



OMAHA  
SYMPHONY

*Ankush Kumar Bahl, Music Director*

program notes

2022/23 SEASON

# Carmina Burana

Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 2 p.m.

Holland Performing Arts Center

Ernest Richardson, conductor

## A Special Thank You to the Schools' Vocal Staffs!

Bellevue East High Singers  
Dr. Margorie Simons-Bester, Director  
Cameron Stussie, Assistant Director

Bellevue West High Singers  
Adam J. Reiner, Director  
Ellen Kershaw, Accompanist

Bennington Concert Choir  
Tye Hanke, Director  
Jan Braden, Accompanist

Creighton Preparatory School Choir  
Rob Chesire, Director  
Cecilia Jensen, Collaborative Artist

Elkhorn High Choir  
Abby Thompson, Director  
Bryn Groenjes, Pianist

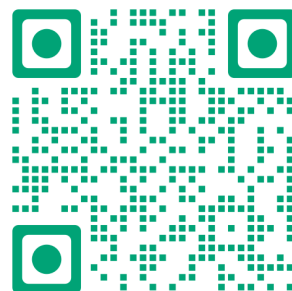
Fremont High Choir  
Mark Harman, Director  
Elliott Lockwood, Collaborative Pianist

Omaha Burke Concert Choir  
David Groth, Director  
Victory Sedlacek, Accompanist

Omaha Public Schools Mini Singers  
Aaron Jordan, Co-Director  
Jean Murray, Co-Director  
Jonathan Jaques, Accompanist

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artists, and the music, download the Omaha  
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## Meet the Maestro

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**Ernest Richardson, Conductor**

Ernest Richardson is the principal pops conductor and resident conductor of the Omaha Symphony. Since 1993, he has been integral in the development of the Symphony's vaunted education and community engagement programs, in addition to his artistic leadership in the creation and curation of the successful Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, and Movies Series. Richardson's innovation can be especially seen in the Symphony's Choral Collaborative, Celebrate Creativity, and Mission: Imagination programs, which remain mainstays of the organization's season.

In addition to his post in Omaha, Richardson holds the position of music director and principal conductor of the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. During his tenure, the organization has grown from

a community orchestra to a resident professional orchestra, attracting the finest musicians from the Front Range of Colorado. He is also the founding artistic director and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory.

An accomplished composer and arranger, Richardson's Three Scenes for Chamber Orchestra was debuted by the Omaha Symphony in 2011. His works are predominantly featured in the Omaha Symphony's annual Christmas production, as well as many education and outreach programs, and have been performed worldwide by such ensembles as the Neue Philharmonie Westfalen (Gesekirchen, Germany), the Phoenix Chamber Players (Phoenix, Arizona), and the Phoenix Symphony. Richardson began studying the violin at the age of three with his father, Dr. Vernal Richardson, continuing at Indiana University, then switched to a concentration in viola and conducting at the University of Michigan.

An avid fly fisherman, Richardson can be found on trout streams in Colorado and municipal lakes in Nebraska. He has also earned a black belt in tae kwon do. He has been known to help his sons build award-winning pinewood derby cars and craft his own batons. He lives in Omaha with his wife and children.

## Featured Artists



Barron Breland, chorumaster

With degrees in Music Theory and Choral Conducting from the University of Georgia and the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Dr. A. Barron Breland has emerged as a conductor set apart from others by his eclectic skills equipped to perform music from masterworks of the Baroque and Classical eras to great contemporary works of art, including repertoire in various popular styles. Recent choral performances conducted include *Considering Matthew Shepard*, the Mozart C-minor Mass, Mozart Requiem, and Beethoven Mass in C. Critics have praised the warmth and communicative power of his performances and choruses.

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Eric Barry, tenor

Spanish-American tenor Eric Barry continues to impress audiences on both the operatic and concert stage “with a clear timbre, evenness of projection, and exceptional sensitivity” (*Opera News*). Recent engagements include performing as the tenor soloist in Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis* with Chamber Music Amarillo, Dvorak’s Requiem with Madison Symphony Orchestra (COVID-19), and his role debut as Alfred in Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus* with Amarillo Opera. Post pandemic Mr. Barry returned to Amarillo Opera as the Witch in *Hansel and Gretel* and will reprise the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto* in 2023. He sang the role of Roderigo in Verdi’s *Otello* with the Pacific Symphony and joined Orchestra Iowa and the Austin Symphony as the tenor soloist in *Messiah*. Other appearances include the tenor soloist in Amarillo Symphony’s massive production of Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis*, as well as the tenor soloist in Orff’s *Carmina Burana* with the Omaha Symphony.

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Markel Reed, baritone

Baritone Markel Reed “brings great articulate power and style” (*Broadway World*) to concert, recital and opera performances throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. A passionate conveyor of the operatic repertoire, Reed has been cited for “delighting the crowd with his musical and dramatic expression” (*Upstage Post*) in both standard and contemporary works. At the Metropolitan Opera, Reed performed with the ensemble in productions of Terence Blanchard’s *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* and sang in their GRAMMY® Award-winning *Porgy and Bess* in 2019. That same year, he created the role of Chester in *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* in its premiere at Opera Theatre of St. Louis. 2022 highlights include singing as Young Emile in Terence Blanchard’s *Champion* with Boston Lyric Opera, soloist performance in *Carmina Burana* with the Omaha Symphony, *Wozzeck* with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and with the Cecilia Chorus of New York at Carnegie Hall.

## Featured Artists



Jessica Beebe, soprano

Lauded as having a “honey-colored tone” and “the most radiant solo singing” from *Opera News*, soprano Jessica Beebe is an affecting interpreter of repertoire from the Renaissance to contemporary American opera. As a highly sought-after concert soloist, Ms. Beebe has performed with several major orchestras across the world including The New York Chamber Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, The English Concert at Carnegie Hall and The Barbican Theatre in London, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, The Folger Consort in D.C., The Washington Bach Consort at the National Cathedral, Piffaro The Renaissance Band, Gamut Bach Ensemble, Philadelphia Bach Collegium, Steamboat Symphony Orchestra, Utah Symphony and more. Her solo operatic highlights include premiering multiple operas with Opera Philadelphia, commercially recording David Hertzberg’s *The Wake World* with Opera Philadelphia, covering at Bergen National Opera in Norway, and a Los Angeles Philharmonic role debut in Meredith Monk’s opera, *Atlas*. Ms. Beebe is thrilled to be making her Omaha Symphony debut this season!

**Scan the QR code for more information on today's program!**

This printed program is a condensed version. For more info about the orchestra, guest artists, and the *Carmina Burana* text, download the Omaha Symphony app or scan this QR code with your mobile device.

