

Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

presents

Dartmouth College Glee Club

Filippo Ciabatti, conductor

Erma Mellinger, assistant conductor and vocal coach

with

Henry Danaher, pianist

Sunday, November 7, 2 pm

2021 • Church of Christ at Dartmouth • Dartmouth College

Generously supported by the Glick Family Fund, the Leo J. Malavasic 1942 Memorial Fund, the Isaacs Family Fund, the Bruce F. Bundy 1916 Memorial Fund, the Susan J. Marshall 1980 Memorial Fund, the David P. Smith 1935 Fund, the Student Ensembles Fund and Friends of the Glee Club

Program

Approximate duration: *1 hour*

The program will be announced from the podium.

About the Artists

A native of Florence, Italy, **Filippo Ciabatti** is the Music Director of the Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra, and the Interim Music Director of the Dartmouth's Choral Ensembles. He also contributed to creating Dartmouth's Opera Lab. In October 2018, its first production featured Grammy Award winning baritone Daniel Belcher, and soprano Amy Owens.

In 2018–2019, he led the Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra on an Italian tour in collaboration with the Orchestra Toscana dei Conservatori in prominent venues and festivals, including the Puccini Days in Lucca. Other highlights of the season included an all-Beethoven concert with Israeli pianist Sally Pinkas, and a collaboration with the NPR show *From The Top*, hosted by American pianist Jeremy Denk. In 2020, Mr. Ciabatti conducted the world premiere of a new secular oratorio composed by the renowned jazz composer Taylor Ho Bynum and has collaborated on a project with the Martha Graham Dance Company.

In 2018, he made his debut with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, which he conducted again in 2019, in an event created in collaboration with the Creative Projects Chair of the VSO, Matt LaRocca. In 2021, Mr. Ciabatti will collaborate for the first time with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, as assistant conductor.

During the summer of 2018, he was invited to be a Conducting Fellow at the Aurora Music Festival in Stockholm, under the direction of Jukka-Pekka Saraste. During the festival, he conducted Hannah

Kendall's 2017 composition, *The Spark Catchers*, in a concert that also featured legendary cellist Mischa Maisky in the Konserthuset Stockholm.

In 2017-2018, Mr. Ciabatti conducted *Madama Butterfly* at Opera North in New Hampshire, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Don Giovanni* (directed by and featuring American opera star Nathan Gunn) at the Lyric Theatre in Illinois.

In 2016, Mr. Ciabatti conducted *Tosca* at Opera North in New Hampshire, directed by Russell Treyz, and Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Lyric Theatre at Illinois, directed by Christopher Gillett. In 2015, he made his South American debut conducting the Universidad Central Symphony Orchestra in Bogota, Colombia, where he also taught masterclasses in orchestra and Italian opera. With La Nuova Aurora Opera, he conducted full productions of Handel's *Rodrigo* (2015) and Purcell's *King Arthur* (2016).

As a pianist and vocal coach in Italy, Mr. Ciabatti worked for the Cherubini Conservatory, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and Florence Opera Academy. He has played for masterclasses of Renée Fleming, Nathan Gunn, William Matteuzzi, Donald George and Isabel Leonard. Since 2016, he has been music director and vocal coach of "Scuola Italia per Giovani Cantanti Lirici" in Sant'Angelo in Vado (Italy), and since summer 2019 he has joined the faculty of the Opera Vivaldi program in Verona as music director and vocal coach. He also recently joined the faculty of Camerata de' Bardi, the Young Artists Program of Teatro Grattacielo in New York City.

Mr. Ciabatti holds degrees in piano, choral conducting and orchestral conducting from Italy and the United States.

Mezzo-soprano **Erma Gattie Mellinger** has been a principal artist with many opera companies across the United States including the Cleveland Opera, the Florida Grand Opera (Miami), the Dallas Opera, the Pittsburgh Opera Theater, the Fresno International Grand Opera, Opera Maine and the Chautauqua Opera. Her roles, in over 30 operas, include Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Dorabella in *Così Fan Tutte*, Cherubino in *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, Ottavia in *L'incoronazione Di Poppea*, and Preziosilla in *La Forza Del Destino*. She has performed with Sherrill Milnes, James Morris, Diana Soviero and David Daniels and has sung masterclasses with Frederica Von Stade and Mignon Dunn. Conductors with whom she has worked include Harry Bicket, Stephen Lord, John DeMain and Willie Waters.

Hailed for her “rich, vibrant, creamy voice,” Ms. Mellinger is also at home on the concert stage appearing as soloist with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Monterey Symphony and the Florida Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Mellinger appeared as soloist with the Handel Society of Dartmouth College in tours of England, France, Germany and Italy, performing in venues including Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

Ms. Mellinger has been a member of the Dartmouth College faculty since 1996. In addition to her duties as Voice Instructor, she serves as the Assistant Director and Vocal Coach of the Handel Society and the Glee Club and Co-Director of the Dartmouth Opera Lab. Ms. Mellinger presents solo recitals and chamber music concerts on campus through the Chamber Works series. Ms. Mellinger is a former Director of Cantabile, a Women’s chorus based in Vermont and New Hampshire. In addition, Ms. Mellinger has directed church choirs and has served as both Stage Director and Music Director for numerous community theater

productions. She is a sought-after clinician in the field of vocal production, having most recently worked with the University Chorus and the Chamber Singers of Brandeis University.

Ms. Mellinger earned her Bachelor of Music Degree with Highest Distinction (*First in Class*) from Northwestern University. She received the Performer’s Certificate and the Opera Certificate as well as a Teaching Excellence Award while at the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester where she earned her Master of Music Degree and began her Doctor of Music Arts Degree before embarking on her singing career.

Henry Danaher serves as the Director of Music at The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, and he is a Dartmouth College alumnus with a degree in Mathematics, belonging to the class of 2008. As an undergraduate, he sang with the Glee Club under the direction of Louis Burkot, won the Mark L. Lebowitz 1977 Memorial Prize in the Performing Arts (2008), earned citations for coursework in Counterpoint and the Psychology of Learning, and was awarded an American Mathematical Society scholarship to study Mathematics in Moscow, Russia in 2005. Besides accompanying the Dartmouth College Glee Club this term, his recent musical work at the College includes collaborations with the Barbary Coast, accompanying the Joseph Keckler masterclass with the Dartmouth Opera Lab, performing during the Hop’s Explore the Arts event, providing music for alumni memorial services, and assisting with musical direction and piano accompaniment for the First-Year Project with the Department of Theater. He is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists, attaining professional certification with them in 2019.

Dartmouth College Glee Club

Filippo Ciabatti, director

Sopranos

Breanna Boland '23
Abigail Johnson '23
Avery Fogg '24
Brianna Aubrey '22
Ella Grim '25
Emilie Hong '25
Emma Cool '24
Grace Dean '24
Izzy Lust '25
Julia Battle '23
Marisa Natarajan '23
Min Hur '24
Molly Stevens '25

Altos

Julia Reed '23
Allison Zhuang '25
Joanna Olagundoye '24
Katelyn Hadley '24
Lexy Piton '24
Lila Hovey '23
Maansey Rishi '24
Mack Duthu '24
Nina Sloan '24
Ora Cullen '24
Shelby Dufton '24
Zhanel Nugmanova '23

Tenors

Samuel Xiong '24
Jason Carenz '25
Terry Guo '23
Brian Clancy

Basses

Matthew Dempsey '23
Mark Parrino '22
Christopher Smith '25
Colby Lish '25
Cole Minsky '22
Jesse VanNewkirk '23
Peter Scalise '22
Samuel Bonasso '24
Wesley Liao '24

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