

St. Martin's Chamber Choir  
TIMOTHY J. KRUEGER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# AURORA BOREALIS

## Baltic Music

Friday, February 26 | 7:30 PM  
Streaming Online

# ST. MARTIN'S CHAMBER CHOIR

*Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director*

*Andrew Ritchie, 2020-21 Mark Sheldon Conducting Intern*

## SOPRANO

Elise Bahr  
Hannah McGinty  
Laura Tribby

## ALTO

MB Krueger  
Leslie Remmert Soich  
Donna Wickham

## TENOR

Matthew Bentley  
Matthew Lea  
Blake Nawa'a

## BASS

Kenneth Donahue  
Alan Polacek  
Tyler Wigginton



## TIMOTHY J. KRUEGER

Timothy J. Krueger studied musicology at the Wheaton Conservatory of Music, the University of Colorado, Boulder, the Universität Hamburg, Germany, and the University of London's Royal Holloway College, where his doctoral dissertation was on the sacred music of Charles Villiers Stanford. He has studied conducting with Dr. Paul Wiens, and privately with Dennis Keene of the Voices of Ascension. He has sung professionally with the Santa Fe Opera, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Chicago A Cappella, the Vox Early Music Ensemble, the Ars Nova Singers, as well as several Episcopal cathedral choirs. In addition to being the founding Artistic Director of St. Martin's Chamber Choir, Krueger has served as Chorus Director for the Boulder Bach Festival, the Colorado Music Festival, and the Boulder Philharmonic. He is an Affiliate Faculty member in the Music Department of Metropolitan State University of Denver. He is Choirmaster of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, overseeing one of Denver's finest classical church music programs.



## DREW RITCHIE

Drew Ritchie is a versatile and passionate conductor, educator, and performer. Currently earning a Master of Music degree in Conducting at the Lamont School of Music – University of Denver, he also holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He currently serves as an Assistant Conductor for the Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestras, a Conducting Intern for the St. Martin's Chamber Choir, and a teaching assistant at the Lamont School of Music. Drew is thrilled to be a part of the SMCC organization and looks forward to an incredible season filled with beautiful music.



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# AURORA BOREALIS: MUSIC OF THE BALTIC

*Generously sponsored by Gene & Rosann McCullough*

## PRELUDE

NORTHERN LIGHTS . . . . . *Ēriks Ešenvalds*  
*Soloists: Blake Nawa'a, tenor; Laura Tribby, soprano*

## RUSSIA

“REVEILLE” FROM PUSHKIN’S GARLAND . . . . . *Georgy Sviridov*  
*Soloists: Laura Tribby, off-stage soprano; Kenneth Donahue, bass*

## FINLAND

CANCION DE JINETE FROM LORCA SUITE . . . . . *Einojuhani Rautavaara*  
*Soloists: Matt Bentley, tenor; Tyler Wigginton, bass*

## ESTONIA

DA PACEM DOMINE . . . . . *Arvo Pärt*

## LATVIA

PATER NOSTER . . . . . *Pēteris Vasks*  
MAGNIFICAT . . . . . *Ēriks Ešenvalds*  
*Soloist: Elise Bahr, soprano*

## LITHUANIA

“ANOJ PUSĖJ DUNOJĖLIO” . . . . . *Vaclovas Augustinas*  
*Drew Ritchie, conductor; Soloist: MB Krueger, alto*

## SWEDEN

GLORIA FROM MISSA BREVIS . . . . . *Mårten Jansson*

## NORWAY

AVE MARIS STELLA . . . . . *Edvard Grieg*  
*Drew Ritchie, conductor*  
AVE MARIS STELLA . . . . . *Trond Kverno*

ST. MARTIN’S CHAMBER CHOIR RECEIVES GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



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FAMILY FOUNDATION

# A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I myself have only seen the Northern Lights once, as a teenager while travelling in Manitoba for one of my dad's fishing trips. I had not heard of the phenomenon at that age, so when my dad pointed them out through the windshield of our car as we drove northwards, I was immediately transfixed by the sight, captivated by its beauty, mesmerized by its undulations, haunted by its mystery. Although I've travelled several times in the north since then – twice in Sweden, once in Alaska, and once in Estonia and St. Petersburg, Russia – I have scanned the nighttime sky in vain for a repeat performance.


Recently I've been likewise intrigued by the new sounds I've heard emanating from northern countries around the Baltic Sea, and to begin immersing myself in it. I tend to do things like this. Our faithful fans will remember about 12 years ago my first foray into Russian Orthodox music. About 8 years ago I explored Spanish repertoire, both Old World and New. Three years ago I programmed an all-female-composer Christmas concert. And last year my exploration of Jewish Sacred Music yielded some fascinating results. My tendency is to do a crash course and full immersion experience in a new and unfamiliar repertoire, and to let this gestate or percolate for a while. Then, a year or two later it emerges in a concert that acts as an overview or summary of what I've discovered. The repertoire then seeps its way into my general programming, reappearing in other concerts because it is now part of my wider musical awareness. The human brain works like this, I think. And it is also how diversity works its way into our society in general, and allows more cross-pollination of ideas and inspirations.

So tonight's exploration of music from around the Baltic Sea falls into this category. You will notice that I've ordered the concert in a roughly East-to-West direction, beginning on the East side of the Baltic with Russia, its northerly neighbor Finland, and the so-called Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. We then cross to the west side of the Baltic and hear a bit from Sweden and Norway. My apologies to other countries bordering the Baltic whom I have neglected – Poland, Germany, and Denmark. But I wanted to focus on the more northerly of these lands – those over which the Aurora Borealis holds sway, and – I suspect – informs the characteristics of these nation's music. And, anyway, I program German music all the time!

You will also notice that most of tonight's concert is in Latin. This is for several reasons – one, I wanted to be cautious in not requiring the choir and me to have to learn the vagaries and pronunciation differences of seven new languages for a single concert. Brief forays into Russian, Latvian, and Lithuanian were all I wanted to force on us this time. But also, the universality of Latin as a language in Christian nations – even though most of the nations represented tonight tend towards either Orthodox or Protestant – is a unifying feature, I felt, in an otherwise disparate grouping of pieces, and allows another avenue of comparison between the works. Finding that one piece on tonight's program is in English and another in Spanish may surprise you, but I feel it demonstrates the eclectic reach of the inhabitants of these Baltic lands.

I wish to thank Gene McCullough, long-time St. Martin's supporter and personal inspiration to me in a number of my forays into new repertoire, for his generous sponsorship of tonight's program, as well as his provision of tonight's pre-concert lecture. His introduction of this concert's pieces was so thorough that I shall refrain from talking again during the concert until nearly the end. Thanks also to Ashley Hoffman, our graphic designer, and Brooke Murray, for their design of the graphics you will see between pieces, reminding us intermittently and visually of the Northern Lights as the inspiration for this concert. And, as always, thanks to our donors, supporters, and funders like the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation; the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District; and Colorado Creative Industries for their generous support of St. Martin's Chamber Choir, especially during these uncertain times for arts organizations.

Please enjoy this fairly uncomprehensive and admittedly personal sampling of this mystical and fascinating repertoire.



# TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

## PRELUDE

NORTHERN LIGHTS (TENOR SOLO; WATER GLASSES; CHIMES) . . . . . *Ēriks Ešenvalds*

*Soloists: Blake Nawa'a, tenor; Laura Tribby, soprano*

*Cik naksnīnas pret ziemeli redzēj' kāvus karojam*

*Ē, redzēj' kāvus karojam;*

*Karo kāvi pie debesu, vedīs karus mūs' zemē;*

*Ē, vedīs karus mūs' zemē*

How many nights against the North wind

I saw the Northern Lights fighting;

Fighting in the sky, the Northern Lights

Bring wars to our land.

*- Latvian Folk Song*

It was night, and I had gone on deck several times. Iceberg was silent; I too was silent. It was true dark and cold. At nine o'clock I was below in my cabin when the captain hailed me with the words: "Come above at once, Hall! The world is on fire!" I knew his meaning, and quick as thought I rushed to the companion stairs. In a moment I reached the deck, and as the cabin door swung open, a dazzling overpowering light burst upon my startled senses! Oh! the whole sky was one glowing mass of colored flames, so mighty, so brave! Like a pathway of light the northern lights seemed to draw us into the sky. Yes, it was harp-music, wild storming in the darkness; the strings trembled and sparkled in the glow of the flames like a shower of fiery darts. A fiery crown of auroral light cast a warm glow across the arctic ice. Like a pathway of light the northern lights seemed to draw us into the sky. Again at times it was like softly playing, gently rocking, silvery waves, on which dreams travel into unknown worlds.

*- Charles Francis Hall and Fridtjof Nansen*

## RUSSIA

"REVEILLE" FROM PUSHKIN'S GARLAND . . . . . *Georgy Sviridov*

*Soloists: Laura Tribby, off-stage soprano; Kenneth Donahue, bass*

*Zoriu byut... iz ruk moiħ*

*Vethiy Dante vipadayet,*

*Na ustah nachatiy stih*

*Nedochitanniy zatih*

*Dub dalioko uletayet.*

*Zvuk privichniy, zvuk zhivoy!*

*Kak ti chasto razdaval'sia*

*Tam, gde tiho razvivalsia*

*Ya davnishneyu poroy.*

*Zoriu byut...*

They're sounding reveille... from my hands

The ancient Dane falls,

On my lips a nascent verse,

Half-read, falls silent,

The spirit soars into the distance.

Ah, familiar sound, lively sound!

How often you sounded

There, where I quietly grew up

In days long past.

They're sounding reveille...



## FINLAND

CANCION DE JINETE FROM LORCA SUITE . . . . . *Einojuhani Rautavaara*  
*Soloists: Matt Bentley, tenor; Tyler Wigginton, bass*

*Córdoba. Lejana y sola.  
Jaca negra, luna grande,  
y aceitunas en mi alforja.  
Aunque sepa los caminos  
yo nunca llegaré a Córdoba.*

*Por el llano, por el viento,  
jaca negra, luna roja.  
La muerte me está mirando  
desde las torres de Córdoba.*

*¡Ay qué camino tan largo!  
¡Ay mi jaca valerosa!  
¡Ay, que la muerte me espera,  
antes de llegar a Córdoba!  
Córdoba. Lejana y sola.*

Córdoba. So distant and lonely.  
Black the pony, moon enormous,  
Saddlebags full of the ripest olives.  
Even though the road is so well-known,  
I shall never reach my Córdoba.

Over prairie, through a windstorm,  
Black the pony, moon so crimson.  
My death waits for me,  
Death watching from the towers of my Córdoba.

So long the road never ending!  
O, black mare, so brave and gallant!  
O, Death is waiting, awaiting me  
Before I reach my Córdoba.  
Córdoba. So distant and lonely.

## ESTONIA

DA PACEM DOMINE . . . . . *Arvo Pärt*

*Da pacem Domine  
In diebus nostris  
Quia non est alius  
Qui pugnet pro nobis  
Nisi tu Deus noster.*

Give peace, O Lord,  
In our time  
Because there is no one else  
who will fight for us  
if not You, our God.

## LATVIA

PATER NOSTER . . . . . *Pēteris Vasks*

*Pater noster, qui es in caelis,  
sanctificetur nomen tuum;  
Adveniat regnum tuum.  
Fiat voluntas tua sicut  
in caelo et in terra.  
Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie,  
Et dimitte nobis debita nostra,  
sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.  
Et ne nos inducas in tentationem;  
sed libera nos a malo.  
Quia tuum est regnum et potentia et gloria  
in saecula saeculorum  
Amen.*

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## MAGNIFICAT . . . . . Ēriks Ešenvalds

*Soloist: Elise Bahr, soprano*

*Magnificat, anima mea, Dominum  
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo, salutari meo.  
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae:  
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.  
Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est,  
et sanctum nomen eius,  
et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies  
timentibus eum.  
ecit potentiam in brachio suo,  
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.  
Deposuit potentes de sede  
et exaltavit humiles;  
esurientes implevit bonis  
et divites dimisit inanes.  
Suscepit Israel puerum suum  
recordatus misericordiae suae,  
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.  
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord.  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
Because he hath regarded the humility of his handmaid:  
for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
Because he that is mighty hath done great things to me:  
and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is from generation unto generations,  
to them that fear him.  
He hath shewed might in his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat  
and hath exalted the humble.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He hath received Israel his servant,  
being mindful of his mercy.  
As he spoke to our fathers:  
to Abraham and to his seed for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

## LITHUANIA

### “ANOJ PUSĖJ DUNOJĖLIO” . . . . . Vaclovas Augustinas

*Drew Ritchie, conductor; Soloist: MB Krueger, alto*

*Anoj pusėj Dunojėlio  
pievelė žaliavo  
grėbė pulkas mergužėlių  
grėbdamos dainavo.*

On the other bank of the river  
a meadow grew green;  
several virgins were raking grass  
and they sang while they worked.

*Nedainuokit, mergužėlės,  
tų graudžių dainelių  
Negraudinkit man širdelės  
jaunam kareivėliui.*

“Do not sing, my virgins,  
these doleful songs.  
Do not sadden my heart,”  
said a young soldier.

*Gul kareivėlis pašautas  
nuo karės pašautas,  
stovi juodbėris žirgelis  
kamanoms pamautas.*

There lay a dead soldier  
shot in the battle;  
there also stood his black steed  
with his bridle still on.

*Eik, žirgeli juodbėrėli,  
ką aš pasakysiu.  
Aš ant tavo kamanėlių  
laiškelį rašysiu.*

Come, black steed,  
I shall tell you something.  
On your little bridle  
I will write a letter.

## SWEDEN

### GLORIA FROM MISSA BREVIS . . . . . *Mårten Jansson*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen.*

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## NORWAY

### AVE MARIS STELLA . . . . . *Edvard Grieg* *Drew Ritchie, conductor*

*Ave, maris stella,  
Dei Mater alma,  
Atque semper Virgo,  
Felix caeli porta.*

Hail, star of the sea,  
loving Mother of God,  
and also always a virgin,  
Happy gate of heaven.

*Solve vincla reis,  
Profer lumen caecis,  
Mala nostra pelle,  
Bona cuncta posce*

Break the chains of sinners,  
Bring light to the blind,  
Drive away our evils,  
Ask for all good.

*Vitam praesta puram,  
Iter para tutum,  
Ut videntes Jesum,  
Semper collaetemur.*

Keep life pure,  
Make the journey safe,  
So that, seeing Jesus,  
We may always rejoice together.

*Sit laus Deo Patri,  
Summo Christo decus  
Spiritui Sancto,  
Tribus honor unus. Amen.*

Let there be praise to God the Father,  
Glory to Christ in the highest,  
To the Holy Spirit,  
One honor to all three. Amen.

*Translation by Allen H. Simon*



AVE MARIS STELLA . . . . . *Trond Kverno*

*Ave, maris stella,  
Dei Mater alma,  
Atque semper Virgo,  
Felix caeli porta.*

Hail, star of the sea,  
loving Mother of God,  
and also always a virgin,  
Happy gate of heaven.

*Sumens illud Ave  
Gabrielis ore,  
Funda nos in pace,  
Mutans Evae nomen.*

Receiving that Ave  
from Gabriel's mouth  
confirm us in peace,  
Reversing Eva's name.

*Solve vincla reis,  
Profer lumen caecis,  
Mala nostra pelle,  
Bona cuncta posce*

Break the chains of sinners,  
Bring light to the blind,  
Drive away our evils,  
Ask for all good.

*Monstra te esse matrem  
Sumat per te preces,  
Qui pro nobis natus  
Tulit esse tuus.*

Show yourself to be a mother,  
May he accept prayers through you,  
he who, born for us,  
Chose to be yours.

*Virgo singularis,  
Inter omnes mitis,  
Nos culpis solutos,  
Mites fac et castos.*

O unique virgin,  
Meek above all,  
Make us, absolved from sin,  
Gentle and chaste.

*Vitam praesta puram,  
Iter para tutum,  
Ut videntes Jesum,  
Semper collaetemur.*

Keep life pure,  
Make the journey safe,  
So that, seeing Jesus,  
We may always rejoice together.

*Sit laus Deo Patri,  
Summo Christo decus  
Spiritui Sancto,  
Tribus honor unus. Amen.*

Let there be praise to God the Father,  
Glory to Christ in the highest,  
To the Holy Spirit,  
One honor to all three. Amen.

*Versiculus:  
Ave, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;  
benedicta tu in mulieribus.*

*Versiculus:*  
Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women.

*Translation by Allen H. Simon*

# SINGERS



## ELISE GREENWOOD BAHR

Elise Greenwood Bahr has been active in the Denver choral music scene since moving to Colorado in 2011. She is thrilled to be singing with Saint Martin's Chamber Choir again this season! She also sings with The Colorado Bach Ensemble, Anima Chamber Ensemble, and has performed with Singers

Chamber Choir, Vittoria Ensemble, and with other community and church choirs. Before moving to Denver, she appeared in various productions around the country, including serving as a Principal Singer with the Bach Society of St. Louis, lead roles with Hartford Opera Theater, and a singer with the Alabama Symphony Chorus in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition to her choral activities, she is also a fine violinist and has performed with the Connecticut Valley Chamber Orchestra, the Lone Tree Symphony, and many other church and community orchestras in three different states. She is also an active private teacher, with a studio of piano, violin, and vocal students. Elise holds a Master's of Music in Vocal Performance from The Hartt School at the University of Hartford, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Utah. When not involved in musical activities, she enjoys running marathons, watching her two sons' baseball games, dancing with her two daughters, and being outside with her husband Cameron in the amazing Colorado mountains.



## MATTHEW BENTLEY

Matthew Bentley grew up in a musical family playing the piano and the cello. He is a staff singer at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and teaches Spanish at Kent Denver School, where he holds the Jane Horn Distinguished Teaching Chair. Matt graduated summa cum laude from BYU and holds a doctorate in Spanish Literature from the University of Virginia. He lives in the Baker neighborhood with his partner, Frank.



## KENNETH DONAHUE

Kenneth has performed as a soloist with numerous organizations in the Denver-Boulder area. He currently sings with St. Martin's Chamber Choir and the St. John's Cathedral Choir. At the University of Colorado he has sung in the Eklund Opera Program and the New Opera Workshop

(CU Now). He has also performed with the Colorado Music Festival, Seicento Baroque Ensemble, Happy Hour Chamber Concerts, Cathedral Choir and Orchestra of St. John's Denver, Denver Early Music Ensemble, Denver Opera Collective, and the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado. Mr. Donahue came from South Dakota to Boulder in 2009 to study with Patrick Mason and complete his Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Colorado Boulder.



## MB KRUEGER

MB Krueger is the Director of Choral Activities at Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she directs the Chorale, University Treble Choir, and Auraria Choir and teaches all levels of undergraduate conducting. She served for ten years on the board of the Colorado Chapter of American

Choral Directors Association. She regularly presents sessions at the annual CoACDA Summer Workshop and the annual Colorado Music Educators Association convention. MB grew up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and earned her degrees in music education at Michigan State University and Miami University (Ohio). She has sung with St. Martin's Chamber Choir and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Choir since 1997, and has also sung professionally with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the Santa Fe Opera, Ars Nova Singers, Diverse Passions Early Music Ensemble, and the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado.



## MATTHEW LEA

Hailing from Wisconsin, Matthew Lea is a lifelong singer and performer. Matthew sang with the Concert Choir at the University of Wisconsin-Madison while pursuing a B.S. in Biochemistry. After graduation, he went on to perform with numerous other groups in the Badger State including the Madison

Chamber Choir, Madison Choral Project and Madison Opera. In 2018, Matthew relocated to Denver where he now enjoys singing with St. Martin's Chamber Choir and working in IT Project Management. He is also a staff singer at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.



## HANNAH MCGINTY

A recent transplant to Boulder, Hannah McGinty has quickly found a musical home, singing as a staff singer at St. Andrew's Denver, as a choral pro with Ars Nova Boulder, and with Elus Ensemble. She also serves as principal soloist and chorusmaster for Austin Baroque Orchestra & Choir,

and is a member of the Texas Early Music Project, Ars Longa Ensemble, and Austin Cantorum. She previously directed and sung in the Burgundian Consort and the University of Chicago Camerata, chamber choirs dedicated to well-researched performances of Renaissance choral music. Hannah received her B.A. in Musicology with Honors at the University of Chicago, her Masters of Music in Voice, specializing in Historical Performance, and her Master of Arts in Musicology at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University. She has attended numerous early music summer programs around the world, notably singing as Calisto in scenes from La Calisto at the Amherst Early Music Festival, and in two fully-historically-staged productions with La Petite Bande under the baton of Sigiswald Kuijken, as Costanza in Haydn's opera L'isola disabitata, and as Susanna in Le nozze di Figaro. In addition to her singing, Hannah also plays piano, violin, and harpsichord, and enjoys hiking, knitting, yoga, cooking, and reading fiction from all over the world.



## BLAKE NAWA'A

Blake Nawa'a originally hails from Washington state, but has lived in Colorado since 2002. He has sung with St Martin's since the 2018-2019 season, where he was the Mark Sheldon Conducting Intern. A musician who wears many hats, he works throughout the Denver metro area as a chorister, tenor soloist, theatre music director, voice teacher, occasional accompanist, and since early 2020, audio/video editor for various music projects. He holds degrees in Vocal Performance (B.Mus) and Choral Conducting (M.M.), both from the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. Being something of a workhorse, in the rare times Blake isn't working on some sort of music project, he turns into a complete couch potato to recharge for the next one.



## ALAN POLACEK

Baritone Alan Polacek is a staff singer and soloist at Saint John's Cathedral, Denver. As a chorister, he has worked with the Colorado Symphony, Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra, and the Denver Early Music Consort. In addition to singing, he is an accomplished pianist, well versed in classical and jazz, appearing collaboratively and as asoloist. Alan received his Bachelors of Music in Composition at the University of Colorado, Boulder, in 2007.



## LAURA TRIBBY

Laura Tribby hails from Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she earned trumpet and voice performance degrees at Western Michigan University and lived in her father's violin shop. As a student at WMU, she participated in over a dozen music groups, sang lead roles in operas, premiered new works, placed in NATS competitions, and spent a summer in Austria at the American Institute of Musical Studies. She maintained a successful private studio of trumpet and voice students after graduating, and was the alto section leader for the Bach Festival Chorus of Kalamazoo and a Presbyterian church choir. She moved to Colorado in September 2014 after many years of daydreaming about the Rocky Mountains and the sunny bluebird sky that makes the Denver area so special. This is her third season with the St. Martin's Chamber Choir. Thrilled with the active choral scene, Laura has also performed with the Colorado Bach Ensemble, Colorado Opera Chorus, Colorado Symphony Chorus, Denver Pro Chorale, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Choir, Canto Deo, Wellshire Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir and Celebration Singers, Denver Jingle Singers, Vittoria Ensemble, Opera On Tap, and the newly formed Anima Chamber Ensemble. She is a Colorado Honor Band instructor, as well, and enjoys working with younger students. Along with her deep passion of music (which includes an extremely vast array of genres), Laura loves riding her bike, hiking, taking pictures, scuba-diving, yoga, and feeling grateful - especially for colors, tomatoes, and friends.



## LESLIE REMMERT-SOICH

Leslie Remmert-Soich received a M. Music degree in vocal performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has twice been a regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, and was the third prize winner in the Meistersinger Competition in Graz, Austria. She is active throughout the Front Range on both the opera and concert stages, including performances with Opera Colorado, Central City Opera, Boulder Philharmonic and Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado. Ms. Soich is also a sought-after vocal coach with an active private studio and a busy teaching schedule in the Music & Entertainment Industry Studies program at the University of Colorado, Denver.



## DONNA WICKHAM

A St. Martin's member since 1996, Donna Wickham holds a BM in vocal performance and an MM in conducting from the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver. She is the head of the Vocal Jazz program at the Lamont School of Music, and teaches music history courses for Colorado Community Colleges Online. Her diverse professional activities include work as a composer, arranger, vocalist, conductor, and keyboardist in genres that range from early music to rock, jazz and avant-garde. Donna's performance credits include work with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the Carnegie Hall Festival Chorus, The Playground, Colorado Music Festival, Santa Fe New Music, and the Colorado Art Rock Society. Donna has released 3 CD's on her own Gizmo records label: Myth and Memory, a chamber jazz recording featuring her own compositions, and two classical CD's with her vocal quartet, Firesign. For more information on Donna's professional activities, visit [donnawickham.com](http://donnawickham.com).



## TYLER WIGGINTON

Tyler Wigginton is a Denver-based composer, vocalist, and chorus director. Since graduating in 2017 with a Bachelor's in Music he has spent the majority of his time performing and teaching in the barbershop a cappella style.



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