

## Sweeter Than Roses: Art Song Through the Ages

### Program

**Giovanni Girolamo Kapsberger** (1580-1651)

Toccatà Arpeggiata

**Jacopo Peri** (1561-1633)

"Tu dormi e' dolce sonno"

**Hernando de Cabezón** (1541-1602)

"Dulce memoria" after P. Sandrin

**Claudio Monteverdi** (1567-1643)

"Ohimé ch'io cado"

**Alessandro Piccinini** (1566-1638)

Ciaccona in partite variate

**Barbara Strozzi** (1619-1677)

"Tradimento!"

**Henry Purcell** (1659-1695)

"Strike the viol" from *Come Ye Songs of Art*, Z. 232

"Sweeter than Roses" from *Pausanias, the Betrayer of his Country*, Z. 585

Suite in C Major for Harpsichord, Z. 666

Prelude / Almand / Corante / Sarabande

"From Rosy Bowers" from *The Comical History of Don Quixote*, Z. 578

*Intermission*

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791)

Twelve Variations on the French Song "Ah, vous dirai-je, Maman" K. 265

**W. A. Mozart**

"Oiseaux, si tous les ans" K. 307

"Dans un bois solitaire" K. 308

"Ach, ich fühl's" from *Die Zauberflöte*, K. 620

**Joseph Haydn** (1732-1809)

"Arianna a Naxos", cantata for soprano and keyboard, Hob. XXVIb: 2

**Ars Musica Chicago**

Hannah De Priest, soprano

Deborah Fox, theorbo & baroque guitar

Michael Pecak, fortepiano

Jason J. Moy, harpsichord & Artistic Director

## A Note from Jason J. Moy, Artistic Director

It gives me great joy to welcome you all to tonight's performance. We've planned a very special program that celebrates a number of 'new beginnings', both personally and musically, for me and my colleagues. Some of you may already know that Ars Musica Chicago has been bringing Early Music to life for Chicago audiences for over three decades, making very 'old' musical treasures every bit as 'new' and relevant as works written yesterday, and engaging listeners of all ages through historically informed performances and educational outreach. Following a hugely successful and immensely fun relaunch concert at All Saints Episcopal Church in Ravenswood last month, I am proud to kick off my first official season as Ars Musica Chicago's Artistic Director with tonight's time-traveling romp through the musical worlds of 16th century Venice, 17th century London, and 18th century Vienna, where such visionary composers as Jacopo Peri, Barbara Strozzi, Alessandro Piccinini, Monteverdi, Haydn, and Mozart charted new paths with the groundbreaking works we are about to hear.

Joining me are three of my most cherished colleagues: lutenist Deborah Fox, whose own Rochester, New York-based ensemble, Pegasus Early Music, has been blazing Baroque trails for well over a decade; and the dynamic duo of soprano Hannah De Priest and fortepianist Michael Pecak, who have been enriching Chicago's vibrant cultural scene in myriad ways since moving here a year ago. And last but not least, this evening's performance marks the Chicago debut of Michael's new instrument – a beautiful Viennese fortepiano he commissioned from the renowned Belgian instrument maker, Chris Maene, last year. We are very excited to share our beautiful music with you, so buckle up and enjoy the ride – you're in for a treat!

## About the Performers

"Irresistible" soprano **Hannah De Priest** is an emerging talent based in Chicago. Recent operatic credits include Belinda (*Dido & Aeneas*), Oberto (*Alcina*), and Iole (*Hercules*). In 2017, she was a Young Artist with the Boston Early Music Festival, performing in the ensemble cast of André Campra's *Le Carnaval de Venise* and covering the lead role of Isabelle. She spent this past summer at the Carmel Bach Festival as a Virginia Adams Best Fellow. Previous and upcoming oratorio engagements include Bach's *B Minor Mass*, *Johannes-Passion*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate*. This season, she debuts as a soloist with Bella Voce, The Newberry Consort, Madison Bach Musicians, and the Kansas City Baroque Consortium. She regularly collaborates with her boyfriend, pianist/conductor Michael Pecak. Next weekend, they will perform recital of French music inspired by the moon in Northbrook. [hannahdepriest.com](http://hannahdepriest.com)

**Deborah Fox** is a lutenist with a span of repertoire ranging from medieval to baroque music, as a soloist, chamber music player, and baroque opera continuo. She has performed with major early music ensembles and festivals from Newfoundland to Australia, including the Carmel Bach Festival, Glimmerglass Opera, Spoleto Festival, Opera Atelier (Toronto), Pinchgut Opera (Sydney), Concert Royal (New York), Haymarket Opera Company (Chicago), and others. She performs as a regular member of the ensemble Fioritura, and often in recital with soprano Laura Heimes and countertenor José Lemos. She is the founder and director of Pegasus Early Music, and the director of NYS Baroque in Ithaca and Syracuse, New York. [pegasusearlymusic.org](http://pegasusearlymusic.org)

Harpsichordist **Jason J. Moy** holds degrees in Early Music performance from McGill University, where his teachers and mentors included Hank Knox and the late Bruce Haynes. Jason serves on the faculty of the DePaul University School of Music, and performs throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, with notable appearances at the Boston Early Music Festival, York Early Music Festival (England), and Sweetwater Festival (Canada). In addition to his work with Ars Musica Chicago, Jason is a founding member of the award-winning period instrument ensemble Trio Speranza, and a regular guest of such respected local ensembles as the Bach Week Festival, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and Grant Park Symphony Orchestra. [jjmoy.com](http://jjmoy.com).

Chicago-based conductor, pianist, and historical keyboardist **Michael Pecak** performs extensively throughout North America and Europe. Having earned degrees in piano and conducting from Northwestern and Indiana Universities, Michael was a Fulbright Scholar in Warsaw, Poland, and a Graduate Fellow at Cornell University. He holds a DMA in historical performance practices from McGill University and has published articles on the music of Beethoven and Chopin. A lover of opera and art-song, Michael works regularly with vocalists as a coach and répétiteur. He is conductor of the Chicago City Wide Symphony Orchestra and, this winter, he will be assistant conductor at Winter Opera St. Louis for their production of Bellini's *Norma*. [michaelpecak.com](http://michaelpecak.com)

### **Acknowledgements**

Ars Musica Chicago is grateful to Richard Hoskins, St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, Hannah De Priest, Michael Pecak, Danuta and Eric Berger, and the Haymarket Opera Company for their in-kind support of tonight's performance.