

Guest Artists

John Irrera, violin
Brian Thorsett, tenor
Eric Choate, piano

TUESDAY, 7:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 26, 2021
CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

Along the Field
Goodbye

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Irish Folk Songs
I know where I'm going
Ballynure

Rebecca Clarke
(1886-1979)

John Irrera, violin, and Brian Thorsett, tenor

Seedtime and Harvest
The Sowing
The Ploughing
The Tilling
The Reaping

Frank Tours
(1877-1963)

Brian Thorsett, tenor, and Eric Choate, piano

Incantation

Augusta Read Thomas
(b.1964)

John Irrera, violin

INTERMISSION

Melengell Variations
The Story
Her Silence
A Cloud of Witnesses

Hilary Tann
(b. 1947)

My Cathedral
Those Winter Sundays
The Lake Isle of Innisfree

Eric Choate

John Irrera, violin, Brian Thorsett, tenor, and Eric Choate, piano

UPCOMING AT THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Tuesday, November 2 – 7:00 p.m.

Faculty Wind Quintet

featuring Cathie Apple (flute), Cindy Behmer (oboe),
Sandra McPherson (clarinet), Jennie Blomster (horn),
David Wells (bassoon)

Thursday, November 18 – 7:00 p.m.

Chamber Music Groups

various student chamber groups perform Classical music

Friday, Nov. 19 – 7:00 p.m. / Sat., Nov. 20 – 7:00 p.m.

Opera Theatre

Wednesday, December 1 – 7:00 p.m.

Concert Band

featuring music by William Grant Still, Alex Shapiro,
Carl Strommen, Julie Giroux, James Barnes, and Percy Grainger

Thursday, December 2 – 7:00 p.m.

Jazz Ensembles

Friday, December 3 – 7:00 p.m.

Vocal Jazz Ensembles

All concerts \$10 general, \$7 senior, \$5 student

Visit csus.edu/music for tickets

Praised by the *Santa Barbara Daily Sound* for his “moving” and “hypnotic” performances, violinist **John Irrera** is quickly becoming known as an accomplished solo, chamber, and orchestral musician. At the age of 23, John made his Carnegie Hall debut as 1st prizewinner of the American Protégé International Violin Competition and has also taken top prizes in numerous international and national competitions. John made his concerto debut with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra performing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto and has also appeared as guest soloist with the Penfield Symphony Orchestra and the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

John’s performances can be heard in concert halls such as Carnegie Hall, Spivey Hall, and Lincoln Center. Solo concert engagements have taken him to international music festivals including the Music Academy of the West, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Violin Academy at the Moulin d’Ande, France and the Niagara on the Lake International Music Festival.

John received his Bachelor’s degree with High Distinction from the Eastman School of Music in 2007, where he was awarded the Howard Hanson Scholarship, as well as the coveted Performer’s Certificate. He continued at Eastman where he completed his Master’s degree in 2009 as the recipient of the Christakis S. and Agnes C. Modinos Graduate Merit Scholarship, as well as his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 2014. John’s longtime teacher and mentor during all three of his Eastman degrees was the late Zvi Zeitlin and Federico Agostini.

Hailed as “a strikingly gifted tenor, with a deeply moving, unblemished voice” (sfmusicjournal.com), **Brian Thorsett** is excelling in opera, oratorio and recital across the world. Since taking to the operatic stage, he has been seen and heard in over 100 diverse operatic roles, ranging from Monteverdi to Britten, back to Rameau and ahead again to works composed specifically for him.

As a concert singer Brian fosters a stylistically diversified repertoire of over 250 works, which has taken him to concert halls across the US and Europe. Future engagements include Evangelist and soloist in Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, *St. John Passion*, *Mass in B minor*, *Mass in G minor*

and several cantatas, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Britten’s *War Requiem* and *Cantata Misericordium*, the *Requiems* of Mozart and Verdi, Haydn’s *Creation*, Bruckner’s *Te Deum*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, a rare performance of Blitzstein’s *Airborne Symphony* and the world premiere of Stacey Garrop’s *Terra Nostra*.

Brian is a graduate of San Francisco Opera’s Merola Program, Glimmerglass Opera’s Young American Artist program, American Bach Soloists’ Academy, the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme at Aldeburgh, England and spent two summers at the Music Academy of the West. Brian is currently Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech and previously served on faculty at Santa Clara University and University of California at Berkeley.

Eric Choate is in demand as a choral and orchestral conductor, having served in a guest Chorus Master capacity for the San Francisco Symphony and the Berkeley Symphony. For three years, Eric was Assistant Conductor of the Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra, having conducted works including Verdi’s Requiem, Dvorak’s Stabat Mater, Cherubini’s Requiem, Bach’s Passion according to St. John, and Britten’s War Requiem.

Eric is a sought-after choral clinician and currently serves as Director of Music at The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin. As a composer, his work has been lauded by *Examiner.com* as “music to grab the listener’s attention through novelty and hold it through technical discipline.” He has several awards to his name, including First Prize in the SFCM Art Song Composition Competition, First Prize in the Vancouver Chamber Choir Composition Competition, and runner-up for the James Highsmith Award.

Graduating with Departmental Distinction, Eric earned his Bachelor of Arts in Composition from St. Olaf College, where he studied with Timothy Mahr and Justin Merritt. He was awarded a fellowship to study harmony and counterpoint at the European American Musical Alliance in Paris, France; from this, he graduated with Honorable Mentions in Harmony and Solfege. He then went on to earn a Master of Music with David Conte at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.