



As a center for the arts in Old East Dallas, St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts revives an ancient tradition of cathedral churches in proclaiming the presence of God through the beauty of human creativity, bringing vitality to St. Matthew's Cathedral, our neighborhood and greater Dallas.

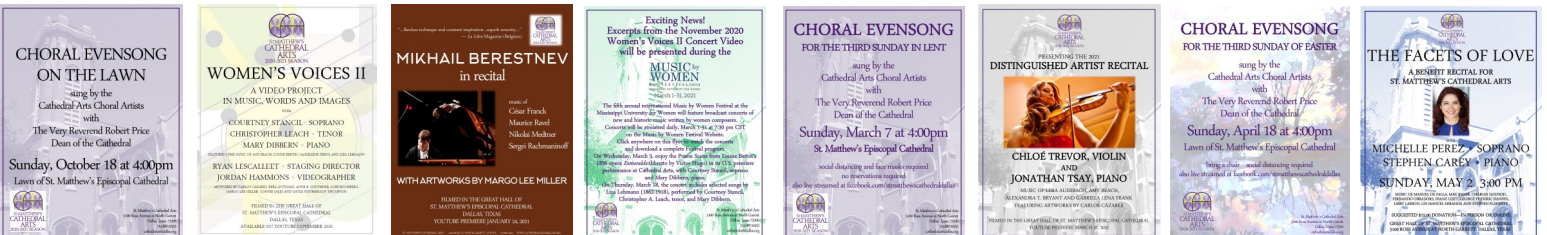
A year of profound challenges to the human spirit. World-wide pandemic. Economic collapse. Immigration crisis. A national reckoning with racial injustice. A tumultuous presidential election. Violent insurrection in the nation's capital. Disastrous weather events. Tragic suffering and loss on a previously unimaginable scale, testing the resilience and resolve of everyone. And now a year of somber anniversaries, day upon day of remembrance and commemoration. As hope and healing gradually return, the beauty of human creativity stands as a constant reminder that we are not alone, that we can overcome hardship and tragedy as a community built upon awareness and reflection, compassion and respect, striving always towards a better tomorrow. St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts is about to celebrate its tenth season of superb visual and performing arts events, presented by internationally-recognized artists and offered to the public without charge. We welcome your participation and support as Cathedral Arts celebrates a major anniversary and plans for an even brighter future. We hope you enjoy this brief retrospective and a preview of many exciting things to come.



LEADERSHIP

Michie Akin Monica Awbrey Mary Dibbern Keith Franks Ron Hackemack Wendy Hackemack Evelyn Luciani Betty Rosenthal

Cathedral Arts leadership recently launched a period of strategic planning in advance of its tenth anniversary, reviewing nine years of remarkable experiences and growth. An informal organizational structure has been codified and new leadership identified. Major changes include the appointment of artistic directors for each of the three major categories of Cathedral Arts offerings: Sacred and Secular Performing Arts, and Visual Arts. We're delighted to announce three names already familiar to Cathedral Arts patrons who will fill these roles beginning in June 2021: **Monica Awbrey**, a distinguished educator, performer and conductor of the Cathedral Arts Choral Artists, will oversee Sacred Performing Arts events. **Mary Dibbern**, a superb pianist, vocal coach and noted author who has graced many Cathedral Arts events, will assume the role of Artistic Director for Secular Performing Arts. **Keith Franks**, Cathedral Director of Music and Organist, will serve as the principal liaison to Cathedral Arts. **Evelyn Luciani** has curated and installed major Justus Sundermann Gallery exhibitions for several years. With her remarkable understanding of how to bring visual arts and artists to the public, Evelyn will continue to serve Cathedral Arts in a new role as Artistic Director for Visual Arts. **Betty Rosenthal** has led the Gala and Silent Auction events for several seasons, and she'll be formally recognized as Director for the Annual Gala. Cathedral Arts' much-beloved founder and current Executive Director, **Michie Akin**, will be gradually reducing his formal duties while remaining a major voice in an emeritus role. Executive Committee/Pillars Campaign Chair **Ron Hackemack** and Committee Treasurer **Wendy Hackemack** are retiring to Florida this year (congratulations!). Cathedral Arts would simply not be the successful organization it is without Ron and Wendy's exemplary leadership and service in countless ways over many seasons. They will remain in an advisory capacity during the transition period. Continuing Executive Committee members **Betty Anne Hunter**, **Bob Jones**, **Cindy Jones**, **Lisa Jones** and **Nelson Spencer** have been critical to the work of Cathedral Arts for many seasons, and they are poised to assume greater leadership roles in the coming months. Warmest thanks and congratulations to each of these visionary leaders for a job well done, and for helping ensure a bright future for Cathedral Arts!



2020-21 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The Great Hall and Justus Sundermann Gallery suddenly went silent and dark a year ago. All scheduled events were cancelled indefinitely, including the hugely popular annual Gala and Silent Auction and its accompanying financial support. But ingenuity and creativity did not cease. Increasing access to sophisticated web technologies meant that Cathedral Arts could begin to document live music events safely and present them to the public in a permanent online gallery. The **Cathedral Arts YouTube Channel** has been launched, and already contains a video retrospective of the complete **2019-20 Season**, along with three full-length recitals and a **Choral Evensong** from the Lenten season. An unexpected benefit to Cathedral Arts also arrived in the sharing of these videos with an international audience: a portion of the January 2020 Evensong service was featured in an online musical **Advent Calendar** containing works by women composers, performed by choirs across the U.S. and U.K. This year's virtual **Music by Women Festival** at the Mississippi University for Women included two selections from November's **Women's Voices II** concert. Cathedral Arts now has a worldwide online audience! Videos of **Women's Voices II** with soprano **Courtney Stancil**, tenor **Christopher A. Leach** and pianist **Mary Dibbern**, **Mikhail Berestnev's** brilliant solo piano recital in January, and **Chloé Trevor's** March 2021 **Distinguished Artist Recital** with pianist **Jonathan Tsay** have each received hundreds of views, to international acclaim. Artists from previous **Justus Sundermann Gallery** exhibits graciously provided artworks as backdrops to these videos. Special thanks to artists **Carlos Cázares**, **Erba Gotsman**, **Anne B. Gunthner**, **Lori Hochberg**, **Margo Lee Miller**, **Connie Sales** and **Gayle Smithermon Thompson**. And many thanks to everyone who participated in documenting these special events and making them available to the public, especially our videographers **Francisco Bedoy**, **Jordan Hammons** and **Ryan Lescalleet**! The remainder of the 2020-21 season features several fine musical events, including a benefit recital by soprano **Michelle Perez** on May 2, a **Choral Evensong** on May 16, and a special outdoor performance of the children's opera **Jack and the Beanstalk** by **The Dallas Opera's** Touring Production on May 23. Originally scheduled for a YouTube premiere in June, the **Three Tenors** recital with **Francisco Bedoy**, **Jordan Hammons** and **Christopher A. Leach**, accompanied by **Mary Dibbern**, has been rescheduled for the Fall. Depending upon safety guidelines, Great Hall events may have a restricted audience or be recorded and posted online. We'll let you know by email as conditions change. By the way, be sure you're registered for Cathedral Arts emails! Just send a note to info@cathedralartsdallas.org with your preferred email address.

IN OTHER NEWS

In June, pianist **Mary Dibbern**, soprano **Courtney Stancil** and tenor **Christopher A. Leach** will join in the cathedral to record a new CD, **The Songs of Mary Howe**, for **Toccata Classics London**. A special launch concert for the CD release will follow in May 2022!

And in "out of this world" news, we've received word that one of our **Sundermann Gallery** visual artists, **Connie Karleta Sales**, is having her artwork, **By the Skin of Her Teeth**, digitized and sent to the moon in a time capsule on **Astrobotic's** **Peregrine Lander**, as part of the new **Artists on the Moon** project commissioned through **NASA's** Commercial Lunar Payload Services program! Congratulations, Connie!

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

An internationally-renowned American operatic baritone. Celebrated concert and recital pianists. Extraordinary young vocal artists, including new voices from South Africa. A CD launch concert. Chamber music from a major new ensemble. Brilliant new Sundermann Gallery exhibits. Inspiring Choral Evensong services. As this newsletter goes to press, Cathedral Arts leadership is putting the finishing touches on a fabulous schedule for the tenth anniversary season, including a welcome return of the Cathedral Arts Gala and Silent Auction. The season includes a focus on major contributions to the arts by Black American composers, performers and visual artists. Our 2022 Distinguished Artist is **Donnie Ray Albert**, Senior Lecturer in Voice at the Butler School of Music, UT Austin and a regular guest of opera companies and symphony orchestras around the world. His February recital and master classes honoring **Black History Month** promise one of Cathedral Arts' most important musical offerings. As a calendar of events takes shape for the tenth season, patrons and friends of Cathedral Arts can join the excitement in one of many volunteer opportunities during preparations and for the events themselves, proudly welcoming returning attendees and newcomers to the campus of historic St. Matthew's Cathedral and sharing the beauty of Cathedral Arts with our growing community. Contact any member of the leadership team and get involved!



2021 PILLARS CAMPAIGN

The arts reveal the sublime nature of the human experience, and we invite your participation and support.

The annual **Pillars Campaign** helps underwrite the cost of an entire season of Cathedral Arts events. **Pillars Campaign** donors fund such major items as artist fees, administration, printing, catering, security and custodial services, photography, postage, gallery maintenance, marketing and digital communications. Thanks to the encouragement of 83 individuals and families, the **2020 Pillars Campaign** met and exceeded its year-end goal of \$25,000! As we assemble a new season of free educational, performing and visual arts events, the **2021 Pillars Campaign** is underway, and your support of Cathedral Arts is essential! This year's goal is \$30,000 — only 300 gifts of \$100. Please join the fine list of patrons whose contributions become carefully crafted experiences of arts, learning and community at Cathedral Arts, free and open to the public. We look forward to hearing from you!

BECOME A 2021 PILLAR OF ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL ARTS!

Simply send a tax-deductible gift of \$100, with an optional dedication of your choice, to:

2021 Pillars Campaign : St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts : 5100 Ross Avenue : Dallas, Texas 75206

Visit Cathedral Arts online at cathedralartsdallas.org and sign up for email alerts for a season of free public events!

