



BACH CHOIR
OF PITTSBURGH

MONSTER

The Oaks Theater, APRIL 23 + 24

Celebrating our Return to Live Performances

Frankenstein Re-Imagined

Thomas W. Douglas
Artistic Director



BACH CHOIR
OF PITTSBURGH

PO Box 5253, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 WEB bachchoirpittsburgh.org PHONE 412-241-4044



BACH CHOIR OF PITTSBURGH

presents

MONSTER

Frankenstein Re-Imagined

Thomas W. Douglas

Artistic Director and Conductor

Jon Erik Schreiber

Associate Conductor

Jaron Crawford

Composer and Collaborator

Band Members

Paul Thompson, *Bass (Contractor)* ▪ Alex Weibel, *Guitar*
Jevon Rushton, *Drums* ▪ Joe Sheehan, *Keys*
Scott Boni, *Saxophone*

The Oaks Theater

310 Allegheny River Boulevard, Oakmont, PA 15139

APRIL 23 + 24



A NOTE

from our Soprano, Beverly Gray



Uncertainty. Change. Flexibility. Adaptation. Words that many of us have lived, deeply, these past two years. Maybe we've even gotten comfortable with them and their presence in our lives. COVID has been our Monster, a thing created that took on a life of its own and changed the course of our collective lives.

One of the things I enjoy so much about being a part of the Bach Choir is the process and challenge of taking a piece of music from sight-reading to performance; receiving the printed copy and breaking it apart bit by bit,

section by section. Learning the notes and then learning the words or vice versa. Getting a crash course in Hebrew, or Latin, or German. Anything goes. Until one night at rehearsal, you notice you're singing your part without even looking down at the paper. It's part of your soul, something that wasn't there before but now is a part of you.

For "Monster," we began with a piece of music you can't find anywhere, except in our black binders (and in Thomas' head). This is an all new composition, never performed before. We sight-read, experiencing that process together. But we also had to be flexible, making changes and adapting just like we have in the past two years. On the night of the performance, it will be more of the same, adjusting on the fly as the movie rolls.

What we are doing has never been done before. But as Thomas says, "This is art." Thank God for it.

We won't know what this piece really sounds like until the night of the performance. But we do know this: living with uncertainty is a given. Creating beauty with it is an option, a choice. Perhaps we can make the monster beautiful and, as we have with COVID, learn a little something about ourselves and our world.

about the



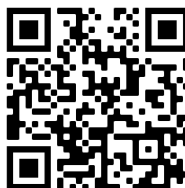
BACH CHOIR
OF PITTSBURGH

The Bach Choir of Pittsburgh was founded in 1934 to perform works of Johann Sebastian Bach exclusively. Under the leadership of Conductor and Artistic Director Thomas W. Douglas, the choir continues to evolve from a narrowly-focused ensemble to a larger, more inclusive choir that performs major choral works by composers from the Renaissance through the present.

Mission

The Bach Choir of Pittsburgh presents unique and moving interpretations of choral works to engage and captivate arts-loving audiences across the Pittsburgh region.

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OBSESSIONS

Maverick Hotel, June 3 + 4

Great Opera Choruses

Famous, recognized opera choruses with a few less-familiar ones thrown in. From rousing to intimate, these choruses will stir and heal the soul. Guest solo artists will complete this evening's enterprise.

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PROGRAM

THOMAS W. DOUGLAS, Conductor
JON ERIK SCHREIBER, Associate Conductor
JARON CRAWFORD, Composer / Collaborator

Groove	Paul Thompson
Opening Credits	Ben Opie
Dido's Lament	Henry Purcell
Augustine	Blood Orange
I Want to be Free	The Ohio Players
Dies Irae	Ben Opie
Them Changes	Thundercat
The List	Moonchild
Bird's Lament	Moondog
Brand New Me	Isaac Hayes
Dangerous	Jaron Crawford Thomas W. Douglas
Jameel's Space Ride	Thundercat
Frankenstein	The Edgar Winter Group

PROGRAM *Continued*

Have You Seen Her

The Chi-lites

Give up the Funk

Parliament

Frankenstein (Reprise)

The Edgar Winter Group

Closing Credits

Ben Opie

Band Members

Paul Thompson, Bass (Contractor)

Alex Weibel, Guitar

Jevon Rushton, Drums

Joe Sheehan, Keys

Scott Boni, Saxophone



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BIOS



THOMAS W. DOUGLAS *Artistic Director*, is a compelling and passionate conductor having performed more than 250 opera, oratorio, orchestral and musical theater productions. As the Artistic Director of the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh he regularly receives accolades for innovative, creative and dramatically provocative productions. He was also the music director of the Newton Symphony in Kansas. Career highlights include conducting Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* in Basel, Switzerland, Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, the Pittsburgh premiere of the classic silent films

The Passion of Joan of Arc, with live orchestra and chorus, the U.S. premiere of David Chesky's *The Agnostic*, the rousing *Carmina Burana Africana*, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and *Don Giovanni* and a production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* in Malaysia.

Douglas works regularly as Musical Director at Music Theater Wichita where he has done many productions including *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Ragtime*, *Hairspray*, *The Full Monty*, *Miss Saigon*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Les Misérables* among many others. He has also conducted the Anchorage Opera, San Diego Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Des Moines Symphony Pittsburgh Symphony, at the City Theater, Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Canton Symphony, Wichita Symphony, Dallas Symphony and the River City Brass Band. In addition, Douglas has conducted classical guitarist and Latin Grammy winner Berta Rojas, Tony winner Kelli O'Hara, and Leslie Odom Jr., Tony winner for his role in *Hamilton*.

Thomas has enjoyed the stage roles of Amonasro in Elton John's *Aida*, Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Balthazar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. He has been a vocal soloist with the River City Brass, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Symphony, Canton Symphony, the Children's Festival Chorus and sings frequently with jazz legend Joe Negri in his *Mass of Hope*. Douglas is the Director of Opera Studies and also Choral Activities at Carnegie Mellon University. This is his 18th season with the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh.

BIOS *Continued*



JON ERIK SCHREIBER *Associate Conductor*, is a teacher, singer and conductor with a background in vocal pedagogy, choral and solo song literature, and has experience in musical theater, folk and popular styles. With over two decades of experience directing high school choirs, church and community choirs, Schreiber is grateful for the rich and varied experiences leading and collaborating with all sorts of musicians young and old, challenged

and gifted, small groups and large. In addition to serving the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh as Associate Conductor, Schreiber teaches music and directs the Chorus at Pittsburgh Allderdice High School. He is the founding Artistic Director and Conductor of the Indiana Community Choir at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and also maintains an independent studio of voice students. Above all, he is thankful for the opportunity to serve his family as a father and husband.



JARON CRAWFORD *Composer / Collaborator*, is an LA based actor and musician. As a producer and recording artist, he has composed and performed many varieties of music that have gained the attention of other LA producers, artists and musicians. In addition to his musical and theatrical pursuits, Crawford is also a skilled horticulturalist and is teaching farming to elementary aged students. Crawford is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama. View his work at: linktr.ee/jaronsfun

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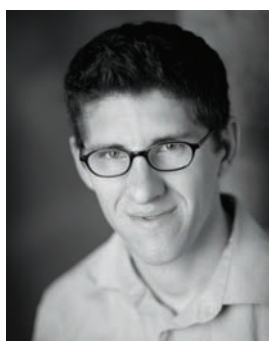
Meet the Band



ALEX WEIBEL (Guitar) is a professional multi-instrumentalist, educator and arranger based in Pittsburgh, PA. Weibel has been playing guitar, mandolin and other fretted instruments in a variety of styles professionally since the age of 14. Playing guitar since the age of 8, Weibel has studied with guitarists Ian Arthurs, Ken Karsh, Eric Suseoff and Dan Wilson. Currently, he is working towards a Music Education degree from Duquesne University where he also intends to pursue a Master's Degree in Jazz Performance. Aside from this,

Weibel can be seen teaching and playing in the Pittsburgh area as a session musician for various theater organizations while maintaining a busy schedule as a freelance jazz musician.

JEVON RUSHTON (Drums) Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Jevon has traveled the world with such shows as the Broadway Musicals *CATS*, *Sister Act* and *School of Rock*. In addition to these musicals, he created and produced a sell out show entitled *An Evening With The Musical Compositions of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. Rushton has had the pleasure to perform on over a dozen recordings as well as share the stage with such artists as Sean Jones, Tom Browne, Kirk Franklin and many more.



JOE SHEEHAN (Keys) is a composer, pianist and educator immersed in three music traditions: jazz, classical and sub-Saharan African music. Sheehan's music and performances embrace a diversity of music traditions and perspectives, woven together to express ideas of tolerance, unity and wisdom. His compositions and performances have been heard at music festivals and conferences, concert halls, jazz venues, universities, museums and theaters throughout the United States and in Canada, Italy, Ghana and Uganda. He also founded

Kinetic, a music collective whose performance efforts blend global folk traditions and contemporary jazz. The group has released two critically acclaimed albums based on folk songs from Ghana. Sheehan is an associate professor of Musicianship at Duquesne University.

Meet the Band *Continued*



www.youtube.com/pdbass

PAUL THOMPSON (Bass) has been playing bass professionally for over 30 years, including recording and touring stints with trumpeter Maynard Ferguson and saxophonist Stanley Turrentine. Recent playing credits include Hubert Laws, Michael Feinstein and Bob James, among others. Currently, he can be seen playing around the Pittsburgh area with Salsamba!, THOTH Trio, the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra or with some of the city's rich jazz community. Thompson currently teaches Jazz Bass at Duquesne University and West Virginia University and his alma mater, Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 Performing Arts School.

SCOTT BONI (Sax) is a saxophonist from Washington, PA. His relationship to the city of Pittsburgh was formed through a childhood involvement with the arts. As a member of the Children's Festival Chorus, he performed at many venues around the city. "I believe my experience with CFC laid the foundation for my path into music as an adult. When we rehearsed and performed it was very focused and intense. We had fun, but we were expected to act like young professionals. It was a wonderful experience and I have no doubt that all of the singing I did helps me every time I play the saxophone."

Studying at Boston's Berklee College of Music, he was exposed to creative ideas by classmates and teachers from around the world. "That was truly life-changing for me. It helped me grow both personally and musically. I'm thankful to be performing here in Pittsburgh. I'm busy working with both old and new friends. That's one of the great gifts found through the arts – the relationships you make. Pittsburgh has such an incredible jazz history and it's both humbling and inspiring to be working in the current scene." Scott is employed as a realtor and enjoys exploring Pittsburgh's history through books, films and antiques.



The Bach Choir of Pittsburgh is thankful to be performing alongside such a talented group of individuals. We thank the band for joining us in this season's second performance!

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Sandra Gibson
Beverly Gray
Beth Jacobs *

Mary Jeffries
Tracy Keys
Ceinwen King-Smith
Takako Kiyota-Petek
Joanna Obuzor
Erica Shadowsong

Nacol Sharkins
Polly Swanson +
Rebecca Symms *
Nicole Tascarella *
Andrea Walczak

ALTOS

Liz Arkush
Wendy Arons
Tybe Brett
Claudia Broman
Joan Cosgrove
Liz Criss
Joan Devine

Beverly Filtz
Julie Galati *
Keren Gifford
Mary Sabol
Nancy Long *
Joy McNally
Polly McQueen

Penny Morel
Sue Phillips
Ellen Stolpe +
Tara Vargo

TENORS

Earle Ashbridge
Peter Carras
Brian Filtz

Kane Karsteter-McKernan
Jon Erik Schreiber *
Rob Schwartz +
George Spencer *

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Randy Bryant
Matt Dooley +*
Nick Eustis
Ben Filippone *
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Ayres Freitas

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OF PITTSBURGH



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