

the Girl Choir
of South Florida

&

Camerata Di
Magdalena

PRESENT

Heaven on Earth



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visit **duet.girlchoir.org/survey** to share
your thoughts on tonight's program!

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 GirlChoirSouthFlorida

Eric Berken

Founder of Camerata di Magdalena

Eric Berken began studying the violin at the age of five; his primary teachers being Wei Shu Co, Liane Bliss, Gary Kosloski, and Paul Mackerra. He holds a bachelor's degree in violin performance and chemistry from Baldwin Wallace University as well as a master's degree in orchestral conducting from Bowling Green State University where he studied conducting under Emily Freeman Brown. Mr. Berken has also studied conducting under Dwight Oltman, Kirk Trevor, Donald Portnoy, and Leonard Bernstein.

Mr. Berken has been a private violin and viola teacher for over 40 years with many of his students going into professional music careers and participating in major international festivals and competitions. He is cofounder and past director of the Contemporary Youth Orchestra in Cleveland, Ohio, Conductor Laureate of the Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra Philharmonia in Oberlin, Ohio, and former director of the Heights Chamber Orchestra of Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Mr. Berken is also a composer having written numerous chamber works for all instruments and specializing recently in works for string ensemble.

Today he is the founder and director of Camerata di Magdalena which is a small conductor-less group of young musicians (ages 9 through 18). He created the group in order to give his students an ensemble experience, primarily focused on the practice and performance of music from the Baroque Era (1600-1750). Camerata di Magdalena proudly partners with The Holy Grill of St. Nicholas, a program that provides meals for the homeless of Broward County.

Sylvia Aycock

GCSF Artistic Director

Sylvia Rose Aycock is a music educator who believes that young people deserve to be heard and feel empowered to share their stories and perspectives.

She joined GCSF's artistic staff in 2017, and is proud to bring together ensembles as diverse as the vibrant South Florida community she calls home. Under her leadership, the choir has performed with the Lynn Philharmonia, the Master Chorale of South Florida, the alt indie rock band KIDS, and on WLRN's Folk & Acoustic Music radio program.

Sylvia earned her bachelor's degree in music education from Florida State University where she was awarded several grants to conduct research on community music education in Brazil, and completed her honors thesis on the topic. Applying what she learned in her research, Sylvia started a choir at the PACE Center for Girls in Tallahassee, FL. Previously, Sylvia taught middle school and high school chorus in Orlando and Boca Raton, where her students regularly received high ratings at district and state assessments and travelled nationally.

She continues to sing locally with the choir of All Saints Episcopal Church and with the Festival Singers of Florida under the direction of Dr. Kevin Fenton. She is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America.

Amanda Goldberg

GCSF Assistant Director

Amanda Goldberg is a music educator passionate about using singing to develop the whole person. She holds bachelor's degree in music education from St. Olaf College, where she studied voice and organ. Amanda has directed children's choirs at St. John's Lutheran Church, All Saints Episcopal Church, and First United Church of Christ. She has worked previously as a counselor at Interlochen Arts Camp and assisted in directing the Northfield Youth Choirs' Anima ensemble.

Amanda joined the Girl Choir of South Florida as a chorister in 2010. As a member she served as Music Librarian and earned the titles of Figlia di Coro and Maestra di Coro, working regularly as a volunteer with multiple ensembles. Since graduating, she has continued to serve GCSF in many capacities; including acting as assistant conductor of a summer tour, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, and percussionist extraordinaire. She is delighted to now return to the Girl Choir as an Assistant Director.

Amanda is the choral director at Wellington Landings Middle School in Wellington, FL, and is a Staff Singer at the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach, FL. She presently holds a Level 1 CME Choral Teacher Certification and is an active member of the National Association for Music Education, the Florida Vocal Association, and the American Choral Directors Association. She is honored to be the recipient of Palm Beach County's 2022 Central Region Beginning Teacher of the Year.

Carolyn Morgan

GCSF Accompanist

Pianist Carolyn S. Morgan received her Master of Music degree from Peabody Conservatory and has held professorships at New Mexico Highlands University, Wells College in New York, and Florida International University.

After winning first place in the North Carolina Symphony auditions, she toured with the orchestra, performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 1. For their Carnegie Recital Hall debut, Morgan and duo partner, pianist Douglas Riva, performed works by American composers—the same program they performed on their U.S. State Department-sponsored tour of Spain. The duo subsequently recorded the works for Musical Heritage Society.

Ms. Morgan has performed in many South Florida chamber ensembles and was featured piano soloist with orchestra and chorus in Beethoven's Choral Fantasy. In addition to accompanying The Girl Choir of South Florida's ensembles, Carolyn is accompanist for the Broward Women's Chorale, organist for First Church of Christ, Scientist, and maintains a private teaching studio in Ft. Lauderdale.

Welcome

Tonight, we invite you to immerse yourself fully in the present moment. It can be easy to get caught up in the day-to-day or lost in distractions and rush through life without truly experiencing it. Instead, we ask that you stay with us

for a while and notice what comes up, even if it's challenging.

All of the musical selections we present show, in one way or another, that it is indeed possible to catch glimpses of heaven here on earth, if we wake up to the beauty that exists all around us.



CHAMBER SINGERS

Spirit, Moving Over ChaosDavid Ashley White (b. 1944)

Eugene.....Sufjan Stevens (b. 1975)
arr. Sasha Niechoda

Lewis.....Moira Smiley (b. 1976)

Note from the composer, Moira Smiley: As a fifteen year old steeped in the beautiful, often harsh texts of Shape Note singing and all the big questions beginning to happen in me, I wrote out these verses in response to thinking about Charles Wesley's verse "And am I born to die, to lay this body down? And must my trembling spirit fly into a world unknown?" Four years later, I found them in an old diary, and wrote this fuguing tune to them in the house of the Lewis family in Bethesda, MD. In the tradition of Shape Note compositions, I name this piece to honor that place where the music has taken shape.

CHAMBER SINGERS

Ikan Kekek.....Malay folk song
arr. Tracy Wong

*Pony-fish, croaker-fish,
My dear is very beautiful,
But her laugh is loud (and not graceful)
If you (little one) want to be wise
Come learn (study hard), don't be lazy
The sea is calm, the boat floats towards the bluff
The heart recalls, the mouth smiles,
Kindness is always encouraged*

Life Has Loveliness to Sell.....Mary Lynn Lightfoot (b. 1952)
text by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

Alma Redemptoris Mater.....Chiara Margarita Cozzolani (1602-1678)
ed. Meredith Bowen

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
Who remains accessible
Gateway of Heaven and star of the Sea,
Give aid to a falling people
That strives to rise:
O Thou who begot thy holy Creator,
While all Nature marveled,
Virgin before and after
Receiving that "Ave" from the mouth of Gabriel,
Have mercy on sinners.*

Sing Gently.....Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

CAMERATA DI MAGDALENA

Concerto grosso in F major, Op. 6 No. 2. Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

- I. Vivace-Allegro-Adagio
- II. Allegro
- III. Grave-Largo
- IV. Allegro

CAMERATA DI MAGDALENA

I Will Charge Thee Nothing but the Promise.....Eric Berken (b.1962)

Concerto No. 1 in E major

Op. 8, RV 269, "Spring" (La primavera).....Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

I. Allegro

II. Largo e pianissimo sempre

III. Allegro pastorale

CONCERT CHOIR

Heaven Unfolding.....Andrea Ramsey (b. 1977)

text by: Charles Anthony Silverstri (b. 1965)

*Heaven is here unfolding,
Where starlight and wonder mingle,
Where sky and earth collide,
In the vast expanses of the universe,
And in the smallest interstitial spaces of cell and atom.
In quiet moments, in soaring songs of light,
In unexpected beauty, in a smile,
In laughter and in love, in harmony (and hope),
In the depths of solitude
As in the joy of fellowship;
In the burnished golden light of autumn,
In Death, and in sweet partings;
Just as in the quickening fire of newfound love,
Is Heaven here unfolding.
Drink deeply!
For widely flows the fountain,
And deep is Heaven, here on earth.*

Vichten.....Arthur & Angèle Arsenault
arr. Hart Rouge

Written in the style of an Acadian folk song, the words of Vichten are made up entirely of nonsense syllables, similar to Scottish "mouth music" where the voices are intended to mimic instruments.

The Miller, The Boy, and The Donkey..Dmitri Kabalevsky (1904-1987)
arr. V. Loktev

CONCERT CHOIR & CAMERATA DI MAGDALENA

The Rose.....Ola Gjeilo (1904-1987)

text by: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Su su, su pastorelli vezzosi, SV 166.....Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

*Come, good shepherds, run, come and see,
come and enjoy the pleasant breezes
and that sweet joy cheerily brought to us by the fair rising dawn.
Look at the fields full of perfumed flowers,
that at dawn's fair appearance laugh in celebration.*

Two Choruses from Stabat Mater.....Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725)

I. Stabat mater dolorosa

ed. David Rayl

II. Quando corpus morietur

The text, the Stabat Mater sequence, is a 13th-century Christian hymn meditating on the suffering of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ. Many different composers have set this text to music over the centuries, and Alessandro Scarlatti's version stands out for its musical richness and chromatic freedom.

Sunshine and Cloudless Sky.....Linda Tutas Haugen (b. 1954)
from *Anne Frank: A Living Voice* Text from: *The Diary of Anne Frank*



PERFORMERS

GCSF Chamber Singers

Abigail Scott
Ashlee-Marie Joseph
Ashley Hardie*
Avery Wolfson
Emma Contreras
Esme Scott

Jennifer Scott*
Lucille Fasulo
Madison Gause
Natalie Marsh
River Kuliszewski

GCSF Concert Choir

Abigail Scott
Archie Spurgin
Ashlee-Marie Joseph
Ashley Hardie*
Avery Wolfson
Charlotte Cramer
Emma Contreras
Emma-Rose Ridley
Esme Scott
Jennifer Scott*

Lucille Fasulo
Madison Gause
Natalie Marsh
Olivia Thompson
River Kuliszewski
Shalah Muhammad
Sofia Singer
Valentina Clemente
Zoey Cueto

** denotes figlia di coro*

PERFORMERS

Camerata di Magdalena

Aaliyah Waldron – *concertmaster*

Malorie Bliss – *violoncello*

Luis Gutierrez – *double bass*

Arianna Hines – *violoncello*

Mia Iusim-Siler – *violoncello*

Raz Kashuv – *violin*

Emma Klein – *violin*

Sofia Manganiotis – *violoncello*

Gregory Munits – *viola*

Samuel Palleija – *violin*

Zoey Peng – *viola*

Vihaan Sengupta – *violin*

Christina Waldron – *violin*

Bo Yu – *violin*

Eva Zlochower – *violin*

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Sponsored in part by The State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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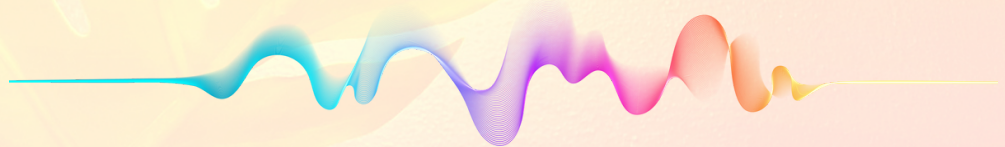
Thank you to our rehearsal assistants, choir moms, uniform fitters, photographers, chaperones, and more!

We are profoundly grateful for your time and talents.

The Girl Choir of South Florida would not be the remarkable organization that it is today without the limitless love and support of our friends & family.

To showcase the generosity of our beautiful community, we are now offering a way to be a part of GCSF every day! We warmly invite you to sponsor a part of our home and be forever recognized with a tasteful plaque to be seen by all who pass through our doors.

Additionally, GCSF is working with local artists to design a dynamic art installation evocative of music and motion for our new space. Over time, donor names will be added to the piece in the form of music notes to create an ever changing expression of gratitude.



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Where trauma happens is where the response needs to be! Just as we go to where victims of a natural disaster are located to render aid, we must similarly respond to the homeless in need.

The Holy Grill of St. Nicholas brings nourishment & fellowship directly to those in need *where they are*. Providing a ray of light and hope in an otherwise harrowing life experience.



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