



VOX 3

a vocal music collective

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VOX 3 PRESENTS MUSIC OF THE REFORMATION

*** SPECIAL SERIES CONTINUES WITH FREE EARLY MUSIC CONCERT***

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(Chicago, IL) **VOX 3** continues the tradition of artistic works that examine the place of God and religion in society with their upcoming concert, *Here I Stand: Music of the Reformation*, on Sunday, November 4th. The collective of vocal performers will present a program of motets, hymns, and cantatas from the age of the Reformation, spanning from the days of Martin Luther to the master of Baroque Lutheran tradition, Johann Sebastian Bach. The unique focus on the Reformation gives listeners a glimpse into the musical and cultural changes of this turbulent time in history, and an idea of the influence of these changes on personal beliefs.

“From a pool of sources ranging from chant to tavern tunes to the most complex polyphony, Martin Luther and his musical advisor Johann Walther fashioned a singing tradition still vibrant in Protestant churches today,” says Artistic Director Brian von Rueden. “Using hymns and the printing press to spread his message, they stood the world on its head, spawning wars of the pen and the sword.” Throughout this afternoon program, commentary by the performers will trace the church’s influence on western music in its transformation from the Renaissance to the high Baroque. Works by Walther, Johann Herman, Hans Leo Hassler, Michael Praetorius, Heinrich Schütz, and J.S. Bach will be featured in this dynamic program of early music. Soloists include sopranos Kimberly Beasley and Jennifer Haworth, tenor Brian Hoffman, and baritone Brian von Rueden.

Soprano **Kimberly Beasley** holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado, a Master of Music from Valparaiso University, Indiana, and a Certificate of Vocal Performance from Northwestern University. Her stage credits include *Into the Woods*, *Suor Angelica*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Tartuffe*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *Carmen* in addition to being the musical director for productions of *A...My Name is Alice*, *West Side Story*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *Children of Eden*, *Hello Dolly*, and *The Last Five Years*. Beasley has taught university courses in applied theory, opera scenes, vocal pedagogy, and opera history. She has performed as a soloist with the Southwest Michigan Symphony, Elmhurst Symphony, the Northwest Indiana Symphony, DuPage Opera Theatre, New Philharmonic, Light Opera Works, and in the chorus of Lyric Opera of Chicago and Grant Park Symphony Choruses. She serves on the voice faculties of Midwest Young Artists and the Voice and Opera Academy.

Soprano **Jennifer Haworth** recently received her Master of Music degree at the Chicago College of Performing Arts, where she played Feu in *L'enfant et les Sortilèges*, a Voice in the Wall in *The Yellow Wallpaper*, and sang solos in Stravinsky's *Mass* and Bach's *Jesu, meine Freude*. Jennifer has performed Dido in *Dido and Aeneas* and Jeannette in *Les enfants a Bethlehem* with Crescendo Opera; she also appeared as Susanna in *Le nozze fi Figaro* and Celia in Cimarosa's *L'infedeltà fedele* with Millennium Chamber Players. On the concert stage, Jennifer recently performed the soprano solos of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* at several Chicago-area churches. Jennifer received a Bachelor of Music from Northwestern University in 2005 where she sang Olympia in scenes from *The Tales of Hoffman*, Papagena in *The Magic Flute*, and the First Fairy in *The Fairy Queen*. She also sang the soprano solos in oratorios including *The Creation*, Bach's *Magnificat*, the Rutter *Requiem*, Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* Haydn's *Theresa Mass* Schubert's *Mass in A flat* and Monteverdi's *Vespers*. Jennifer has also been a Young Artist with Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre.

Tenor **Brian Hoffman** completed his Bachelor of Music degree at the Chicago College of Performing Arts, where he studied with Myron Myers and Michael Best. Hoffman has appeared as the Male Chorus in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* and as Count Perrucchetto in Cimarosa's *L'infedeltà fedele* with the Millennium Chamber

Players. Other operatic roles include The Snowman in *A Childhood Miracle*, Don Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Federico in *L'amico Fritz*. Hoffman played the title role in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and Henry in *The Fantasticks* with the Three-Sided Players.

Baritone **Brian von Rueden** originally hails from Wausau, Wisconsin. He earned his Master of Music degree from Roosevelt University and his Bachelor of Music degree from Valparaiso University. Von Rueden has appeared in various opera roles, including Count Almaviva in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Melibeo in the U.S. premiere of Cimarosa's *L'infedeltà fedele*, and Tarquinius in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, all with Chicago's Millennium Chamber Players. While living in Dresden, Germany, he presented recitals at the Pianosalon Dresden and Schloss Siebeneichen in Meissen. Von Rueden has also made a name for himself in concert repertoire, having sung several cantatas and masses of J.S. Bach, most notably with the early music group Ars Musica Chicago.

VOX 3 is a collective of artists who educate both performers and audience through varied presentations of vocal music. The group's members perform music, execute administrative functions in the organization and educate the public about vocal music through concerts and quarterly publications of original articles.

Here I Stand: Music of the Reformation is presented at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1218 W. Addison, on Sunday, November 4 at 2:00 p.m. Admission is free, although donations are welcome.