

About the Performers . . .

Julia Armstrong, contralto, has appeared as soloist with the Austin Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Mid-Texas Symphony, Victoria Bach Festival, Austin Vocal Arts Ensemble, Austin Civic Chorus, and the Taos Community Chorus. As a member of the Robert Shaw Festival Singers, Julia has sung in France and Carnegie Hall.

Elizabeth Page Calvert grew up in Essex Junction, Vermont. She is a founding member of The Essex Children's Choir under the direction of Constance Jackson Price. She graduated from Middlebury College with a BA in Music. She has been singing with Taos Community Chorus since 2008 and maintains her chops by singing with St. James Episcopal Church Choir under the direction of Erick Brunner.

Claire Detels is Professor Emerita from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where she specialized in 19th-c. music, feminist aesthetics, and African-American composers and genres. Since her move to Taos in 2014, she has served as pianist and Assistant Director of the Taos Community Chorus, and has also performed with Soundscapes, and Pianotaos.

Francis Donald has been an instrumentalist/singer in both popular and classical genres all of his life. He has been a featured soloist with the Taos Community Chorus and has sung in the last three Schubertiads.

Julie Greer, soprano, grew up in the Chicago area and began studying voice with Margaret Burgoyne at the age of 12. She received her BA and studied voice at DePauw University with Thomas Fitzpatrick, singing the female opera leads throughout her studies there, and after graduation with Chicago Light Opera Works, Basically Bach and Grant Park Symphony Chorus. After a move to Los Angeles, and now in Taos, she is a composer and singer in popular and folk music as well, having recently released her first CD, *A Healing Heart*. She has been singing and soloing with the Taos Community Chorus since 2012, and now serves as the board President.

Mark Jackson studied at the Boston Conservatory of Music and has sung with many opera companies in the U.S. and around the world, and with the Taos Chamber Music Group and Taos Community Chorus. Recently Mark was the premiering soloist in Andrea Clearfield's "Transformed by Fire," supported by the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

Kim Bakkum holds her professional degrees in piano performance from Montana State University, Western Michigan University, and the AIMS Opera and Lieder program in Graz, Austria.; and studies in collaborative piano in Vienna, Austria. She has performed internationally in competition with the Singers Company of Akron, including residencies in Italy and Spain; in featured performances at the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., and recently with the Taos Chamber Music Group, Soundscapes, Pianotaos, the Taos Community Chorus, and the Taos Opera Institute.

Salman Lee is a lyric tenor who grew up singing Muslim chants and then trained in classical singing at the prestigious Tanglewood Institute and Westminster Choir College, who twice performed for Barack Obama at the White House and who is equally at home with jazz, folk, popular and classical music.

Ellen Chávez de Leitner began violin in Los Alamos, studied at St. John's College in Santa Fe, UNM, College of Santa Fe, and the Conservatory of Vienna in Austria, where she performed with the Innsbruck Symphony Orchestra, Graz Philharmonic, Hübner's Kursalon, Jeunesse Wien, and the Albert Schweitzerhaus Chamber Orchestra. She now performs in the San Juan Symphony, Roswell Symphony, Southwest Symphony, and has performed in the Santa Fe Symphony and the Taos Chamber Orchestra and Chorus; and organizes and performs in the "Enchantment Chamber Music series."

Martha Shepp is a multi-disciplinary artist with a BFA from Minneapolis College of Art and Design and an MFA from University of Tennessee. Her teachers were Grace Trebert (Eastman School of Music), Alan Crooks (Trent Nottingham University, UK), and Dr. David Northington (University of Tennessee, Knoxville). A chamber player and an accompanist of dancers, instrumentalists, and vocalists in both educational and professional settings, she currently is Coordinator of the Pianotaos programs at the Fechin Museum.