



ONCE UPON A TIME

November 6, 2021 at 7:30pm

Good Shepherd-Faith Presbyterian Church, New York City



PROGRAM



This evening's program celebrates the 400th birthday of Jean de La Fontaine, the French poet best known for his fables. Interspersed with the music below, we've invited theatre artist Sagan Chen to curate and perform a few short works inspired by the art of storytelling. Feel free to simply listen and enjoy, or visit this QR code with your phone to follow along with the texts.

GEORG PHILIPP TELEMANN
(1681–1767)

Suite for two violins, "Gulliver's Travels," TWV 40:108
Intrada. Spirituoso
Chaconne of the Lilliputians
Gigue of the Brobdingnians
Daydreams of the Laputians and their attendants
Louré of the civilized Houyhnhnms / Wild dance of the untamed Yahoos

**HEINRICH IGNAZ FRANZ
VON BIBER**
(1644–1704)

Battalia (1673)
Sonata
The Profligate Society of Common Humor (The Rowdy Pub)
Presto
The March
Presto
Aria
The Battle
Lament of the Wounded Musketeers



JOHANN JAKOB FROBERGER
(1616–67)

Tombeau fait à Paris sur la mort de M. Blancheroche

FRANÇOIS COUPERIN
(1668–1733)

Parnassus, or, The Apotheosis of Corelli, a grand trio sonata from Les goûts-réunis (The Pleasures Brought Together) (Paris, 1724)

Corelli, at the foot of Parnassus, begs the Muses to receive him into their company.

Corelli, ravished by the fine welcome he is offered on Parnassus, expresses his joy. He continues, together with those accompanying him.

While Corelli is drinking from the Hippocrene spring, his troupe continues.

Corelli's transports of poetic inspiration caused by Hippocrene's waters.

Corelli, after his frenzy, falls asleep; his troupe plays the following very gentle lullaby.

The muses awaken Corelli and bring him before Apollo. Corelli's thanks.

ROBERT HONSTEIN
(b. 1980)

Barcarolle, from *Night Scenes from the Ospedale* (2011)

ANTONIO VIVALDI
(1678–1741)

Concerto in A minor, RV 522, op. 3, no. 8 for two violins, strings, and basso continuo

Allegro

Larghetto e spiritoso

Allegro

PERFORMERS



Sagan Chen is an award-winning actor, filmmaker, and theatre artist, and thrilled to be joining the Sebastians for this concert! As a queer nonbinary Chinese-American, they strive for their artistry to reflect an awareness of social responsibility and intersectionality of representation. Onstage: *Two Mile Hollow* (Yale), *Six Years Old*, *Stone*, and *delicacy of a puffin heart* (Corkscrew Theater Festival), *Something for the Fish* (CPR), *Exposed Bone* (The PIT). Onscreen: *High Maintenance*, *Here We Wait* and *Sideways Smile*. Directing: Dartmouth College, festivals: Samuel French OOB, *Frigid*, *Corkscrew*, *Women in Theatre*. Narrator of *Ana On The Edge*. Team at Gersh and Mosaic. Education: Dartmouth College, LAMDA, BLCU. diane-chen.com IG: @sagan.chen



Early string specialist **Dongmyung Ahn** is a performer, educator, and scholar whose interests span from the twelfth to eighteenth centuries. Dongmyung is co-founder of Duo Custos, a medieval duo that specializes in music of the fourteenth century. She regularly performs with Green Mountain Vespers, Pegasus, Raritan Players, the Sebastians, and TENET Vocal Artists. She has played rebec in the critically acclaimed production of *The Play of Daniel* at the Cloisters. A dedicated educator, Dongmyung is the director of the Queens College Baroque Ensemble and has taught music history at Queens College, Rutgers University, and Vassar College. She received her PhD in musicology at the Graduate Center, CUNY and has published an article on medieval liturgy in the Rodopi series *Faux Titre*.



Bassist **Nathaniel Chase** performs a wide range of music, from orchestral repertoire with the Allentown Symphony, to new music with Ensemble LPR and Ensemble Échappé, and period performance with the Sebastians and the Trinity Baroque Orchestra. He recently performed on Broadway in the critically acclaimed production of *Farinelli and the King* with countertenor Iestyn Davies. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory and the Yale School of Music, where he was a winner of the 2010 Woolsey Hall Concerto Competition.



Praised as an "excellent" and "evocative" violinist (*The New York Times*), **Nicholas DiEugenio** leads a versatile performing life as a chamber musician, leader, and soloist in music ranging from early baroque to current commissions. Together with pianist Mimi Solomon,

Nicholas has recorded the albums *Into the Silence* (2017) and *Unraveling Beethoven* (2018) on the New Focus label. His award-winning recording of the complete Schumann violin sonatas with fortepiano is available on the Musica Omnia label. Regarded as an inspiring teacher, Nicholas is currently Assistant Professor of Violin at UNC Chapel Hill. Nicholas holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music (B.M. and M.M.) and the Yale School of Music (D.M.A. and A.D.). He is a core member of the Sebastians. Nicholas performs on a violin made by Karl Dennis in 2011, and also on a 1734 violin made by Dom Nicolò Amati. nicholasdieugenio.com



Keyboardist and conductor **Jeffrey Grossman** specializes in vital, engaging performances of music of the past, through processes that are intensely collaborative and historically informed. As the artistic director of the acclaimed baroque ensemble the Sebastians, in recent seasons Jeffrey directed concerts including Bach's *St. John* and *St. Matthew Passions* and Handel's *Messiah* from the organ and harpsichord, in collaboration with TENET Vocal Artists. Jeffrey is a frequent performer with TENET, the Green Mountain Project, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and numerous other ensembles across the country. He was musical director for the 2019 Boston Early Music Festival Young Artists Training Program, where he conducted Handel's *Orlando* from the harpsichord. For thirteen seasons, he toured portions of the rural United States with artists of the Piatigorsky Foundation, performing outreach concerts to underserved communities, most recently in Wyoming and southeast Alaska. Jeffrey can be heard on the Avie, Gothic, Naxos, Albany, Soundspells, Métier, and MSR Classics record labels. A native of Detroit, Michigan, he holds degrees from Harvard College, the Juilliard School, and Carnegie Mellon University. Jeffrey teaches performance practice at Yale University. jeffreygrossman.com



Award-winning violinist **Daniel S. Lee** enjoys a varied career as a soloist, leader, collaborator, and educator. Praised for his “ravishing vehemence” and “soulful performance” (*The New York Times*), he has appeared as a soloist and leader with Early Music New York, the

Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, Quodlibet Ensemble, and the Yale Schola Cantorum, among others. He is the founding director and a core violinist of the critically-acclaimed period ensemble the Sebastians. As a piccolo violin specialist, he has performed as a soloist in Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 and Cantata 140, and has given the modern-day premiere of his own transcription of Johann Pfeiffer’s concerto. He has studied at the Juilliard School (B.M.), Yale School of Music (M.M. and A.D.), and University of Connecticut (D.M.A.), and has given lectures and masterclasses at Connecticut College, Manhattan School of Music, Purchase College (SUNY), the University of Kansas, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He teaches performance practice and chamber music at the Yale School of Music. danielslee.com



Canadian violinist **Gregory Lewis** has established a reputation as an artist possessing “brilliant technique and control” (*Chronicle Journal*) and “wonderful musical personality” (*Winnipeg Free Press*). Lewis has appeared as soloist with orchestras including the Winnipeg Symphony

Orchestra, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, Consortium Aurora Borealis, and others. Lewis is a prizewinner of the National Music Festival of Canada, Concours de musique du Canada, American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition, Yale Chamber Music Competition, and the Virtuoso e Belcanto Violin Competition. Lewis received his education at the Colburn School, Yale University, and the University of Manitoba, studying with Martin Beaver, Ani Kavafian, Oleg Pokhanovski, and Olga Medvedeva. He is currently in the residency stage of his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Yale University. gregorylewisviolin.com



Violist **Rosemary Nelis** has appeared on stages across the globe as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. Rosemary has performed extensively at summer chamber festivals including Yellow Barn, Lake George Music Festival, Kneisel Hall, and Bard Music Festival. Rosemary

completed her M.M. in viola performance at The Juilliard School, where she received a Kovner Fellowship, and studied with Misha Amory and Roger Tapping. Also a dual-degree graduate of the Bard College Conservatory of Music, Rosemary earned a B.M. degree studying with

Steven Tenenbom, in addition to her B.A. degree in Chinese Language and Literature. Rosemary is currently pursuing a M.M.A at the Yale School of Music where she studies with Ettore Causa. In addition to her work on modern viola, Rosemary has studied historical performance practices under the tutelage of Alexander Bonus, Arthur Haas, Daniel Lee, Robert Mealy, and Cynthia Roberts. Recent performance highlights include the North American premiere of Jörg Widmann’s String Quartet no. 7, and the world premiere of Roger Tapping’s quartet, *Reverberations*.



Hailed for his “scampering virtuosity” (*American Record Guide*) and “superb” playing (*The New York Times*), cellist **Ezra Seltzer** is the principal cellist of the Trinity Baroque Orchestra, New York Baroque Incorporated, and Early Music New York and a founding member of the

Sebastians. He has frequently appeared as guest principal cellist of Musica Angelica and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, where he earned praise for his “delicate elegance and rambunctious spirit” (*Twin Cities Pioneer Press*) in performances of all six Brandenburg Concertos. Other performances with the SPCO include Handel’s *Messiah* with Jonathan Cohen and J.S. Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* with Paul McCreesh. With Musica Angelica, he appeared in performances of Bach’s *St. John Passion* in Walt Disney Concert Hall with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and also performed in an international tour with soprano Emma Kirkby and countertenor Daniel Taylor. He attended Yale University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in history and Master of Music in cello, and graduated from the inaugural class of Juilliard’s historical performance program.



Violinist **Emily Shehi** is currently pursuing a Master of Music at Yale School of Music under the tutelage of Augustin Hadelich. She recently graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music ('21), where she studied with Ida Kavafian for 5 years. Most

notably, she was a Semifinalist at the 2021 Yehudi Menuhin International Competition for Young Violinists, where she was also named co-winner of the Senior Composer Award. Emily has attended the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival Winter Workshop, Taos School of Music, Aspen Music Festival and School, Music@Menlo, Morningside Music Bridge, and the New York String Orchestra Seminar. Additionally, she has performed in masterclasses given by Noah Bendix-Balgley, Sarah Chang, Midori, Sylvia Rosenberg and Mihaela Martin. Emily performs on a violin made by Mario Miralles, a loan made possible with the generous support of Augustin Hadelich and by winning Doublestop Foundation’s Instrument Loan Competition.

THE SEBASTIANS

The Sebastians are a dynamic and vital musical ensemble specializing in music of the baroque and classical eras. Lauded as “everywhere sharp-edged and engaging” (*The New York Times*), the Sebastians have also been praised for their “well-thought-out articulation and phrasing” (*Early Music Review*) and “elegant string playing... immaculate in tuning and balance” (*Early Music Today*). Their 2018 uncondacted *St. Matthew Passion* with TENET Vocal Arts was called “shattering” and “a performance of uncommon naturalness and transparency.”

The Sebastians recent seasons have included dozens of originally conceived programs, including collaborations with poets, choreographers, and actors; a musical installation in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; programs dealing with musical “immigration” and nationalism; and major works of J.S. Bach led from the keyboard.

Winners of the Audience Prize at the 2012 Early Music America Baroque Performance Competition, the Sebastians were also finalists in the 2011 York International Early Music Competition and the 2011 Early Music America/Naxos Recording Competition.

They have performed at Music Matters (LaGruta Center in Stonington, CT), Friends of Music at Pequot Library (Southport, CT), St. John’s Episcopal Church (Tulsa, OK), Juilliard in Aiken (SC), in the Twelfth Night Festival and Concerts@One at Trinity Wall Street (New York, NY), Early Music in Columbus (Ohio), the Renaissance and



Baroque Society of Pittsburgh (PA), the Academy of Early Music (MI), and Houston Early Music (TX). The Sebastians are currently in residence at the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments.

The ensemble’s recordings range from *Night Scenes from the Ospedale*, pairing Vivaldi concerti with newly composed interludes by Robert Honstein (“beautifully-nuanced playing and thoughtful expressivity”); to *the Sebastians a 2: Virtuoso Music of the Holy Roman Empire*, exploring the rich baroque repertoire of music for violin and harpsichord written by composers from modern-day Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic; and, most recently, *Folia*, which juxtaposes trio sonatas and vocal works by Corelli, Colista, Handel, and Vivaldi, featuring soprano Awet Andemicael.

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SUPPORT THE SEBASTIANS

The Sebastians are a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Producing these concerts is a labor of love that your tax-deductible gifts help make possible. With your support, we can bring these baroque treasures to life and share them with audiences around New York and across the country.

If this music moves you, please consider making a donation— no amount is too small. You can give online at sebastians.org/support, or by mailing a check made out to “Sebastian Chamber Players” to 163 Saint Nicholas Avenue, #2H, New York, NY 10026. **Thank you.**

THANK YOU

The Sebastians would like to thank the generous donors who have supported our 2021–22 activities so far, as well as our volunteers and board of directors. We couldn't do it without you!

\$5,000+

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
New York State Council on the Arts

\$1,000+

Dorothy Haase
The Alfred and Jane Ross Foundation
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Rosalie E. Stone

\$100+

Michele Dellinger
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Stephen Paschke
Sharon Lee Ryder
Janet Stafford
David Starr

<\$100

Darlene Challberg
Adrian Iosifescu
Michele Jerison
Barbara Myrvagnes

** This list up-to-date
as of Oct. 25, 2021.
Please forgive any
errors or omissions.*

Thanks as well to all who supported us through the difficult last season—we are grateful for your participation in our music-making and are thrilled to be bringing you a new year of baroque music.

\$10,000+

Anonymous
Beth & Jeff Davidson
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Pandemic support from the U.S.
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\$5,000+

New York City Department
of Cultural Affairs
New York State Council on
the Arts

\$1,000+

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Bradford & Christine Hinze
Patrick Ravey
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William Seltzer & Jane Berger

\$500+

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Michael & Evelyn Solomon

\$250+

Anonymous
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Yvonne Chang
Barbara Cooper
Martin Smith
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Janet Stafford
Rosalie Stone

\$100+

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Donna Firer & Brian McLaughlin
David McLean
Iva Perlman
Arthur Shippee & Mary Porterfield
Sharon Lee Ryder
Fran Samuels
Alberto Minujin &
Jace Schinderman
Karen McLaughlin & Mark Schubert
David Starr
Frederick Toms
Jane Troy

<\$100

Anonymous (2)
Carol Holmes Alpern
Stephanie Arrell

Lewis Baratz
Gail Brousal
Ellen Maria Bruzelius
Giuliana Carugati
William Coakley
Hannah Collins
Ruth Cross
Cheryl Dixon & Erik Paul
David Doster
Elaine Edelman
Dennis Edemeka
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Alan Goldberg
Sue Gronewold
Randy Katz
Lynne Killin
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Paul & Faina Ross
Margaret Spier



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**Council on
the Arts**

The Sebastians 2021–22 concerts are made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.



2021–22 NYC CONCERT SERIES

Oktoberfest with Bach

Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 7:30pm

buoyant German music and improvised live painting

Once Upon a Time...

Saturday, November 6, 2021 at 7:30pm

music, stories, and poems celebrating Jean de La Fontaine's 400th birthday

Bach for Two

Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 7:30pm

an intimate recital featuring Daniel Lee and Jeffrey Grossman

À la mode...

Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 7:30pm

the delicious sound of the French baroque with soprano Katharine Dain

Dance with Bach

Friday, May 20–Saturday, May 21, 2022

dance suites by Bach with newly-commissioned choreography

TICKETS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS AT WWW.SEBASTIANS.ORG