

**Agave Baroque with Danielle Sampson and Sylvestris Quartet “double-bill”**

**Thursday, June 7 1pm-3pm**

**Berkeley City Club, Drawing Room**

**2315 Durant Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704**

**Agave Baroque with Danielle Sampson—*Poet to the Stars***

**1pm-2pm**

**Poet to the Stars**

Pietro Metastasio was easily the 18th century's most illustrious and influential poet, librettist, and political pundit. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart set many works to Metastasio texts near the beginning of his career, but Metastasio was nearing the end of his long life, and his style soon became associated with the overly florid musical line of singers from the previous generation. This program explores Metastasio's influence through the lens of a succession of musical icons: Nicola Porpora, who taught and mentored the young Joseph Haydn, who in turn mentored several generations of young composers, including the rising star, Mozart. Metastasio lived for most of his long life with the family of another such student of Haydn's, the remarkable composer Marianne Martinez, whose aria “Per pietá, bell'idol mio” is featured. The program also includes music written by Josef Mysliveček and Giuseppe Tartini. Soprano **Danielle Sampson** and the “energized, free-spirited group” (-Early Music America) **Agave Baroque** round out the program with chamber music and arias of Mozart.

**PROGRAM**

Nicola Porpora: Sinfonia in C major, Op. 2 #2

Porpora: "Il piè s'allontana" from *L'Angelica*

Giuseppe Tartini: "Didone Abbandonata"

Joseph Mysliveček/Mozart: “Ridente la Calma” K. 152/210a

Mozart Church Sonata in C, K. 336

Marianne von Martinez: “Per pietá, bell'idol mio”

Mozart: 'Aer tranquillo' from *Il Re Pastore*

**Agave Baroque**

Aaron Westman and Anna Washburn, violins

Gretchen Claassen, cello

Kevin Cooper, lute

Henry Lebedinsky, harpsichord

*with* Danielle Sampson, soprano

**Danielle Sampson** most recently performed in Early Music Vancouver's all-women production of Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Magnificat* with Monica Huggett. Highlights of her last season include Monteverdi's *Orfeo* with Pacific MusicWorks (as La Musica and Ninfa), “The Combat” with Seattle Opera, Bach's *Magnificat* and *Wachet Auf* with Early Music Vancouver, and her debut with SF Soundbox performing in Ashley Fure's *Shiver Lung*. She has performed with the Boston Early Music Festival in Monteverdi's *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* (Melanto) and *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (La Virtù, Pallade), and with Early Music Vancouver in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (the Sorceress) and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. She sang Ruggiero in

Handel's *Alcina* and the title role in Handel's *Ariodante* with Black Box Baroque, and appeared with Liaison, Nash Baroque Ensemble, and Jarring Sounds for the 2016 Berkeley Early Music Festival.

Danielle has appeared with Amaranth String Quartet, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, American Bach Soloists, and California Bach Society, among others. She is a founding member of the guitar/voice duo Jarring Sounds (with Adam Cockerham), and performs with Cappella SF, the new bay area octet Gaude, and Seattle's Byrd Ensemble. She earned her BM at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music, and her MM at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Danielle currently lives in Seattle with her husband and son.

**Agave Baroque** is based in the San Francisco Bay Area, and specializes in string chamber music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The members of the group reside and are active far and wide, and come together from Basel, Boston, Seattle, Fresno, and San Francisco. Agave has received numerous awards and accolades and gained local and national attention as “an energized... free spirited group,” as well as for its “rapturous music,” “emotional wallup,” “brilliant... profound playing” (—EMA), and growing discography. Now in its tenth season, Agave continues its fruitful affiliations with star countertenor Reginald Mobley, InterMusic SF (formerly San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music), and Sylvestris Quartet, and continues to be a unique and innovative voice in the chamber music community nationally.

Agave has been identified by EMA in a number of competitions, including as finalists for the 2009 APAP Showcase, the 2011 NAXOS/EMA Recording Competition, and the 2012 Baroque Performance Competition. Also in 2012, the San Francisco Early Music Society chose Agave to present a main stage concert on the 2012 Berkeley Early Music Festival, about which Early Music America Magazine said, “Rapturous music and impressive playing... [Agave Baroque] kept the audience entranced.” Agave received a generous grant from the San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music to record *Friends of Ferdinand*, which VGo Recordings released in 2013. For the 2014-15 season, Agave became an ensemble in residence on SF's Presidio Sessions inaugural season, collaborated with Los Angeles new music concert series *Jacaranda: music at the edge*, and embarked on a Southeastern US tour with **Reginald Mobley**, which included a residency at University of North Carolina School of the Arts. In 2015, Agave released *Queen of Heaven: music of Isabella Leonarda*, their first album with Mr. Mobley. They recently followed that up with *Peace in Our Time*, whose early 2018 release marks the 400th anniversary of the start of the Thirty Years' War. SFEMS chose *Peace In Our Time* for their February 2018 series performance.

Agave Baroque has performed to sold-out crowds throughout the Bay Area, including at SF Music Day, Barefoot Chamber Concerts, Chattanooga Chamber Music, Noe Valley Chamber Music, Old First Concerts, Sonoma Bach, Presidio Sessions, MSRI, San Francisco Early Music Society, and Trinity Chamber Concerts, as well as at Bitterroot Baroque (Montana), Fresno City College, Fresno Pacific University, the Museum of Jurassic Technology, Music at St. Albans (NC), *Jacaranda*, Chamber Music at the Clark (Los Angeles), Arizona Early Music Society, Pacific Music Works Underground, Seattle Early Music Guild, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Appalachian State University, and the Berkeley Early Music Festival. On-air appearances include KPFK Pacifica Radio in Los Angeles, KALW (SF), WDAV (North Carolina), New Mexico Public Radio, as well as several features on NPR's “Harmonia” early music radio program. Agave Baroque has also presented two programs to groups of K-12 educators as part of the San Francisco Symphony's “Keeping Score” program, and is an affiliate of InterMusic SF. [www.agavebaroque.org](http://www.agavebaroque.org)

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**Sylvestris Quartet—*Brahms's Library***

**2pm-3pm**

**Brahms's Library**

Immediately following Agave Baroque, San Francisco's gut-string era **Sylvestris Quartet** presents *Brahms's Library*, an exploration of the amazingly diverse influences of the iconoclastic 19th century composer Johannes Brahms. Brahms reached back into the late 16th and 17th centuries for influence, and this program begins with the Venetian polychoral master composer Giovanni Gabrieli, and his student, Heinrich Schütz, who brought the style north to the German speaking countries. Brahms also championed and studied extensively the influential French composer François Couperin, whose music he helped to resurrect and publish, as well as the already much revered J.S. Bach. Sylvestris features an early Brahms fugue, as well as movements from his C minor and A minor quartets. A careful composer, Brahms threw out more music than he published. Some would say "neo-Baroque," or backward-looking, others (like Arnold Schönberg) called him groundbreaking and forward-looking. Sylvestris calls him sublime, passionate, and original, and gives you the rare opportunity to explore this repertoire on gut strings.

**PROGRAM**

Giovanni Gabrieli: Canzon II a 4, Ch. 187

Heinrich Schütz: selections from *Psalm David: Hiebevorn in Teutzsche Reimen gebracht durch D. Cornelium Beckern*

Brahms: Motet "Ach, arme Welt," Op. 110

Johann Sebastian Bach: Contrapunctus 10 from *Art of the Fugue*, BWV 1080

Johannes Brahms: Fugue in A minor for organ, WoO 9 (arr. Aaron Westman)

Brahms: String Quartet in C minor, Op. 51, no. 1: i. Allegro

Franz Schubert: "Quartettsatz" in C minor, D.703

Brahms: String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51, no. 2: iv. Finale. Allegro non assai

**Sylvestris Quartet**

Anna Washburn and Tyler Lewis, violins

Aaron Westman, viola

Gretchen Claassen, cello

SYLVESTRIS QUARTET is the San Francisco Bay Area's new historically informed string quartet, performing music from the entire "gut-string era"... that is, from the 17th century up through World War II. Sylvestris is known for programming that explores the cyclical nature of music, looking forward through the veil of history. Violinists Anna Washburn and Tyler Lewis, violist Aaron Westman, and cellist Gretchen Claassen play with many of the nation's leading period instrument ensembles, including Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Bach Collegium San Diego, and Agave Baroque, and hold degrees from Juilliard, Indiana University School of Music, Boston University, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

In the midst of their second season together, Sylvestris just released their first album *The Good Song, Fauré in the 1890s* featuring baritone Harry Baechtel of Portland State University, pianist Michael Seregow of Washington State University, and an incredibly beautiful 1869 Érard piano. Recently, the quartet has performed on *Chamber Music Day* and *Presidio Sessions*—both presented by [InterMusic](#) in San Francisco—[Barefoot Chamber Concerts](#) in Berkeley, California, and at the University of Oregon. Upcoming performances include four concerts on the [Pacific Music Works Underground](#) series in Seattle from March 23rd-27th, 2018, as well as a live performance for a studio audience on 89.9 FM [“All-Classical Portland,”](#) and a performance at [Portland State University](#). The season wraps up with performances on the [Resonance](#) and [Fifth Street Farms](#) series in Berkeley, California in April and May, and on the [Berkeley Early Music Festival Fringe](#) in June. The quartet looks forward (and, westward!) this summer to performing as part of the 2018 Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.

Sylvestris has also teamed up with [Agave Baroque](#) and [Marin Baroque](#) to present a new concert series in Marin, California called Marin Baroque Presents. [www.sylvestrisquartet.org](http://www.sylvestrisquartet.org) [@sylvestrisfour](#)