

PORTLAND ROSSINI CLUB

145th Season

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
Portland, Maine

3:00 PM
Sunday, January 17, 2016

President
Program Chair

Program

Cecile DeRoche-Cain
Lurette Saul

The Five Canticles of Benjamin Britten

with George Eisenhauer, tenor; Joshua Miller, baritone;
James Brown*, countertenor; Jazmin DeRice, mezzo-soprano;
Mark Braun, piano; Seth Blank, horn; Mo Nichols*, harp

Canticle IV: The Journey of the Magi

text based on the T.S. Eliot poem, *The Journey of the Magi*

Canticle V: The Death of Saint Narcissus

text by T.S. Eliot

Canticle I: My Beloved is Mine and I am His

text from *A Divine Rapture* by Francis Quarles

Canticle III: Still Falls the Rain

text from *The Canticle of the Rose* by Edith Sitwell

Canticle II: Abraham and Isaac

text based on the Abraham and Isaac story as depicted in
the *Chester Mystery Plays*

*Guest

We request that the audience reserve its applause until the end of each performance

Please join us for a reception following the program

You are invited to our next program, which will take place here Sunday, February 21

Many thanks to St. Luke's Cathedral for the use of their facilities for our programs

Today's Performers

Seth Blank, Horn. Seth has played Horn since elementary school in New York. He participated in a wide variety of symphonic, opera, chamber and solo work while attending Boston University for both undergraduate and Medical School. Since settling in Maine in 1992, he has played with the Southern Maine Symphony, the Maine State Ballet Orchestra and the Centennial Brass Band. Seth is a physician in the Portland area and has been a member of Rossini Club since 2004.

Mark Braun, Piano: Mark grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, moved to Chicago at age 28 and arrived here in Maine on the winds of the blizzard of '96. He has been an active member of both the Marston-Kotzschmar Club and the Portland Rossini Club since 1996. In past years, he has played a variety of music, has performed solo, four-hand and eight-hand compositions, and chamber music, including sonatas for French horn and piano, and trios for piano, French horn, and violin or voice. He likes to write his own program notes, finding that the process helps him to better understand and interpret the musical works he's performing. He is currently an internist in solo practice in Scarborough.

James Brown, Countertenor: James Brown is a student at the University of Southern Maine, studying under Ellen Chickering, anticipating his Bachelor of Music in Music Performance in 2016. Recent engagements have included the role of Arnalta in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with the USM Opera Workshop and a featured soloist in the White Mountain Bach Festival. He has performed with the Queens College Baroque Opera Workshop in the scenes concert of Cavalli's *Il Giasone* and workshopped with specialists Drew Minter and Julianne Baird. He will be performing the role of Arnalta in USM's full production of *L'incoronazione di Poppea* later this semester.

Jazmin DeRice, Mezzo Soprano: A Maine-based singer and performer, Jazmin has recently been seen as "Genevieve" in Floating Opera NY's production of *Pelleas et Melisande*, "Dryad" in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Utopia Opera, cover of "Nancy" in *Albert Herring* with Bronx Opera, and "Hansel" in a Bunraku-style puppet opera of *Hansel and Gretel* at Mayo Street Arts. DeRice has been featured as alto soloist for Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart *Requiem*, Vivaldi *Gloria*, Bach *B minor Mass*, and Purcell's *Faerie Queen* with oratorio societies and ensembles throughout New York, New Jersey and New England. DeRice is a recipient of the prestigious Lilian Nordica Award. She recently performed in Handel's *Messiah* in Newcastle in December, and will perform in Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* in April.

George Eisenhauer, Tenor: Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, George holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance from the University of Southern Maine and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Music Education, as well as graduate studies in Music Performance. At USM, George studies with Ellen Chickering and has performed many principal roles in the opera workshop program, such as Rinuccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Alfred from Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, and selections from Handel's *Acis and Galatea* with the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra. In Maine, George has been a soloist in the White Mountain Bach Festival's performance of Handel's *Messiah*, as well as the Penobscot Bay Singers' performance of Handel's *Messiah* last December. He has also performed the role of Frederic in Lincoln County Community Theater's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. George became a member of Rossini Club in 2015.

Joshua Miller, Baritone: Originally from Southwest Harbor, Josh is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine's vocal performance program. Joshua was most recently seen as The Father in *Hansel and Gretel* and Faulka in *Die Fledermaus*, and Dottore Grenvil in *La Traviata*. Joshua has been living in New York City while he pursues his opera career. Joshua joined Rossini Club in 2015.

Mo Nichols, Harp: Mo grew up in Machiasport, Maine in a very musical family, studying harp with Jara Goodrich of the Portland Symphony Orchestra since the age of eight. Mo is currently Principal Harpist of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, and is a speech-language pathologist at Mark R. Hammond Associates in Portland, Maine. On non-Bangor-Symphony weekends, Mo plays as a freelance harpist throughout the state of Maine. In addition to such southern Maine productions as Portland Ballet Company's *The Victorian Nutcracker* and PortOpera's *La Boheme*, Mo has performed with ensembles such as the Conductors' Retreat at Medomak, the Choral Art Society, Mt. Desert Summer Chorale, University of Southern Maine Orchestra, University of Maine (Orono) Orchestra, the Boy Singers of Maine, and the Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra. Mo holds a bachelor's degree from Carleton College with a major in psychology, and a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders from the University of Maine. Mo lives in Portland, Maine.