**

*For immediate release:*

**VOICES OF ASCENSION PRESENTS**

**A Voice of Her Own**

Celebrating a Thousand Years of Choral and Vocal Masterpieces by Great Women Composers

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:30PM**

The Brick Church

1140 Park Avenue at 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128

Dennis Keene Artistic Director & Conductor

*Featuring the commission of a new work by Bora Yoon*

John Brancy, *baritone*

Pedro da Silva, *guitar*

Daire Fitzgerald, *violoncello*

Andrew Henderson, *organ*

Voices of Ascension

Dennis Keene, *Artistic Director & Conductor*

On March 20th, Voices of Ascension will celebrate a thousand years of choral and vocal masterpieces by great women composers. From the haunting twelfth century chants of Hildegard of Bingen to the world premiere of a new work by contemporary master Bora Yoon, Music Director Dennis Keene has selected the most captivating works of women artists through the ages.

Though often unsung and sometimes forced to remain in disguise behind male protectors, these inspired women creators will get their rightful place in the spotlight at this groundbreaking Voices of Ascension concert.

Featuring European masters like Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelsohn, and Ethel Smyth to American greats like Amy Beach, Florence Price, and Jocelyn Hagen, this performance will also be the New York premiere of works from Lili Boulanger, Cécile Chaminade, and Imogen Holst.

“A Voice of Her Own” will take you on a musical journey across the centuries through the genius of these extraordinary women. The selected works will range from the deeply personal and mystical to sacred services of inspirational beauty and secular songs of depth and passion.

**Lili Boulanger**

*Hymne au Soleil*

*Vielle Prière Buddhique*

*Sous bois* (NY Premiere)

*Psaume 24*

**Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel**

Excerpts from *Gartenlieder, Op. 3*

**Clara Schumann**

*Vorwärts*

*Gondoliera*

**Ethel Smyth**

*Agnus Dei* from *Mass in D Minor*

**Amy Beach**

*Let this mind be in you*

**Florence Price**

*Praise the Lord*

**Hildegard of Bingen**

*Vos flores rosarum*

**Cécile Chaminade**

*Ronde du crépuscule* (NY Premiere)

**Imogen Holst**

*Agnus Dei* from *Mass in A Minor* (NY Premiere)

**Jocelyn Hagen**

*In my soul* from *amass*

*Benedictus* from *amass*

**Bora Yoon**

World Premiere of a new piece commissioned by Voices of Ascension

[**BORA YOON**](http://borayoon.com/)

Described by the *New York Times* as “mesmerizing” and by *KoreAm Journal* as “totally unique.. ..expect the unexpected,” Korean-American composer, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist Bora Yoon is an interdisciplinary artist who conjures audiovisual soundscapes using digital devices, voice and found objects and instruments from a variety of cultures and historical centuries –  to formulate an audiovisual storytelling through music, movement and sound.

In recent projects, Yoon composed and performed the live score to Haruki Murakami’s *Wind Up Bird Chronicle* directed by Stephen Earnhart (Edinburgh International Festival, Singapore Arts Festival) commissioned by Asia Society; written and performed  2-person opera *Sunken Cathedral* (produced by Beth Morrison Projects and HERE Art Center) featuring Korean traditional dance and drumming artist Vong Pak; and as an improvisor and performer/composer, collaborates with multimedia artist R. Luke DuBois (bitforms Gallery) with *( (( PHONATION )) )* and ever-evolving experiments with technology and art.

From site-specific works to music for dance, theater, multimedia happenings, and art galleries, Yoon’s work resonates with an enormously diverse range of genres, communities, and collaborators including poet Sekou Sundiata (*The 51st (dream) state*), Iceland-based electronic producer Ben Frost, visual artist Ann Hamilton (*event of a thread*), choreographers Yin Mei Dance and Noémie Lafrance, early music quartet New York Polyphony, video artist Adam Larsen, filmmaker H. Paul Moon, composer Michael Gordon (*Lightning at Our Feet*), SYMPHO directed by Paul Haas, DJ Spooky, guitarist Kaki King, live visualist Joshue Ott, the League of Electronic Musicians and Urban Robots, phonograph artist Aleks Kolkowski, Korean traditional dance and drumming artist Vong Pak, kinetic sculptor U-Ram Choe, data visualist R. Luke DuBois, amongst many others.   Yoon has been commissioned to write new works for Metropolis Ensemble, Musica Viva, Young People’s Chorus of New York, Sō Percussion and the SAYAKA chorale of Tokyo.   Recordings are available through INNOVA Recordings, Popular Noise, Swirl Records, MIT Press, iTunes, (gr)Albums, and Naxos — and select scores through Boosey & Hawkes Publishing.

Yoon’s music has been presented at Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Singapore Arts Festival, the Nam Jun Paik Museum (South Korea), MADE Festival (Sweden), Festival of World Cultures (Poland), Park Avenue Armory, and Walker Art Center, among others.  She is a TED2014 fellow, 2010 New York Foundation for the Arts fellow in Music/Sound, United Artists fellow with the Asian American Arts Alliance, has been an artist-in-residence at the Park Avenue Armory, Ringling Museum, the Hermitage, HERE Art Center/PROTOTYPE, and with the Sorel Organization — and is a doctoral candidate in Music Composition and the Interdisciplinary Humanities (IHUM) at Princeton University.

Classically trained and steeped in a first love of choral music, Yoon is fascinated by the intersection of space and sound, maps, human Venn diagrams, handsome sounding kitchenware, sonorities, and the pulleys and strings that hold everything together.

[**JOHN BRANCY**](https://www.johnbrancy.com/)

John Brancy’s intense musicality and communicative power place him in the front ranks of baritones of his generation.  Hailed by the New York Times as “a vibrant, resonant presence,” Brancy won **First Prize** in the Art Song Division of the 2018 Concours Musical International de Montreal, a win that recognizes him as a premiere interpreter of Art Song repertoire in our time.  The New Jersey native also won **First Prize** in the 2018 Lotte Lenya Competition in New York, **Second Prize** at the 2017 Wigmore Hall Competition in London and prior to that won the **media prize** in the 2017 Belvedere International Singing Competition in Moscow and first prize in the Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition in 2015. He is also a past winner of the Marilyn Horne Song Competition and the Sullivan Foundation Grand Prize.

[**PEDRO DA SILVA**](http://www.pedrodasilva.com/)

At Carnegie Hall, Pedro has had three performances to date in both the Isaac Stern Auditorium and Weill Hall: as a soloist, as part of an ensemble, and as a composer. Of Pedro’s 26 orchestral works, the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas commissioned 16, with whom he has performed as a soloist, as well as with other orchestras such as the Pittsburgh Symphony, the London Metropolitan Orchestra, and the Orchestre Lamoureux in Paris. He has collaborated with members of illustrious orchestras – London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and New York Philharmonic – and has recorded his orchestral and chamber works at some of the world’s finest studios: Abbey Road Studio 1 with Grammy-winning producer Stephen McLaughlin, British Grove Studios, New York University’s Dolan Studios, and Legacy Studios in New York. Additionally, Pedro is the Music Director of the [*Manhattan Camerata*](http://www.manhattancamerata.com/), co-founded in 2009 with his wife, Argentine composer and pianist, Lucía Caruso

[**DAIRE FITZGERALD**](https://www.oslmusic.org/bios/daire-fitzgerald/)

Cellist Daire FitzGerald was born in Ireland and educated in England and Switzerland under the guidance of Yehudi Menuhin and Mstislav Rostropovich, before enrolling at New York’s Juilliard School. While a student in New York, she was the first recipient of the Martin E. Segal award, which was presented by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Ms. FitzGerald has toured throughout Europe, Asia, and North America as a soloist and chamber musician. As a soloist, she has worked with all major Irish orchestras, Warsaw Sinfonia, Halle Orchestra, Berlin Symphony Orchestra and the Central Beijing Orchestra of China. Ms. FitzGerald’s chamber music collaborators include Yehudi Menuhin, Andrè Previn, Vladimir Feltsman, Gerald Ranck, John Browning, and Lukas Foss. Ms. FitzGerald is a member of St. Luke’s Chamber Ensemble and has performed with many other chamber music institutions in New York, including Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, New Jersey Chamber Music Society and Barge Music. She has appeared as chamber musician as part of Lincoln Center’s Great Performers Series and with Orchestra of St. Luke’s in PBS’s *Live from Lincoln Center*. She has performed in numerous chamber music broadcasts on public television all across the United States. Ms. FitzGerald is a co-founder of the Strathmere Ensemble and is Music Director of the Bridge Theatre Company in Washington Heights. Ms. FitzGerald has recorded for Sony Classical, Deutsche Grammophon, Decca London, Music Masters, CRI, and Nonesuch, among others.

[**ANDREW HENDERSON**](http://www.andrewhenderson.net/)

Andrew Henderson is Director of Music & Organist at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, where he oversees an extensive liturgical and choral program, including the 40-voice Saint Andrew Chorale, the 180-voice New York City Children’s Chorus, in addition to the Saint Andrew Music Society’s *Music on Madison* concert series. He also serves as the chair of the organ department at the Manhattan School of Music, as the organ instructor at Teacher’s College, Columbia University, and as Associate Organist at New York City’s Temple Emanu-El. Dr. Henderson, a native of Thorold, Ontario, holds degrees in music from Cambridge and Yale Universities, and in 2007 he was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at The Juilliard School. He was a finalist in the international competition *Grand Prix de Chartres* in France in 2002, and won first prize in the Royal Canadian College of Organists’ biennial National Organ Playing Competition the following year. Recent performances include organ and continuo playing with the New York Philharmonic, American Symphony Orchestra, Musica Sacra, Voices of Ascension, The Oratorio Society of New York and The Collegiate Chorale, and solo recitals in Poland, Canada, and throughout the USA. His performances have been featured on the nationally-syndicated public radio programs *Pipedreams and With Heart and Voice*. He has been featured as a recitalist and workshop leader at national and regional gatherings of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the Fellowship of United Methodists in Worship and Music Arts, the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and the American Guild of Organists. His first solo CD, *Andrew Henderson at St. John’s, Elora*,was recorded and released in 2010. A Fellow of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, his teachers have included John Tuttle, Barrie Cabena, David Sanger, Thomas Murray and John Weaver.

[**PURCHASE Tickets for the March 20th Concert HERE**](https://voaconcertmar21.brownpapertickets.com/)

**For Voices of Ascension tickets and information, visit:**[**www.voicesofascension.org**](http://www.voicesofascension.org/) **or call the box office:****212-358-7060****.**

**Voices of Ascension Chorus & Orchestra** founded in 1990 and directed by conductor Dennis Keene, presents exceptional performances of great works of music for chorus and orchestra. Over the course of its 28-year history, Voices of Ascension has produced an annual concert series, released Grammy-nominated recordings, and engaged in artistic collaborations with the San Francisco Symphony, Mostly Mozart Festival, José Limón Dance, the Mark Morris Dance Group, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and others. Recent performances have been described as 'richly colored, impressive, and beautifully balanced' (Wall Street Journal) and 'inspired' (NY Times).

**Dennis Keene,** Artistic Director and Conductor of Voices of Ascension, is an internationally renowned conductor. Through his concerts and Grammy-nominated recordings with Voices of Ascension, regular guest appearances as conductor and teacher, and his work as Artistic Director of the Dennis Keene Choral Festival and Voices of Ascension Conductor Academy, he has become one of the preeminent figures in choral music today. Recipient of awards for exceptional artistry from The Juilliard School and Chorus America, Dr. Keene has also served on grants panels for the NEA and NYSCA as well as the board of Chorus America.

**2018-2019 SEASON CONCERT CALENDAR**

* For VoA tickets & information, **visit:**[**www.voicesofascension.org**](http://www.voicesofascension.org/) or call **box office at****212-358-7060**
* All concerts at The Church of the Ascension, 36 Fifth Avenue at Tenth Street, NYC,
***EXCEPT March 20th Concert*** at The Brick Church, 1140 Park Avenue at 92nd Street, NYC
* Choral Tickets: $85, $40, $10; half-price for students at the door
* Wheelchair and Accessible Seating Available
* **TICKETS & SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW**

**CONCERT SERIES**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 7:30PM**

**\*The Brick Church** (1140 Park Ave. at 92nd St.)

**VOICES OF ASCENSION CHORUS**, **Dennis Keene, Conductor**

**A Voice of Her Own** featuring great choral music by women composers

**Tickets:** $85, $40, $10; half-price for students at the door

**[PURCHASE Tickets for March 20](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3513373)[th](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3513373) [Concert HERE](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3513373)**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 7:30PM**

**The Church of the Ascension**

**VOICES OF ASCENSION CHORUS**, **Dennis Keene, Conductor**

**Renaissance Concert** featuring the works of Lassus and Byrd

**Tickets:** $85, $40, $10; half-price for students at the door

**[PURCHASE Tickets for May 1](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3513374)[st](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3513374) [Concert HERE](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3513374)**

**For Voices of Ascension tickets and information, visit:**[**www.voicesofascension.org**](http://www.voicesofascension.org/) **or call the box office:****212-358-7060****.**

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