

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Welcome to today's performance presented by members of Chicago Sinfonietta. Founded by Paul Freeman in 1987, Chicago Sinfonietta is the nation's most diverse and innovative orchestra. We perform in downtown Chicago and Naperville from September through May and invite you to join us for a full symphony experience!

Today's program is a celebration of music created by the greatest female composers in history and the rich cultures that inspired them. We hope you enjoy this unique musical journey!

ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE



Anna Mayne is a member of the Chicago Sinfonietta, South Bend Symphony Orchestra, and the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. She has a Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University and a Master of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Anna has played with the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, Green Bay Symphony, Mannheim Steamroller, El Paso Symphony, and pit orchestras for several musicals in the Chicagoland area. She is an Instructor of Horn at Northeastern Illinois University and is on faculty at Elmhurst and Harper College.



Elizabeth Mazur-Johnson is currently a section member with the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and the City Lights Orchestra. Beth is also Principal Horn with the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic. She holds a B.M. in Music Education from Arizona State and did graduate work at the New England Conservatory of Music. She has played with the Phoenix Symphony, Boston Symphony, New Orleans Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Lyric Opera of Chicago, along with positions with the State Orchestra of Mexico, the Richmond Symphony and the Lake Forest Symphony.



Lee Shirer has an unusual background for a musician. He received a BS in Biology from the University of Arizona. While in college, he won auditions in the Peoria and Tucson Symphonies. He moved back to the Chicago after winning Principal Horn in the Chicago Civic Orchestra and has played with nearly every professional orchestra in the area including the Chicago Symphony. He played Principal Horn with the Northwest Indiana Symphony and Southwest Michigan Symphony in 2006. Lee was named Principal Horn with Chicago Sinfonietta in 2013. He has played with Broadway productions in Chicago including Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables, Miss Saigon and the Secret Garden.



John Schreckengost graduated from Butler University summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education. He earned his Master of Music and Horn Performance at Bowling Green State University. He served as principal horn for the Israel Sinfonietta for seven years. After returning to the U.S., John was named principal horn of the Northwest Indiana Symphony. He also holds positions in the Chicago Sinfonietta and Illinois Philharmonic, and has played with the Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Nutcracker Ballet at the Arie Crown, and Chicago productions of Sweeney Todd and The Secret Garden.

PROGRAM



La Chasse | Julie von Britto (1813—1887) arr. William Melton

Britto was born as Julie Baroni-Cavalcabò. Her mother was an amateur singer who later became the partner and heiress of Amadeus Mozart's son Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart. The younger Mozart served as Julie's composition and piano mentor, even shepherding her on her first concert tours. Her travels would later introduce her to Robert Schumann and their respect for each other's talent was soon evident. In *La Chasse* we can appreciate what Schumann praised as Britto's "deep-felt" melodies and "elegant and tender" harmonies.

O Virtus Sapientiae | Hildegard of Bingen (1098—1179)

Hildegard was born of noble parents and was educated at the Benedictine cloister of Disibodenberg. At age 15 she began pursuing a religious life. About 1147 Hildegard left Disibodenberg with several nuns to found a new convent at Rupertsberg, where she continued to exercise the gift of prophecy and to record her visions in writing. A talented poet and composer, Hildegard collected 77 of her lyric poems, each with a musical setting composed by her, in *Symphonia armonie celestium revelationum*.

Three Madrigals | Maddalena Casulana (c. 1544—c. 1590), arr. John Schreckengost

Composer, singer, lutenist, and teacher, Maddalena Mezari detta Casulana Vicentina of Venice, was the first woman to publish her own musical compositions. Her first set of four madrigals in four parts, published in *Il Desiderio I* in Venice in 1566, was compiled by Giuglio Bonagiunta, a well-known music underwriter and singer who included Casulana's work in order to sell the edition. Two years later, a full volume of her music, *First Book of Madrigals for Four Voices*, was published.

Präludium und Fuge a 4 voci, Op. 16, No. 3 | Clara Schumann (1819—1896), arr. William Melton

Clara Schumann was a German pianist, composer, and wife of composer Robert Schumann. She studied piano from the age of five and quickly established a reputation throughout Europe as a child prodigy. Despite objections from her father, she married Schumann and had eight children. Though family responsibilities curtailed her career, she taught at the Leipzig Conservatory, composed, and toured frequently. Clara's Op. 16 consists of three preludes and fugues structured in the Classical tradition but filled with romantic tenderness and lyricism.

Longings: A Suite of African-American Spirituals | arr. Judy Rubin

Each piece included in this suite is driven by its lyrical meaning, related by a desire for something better. This suite includes *Soon I Will Be Done*, *Steal Away*, and *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*. *Soon I Will Be Done* is a song about the troubles we encounter everyday and the meaning of life. *Steal Away* and *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* have lyrics that refer to the Underground Railroad that meant dying and going to heaven, but also symbolized escaping to freedom. The arrangement is penned for Rubin's mentor Dr. Deforia Lane, a world-renowned African American music therapist who used these songs regularly in her presentations and with her patients. These songs are reminders of hope.

Three Little Negro Dances | Florence Price

Florence Price became the first black female composer to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra played the world premiere of her *Symphony No. 1 in E minor* in 1933. The historic concert entitled "The Negro in Music" also included works by Harry T. Burleigh, Roland Hayes, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and John Alden Carpenter performed by Margaret A. Bonds, pianist and tenor Roland Hayes with the orchestra. *Three Little Negro Dances* is one of her most popular works.

Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This) | Annie Lennox and David Stewart, arr. Austin Ralphson

Annie Lennox is celebrated as an innovator, an icon, and a symbol of enduring excellence. From a fortuitous chance encounter with Dave Stewart in the early seventies, the pair went on to form the group, The Tourists. In 1979 Annie and Dave decided to form a duo, calling themselves the Eurythmics. They released their first album, *In the Garden* in 1981, but it was not until the worldwide success of their second album, *Sweet Dreams Are Made of This* in 1983, that the Eurythmics became the musical phenomenon we know today.

Gaga Medley | Arr. Mick Laymon

Lady Gaga attended New York University's Tisch School for the Arts but left to find creative expression. Her debut album, *The Fame*, was a huge success, and the single *Poker Face* topped charts in almost every category, in almost every country. Lady Gaga has since earned acclaim for subsequent albums, including a collaboration with Tony Bennett, as well as her acting skills, nabbing a Golden Globe for her contributions to *American Horror Story* and an Oscar nomination for her co-starring role in *A Star Is Born*. This medley includes her songs *Telephone*, *Poker Face*, *The Fame*, and *Bad Romance*.