

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

# Pacific artist series

*Pacific Artist Series | Concert IV*  
**In Her Hands - AGAVE**



Saturday, February 10, 2024 | 700 p.m.



FRESNO PACIFIC  
UNIVERSITY

[fpu.edu/pacificartist](https://fpu.edu/pacificartist)

## Program

**Welcome & Introduction** ..... *Christa Pehl Evans Ph.D.*  
*FPU Interim Associate Dean, School of Arts & Sciences*

**- AGAVE -**

**Featuring soprano Michele Kennedy**

**Hold On**..... *Margaret Bonds (1913-1972),*  
*arr. Bill Skeen*

**Due Canzone à 4** ..... *Claudia Francesca Rusca (1593-1676)*

**Es ist Ein Rose** ..... *Maria Theresia von Paradis (1759 – 1824)*

**Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, Op. 16 #3**.....*Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1896)*  
*arr. Henry Lebedinsky*

**L'Eraclito amoroso** .....*Barbara Strozzi (1619-1677)*

**Erinnerung**.....*Dora Pejačević (1885-1923),*  
*arr. Aaron Westman*

**Suite du premier ton**..... *Elisabeth Claude Jacquet de la Guerre (1665–1729)*  
Allemande  
Courante  
Chaconne

**Sunset** ..... *Florence B. Price (1887-1953),*

**Pastorale** .....*Ethel Kathleen Sutton (fl. ca. 1913),*  
*arr. Henry Lebedinsky*

**Forgotten** ..... *Catharina Josepha Pratten (1821-1895)*

**Night**..... *Florence B. Price,*  
*arr. Kevin Cooper*

**String Quartet in E flat Major** ..... *Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (1805-1847)*  
i. Adagio, ma non troppo

**Troubled Water**..... *Margaret Bonds,*  
*arr. Aaron Westman*

**She's Got the Whole World in Her Hand**..... *Margaret Bonds,*  
*arr. Kevin Cooper*

## Biographies

**Michele Kennedy**, soprano, is a versatile specialist in early and new music. Her recent concert venues include Carnegie Hall, Davies Symphony Hall, Getty Museum, Lincoln Center, and Washington National Cathedral. Michele has been a featured soloist in Bach's *St. John Passion* with The San Francisco Symphony Chorus & Voices of Music, Handel's *Messiah* with Trinity Wall Street Choir, Poulenc's *Gloria* with The Bach Society of Saint Louis, Undine Smith Moore's *MLK Oratorio* at U.C. Berkeley, in the 'Summer Fireworks' of Handel & Purcell with Portland Baroque Orchestra, and in her Carnegie Hall debut with The Hollywood Film Orchestra. This year, she's sung *Messiah* (St. Louis Bach Society), Monteverdi with DC's Folger Consort, and Bach's *B Minor Mass* with SF Bach Choir. A lifelong advocate of new works, Michele has sung premieres with Experiments in Opera, Harlem Stage Opera, Mimesis Ensemble, Five Boroughs Music Festival, and The New York Philharmonic. This season, she is part of a world premiere tour of Julia Wolfe's *Her Story* - a celebration of women's civil rights - with Lorelei Ensemble and the Nashville, Chicago, Boston, and San Francisco Symphony Orchestras. She is also a member of Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble, a group that champions the voices of women and artists of color on the stage. A lifelong lover of Redwoods and Bay vistas, Michele lives in Oakland with her husband, visual artist Benjamin Thorpe, and their daughter.

**Aaron Westman**, GRAMMY®-nominated violinist and violist, was a "metal-head" growing up in Santa Rosa. He now plays the electric guitar of the 17th-century. He has performed since 2005 as a chamber, principal player, or soloist with all of the major gut string ensembles in California, and toured extensively throughout the world. As a principal or chamber player, Aaron works with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (since 2006), American Bach Soloists, Ars Minerva, Bach Collegium San Diego, El Mundo, New Hampshire and Hawaii Performing Arts Festivals, Harmonia Stellarum Houston, Long Beach Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Musica Angelica, Opera Neo, and Tesserae, and he has toured extensively with Orchester Wiener Akademie, including for four seasons with the actor John Malkovich. He also plays with both the Oregon and Carmel Bach Festival Orchestras, and has worked with Vox Luminis (Belgium) choir, and the Mark Morris and Martha Graham Dance Companies. He is a founding member and co-director of AGAVE, with whom he has recorded eight albums, edited all of them, and engineered four of

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them, including the GRAMMY®-nominated *American Originals*. In his spare time, Aaron is an audio engineer and producer. He and his wife, violinist Anna Washburn, have a three-year-old daughter.

**Henry Lebedinsky**, historical keyboardist, composer, and conductor, has performed with the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Pacific Northwest Ballet, the Charlotte Symphony, Seraphic Fire, Sonoma Bach, and the Cantata Collective, among others. Recent conducting engagements include the Seattle Baroque Orchestra and Sonoma Bach's Live Oak Baroque Orchestra. As part of a career built on collaboration, he serves as co-Artistic Director of the Bay Area's GRAMMY®-nominated AGAVE and, with Stephen Stubbs, as co-Artistic Director of Seattle's Pacific MusicWorks from 2018-2023. With countertenor Reginald L. Mobley, he has introduced listeners on three continents to music by Black composers from Baroque to modern, including recent appearances at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris and *Festival Printemps Musical des Alizés* in Morocco. In 2014, he founded Seattle's Early Music Underground, which brought Baroque music to brewpubs, wineries, and other places where people gather, and presenting it in multimedia formats which both entertain and educate. Lebedinsky's works for choir and organ are published by Paraclete Press, Carus-Verlag Stuttgart, and CanticaNOVA, and two volumes of his poetry and hymns are in preparation. He is a contributing editor to Multitude of Voyces' *Sacred Music by Women Composers* series, published by Stainer and Bell (UK), and has written program notes for London's Wigmore Hall and the Alpha Classics and Acis Productions labels. Currently entering his third decade as a church musician, he serves as Missioner for Music at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church on Washington's Whidbey Island.

**William Skeen** serves as Principal Cellist with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Voices of Music, and was Principal Cellist of the American Bach Soloists for nearly two decades. He is a founding member of the New Esterházy Quartet, the Cantata Collective, and La Monica. William taught baroque cello and viola da gamba at the University of Southern California for 20 years. William has appeared as continuo cellist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic (Gustavo Dudamel), the Los Angeles Master Chorale (Grant Gershon), and San Diego Opera (Kenneth Montgomery). He's been highlighted as viola da gamba soloist multiple times with the Dallas Symphony (Jaap van Zweden),

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Los Angeles Master Chorale, Carmel Bach Festival (Bruno Weil and Paul Goodwin), Oregon Bach Festival (Matthew Halls), American Bach Soloists, and the Orquesta Nacional de México (Carlos Miguel Prieto). He has also performed the role of Principal Cellist with Pacific Music Works, Seattle Baroque, the Portland Baroque Orchestra, Musica Angelica, the Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra, and Bach Collegium San Diego. William was twice nominated for a Grammy Award and has toured and recorded with many early music ensembles including Smithsonian Chamber Players, Musica Pacifica, El Mundo, Agave, Galanterie, Con Gioia, the New Esterházy Quartet, La Monica, and Philharmonia Chamber Players. He has served on the faculty of the American Bach Soloists Academy, the Berwick Academy at the Oregon Bach Festival, the San Francisco Early Music Society's Baroque Workshop, and co-founded the SFEMS Classical Workshop. William lives with his wife, virtuoso violinist Kati Kyme, and their two musical children in the Oakland Hills.

**Kevin Cooper** is a guitarist from central California and founding member of the GRAMMY®-nominated early music group, AGAVE. He has performed with numerous groups including Ensemble Mirable, Musica Angelica, Musica Pacifica, Tesserae, Fresno Philharmonic, and Live Oak Baroque Orchestra. Kevin's recent publications include original guitar compositions like *Precious Stones* and *Sting of the Blood Orange* (Doberman-Yppan). His recordings include several projects with AGAVE as well as *Night of Four Moons*, a CD of modern music with mezzo-soprano Catherine Cooper. The Fresno Arts Council honored him with the 2022 President's Award for exceptional cultural contribution to the community and in 2006 he was named the Outstanding Doctoral Graduate in Music from the University of Southern California. Currently, he chairs the music program at Fresno City College.

**Anna Washburn** grew up with folk roots in a vibrantly musical community in rural Maine, and began her career performing and teaching in Boston. In 2008, she completed her masters at the San Francisco Conservatory. After hearing Philharmonia Baroque play Beethoven's 7th Symphony in a masterclass at the Conservatory, she knew she wanted to perform so passionately on gut strings, and has pursued that goal ever since. Anna has performed and recorded with AGAVE since 2015, and plays violin and viola on their most recent

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albums, *In Her Hands*, with Michele Kennedy, *Peace in Our Time*, and *American Originals* with Reginald Mobley, for which AGAVE received a GRAMMY® nomination in 2021. She also performs and records with Philharmonia Baroque, Bach Collegium San Diego, Cantata Collective, Oregon Bach Festival, Tesseræ (Los Angeles), and Live Oak Baroque Orchestra (Sonoma), as well as with opera companies Ars Minerva (San Francisco) and Opera Neo (San Diego) and the Mark Morris and Martha Graham Dance companies. Anna occasionally enjoys performing as a soloist with local orchestras, is devoted to her wonderful handful of students, and spends a few weeks every summer teaching at Music Adventure in Tuscany with her husband Aaron Westman and their young daughter.

**Kati Kyme** enjoys a rich musical life full of chamber music. In addition to her work with Agave as violinist and violist, she is founder of and violinist with the Cantata Collective which has completed performances of 50 of Bach's 200-plus Cantatas. She is founding member of the New Esterházy Quartet which specializes in the music of Haydn. She enjoys frequent collaboration with Voices of Music and the Mark Morris Dance Company and has participated in festivals all over the world. She was founding member of the Artaria Quartet, the Sierra String Quartet, the Arcadian Academy with conductor/harpsichordist Nicholas McGegan, and Il Complesso Barocco conducted by Alan Curtis. Her orchestral experience includes her three years as violinist with the Seattle Symphony, a couple of decades as violinist and violist with the American Bach Soloists and she has been a member and a frequent concertmaster of Philharmonia Baroque for many years. As a teacher and chamber music coach, she has worked at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Cornish School of Allied Arts in Seattle, the University of Puget Sound and Sonoma State University. As a conductor, she currently leads the two string orchestras of the California Youth Symphony and the 30-member string orchestra called Berkeley Baroque Strings. She shares many musical activities with her husband, cello virtuoso William Skeen and they share their Oakland Hills home with two cats and a piano laden with violin and cello bows.

## Upcoming FPU Music Events

**Sunday, February 18, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Winter Choral**

**Masterworks Concert**  
St. James Episcopal Cathedral  
4147 E. Dakota Ave., Fresno

**Wed., February 28, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Symphonic Band &  
Jazz Band Concert**  
Lyles Theater, Warkentine CAC

**March 22-23 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**The Madrigal Dinner:  
A Renaissance Feast**  
Lyles Theater, Warkentine CAC  
By Kevin Kelleher  
Directed by Elizabeth Fiester  
Music Director Jeffrey Wilson

**Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Jazz Band Concert**

Lyles Theater, Warkentine CAC

**Monday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Symphonic Band with Fresno  
City College, & Delta College**  
Lyles Theater, Warkentine CAC

**Sunday, April 21, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Spring Choral Concert**  
University Presbyterian Church  
1776 E. Roberts Ave.

**Thursday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Crosswind Evening of  
Praise & Worship**  
Lyles Theater, Warkentine CAC

*Events are subject to change.*

*Visit [fpu.edu/events/music](http://fpu.edu/events/music) to stay up to date.*

## THANK YOU!!

**Eddie Williams, Tommy Guardado, and the  
FPU Facilities and Sound Tech Teams**

for your time and expertise with the audio and visual elements.

**Datev Karjian and Karen Madden**

for ensuring our piano & harpsichord were performance-ready!

**FPU Marketing**

for your work on the promotional graphics.

**And everyone else who helped make this concert a reality.  
Your contributions enable the Music Department to thrive!**

# *FPU Music Department*

## **DEGREES OFFERED**

Music Performance/Composition • Music Education •  
Music & Worship Ministry • Music Minor

## **MUSIC FACULTY**

CHRISTA PEHL EVANS, Ph.D., Musicologist

JEFFREY WILSON, D.M.A., Director of Choral Activities

GEORGE DOUGHERTY, D.M.A., Director of Bands

## **PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES**

### **Vocal**

Concert Choir, Pacific Chamber Singers, Women's Chorale, San  
Joaquin Chorale – Jeffrey Wilson, D.M.A.

Crosswind Choir – Melita Mudri-Zubacz, M.A., M.Mus.

### **Instrumental**

Symphonic Band, Pacific Brass, Jazz Band – George Dougherty, D.M.A.

Crosswind Band – Melita Mudri-Zubacz, M.A., M.Mus.

**Collaborative Pianist** – Matthew Horton, M.A.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRIVATE LESSONS INSTRUCTORS**

Rachel Aldrich, D.M.A., oboe • Micah Davison, M.A., percussion •  
George Dougherty, D.M.A., trumpet • Christa Pehl Evans, Ph.D,  
flute • Larry Gardner, M.M., bassoon • Scott Horton, M.A.,  
harpichord & organ • Chris Janzen, M.F.A., jazz guitar • Karen  
Madden, M.A., piano • Laura Porter, harp • Judith Robinson, cello •  
Daphne Saul, voice • Walter Saul, D.M.A., composition • Suzanne  
Scherr Steger, Ph.D., voice and vocal pedagogy • Barb Shinaver,  
M.M., trombone/low brass • Corey Whitehead, D.M.A., classical  
guitar • Jeffrey Wilson, D.M.A., conducting

**Questions Contact:** [music@fresno.edu](mailto:music@fresno.edu)

**Website:** [fpu.edu/arts/music](http://fpu.edu/arts/music)

**Audition Sign Up:** [fpu.edu/music-auditions](http://fpu.edu/music-auditions)

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