

CINEMA RHAPSODY

Trio Oriens **With Dr. Sterling Allen, baritone**

Crain Garden, Houston Methodist Hospital, TMC, 6560 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77030

Program

Dr. Allen with Trio Oriens

Non piu andrai from “Amadeus”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Trio Oriens

Signore Fellíni(World Premier)

Sayuri’s Theme from “Memoirs of a Geisha”

Merry Go Round of Life from “Howl’s Moving Castle”

Joe LoCascio

John Williams (1932-)

Joe Hisaishi(1950-)

arr. Grissini Project

Dr. Allen with Trio Oriens

Stars from “Les Misérables”

Claude-Michel Schonberg (1944-)

John Cameron, lyrics

Trio Oriens

Music by Mancini –

“Breakfast at Tiffany’s, Pink Panther, Charade”

Henry Mancini (1924-1994)

arr. Robert Nelson

Dr. Allen with Trio Oriens

I’ll Walk with God from “The Student Prince”

Nicholas Brodzky (1905-1958)

Paul Francis Webster, lyrics

Trio Oriens

Eternal Vow from “Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon”

Sorrow in the Desert from “Hero”

The Triple Resurrection Trio

Tan Dun (1957-)

Trio Oriens

Cinema Paradiso

Ennio Moricone (1928-2020)

arr. Yoanita Kartadihardja

Dr. Allen with Trio Oriens

C’est Moi from “Camelot”

Frederick Loewe, music (1901-1988)

Alan Jay Lerner, lyrics

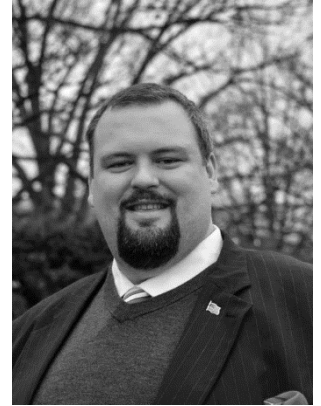
trans. William Garrison

~Thank you~

Distinguished Artist

Sterling Martin Allen is the Associate Pastor of Worship, Congregational Care, and Senior Adults at Good Shepherd Church in Cypress, Texas. There he conducts the Chancel Choir, the Chancel Orchestra, and oversees the multifaceted music and worship program. Previously, Dr. Allen was the Director of Music and Fine Arts at A&M United Methodist Church in College Station, Texas. In addition to his duties there he was the Founder and Artistic Director of the Northgate Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, the Founder and Artistic Director of CAMERATA (a professional choral ensemble), and a Professor of Music at Blinn College in Bryan, Texas.

Dr. Allen has a driving passion for sacred choral masterworks and regularly conducts these works with choirs and orchestras in the United States and Europe. Recent presentations include Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem, Dubois' Les Sept Paroles du Christ, Barnett's The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, Ray's Gospel Mass, Vivaldi's Gloria, Schubert's Mass in G, Hayes' Gloria, Chilcotte's A Little Jazz Mass, Rutter's Gloria, Faure's Requiem, Hayes' Gloria and Magnificat, and a concert of patriotic choral and wind symphony masterworks.



In addition to the conducting of major works in worship and concert, Dr. Allen regularly commissions new anthems and works by America's leading choral composers. These new works include Dan Forrest's Lord of the Small, In Your Footsteps, Forsaken, and O Come, All Ye Faithful (all available from Beckenhorst Publishing), Allen Pote's I Will Sing and Not Be Silent (available from Hope Publishing Company), David Schwoebel's Acclaim with Jubilation (available by request from the composer). As a champion of modern hymnody in worship, Dr. Allen commissioned Rev. Dr. Brian Wren to compose Glory to God – a hymn of praise celebrating the 2011 Ordination Service for the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

In demand as a conductor, Dr. Allen has conducted concerts throughout the United States as well as in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and France. With an eagerness to work with young artists, students, and conductors, Dr. Allen regularly adjudicates singing and choral competitions, works with high school choirs in preparation for competition and with church choirs eager to expand their ministry, musicianship, and repertoire.

Dr. Allen performed as a choral singer and soloist with the world-famous Centenary College Choir under the direction of Dr. Will K. Andress, University of Texas Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. James Morrow, and the Centenary College Camerata and Chorale under the direction of Dr. Julia Thorn. As a baritone opera singer and concert artist, Dr. Allen has sung the roles of Figaro and the Count in Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro, Thomas Bouche in Kurt Weil's Down in the Valley, Sam in Leonard Bernstein's Trouble in Tahiti, Geronimo in Cimarosa's Il Matrimonio Segreto, and the title role in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi. On the concert stage, Dr. Allen has sung the bass/baritone soloist roles in the Requiems of Brahms, Duruflé, and Fauré, Handel's Messiah, and Masses/Missa Brevis by Beethoven, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, and Schubert. As a touring artist, Dr. Allen has sung in eight countries, in fourteen states, and at America's great concert venues like the White House in Washington DC, Spivey Hall in Atlanta, Georgia, the Meyerson Symphony Hall in Dallas, Texas, and Disney Hall in Los Angeles, California. Internationally, Dr. Allen has been a concert soloist at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland, St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland, Gloucester Cathedral in Gloucester England, Durham Cathedral in Durham, England, St. Martin's in the Fields in London, England, and has given a solo recital of sacred music at L'église de la Madeleine in Paris, France.

Dr. Allen holds degrees in music, sacred music, and theology from the Hurley School of Music at Centenary College of Louisiana, the Butler School of Music at The University of Texas at Austin, and from the Webber Institute. He is a protégé of Dr. Will K. Andress (Professor Emeritus of Music at Centenary College of Louisiana where he was the Director of the Centenary College Choir) and the late Dr. Gerre Hancock (Professor of Sacred Music at The University of Texas at Austin and Choirmaster Emeritus at St. Thomas Church on 5th Avenue in New York City, New York). Dr. Allen has studied voice with Dr. Timothy Jones, Dr. Oral Moses, Dr. Horace English, and Prof. David Small. He has coached with Dr. Gay Grosz, Rick Rowley, Jeanine Sasaki, Joseph Evans, and Genaro Méndez. In 2010, Dr. Allen completed his dissertation entitled "Developing a Better Understanding of the Ordo Salutis Through the Lyrical-Theology of Charles Wesley" with Dr. Don E. Saliers (Professor Emeritus of Theology at the Chandler School of Theology at Emory University).

Dr. Allen is an ordained elder in the Global Methodist Church.



Distinguished Composer

Joe LoCascio is an award-winning composer who has spent a lifetime in music. He has written for ensembles of all sizes and is prolific in both traditional and jazz genres. As a performer he has released 18 critically acclaimed jazz recordings. Among his works are a Concerto for Tenor Saxophone and Orchestra commissioned by the Baytown Symphony Orchestra, 4 Madrigals for the Witt/Gelok Duo, Gently Criminal for the Cypress Philharmonic Orchestra, Saltwater Music for the Alkali String Ensemble, Crossings and Still Life (with Clarinets) for Richard Nunemaker, In the Wilderness, The Cities and Urban Mosaics for Trio Oriens, Crossroads for the NOVACANE Clarinet Quartet, Oblique Prayers for the Texas New Music Ensemble and 4 Bagatelles and Northwest Passage for the PLAY Saxophone Quartet.

LoCascio and his wife Lucia currently reside in Houston, Texas where he is an instructor of music at Houston Community College.

Trio Oriens (currently comprised of founder Dr. I-Ling Chen, founder Mrs. Olive Chen, and Dr. Shih-Ting Huang) draws together three outstanding musicians from Taiwan. After launching a successful inaugural season in the spring of 2010, the trio quickly became one of the most prolific chamber music ensembles in the Houston area. Recognized for their intellectual artistry, Trio Oriens brings to their audience innovative programs and a diverse repertoire including classical works, Taiwanese/Chinese music, Latin American, and contemporary compositions. Over the years, Trio Oriens has collaborated with virtuosic instrumentalists such as Richard Nunemaker, Rodica Oancea-Gonzalez, and Wei Jiang as well as artist Hsiao-Nan Chen in a live Chinese watercolor painting. They are devoted to community outreach in local schools, nursing homes, and churches, gaining a wide and dedicated following, and have appeared as featured guests on Houston Public Radio's Front Row. Trio Oriens has premiered new compositions by Robert Nelson, Joe LoCascio, Stephen Yip and J. Todd Frazier and Joel Love. Their recording of Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time is the soundtrack of documentary film Age of Iron and is collected by the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, Arizona.



Trio Oriens is committed to education; their Junior Program has mentored many young musicians since being launched in 2015. Trio Junior members have enjoyed success in participating in the Houston Young Artist Concert and the 2020 Covid project "Carnival in Quarantine" was a triumphant collaboration of these young artists with international elements.

Annual Distinguished Young Artist of Taiwan in 1999, **Dr. I-Ling Chen** received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland in December 2002, and the Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1998. As former music faculty member of Howard College in Columbia Maryland, Dr. I-Ling Chen has always dedicated herself to performance, education, and the community.

I-Ling was born and raised in Taiwan. She first started playing the piano when she was five years old. Through a national honors program, Dr. Chen was selected to attend the National University of the Arts, the most prestigious performing arts institution in Taiwan. After receiving the Special Prize in Best Collaborative Pianist in the Kuan-Tu New Voice Competition, she started expanding her repertoire in operas and chamber music. Subsequently, her first job as a rehearsal pianist at the National Taipei Opera Workshop began in her sophomore year in 1991 and she had numerous performances at the National Theatre in Taipei.

Dr. Chen settled in Houston Texas with her husband and two daughters in 2009. Trio Oriens, her beloved non-profit chamber music group was founded in the following spring. Besides being as music faculty and staff pianist at New England Conservatory's Predatory department, and Longy School of Music, Dr. Chen was also appointed as the staff pianist in the Moores School of Music, University of Houston, and as an organist/ pianist at Taylor Lake Christian Church in Seabrook Texas. She often serves as juries in contests and auditions including All-Region and All-State orchestra auditions of Texas Music Education Association, National Federation of Music Club's auditions, and as the chairperson of the Chamber Music division in the Texas Music Teachers Association in 2017-2020. Dr. Chen was newly appointed as the FASCA chamber

orchestra's music conductor. Her students are constant winners at local music events and as regular visitors to local nursing homes to provide fun and quality music programs.

Olive Chen was born to a musical family and started studying music at age three. She won the National Youth Music Competitions in Taiwan in 1982 and 1983. As a result, she was admitted to Soo-Chow University through a program for the most elite aspiring performers. Mrs. Chen subsequently earned her master's degree from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in 1993, where she studied under Shirley Trepel, the former principal cellist of the Houston Symphony. During the 1990 Aspen Festival she studied under David Finckel, a former member of Emerson String Quartet.

Olive Chen has performed as soloist and principal cellist in the Symphony of Southeast Texas, The Woodland Symphony, and Opera in The Heights, among other orchestras. Before coming to United States, Chen was a member of Taipei City Symphony Orchestra with which she toured Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the Philippines, and Hong Kong.

In 2010 she founded Trio Oriens. The piano trio has since become an outstanding chamber music group in Houston's musical landscape, giving seasonal concerts and premiering new pieces by composers such as Joe LoCasio and Stephen Yip.

Olive Chen is a well-known cello teacher in the greater Houston area. She has taught at Houston Community College and the Houston Youth Symphony. A number of her students have excelled in various contests and performances. She currently resides in Missouri City, Texas with her husband Mark Chen, a visual artist.

Dr. Shih-Ting Huang earned her Doctor of Musical Arts in Violin Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Houston with the Tomatz String Quartet Fellowship. Led by Andrzej Grabiec, she won the concerto competition of Moores School of Music in 2001 and was one of the finalists of the concerto competition of Texas Music Festival in 2002. She received her Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati under the tutelage of Kurt Sassmannshaus. During the years in the US, she performed for numerous masterclasses given by James Tocco, Sylvia Rosenberg, Almita Vamos, Rugiero Riccil, Lynn Chang, James Buswell, and Tákacs String Quartet.

Dr. Huang has performed in the National Symphony Orchestra (Taiwan), National Taiwan Youth Orchestra (where she was the concertmistress), Aspen Festival Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera and Ballet, and numerous local orchestras. She is the concertmistress in the DVD "P.D.Q. Bach in Houston". In addition to performing, she maintains a large home studio. Dr. Huang was a faculty member (2002-2012) and later music director (2010 - 2012) of New Heart Christian School of Music, violin instructor and string ensemble director at Lonestar College Cy-Fair (2009 - 2011) and has been an instructor and concert coordinator for the Houston Taiwan Institute for Senior Citizens since 2003. To spread the love of classical music to more audiences, she hosted a radio program "Sky Theater" on Texas Chinese Radio station between 2008 and 2020. Recently she became a board member of the HTISC. Dr. Huang joined Trio Oriens in 2021.

Trio Oriens Mission Statement:

As a 501©3 nonprofit organization, Trio Oriens is committed to ensemble collaboration with outstanding musicians and is devoted in bringing innovative programs to include Asian music, especially Taiwanese, in all of their performances. Trio Oriens has at least four regular concerts each calendar year, and they have also been active in various performing arts venues including community outreaches in local schools, nursing homes, hospitals, churches, radio shows and corporate events. In addition to their performance, Trio Oriens is also working on a special CD recording project and planning on concert tours outside of Houston. Their concert announcements reach more than 5000 people in Houston metropolitan and other areas.

More about www.TrioOriens.org



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