

**Thank you to our sponsors!**

The Nordic Hall

The Scandinavian Cultural Center

The Village Bank

Silentwoods Collective Inc.

Jonna and Alan Carr

Ann Salvail

Sue Koenig

Shirley Ekvall

Kenn Moisio

Brian Moll

Robert Mealy

Peter Sykes

Phoebe Carrai

David Kalivas

Andrew Koutroubas

Randall Schaeffer

Irene Delgado

Bryon Gordon

Angel Diluca

Alba Fresco

Tom Hall

Carole Mulligan

David Friend

Theresa Pena

Kevin Smith

Mary and Randy Skanse

John McManus

Joseph Zevola

Kevin Gillette

Paul Burkey

Salvatore Patricola

Tony Scott

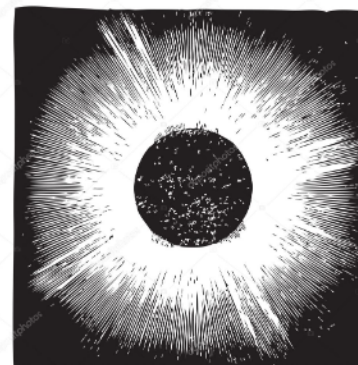
Kristen Akey

Victoria Nahorn

Virginia Day

*The Scandinavian Cultural Center, Silentwoods Collective, and the Village  
Bank present:*

# THE AURORA ENSEMBLE



## MIDNIGHT SUN: ARIAS AND DANCE MUSIC FROM OLD SCANDINAVIA

Saturday August 19, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Nordic Hall, Scandinavian Cultural Center

## Program

Lordagsvisa/Dockedansen.....Trad. Swedish, arr. Ralsgård & Tullberg

*Eva Skanse and Nelli Jabotinsky, soloists*



Vals från Jämtland.....Trad. Swedish

Es Danken dir, Gott.....Andreas Hammerschmidt (1611-1675)

*Andrew Koutroubas, cello soloist*


*Carley DeFranco, soprano soloist*

Polska från Tallroth.....Trad. Swedish

Preise Jerusalem.....Andreas Hammerschmidt (1611-1675)

*Nelli Jabotinsky, violin soloist*


*Angie Tyler, soprano soloist*



Ouverture de Friderichsholm .....Bartolomeo Bernardi (ca.1660- 1732)

Chaconne

*Olav Chris Henriksen, baroque guitar soloist*



Selected works from the notebooks of Gustaf Duben (1624/28-1690):

Allemande


Sinfonia in C Major

*Eva Skanse, Nelli Jabotinsky, Andrew Koutroubas, Olav Chris Henriksen, Vivian*

*Montgomery, John Stadjuhar, soloists*

Aria for the Battle of Lund

*Carley DeFranco and Angie Tyler, soprano soloists*



\*Welt ich will nichts von dir haben.....Johanna Eleonora de la  
Gardÿ (1661-1708)

\*Ade du Schnöde Welt.....Queen Ulrika Eleonora den Äldre  
(1656-1693)

*Carley DeFranco and Angie Tyler, soprano soloists*

\*Denotes new world premiere

## About Us

**The Aurora Ensemble** is an emerging Boston-based musical group specializing in the research and performance of historic music from Scandinavia. Members of the Aurora Ensemble study musical manuscripts from Scandinavia and transcribe them in modern notation to preserve and perform them in a celebration of Scandinavian culture and history. Since their debut performance in May, 2022, the Aurora Ensemble has delivered performances of 19 rare Scandinavian pieces including at least 4 “New World premieres”--the first performances on American soil.

### Meet the Artists of Midnight Sun:

Carley DeFranco, soprano

Angie Tyler, soprano

Eva Skanse, baroque flute, artistic director

Nelli Jabotinsky, baroque violin

Andrew Koutroubas, baroque cello

Vivian Montgomery, harpsichord

Olav Chris Henriksen, lute and guitar

John Stadjuhar, baroque bass

### Special Thanks to:

Kerry Levin,

Director of the Scandinavian Cultural Center

field of music, however, was his collection of manuscripts which he began compiling from the Swedish court as well as from foreign lands during his travels. This was the genesis of the Düben collection, one of the most important musical manuscript collections in the world today. We will perform three pieces from Düben’s own hand, all of which are preserved in the Düben Collection in Uppsala, Sweden: An **Allemande** that comes from one of his personal notebooks, the **Sinfonia in C Major** that features a variety of instruments and soloistic opportunities, and the triumphant yet heart-wrenching **Aria for the Battle of Lund** as Düben reflects on the heavy price of a Swedish victory.

The program will conclude with pieces by two incredible Swedish women, **Johanna Eleonora de la Gardy (1661-1708)** and **Queen Ulrika Eleonora the Elder (1656-1692)**. This is a very special performance as it will be the first time these great works have ever been performed on American soil. We owe our dear friend, Bo Andersson of Uppsala University, a debt of gratitude for making a transcription of the original Gothic cursive found in the manuscript as well as Pamela Dellal for creating the first English translations of these two original texts. Queen Ulrika Eleonora, described as “an angel,” was known for her charity, piety, and patronage of the arts. Her court was a vibrant community centered on poetry, religious devotion, and music. The women of her entourage staged the first all-female cast play in Scandinavia, and it is reported that the Queen herself wished to take part but was physically unable due to the advanced stage of her pregnancy at the time.

Johanna Eleonora was Queen Ulrika Eleonora’s lady-in-waiting and her dear friend—some would say her best friend. Known primarily as a poetess, she was one of the principal authors of the Swedish national treasure *Nordischer Wejrauch*, a book of religious poetry by various Swedish noblewomen. Johanna Eleonora and Queen Ulrika Eleonora were always seen together, loved art, poetry, and music, and shared an unshakable faith. As proof of their love for one another, Johanna Eleonora and Queen Ulrika Eleonora’s pieces are both preserved on the same piece of manuscript paper, an ultimate testament to their friendship, and, in the opinion of Bo Andersson, an indication that the two works were intended to be performed together.

## Texts and Translations

Es Danken Dir, Gott, die Völker.....Andreas Hammerschmidt (1611-1675)  
(Psalm 67:3-7)

Let the peoples praise You and give thanks to You, O God; let all the peoples praise and give thanks to You.

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You will judge the peoples fairly and guide, lead, or drive the nations upon earth.

The earth has yielded its harvest; God, even our own God, will bless us.

God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall reverently regard Him with awe.

Preise Jerusalem.....Andreas Hammerschmidt (1611-1675)  
(Psalm 147:12-14)

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; Praise your God, O Zion!

For He has strengthened and made hard the bars of your gates, and He has blessed your children within you.

He makes peace in your borders; He fills you with the finest of the wheat.

Aria for the Battle of Lund.....Gustaf Duben (1624/28-1690)  
Translation by Pamela Dellal

Look up joyfully, you halls\*, embrace worthy Uppsala happily.

Sink, heart, through gnawing grief and sorrows, down into the dark waters of forgetfulness.

For heaven is appeased, and fortune blooms for us again.

Welt ich nachts will haben.....Johanna Eleonora de la Gardy (1661-1708)  
Transcription of text by Bo Anderson  
Translation by Pamela Dellal

World, I want nothing from you, no matter how much you may offer me. Your treasures, your gifts, are not my soul's reward. Jesus, whom I have chosen, will give me everything I lack.

Your honors I take for shames, your joys for misfortunes, Your freedom puts me in chains, which will rip my heart to shreds. Since they oppose themselves to Jesus, for whom alone I will live.

Peace, joy, salvation, and life, everything that delights my heart. Jesus can and will give to me now and in eternity. Shun the world with your offerings, my heart will have nothing from you.

Ade du schnöde welt .....Queen Ulrika Eleonora den Äldre (1656-1693)

Transcription of text by Bo Anderson

Translation by Pamela Dellal

Farewell, despised world! I soar into heaven's vault on the wings of my thought; I seek rewards in what lasts forever, when this earth will pass away.

Hence away with your goods; since a tiny stream so quickly can overwhelm and destroy a flame; hence away with your trinkets that never truly bring joy.

Hence away with your delight, it is only dung and waste, and your pleasures fade with time; why would I ask after joys that do not nourish my spirit?

Hence away with your finery, made of worms are the satin and silks that bedeck your body; whatever might be valued is only the dregs of the earth.

Hence away with your honor; what else is status than misery in triumph and heartache in destruction; what would I ask of honors which only weigh down the heart?

Hence away with your favors; flattery is an art by which one is betrayed; you are not well-disposed to me! What would I ask of love that in the end only brings sorrow?

In heaven is the friend who truly means well towards me; who gives me his heart and loves me so fiercely, that he refreshes me with sweetness when fear and sorrow oppress me.

The glory of heaven is already prepared for me; my name stands inscribed with those that God loves; my fame will never die, as long as God remains.

O Zion's golden magnificence, how highly are you regarded; your gates are of pearls, the streets everywhere are adorned with gold; when will I return there?

O sweet pleasure of heaven, happy are they who know you! When we have only a tiny drop it can quench us; with how many more great delights will the full river nourish us?

O precious good of heaven, you give us true courage; what wouldn't we give up to have Jesus and you? with what rich treasures will you delight us yonder?

Hence, world, hence away forever, my desires are firmly fixed on heaven; I curse the earthly, since I seek the heavenly; Farewell, turmoil of the world, I choose heaven.

\*"Salinnen," translated here as "halls," is ambiguous and debated. It potentially comes from Icelandic.

## About the Music

Our August 19 program opens with two works by the German/Finnish/Bohemian composer **Andreas Hammerschmidt (1611/12-1675)**. Hammerschmidt was born in Bohemia to a German father and the family was forced to flee suddenly to escape religious persecution during the outbreak of the Thirty Years War. The Hammerschmits settled in Germany, where Andreas received his musical education. A hot-tempered man, Hammerschmidt was known for brawling and quarreling almost as much as he was known for his exquisite musicianship, and the fame of the "Orpheus of Zittau" spread across Germany and Scandinavia. Despite his questionable level of piety, his positions of employment always seemed to return to the church and thus most of his works are sacred in nature. The Thirty Years War raged on throughout nearly half his life and all of his prime, and as a victim of religious persecution himself, he lived a life of division between Protestants and Catholics. The works we will perform today, **Es Danken dir Gott** and **Preise Jerusalem**, exhibit texts taken directly from Psalms and were published in a five volume collection called "Musical Devotions." The music would have been performed as part of the church service, and due to the printed collections, his works were distributed to Protestant churches across Germany and Scandinavia. For this performance, we have paired each cantata with a complimenting folk tune played by a soloist in our ensemble.

Olav Chris Henriksen will perform the **Ouverture de Friderichsholm and Chaconne** by Danish court composer **Bartolomeo Bernardi**.

Almost all of Bernardi's scores burned in a fire but this work is preserved in a baroque guitar manuscript copied by Johanne Christine Winding, now located in Oslo, Norway. The young Ms. Windling copied this manuscript in Copenhagen before marrying her minister husband and settling in Ullensvang, Norway. The manuscript is still owned by her descendants.

Perhaps the most iconic composer of the Scandinavian baroque is **Gustaf Düben the Elder (1628-1690)**. The namesake of Sweden's most important historic music collection, Gustaf Düben was born in Stockholm of a scandalous affair. His father was the court organist of the Royal Swedish court and his mother was a lady-in-waiting to Maria Eleonora of Brandenburg (Mother to Queen Christina). Gustaf was sent away as a child and educated in Germany. He later returned to Sweden to succeed his father as the court organist. His most important contribution to the