

**BRONX ARTS ENSEMBLE  
COURTNEY'S STARS OF TOMORROW  
CHORAL MASTERWORKS**

PROGRAM

I.

**Ave Maria** (*from Quattro pezzi sacri*)

The Concert Chorale

Giuseppe Verdi

**Easter Hymn** (*Regina Coeli from Cavalleria Rusticana*)

soloist- Cecilia Tucker soprano  
Bronx Arts Ensemble  
The Concert Chorale

Pietro Mascagni

**Coronation Mass**

Kyrie  
Gloria  
Credo  
Sanctus  
Benedictus  
Agnus Dei

soloists- Michelle Trovato, Jeanette Blakeney, Lonnie Reed, Eliam Ramos  
Bronx Arts Ensemble  
The Concert Chorale

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

INTERMISSION

II.

**Listen to the Lambs**

soloist- Tatianna Overton  
The Concert Chorale

arr. by Robert Nathaniel Dett

**Lord, I Want Two Wings**

The Concert Chorale

arr. by Courtney Carey

**You Can Tell the World**

The Concert Chorale

arr. by Courtney Carey

III.

**The Chariot Jubilee**

Bronx Arts Ensemble  
The Concert Chorale  
soloist- Taiwan Norris

Robert Nathaniel Dett

**Hold Fast to Dreams**

soloist- Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming  
Bronx Arts Ensemble  
The Concert Chorale

Roland Carter



## BRONX ARTS ENSEMBLE

**Our Mission-** Bronx Arts Ensemble brings music and related arts to Bronx schools and neighborhoods. We contribute to the cultures of our Bronx communities through live performances and innovative arts education that stimulate creativity, imagination, and aspirations.

**Our Vision-** BAE contributes to the arts and culture of the Bronx communities, uplifting them worldwide, through performances and innovative arts education, both in-person and online.



## COURTNEY'S STARS OF TOMORROW

**Courtney's Stars of Tomorrow** is an arts conduit committed to promoting and presenting classical musicians of the highest caliber and is a vehicle to feature them in concert, recital, and opera. Additionally, Courtney's Stars of Tomorrow targets a multi-generational, ethnically diverse audience of both classical music lovers and those who have never been exposed to the medium.

**Courtney Carey** is the Founder & Artistic Director of Courtney's Stars of Tomorrow, a New York-based non-profit organization committed to presenting top-tier classical music events. Under his leadership, the organization has performed sold-out concerts to enthusiastic audiences at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, with its programs having garnered the support of powerhouse brands and grant makers such as Staples, Columbia Community Service, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York State Council on the Arts, News Corp. (Dow Jones), and Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation.

**The Concert Chorale** is the official choral ensemble of Courtney's Stars of Tomorrow. Established in 2014, the Chorale performs a wide range of choral repertoire from early Baroque classics through 21st century choral literature. The Concert Chorale has performed at New York's Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, Carnegie Hall, Courtleigh Auditorium (Jamaica), and the Langston Hughes Auditorium at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

## BRONX ARTS ENSEMBLE

### Violin

Jorge Avila  
Roxanne Bergman  
Nikita Yermak  
Audrey Lo  
Tara Pagano-Taub  
Kristina Giles

### Viola

JJ Johnson  
Greg Williams

### Cello

Diana Golden  
Akua Dixon

### Bass

Pawel Knapik

### Flute

Reva Youngstein

### Oboe

Bill Meredith  
Liz Kieronski Scott

### Clarinet

Mitchell Kriegler  
Monte Morgenstern

### Bassoon

Atsuko Sato  
Shotaro Mori

### Horn

Wilden Dannenberg  
Greg Smith

### Trumpet

Angela Gosse  
Jim Lake

### Trombone

Cliff Haynes  
Ron Hay

### Timpani

Jared Soldiviero

## THE CONCERT CHORALE

### Soprano

Jeryl Cunningham-Fleming  
Tatianna Overton  
Brianna Sheriff  
Michelle Trovato  
Cecilia Tucker Myers \*

### Tenor

Kaleb Hopkins  
Taiwan Norris  
Lonnie Reed  
Zachary Tirgan

### Alto

Jeanette Blakeney  
Allison Gish  
Perri di Christina  
Michelle Trinidad

### Bass

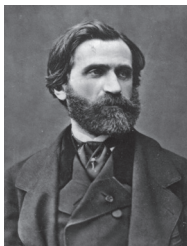
Charles Carter  
QuiShaun Hill  
Eliam Ramos  
Kyle Weekes

Courtney Carey, conductor

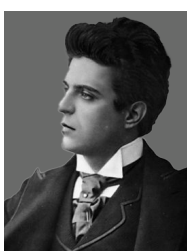
\*Guest Artist

# Program Notes

The choral masterworks of Verdi, Mascagni, Mozart, and Dett chosen for this program could easily fit in the Eastertide season, as they reflect on the life of Christ from the immaculate conception to Calvary to His triumphant resurrection to his ascension.



**Giuseppe Verdi's** *Ave Maria* is a standalone choral octavo, often grouped with three other sacred choral works composed during the last decade of the composer's life. Together, these pieces form what is known as the *Quattro pezzi sacri*. *Ave Maria* from *Quattro pezzi sacri* is Verdi's fourth and is an exercise in compositional prowess and theoretical inventiveness. The composition is based on the enigmatic scale, with each section of the chorus singing the scale while the remaining three choral sections supply the harmony.



The operatic grandeur of **Pietro Mascagni's** *Easter Hymn* does not overshadow the chorus' pervading theme- Christ's triumph over death. *Cavalleria Rusticana's* forlorn heroine, Santuzza, appears at the beginning of the opera in search of her lover Turiddu. She instead happens upon a group of villagers who, on Easter morning, sing of the risen Savior. She joins in the singing of one of the most popular and beloved opera choruses.



**W.A. Mozart's** so-called Coronation Mass, first performed on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1779, remains a staple of the choral repertory. The short mass earned its nickname, Coronation, in the late eighteenth century after becoming the preferred music for royal coronations as well as services of thanksgiving.

African American spirituals are doubtless a part of American musical tapestry. Rooted in biblical stories, *Listen to the Lambs*, and **Courtney Carey's** *You Can Tell the World* and *Lord and Lord, I Want Two Wings* highlight God's Amazing Grace, which came down in the form of a man to save the world. Man's reward for righteousness is a pair of wings, granted so he may fly away.



**Robert Nathaniel Dett's** *The Chariot Jubilee*, based on the African American spiritual *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, fell into relative obscurity but has resurfaced thanks in large part to performances by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Morehouse and Spelman College Glee Clubs in the early 2000s, and the recent scholarship of Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand. Ferdinand meticulously edited and recorded *The Chariot Jubilee*, a motet for tenor soloist and choir, for GIA Publications in 2020.



**Roland Carter** deftly weaves Langston Hughes' poems *Dreams*, *Freedom's Plow*, and the African American spiritual *Hold On* to create a stirring finale. The global state of affairs is cause for concern and with so much adversity and strife, Carter's setting is a reminder to persevere and fight for justice and equality.