



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Ars Lyrica Houston celebrates "20 Years of Magic" in 23/24 season



Houston, TX April 20, 2023 – The Grammy-nominated early music ensemble Ars Lyrica Houston proudly announces *20 Years of Magic*, a 2023/24 season celebrating two decades of music-making. This 20th anniversary season comprises six subscription programs, including a fully staged Handel opera, and features world-class soloists alongside a core period-instrument ensemble of “sophisticated musical prowess” (San Diego Story). Subscription programs take place in Zilkha Hall at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, St. Philip Presbyterian Church, and Duncan Recital Hall at Rice University.

The season gets underway on September 22 in Zilkha Hall with *Fallen Angels*, program that highlights the paranormal in Baroque music. Four extraordinary singers and a colorful orchestra will perform a collection of musical enchantments including spirited masques from Purcell’s *Fairy Queen* and Giacomo Carissimi’s harrowing *Judgement of Solomon*.

Ecstatic Visions on November 3 offers a transcendent experience for listeners with a spectacular Baroque showstopper for soprano and orchestra and rapturous instrumental music. Soprano Sherezade Panthaki, described as an “astonishing coloratura with radiant top notes” (Calgary Herald), will perform G. F. Handel’s remarkable yet rarely heard *Silte Venti* alongside oboist Kathryn Montoya and violinist Andrew Fouts.

The festive holiday program on December 12, *Awe and Wonder*, features two major works for chorus and orchestra, one on the creation story and the other on the incarnation of Christ. An eight-person vocal ensemble will fill the resonant St. Philip Presbyterian Church with the music of C. P. E. Bach, Heinrich Biber, and Marc-Antoine Charpentier.

Fugal Games on January 13 in Duncan Recital Hall at Rice University celebrates the release of Artistic Director Matthew Dirst’s latest book on Bach’s *Art of Fugue* and *Musical Offering*, with a program featuring excerpts from both works. Dirst will be joined by an intimate instrumental ensemble including violinists Elizabeth Blumenstock and Stephen Redfield and traverso player Colin St-Martin on this quintessentially Baroque program.

The all-French concert ***Visions and Reveries*** on March 16 showcases Ars Lyrica favorite and world-renowned soprano Lauren Snouffer, whose singing has been described as “effervescent” (New York Times). The program features delightful lyric cantatas on mythological themes by Elizabeth Claude Jacquet de la Guerre and Jean-Philippe Rameau.

The most significant undertaking of the 2023/24 Ars Lyrica season is a production of G. F. Handel’s ***Amadigi di Gaula***, one of the composer’s famed “magic” operas. Tara Faircloth directs and Matthew Dirst conducts a cast that includes sopranos Raven McMillon and Camille Ortiz and countertenors Randall Scotting and Nicholas Garza in this Houston premiere on May 24 and 25. Following the latter performance, patrons may enjoy a Post-Opera Soirée celebrating *20 Years of Magic* at Diana American Grill.



Fallen Angels

Fri, 9/22/23 at 7:30 PM
Zilkha Hall



Ecstatic Visions

Fri, 11/3/23 at 7:30 PM
Zilkha Hall



Awe and Wonder

Tues, 12/12/23 at 7:30 PM
St. Philip Presbyterian Church



Fugal Games

Sat, 1/13/24 at 4 PM
Duncan Recital Hall, Rice



Visions and Reveries

Sat, 3/16/24 at 7:30 PM
Zilkha Hall



Opera: *Amadigi di Gaula*

Fri, 5/24 & Sat, 5/25 at 7:30 PM
Zilkha Hall

In-person subscriptions with 6-concert and 4-concert packages (\$148 - 420) are on sale now at the [Hobby Center website](#). Digital subscriptions (\$100) are on sale now at the [Ars Lyrica website](#).

[More information about the season](#)

[More information about subscriptions](#)

Please contact Lauren Ross at lross@arslyricahouston.org with any questions.

About Ars Lyrica Houston

Founded in 1998 by harpsichordist and conductor Matthew Dirst, **Ars Lyrica Houston** presents a diverse array of music in its original context while creating connections to contemporary life. Intelligent programming features neglected gems alongside familiar masterworks, and extracts the dramatic potential, emotional resonance, and expressive power of music. Its local subscription series, according to the Houston Chronicle, “sets the agenda” for early music in Houston. Ars Lyrica appears regularly at international festivals and conferences because of its distinctive focus, and its pioneering efforts in the field of authentic performance have won international acclaim.