

# California Bach Society Press Release

October 14 – 16 , 2022

## Plaisirs Baroques:

### Grand Motets of Charpentier, Mondonville, and Telemann

Friday, October 14, 2022, 8:00 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell, San Francisco

Saturday, October 15, 2022, 8:00 pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado, Palo Alto

Sunday, October 16, 2022, 4:00 pm

First Congregational Church, 2330 Durant, Berkeley

Tickets: \$40 (discounts for advance purchase, seniors, students, and under 30). For discounts and to facilitate social distancing, please purchase tickets in advance at [www.calbach.org](http://www.calbach.org). For COVID-19 protocols, consult [www.calbach.org/covid](http://www.calbach.org/covid). Doors open 30 minutes prior to each performance.

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The opening concert of California Bach Society's 2022-2023 season features three choral masterworks of the French Baroque, lushly orchestrated for strings, flutes, oboes, bassoon, trumpets, and drums as well as vocal soloists. The program includes a *Te Deum* by Marc-Antoine Charpentier, the grand motet *Dominus Regnavit* by Jean Joseph de Mondonville, and another grand motet, *Deus Judicium Tuum*, written by George Phillip Telemann during his eight-month Paris sojourn in 1737.

Each of these three Grand Motets has a unique musical viewpoint. One composer (Mondonville) had a traditional royal patron and creates a dramatic work in the full Versailles style. Then Charpentier, who was not beholden to the official royal patronage system, presents his personal and emotionally rich concept. Finally, the program includes a "guest artist" (Telemann) who—enchanted by the grand motet in his visit to Paris—melded his German and Italian influences into this French form, creating yet another distinctive approach.

Soloists for the CBS performances include sopranos Victoria Fraser and Caroline Jou Armitage, baritones Adam Cole and Roco Córdova, and soloists John Gale, Melinda de Jesus, and David Seigel from the choir. Accompanying the choir and soloists is a Baroque orchestra bookended by concertmaster Noah Strick and organist Yuko Tanaka.

"The listener had the uncanny, elevating sense of hearing every voice devoted to a single purpose. It was, in the broadest sense of the term, a musically spiritual experience." — SF Classical Voice, 2017 (reviewing the CBS St. Matthew Passion)

## Biographies:

To download photos, please go to <http://www.calbach.org/press/>

The California Bach Society, a 30-voice chamber chorus, was awarded "Best Choral Group" and "Best Early Music/Baroque Ensemble" for 2017-2018 by *San Francisco Classical Voice*, following a dazzling performance at the Berkeley Early Music Festival. Founded in 1971, CBS has specialized in historically informed performances since 1998 and has established a reputation for its interpretations of Renaissance and Baroque choral music. Leon Chisholm of *San Francisco Classical Voice* wrote: "In recent years, **the California Bach Society has become a prospector of Baroque gold**. Its concerts have brought forth exquisite, rarely heard works by forgotten masters from the lost frontier, to the delight of its audiences."

Artistic director **Dr. Paul Flight**—a noted choral conductor, teacher, and singer—is in his seventeenth season with the California Bach Society. A former member of the Waverly Consort, Theatre of Voices, Pomerium Musices, and the New York Collegium, he brings a wealth of expertise to CBS. Critics have praised Dr. Flight's conducting acumen, stating: "**Flight has made of the choral group a professional ensemble capable of every expressive nuance and glorious ensemble sound.**"

Born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, soprano **Victoria Fraser** studied vocal performance and sacred music at Smith College, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and University of Notre Dame. A specialist in music from the Middle Ages through the late Baroque era, Victoria has performed as a soloist and chorister in Europe and North America.

Soprano **Caroline Jou Armitage** is known to Bay Area audiences for her "absolutely beautiful" performances sung with "pitch-perfect clarity and affecting intensity" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*). As a frequent soloist with the California Bach Society, she has performed Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, several Bach cantatas, and Schütz's *Weihnachtshistorie* (role of Angel).

An 11-year American Guild of Musical Artists member of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and currently in his seventeenth year with the Grace Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, baritone **Adam Cole** has sung, toured, and/or recorded professionally with the SF Symphony, American Bach Soloists, Philharmonia Baroque, Cappella SF, Grace Cathedral, California Bach Society, and SF Renaissance Voices.

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, baritone **Roco Córdova** is a vocalist, composer, producer, and improviser, with a B.Mus. in Composition from the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music and an M.A. in Composition from Mills College. Roco studied voice with CBS director and countertenor Paul Flight.

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