Music Club. Most recently, he was also accepted into the Honors Performance Series taking place this summer at the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia, and is currently accepting donations to cover the tuition and transportation costs for the program. Of the Vocal Fellows Program, Collins says: "I've had the opportunity to see and hear firsthand the sheer beauty and excellent music-making The Thirteen is capable of, and I'm so honored to be able to join in that sound and be a part of it all."

Sea Han (they/them) is a Korean-American soprano, keyboardist, and researcher specializing in early Western art music and the music of living, “global” composers. Born and raised in Queens, New York, they attended Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, and earned a B.M. in Vocal Performance from Westminster Choir College. A chorister and a creative recitalist, Han is part of the Early Music Voice graduate program at Yale University. In Han’s experience, Yale has been influential in changing the classical music profession by steering away from white supremacist and capitalist tendencies to create safer spaces for people of color and other marginalized individuals; specifically, queer, non-Christian, transgender, neurodivergent, disabled, and the unhoused. Of the Vocal Fellows Program, Han shares: “I’m excited to meet and be inspired by peers and future colleagues who have various backgrounds, experiences, and interests. I’ve heard wonderful things about this ensemble and environment, so I look forward to being part of the legacy and learning community!”

Alto Jared Marshall (he/him) is a native Washingtonian who, in his professional experience, has worked with various ensembles including the Washington National Opera, the Kennedy Center, and the National Philharmonic Chorale at Strathmore. He completed his Bachelor’s degree in Vocal Music Education at George Mason University under the tutelage of John Aler. There, he participated in the chorus of Mason Opera’s productions of *Dido and Aeneas*, *Medames de le Halle*, and was due to perform the romantic role of Valetto in *L’incoronazione di Poppea* before the unforeseen circumstances of the pandemic in 2020. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Vocal Performance at the Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell. Jared recently made his MSM mainstage debut as L’enfant in the semi-staged concert production of *L’enfant et les sortilèges*. Of the Vocal Fellows Program, Marshall remarks, “I feel grateful to have the chance to dwell in an inclusive space; to continue embracing my representation in the realm of oratorio music.”

Tenor David Morales (he/him) graduated from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSULB and holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance, a B.M. in Music Education, and a M.A. in Early Music Performance from the University of Southern California. David has performed with professional groups Tonality, Bach Collegium San Diego, and Conspirare. As a versatile vocalist, David has lent his voice for a variety of musical engagements which include serving as a tenor Vocal Fellow for Bach Akadamie Charlotte 2022, performing as a background singer for Björk’s *Cornucopia* LA and SF tours, and recording for his first major movie soundtrack, *Space Jam*. He regularly performs with various music ensembles in the Los Angeles area. These engagements include performing as the tenor soloist for Haydn’s *Missa in Tempore Belli* with the Long Beach Chorale and Chamber Orchestra and performing in Early Music America’s 2020 Emerging Artist Showcase at the Berkeley Early Music Festival with L.A. Camerata Baroque. Of the Vocal Fellows Program, Morales comments: “I’m excited to collaborate with current movers and doers in the professional ensemble scene who I hope will become my mentors and colleagues throughout the entirety of my career.”

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 “a tight and attractive vocal blend and excellent choral discipline” (American Record Guide), 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 “Truth and Fable,” which premiered in October 2019, “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.

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For more information about The Thirteen and our Vocal Fellows Program please visit www.thethirteenchoir.org or contact Production & Communications Coordinator Elizabeth Murray at Elizabeth@TheThirteenChoir.org