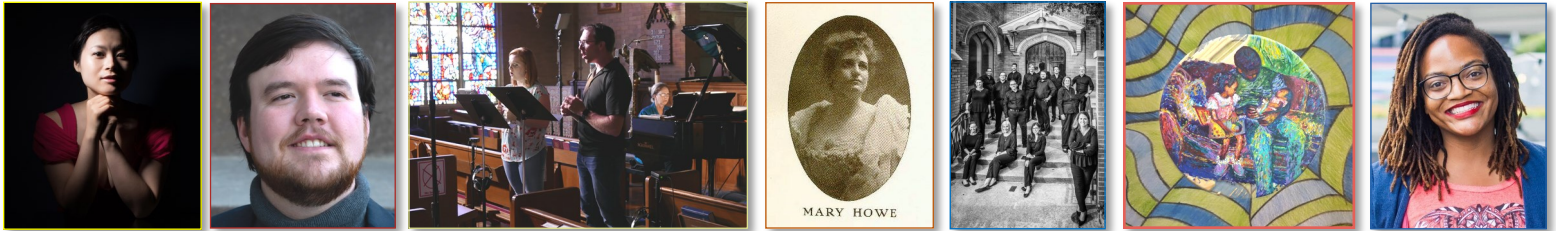




ST MATTHEW'S  
CATHEDRAL  
ARTS  
2021-2022 SEASON

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.

WINTER 2021-22  
THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



Holiday greetings from St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts! Our first Winter newsletter celebrates ten years of superb performing and visual arts events with a new slate of offerings from outstanding artists. Following months of postponements and restrictions for the safety of artists and audiences, January 2022 begins our busiest Winter/Spring calendar to date! Cathedral Arts patrons are receiving news regarding an internationally-renowned American operatic bass-baritone, celebrated concert and recital pianists, extraordinary young vocal artists, new voices from South Africa, a CD launch concert, brilliant new **Justus Sundermann Gallery** exhibits, plus monthly **Choral Evensong** services with **Monica Awbrey** and the **Cathedral Arts Choral Artists**. December brings a special three-part series of talks on Handel's immortal *Messiah*, presented live online via Zoom by the gifted young tenor **Jordan Hammons**. 2022 will include a special series, *Black Voices*, focusing on contributions to the arts by Black American composers, performers and visual artists. In January, Dallas visual artists **LaShonda Cooks** and her father **Gary Cooks** bring a collection of their current works to the Sundermann Gallery for a new exhibit entitled *Sanctuary*. Other presenters include the celebrated pianist **Gregory Thompson**, and gifted young singers from **South Africa** under the tutelage of SMU's **Barbara Hill Moore**. The 2022 Distinguished Artist is **Donnie Ray Albert**, a renowned Grammy Award-winning bass-baritone and regular guest of opera companies and symphony orchestras around the world. Honoring **Black History Month**, his February recital and master class, with the brilliant accompanist **Rick Rowley**, promise one of Cathedral Arts' most important musical offerings. March brings the **Second Invitational Art Exhibit** and the long-awaited recital of pianist **Dongni Xie**, in a program ranging from Domenico Scarlatti to jazz great Art Tatum. In May, pianist **Mary Dibbern**, soprano **Courtney Maina** and tenor **Christopher A. Leach** celebrate a new installment of *Women's Voices* with the release of their new CD for **Toccata Classics London**, *The Songs of Mary Howe*. Mary Dibbern, Christopher and bass **Jared Schwartz** will travel to **Paris** in July for a livestreamed concert, to be recorded for our **YouTube** channel. Friends of Cathedral Arts can join the excitement in one of many volunteer opportunities, welcoming returning attendees and newcomers to share the beauty of Cathedral Arts with our growing community. Sign up to volunteer at the Cathedral Arts table in the Great Hall foyer. We'll be in touch!



TENTH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION

Friday, May 6



The Tenth Anniversary Benefit Gala promises to be one of our finest evenings! On **Friday, May 6 at 7:00**, Cathedral Arts patrons will gather in the Great Hall to celebrate, serenaded by celebrated jazz vocalist and pianist **Melani Skybell** and Dallas Symphony principal bassist **Nicolas Tsolainos**, plus dancing, a fabulous dinner with wines and champagne, and an opportunity to support Cathedral Arts' free performing and visual arts events with a very special silent auction! Outstanding **Justus Sundermann Gallery** artists from the past eight seasons have generously contributed original

artworks to be auctioned to the highest bidder. Modest reserve prices ensure that everyone can participate! Reserved tables and single Gala tickets will soon be available online, by phone and in person at the cathedral. Volunteers are needed to help make this a successful and unforgettable event! Sign up at the Cathedral Arts table!



# VOLUNTEER!

*The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.* — William Shakespeare



Volunteers are the face of Cathedral Arts! Years of experience have demonstrated the need for a cadre of enthusiastic volunteers under devoted leadership to assist with all the little details that go into successful Cathedral Arts events. "Time, Talent and Treasure" (also known as "Work, Wealth and Wisdom") is the mantra for service to St. Matthew's Cathedral, and the same is true for Cathedral Arts. After ten years of extraordinary success, and in order to ensure excellence and continued growth as we enter our second decade, Cathedral Arts is converting less formal operations into more permanent organizational structures. Our volunteers typically assist with advance preparations, with the events as they happen, and with the tasks that follow. Here's an opportunity to give a little of your time (or as much as you wish) to support solo recitals and ensemble concerts in the Great Hall, exhibitions and artist receptions in the Justus Sundermann Gallery, Choral Evensong services in the cathedral, and the annual Gala Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser in the Great Hall and Gallery. You might assist with arrangements and set-up, greet guests at events and artist receptions, distribute printed programs, answer questions, collect patron information at the Cathedral Arts table, record the number of attendees, or help with the postevent take-down. We cordially invite you to join us, either occasionally or as a regular team member. The volunteer coordinator will work closely with our three artistic directors to determine event needs and confirm staffing. You can indicate your interest by filling out a card at the Cathedral Arts table in the Great Hall foyer, or send an email to interim coordinator Ron Hackemack at [hackemack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hackemack@sbcglobal.net).

## MEET DONNIE RAY ALBERT, 2022 DISTINGUISHED ARTIST

This February we proudly welcome **Donnie Ray Albert**, an American operatic bass-baritone with an international career since 1976. Born in Louisiana, Albert earned a Bachelor of Music degree from L.S.U. in 1972, then completed a Master of Music degree from S.M.U., where he studied with Thomas Hayward. He made his professional debut in May 1975 at the Houston Grand Opera in Joplin's *Treemonisha*. In 1976 he returned to sing the role of Jake Wallace in Puccini's *La fanciulla del West* and portray Porgy to the Bess of Clamma Dale in a highly lauded production of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. The production was transported to Broadway, where it ran for a total of 122 performances from September 1976 to January 1977. The production's recording won a **Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording**. In 1978 he debuted at the New York City Opera and the Washington National Opera, and in 1979 gave his first performance at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. During the 1980s Albert was highly active with regional opera companies in the U.S., appearing in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas, Fort Worth, New Orleans, Portland and Tulsa, among others. From 1981-1983 he appeared at the Vancouver Opera and debuted at the Opera Company of Boston and the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. In 1984 he debuted at the San Francisco Opera and sang Porgy at the Teatro Comunale in Florence. During the late 1980s he performed with the Canadian Opera Company, the Michigan Opera Theatre and Florentine Opera. In 1988 he embarked on a major tour of *Porgy and Bess* in Europe. In 1996 Albert sang the title role in Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* at Cologne Opera. At Milan's La Scala, he sang the roles of Hidraot in Gluck's *Armide* and the title role in Verdi's *Nabucco*. His other roles include Varlaam in *Boris Godunov*, Basilio in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, Count Monterone in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Don Carlo in Verdi's *Ernani*, Don Fernando in Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen*, Ferrando in Verdi's *Il trovatore*, Iago in Verdi's *Otello*, Jack Rance in Puccini's *La fanciulla del West*, Jochanaan in Strauss' *Salome*, Nourabad in Bizet's *Les pêcheurs de perles*, Timur in Puccini's *Turandot*, Valentin in Gounod's *Faust*, Trinity Moses in Weill's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* and the title role in Gruenberg's *The Emperor Jones*. In 2020 he sang the role of Alberich in Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*, livestreamed for the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Albert has had an active career as a concert soloist, appearing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, among others. In April and May he returns to Houston Grand Opera as Lord Capulet in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. Mr. Albert is currently Senior Lecturer in Voice at the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas in Austin. Make plans now to attend the 2022 Distinguished Artist Weekend, February 18 and 19 in the Great Hall.



Donnie Ray Albert as Alberich

## THE 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 free Cathedral Arts events. **Pillars Campaign** donors fund artist fees, administration, printing, catering, security and custodial services, photography, postage, gallery maintenance, marketing and digital communications. As we put the final touches on the tenth season of free performing, visual arts and educational events, the **2021 Pillars Campaign** is in its final weeks, and your support of Cathedral Arts is essential! This year's goal is **\$30,000**—only 300 gifts of \$100. As of this newsletter, the Pillars Campaign has reached **\$28,280** towards that number! 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.

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

Simply send a tax-deductible gift 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](http://cathedralartsdallas.org) and sign up for e-mail alerts for a season of free events!