

MidAm
International

DOWNERS GROVE CHORAL SOCIETY / THE NAPERVILLE MEN'S GLEE CLUB / CHORUS AUSTIN



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MAP
MIDAMERICA
PRODUCTIONS



John Patrick Rakes, Conductor



Ryan Heller, Conductor



FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025, AT 7:30 PM
MÜLLNER KIRCHE, SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

Presented by MidAm International

Peter Tiboris: Founder, General Director, and Music Director Emeritus
Sir John Rutter, CBE: Conductor Laureate

Friday, June 20, 2025, at 7:30 PM
Müllner Kirche, Salzburg, Austria

BYRD Ave verum corpus

CALDARA Crucifixus from Missa in B-flat "Sancti Josephi"

STAINER God So Loved the World

THOMSON My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

DETT Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler

PAULUS The Road Home

PARKER/SHAW Saints Bound for Heaven

John Patrick Rakes, Conductor

Downers Grove Choral Society & The Naperville Men's Glee Club

To Be Selected From:

ARR. UNDINE SMITH MOORE We Shall Walk Through the Valley

ANDROZZO, ARR. NATHAN CARTER If I Can Help Somebody

ARR. MARK LIVERSIDGE Down in the River to Pray

ARR. PARKER Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

B.E. BOYKIN A Unified Prayer

ARR. STACEY V. GIBBS Down By the Riverside

ARR. H.T. BURLEIGH Deep River

ARR. DAWSON Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

ARR. HOGAN The Battle of Jericho

Ryan Heller, Conductor

Chorus Austin

The Artists



Ryan Heller, Conductor

Described as exciting, dynamic and charismatic, Ryan Heller leads Chorus Austin as Conductor and Artistic Director, having joined them in 2009. Heller and Chorus Austin have received numerous awards, including the Dale Warland Singers Commission from Chorus America, two Telly Awards, a two-time American Prize finalist, and winner of the national Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award. Chorus Austin's ensembles have been named one of the Top 10 Classical Musical Treasures by the Austin Chronicle several times since

Heller's joining the organization. Today, in addition to leading Chorus Austin, he is Director of the Alamo Metro Chorus, and is a regular guest conductor with the Austin Symphony. Mr. Heller has led ensembles across the country with appearances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Chicago's Symphony Hall. He has toured internationally, including Italy, New Zealand, Finland, Estonia, Sweden and China, where he led combined choirs at the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing and the World Expo in Shanghai. An Oregon native, Heller received his M.M. from Portland State University and his B.M. from Chapman University. He has musically directed numerous shows throughout the west coast, including the world premiere opera The Canticle of the Black Madonna. He is in frequent demand as a conductor, singer and coach.



John Patrick Rakes, Conductor

John Patrick Rakes is a versatile conductor, professor, and pianist whose dedication to artistic and educational excellence is evident throughout his performing and teaching. He is the Artistic Director of both the Downers Grove Choral Society and the Naperville Men's Glee Club, ensembles which continue to celebrate a long-standing tradition of choral excellence. Recent performances include the choral society's 65th anniversary performance of Handel's Messiah, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, and Powell's The Cry of Jeremiah. In 2022,

r. Rakes conducted the Carnegie Hall premiere performance of Zelenka's Miserere in C minor. In 2024, the Downers Grove Choral Society was selected as a national finalist for the American Prize in Choral Performance-Community Division. Dr. Rakes earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy (D.M.A.) from the University of Iowa where he was privileged to study under Dr. Timothy Stalter and Dr. David Puderbaugh. His doctoral thesis, "A critical edition of Missa Gratiarum in C by Antonio Caldara (ca. 1671-1736)", was an international research and editorial project.