



THE CROSSING @ CHRISTMAS

WORLD PREMIERE | PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

THE CROSSING

Katy Avery
Jessica Beebe
Kelly Ann Bixby
Karen Blanchard
Steven Bradshaw
Micah Dingler
Ryan Fleming
Joanna Gates

Dimitri German
Steven Hyder
Michael Jones
Lauren Kelly
Anika Kildegaard
Heidi Kurtz
Maren Montalbano
Daniel O'Dea

Daniel Schwartz
Thann Scoggin
Rebecca Siler
Tiana Sorenson
Daniel Spratlan
Elisa Sutherland
Daniel Taylor

CONDUCTOR Donald Nally

ORGAN Scott Dettra

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR & ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE Kevin Vondrak

REHEARSAL ACCOMPANISTS John Grecia, John Walthausen

SOUND DESIGNER Paul Vazquez

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jonathan Bradley

OPERATIONS MANAGER Shannon McMahon

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER Stephanie Lantz-Goldstein

ARTIST REPRESENTATION Alliance Artist Management

FRIDAY, **DECEMBER 16** @ 7 PM

The Church of the Holy Trinity

There will be an intermission.

PENN LIVE ARTS

22/23 SEASON

PROGRAM NOTES

The Crossing reunites with Caroline Shaw for a new, substantial work inspired by the writings of Robin Wall Kimmerer and Kem Luther, focused on that self-cultivating friend to the earth's surface, moss: its intricate communities, at times resembling ours, offering much for us to learn. Mason Bates' *Mass Transmission*, for choir with organ and electronics, explores how the advent of radio technology brought us closer yet magnified our distances and loneliness, drawing on radio-wave communications in the 1920s between parents in the Netherlands and their children on Java, sent there to work for the Dutch government. Colorful, innovative, original and heart-wrenching.

Caroline Shaw's new work is commissioned for The Crossing, Cantori New York, Notre Dame Vocale and Volti with funding provided by the Ann Stookey Fund for New Music.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Crossing

The Crossing is a Grammy® Award-winning professional chamber choir conducted by Donald Nally and dedicated to new music. It is committed to working with creative teams to make and record new, substantial works for choir that explore and expand ways of writing for choir, singing in choir and listening to music for choir. Many of its nearly 125 commissioned premieres address social, environmental and political issues.

The Crossing collaborates with some of the world's most accomplished ensembles and artists, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, American Composers Orchestra, Lyric Fest, Piffaro, Beth Morrison Projects, Allora & Calzadilla, Bang on a Can, Klockriketeatern and the International Contemporary Ensemble. Similarly, The Crossing often collaborates with some of world's most prestigious venues and presenters, such as the Park Avenue Armory, Penn Live Arts at the University of Pennsylvania, National Sawdust, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, Disney Hall in Los Angeles, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Menil Collection in Houston, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Haarlem Choral Biennale in The Netherlands, The Finnish National Opera in Helsinki, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space in New York, Winter Garden with WNYC and Duke, Northwestern, Colgate and Notre Dame Universities. The Crossing holds an annual residency at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in Big Sky, Montana.

With a commitment to recording its commissions, The Crossing has released 26 albums, receiving two Grammy® Awards for Best Choral Performance (2018, 2019) and seven Grammy® nominations. The Crossing, with Donald Nally, was the American Composers Forum's 2017 Champion of New Music. They were the recipients of the 2015 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, three ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming and the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award from Chorus America.

Recently, The Crossing has expanded its choral presentation to film, working with Four/Ten Media, in-house sound designer Paul Vazquez of Digital Mission Audio Services, visual artists Brett Snodgrass, Eric Southern and Steven Bradshaw and composers David Lang, Paul Fowler and Michael Gordon on live and animated versions of new and existing works. Lang's *protect yourself from infection* and *in nature* were specifically designed to be performed within the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, during which The Crossing premiered a number of newly commissioned works for outdoors by Matana Roberts, Wang Lu and Ayanna Woods. crossingchoir.org #ComeHearNow

Donald Nally (Conductor)

Nally conducts *The Crossing*, the internationally acclaimed, Grammy® Award-winning professional choir that commissions, premieres and records only new music. He holds the John W. Beattie Chair of Music at Northwestern University where he is professor and director of choral organizations. Nally has served as chorus master at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Welsh National Opera, Opera Philadelphia and for many seasons at the Spoleto Festival in Italy. Nally has commissioned over 140 works. He received the 2017 Michael Korn Founders Award from Chorus America; his ensembles have twice received the Margaret Hillis Award for Excellence in Choral Music. Nally has worked closely with the artists Allora & Calzadilla and composer David Lang on projects in London, Osaka, Cleveland, Edmonton, Cordoba and Philadelphia. Recent highlights include his role as visiting resident artist at the Park Avenue Armory, music director for the world premiere of Lang's *the mile-long opera* – directing 1,000 voices on the High Line in Manhattan, chorus master for the New York Philharmonic for world premieres by Lang and Julia Wolfe and guest conducting works he has commissioned with the Swedish Radio Choir.

Scott Dettra (Organ)

Praised as a “brilliant organist” (*Dallas Morning News*) and an “outstanding musician” (*The Diapason*), and described as a “prodigy” by *The New York Times* at age 13, Dettra is acclaimed as one of America’s leading concert organists. Dettra’s playing is praised for its clarity, rhythmic intensity and musical elegance and has been described by *The American Organist* as “music making of absolute authority and sophisticated expression.” He combines an active performance schedule with his post as Director of Music at the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, where he leads a vibrant music ministry in one of the country’s largest Episcopal parishes. In addition to his work at Incarnation, he is a member of the organ faculty at Southern Methodist University and is organist of *The Crossing*, the Grammy® Award-winning professional chamber choir based in Philadelphia. Prior to his appointment in Dallas, he was organist of Washington National Cathedral.