

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP  SUMMER SEASON

PRESENTS

◆ 2019 SUMMER KEYBOARD CONCERTS ◆

PROGRAM No. 1



Sonatas  
& Suites

**Matthew Dirst**

Kurt Johnson • Maria Lin • Barrett Sills

**SUNDAY | JULY 21, 2019 | 2:00 p.m.**

St. Philip Presbyterian Church ◆ 4807 San Felipe Street ◆ Houston, Texas

## About the Musicians



Widely admired for his stylish playing and conducting, **Matthew Dirst** was recently described in the Washington Post as an “extremely precise conductor who has an ear for detail and up-to-date ideas about performing Bach.” As Artistic Director of Ars Lyrica Houston, Dirst leads a period-instrument ensemble with several acclaimed recordings, including the Grammy-nominated *Marc Antonio e Cleopatra* by J. A. Hasse. His academic degrees include a PhD in musicology from Stanford University and the prix de virtuosité in both organ and harpsichord from the Conservatoire National de Reuil-Malmaison, France, where he spent two years as a Fulbright scholar. Equally active as a scholar and as an organist, Dirst is Professor of Music at the Moores School of Music, University of Houston, and Organist at St. Philip Presbyterian Church.



**Kurt Johnson** has been a member of the Houston Symphony first violin section since 2001. He received his master's degree in violin performance from Northwestern University and his bachelor's degree from Oberlin Conservatory, studying with Gerardo Ribeiro, Marilyn McDonald, David Taylor, Almita and Roland Vamos, as well as Rachel Barton Pine. Winner of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra's concerto competition, he also served as concertmaster of the Northwestern Symphony Orchestra and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and was a member of the Grant Park Symphony. Kurt performs regularly on Baroque violin with Ars Lyrica and Bach Society Houston. He is also an amateur trumpet player and a proud father of two children, Allegra and Luke.



**Barrett Sills** is a prizewinning cellist in international competitions in Europe and South America. A native Texan, he was a scholarship student at Yale University, where he was a teaching assistant to Aldo Parisot and recipient of the prestigious Maxwell Belding Internship Award. Barry has performed with orchestras in France and Germany and as a recitalist in Paris, the south of France, and throughout South America as an Artistic Ambassador for the United States Information Agency. He currently serves as principal cellist with both the Houston Ballet Orchestra and the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, and is frequently featured as a cello soloist for the Houston Ballet. In addition to his work on modern cello, Barry also plays Baroque cello and viola da gamba, and is heard regularly in concert on both instruments with Ars Lyrica and other period-instrument organizations.



**Maria Lin** was admitted to the Indiana University School of Music at age sixteen. She completed her undergraduate work at New England Conservatory and holds a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music, where her main teachers were James Buswell and Zvi Zeitlin. Maria has performed at the Tanglewood, Spoleto (Italy), and Grand Teton music festivals, and has been a participant at the International Music Seminar at Prussia Cove, England. She has been a soloist with the Rockland Symphony, Hudson Valley Philharmonic and National Repertory Orchestra; she has also given a solo recital at Carnegie's Weill Hall sponsored by the Asian-American Foundation for the Arts. Since moving to Houston in 2000, she has performed with the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Ballet, Bach Society, Mercury, and has been a member of Ars Lyrica since 2006.

## About the Harpsichord



The harpsichord heard in this afternoon's concert was built for St. Philip in 2012 by **John Phillips** of Berkeley, California. It is a replica of an instrument built in 1768 by Albert Delin (1712–1771), the last great surviving example of a Flemish harpsichord from the period. John Phillips is widely considered one of the finest harpsichord builders in the world, producing four to six highly detailed instruments every year in his studio on Grayson Street in Berkeley. In addition to building new instruments

modeled after historic French, Italian, Flemish and German harpsichords, Phillips also restores old instruments, some of them centuries old. It's not unusual in his studio, for example, to find an instrument that has been playable for 350 years standing next to one that has been operational for less than 350 hours.<sup>1</sup> Phillips built his first instrument from a kit in 1969 while in college, opening his own shop some years later after finishing his master's degree. Since then he has built well over 100 instruments for universities, churches, ensembles, and discerning keyboard players all over the world. Phillips does most of the cabinetwork, soundboards, and musical finishings for the harpsichords, and is aided by harpsichordist and decorative artist Janine Johnson, who makes the labor-intensive keyboards from boxwood, basswood, cherry, white beef bone, and ebony. She also does most of the decorating,<sup>2</sup> including all the flora and fauna and other intricate details painted on the soundboard of the St. Philip instrument.



1. Jonathan Rhodes Lee, "John Phillips: Bringing Harpsichords Back to Life" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*, August 8, 2011)

2. Jim Doyle, "Harpsichord heaven / Early music scene, instrument makers thriving in Bay Area" (*San Francisco Chronicle – SFGate*, October 24, 2003)

Program

# Sonatas & Suites

**Trio Sonata in D Major** ("La Benaglia") ♦ Op. 4/3  
*Allegro – Adagio – Allegro – Adagio – Presto*

Giovanni Legrenzi  
1626–1690

**Suite in F Major**  
*Prélude*  
*Allemand Grave*  
*Courant*  
*Chaconne*  
*Passepied*

Gaspard Le Roux  
c1670–1706

**Sonata II from *Les Delices de la Solitude*** ♦ Op. 20  
*Allegro*  
*Aria I & II*  
*Allegro staccato*

Michel Corrette  
1707–1795

**"Gulliver's Suite" from *Der getreue Music-Meister*** ♦ TWV 40:108  
*Intrada*  
*Lilliputian chaconne*  
*Brobdingnagian gigue*  
*Reverie of the Laputans and their attendant Flappers*  
*Loure of the Houyhnhnms & wild dance of the Yahoos*

Georg Philipp Telemann  
1681–1767

**"French" Suite No. 3 in B Minor** ♦ BWV 814  
*Allemande*  
*Courante*  
*Sarabande*  
*Anglaise*  
*Menuet I & II*  
*Gigue*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
1685–1750

**Trio Sonata in B-flat Major** ♦ Op. 2/3  
*Andante*  
*Allegro*  
*Larghetto*  
*Allegro*

George Frideric Handel  
1685–1759

**Please join us for a reception in the Gathering Area following the program.**

**FREE ICE CREAM FOR ALL!**

**Your presence and generosity are welcome. A freewill offering in support of  
Music at St Philip Concerts will be received at the Sanctuary exits.**

**Donations may be made by cash, check or credit card.**



# MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP SUMMER SEASON

## ◆ 2019 SUMMER KEYBOARD CONCERTS ◆

2:00 p.m. on the 3rd Sundays of July, August, September — **FREE** (contributions welcome), plus **free ice cream** afterwards!



①



**Matthew Dirst** HARPSICHORD

SUNDAY | JULY 21, 2019 | 2:00 p.m.

Resident keyboard master and scholar **Matthew Dirst** presents a program of both solo and ensemble harpsichord music, in works by **Bach**, **Handel**, **Telemann**, **Michel Corrette**, **Gaspard Le Roux**, and **Giovanni Legrenzi**. With violinists **Kurt Johnson** and **Maria Lin**, and cellist **Barrett Sills**.

John Phillips harpsichord ◆ 2012 (after an instrument by Albert Delin • 1768)



②



**Todd Van Kekerix** PIANO

SUNDAY | AUGUST 18, 2019 | 2:00 p.m.

Newly appointed as a member of the piano faculty at the University of Houston, **Todd Van Kekerix** presents a recital of both brilliance and tenderness. His program features the truly stunning *Gaspard de la nuit* by **Maurice Ravel**, the dazzling *Piano Sonata No. 1* by Australian composer **Carl Vine**, and other works.

Steinway model D piano ◆ 2002 (acquired 2018)



③



**Aaron Tan** ORGAN

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 | 2:00 p.m.

Canadian organist, scientist, and pianist **Aaron Tan** was winner of the First Prize and Audience Prize at the prestigious American Guild of Organists (AGO) National Young Artists (NYACOP) competition in 2018. His thrilling program of exciting and varied repertoire is co-sponsored by the Houston AGO Chapter.

Paul Fritts organ ◆ 2010

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