

about **MELISSA GARCIA**

Melissa M. Garcia is a passionate instructor who inspires children by allowing them to experience music from many genres and cultures. She is an expert at motivating young singers through activities aimed at music literacy while giving them a foundation of healthy and age-appropriate singing techniques.



Mrs. Garcia has served as a conductor with the Indianapolis Children's Choir for the past nine years. She has been fortunate to work with ICC singers of many different ages spanning from the Intermediate-Advanced Choir and Beginning Level Choirs for the Indianapolis Children's Choir as well as all choirs for the Columbus Indiana Children's Choir. As a specialist in youth choirs, Mrs. Garcia has served as a guest conductor for numerous honor choir festivals and Circle the State with Song in Indiana. Additionally, she is on the summer staff of the Heartland Youth Choir in Des Moines, Iowa where she serves as conductor of the Summer Tunes Choir and teaches Kodály Musicianship classes.

Mrs. Garcia is the lower school music teacher at Park Tudor, a private school in Indianapolis. Mrs. Garcia's teaching career spans from pre-school music through high school choral programs. Prior to her work in Indiana, Mrs. Garcia was the Associate Director of the Northern California Children's Choir where she also served as an elementary music educator. While living in Iowa, she served as a private voice teacher and instructor for the Heartland Youth Choir in Des Moines, and as a music instructor for the Des Moines Children's Choruses and the Iowa Youth Chorus. In addition, she served as a director for the middle school and high school choral department in Earlham, Iowa. While a student at Iowa State University, she held an internship position as the Assistant Conductor for the Preparatory Choir with the Ames Children's Choir.

Mrs. Garcia received her BME from Iowa State University in 2005. In addition, she has completed her Kodály Certification from Indiana University. She recently served as a Co-President of Indiana Kodály Educators. Mrs. Garcia has presented at ACDA regionally and this year nationally. Her passion is inspiring others to continue in Music Education.



about PHILHARMONIC CHORUS

Led by Caio Guimarães, the Columbus Philharmonic Chorus encompasses a wide range of skill levels and experience from high school students to mature adults. No audition required!

JOIN We welcome you to join the Philharmonic Chorus, a group of 80 non-auditioned singers of all ages.

We rehearse Monday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 PM at First United Methodist Church. For information, contact Lexi Schneider at 812-376-2638 or lschneider@thecip.org.

NEXT UP Saturday, March 23, 2024
with the Philharmonic Chorus



Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín, a profoundly moving multimedia concert-drama, combines the magnificent music of Verdi with video testimonials and narration, to tell the story of the courageous Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Terezín) who performed the celebrated

Verdi Requiem while experiencing the depths of human degradation.

Rehearsals start Monday, January 8, 2024.
For information, contact Lexi Schneider at 812-376-2638 or lschneider@thecip.org.



Watch the documentary trailer!



Mary Beth Adams
Anna Ambartumian
David Anderson
Bethany Asher
James Baker
Joe Bautista
Beth Booth Poor
Clarel Brandenburger
Olivia Cain
Sharon Carr
Macarena De La Vega
Jeffery Diwakar
Pamela Drebus
John Drebus

Joe Foyst
Juliet Gilchrist
Sian Goldsmid
Arnold Haskell
Jenny Heichelbech
Donna Janssen
Robert Jeffery
Edward Jewell
Nancy Kistler
Ramona Kudla
Crystal Laws
Vitor Lemos
Leesa McCauley
Bertie Oyler

Meg Pflueger
Mark Pillar
Alie Rauchfuss
Pam Robertson
Kayle Schmelz
Lexi Schneider
Samuel Smith
Doug Sprunger
Carolyn Stickans
Melissa Teo
Jeffery Tucker
Charles Vega
Kira Vogel
Joyce Wire

about ANNA AMBARTSUMIAN

A rising soprano from Athens, Georgia, Anna Ambartsumian has versatile experience on the stage and behind the scenes. Recent performances include *La Fée* in Pauline Viardot's *Cendrillon* at Indiana University and *Barbarina* in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Lyric Opera Studio Weimar. Earlier this year, Ambartsumian sang the Mozart Requiem with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. IU opera chorus credits include the world premiere of *Anne Frank* by Shulamit Ran, *Falstaff*, and *La Rondine*. Ambartsumian is a recent graduate of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, earning a B.M. in Vocal Performance. She currently studies with Jane Dutton and works as the Administrative Production and Opera Office Assistant with the IU Opera Theater.



about CHARLES VEGA

Tenor Charles Vega is a master's student in voice at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Vega has performed in Germany at the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, featured as Tamino in *The Magic Flute* and Basilio/Don Curzio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. A native of Miami, Florida, he completed his undergraduate studies in voice performance at Florida State University with Jeffrey Springer. Vega began his studies at Jacobs with Carlos Montane and currently studies with Deanne Meek.





about JULIET GILCHRIST

Dr. Juliet Gilchrist is from Bloomington, Indiana, and is a born and bred Hoosier. As a full lyric soprano, she has a wide range of performing interests, including opera, musical theater, jazz, folk, and cabaret. Her voice has been

described as “large, full, warm, and lush.”

Juliet has a doctoral degree in voice performance from Indiana University’s Jacob’s School of Music, where she received many awarded scholarships. While at IU, she performed the role of Alice Ford in Verdi’s Falstaff, opposite Timothy Noble, and premiered the role of Mrs. Webb, in Ned Rorem’s opera version of Our Town. Her work in Our Town earned her favorable mention in The New York Times and Opera News. She has released a solo album, titled I know Where I’m goin, and is currently preparing to release her first song as a singer-songwriter, titled “In the Hands of God”.

Juliet has always been active in her church community, organizing music events, directing church choirs and orchestras for special events, as well as spearheading regional musical youth programs and performances.

Juliet currently teaches at IUPUC in Columbus, Indiana. She also teaches privately and owns her own voice teaching studio, Gilchrist Music Studio, operating in Columbus and Bloomington, Indiana. She has taught at Vincennes University, in Vincennes, Indiana and Lincoln Trail College, in Robinson, Illinois. She lives with her husband David and small dog Angus and loves spending time renovating their 1913 house, gardening, cooking, and working on sewing projects. She is a Hoosier at heart and loves her Indiana roots. She is excited to be performing with the Columbus Philharmonic tonight.

about **MOLLY HOTEK**

Soprano Molly Ann Hotek is a recent graduate of Columbus North High School and is currently a freshman at Central Michigan University where she is majoring in vocal performance with a minor in dance. During her high school career, Molly was very active in Columbus North High School's choral and theatre departments. Appearing last year in *Elf The Musical*, as Emily Hobbs (Buddy the Elf's stepmother) and this past spring as the lead in *Tinkerbell*.



Molly is a two-time winner of the Anna Newell Brown Award for Vocal Excellence, a performance contest in Bartholomew County for high school students studying vocal and instrumental musical interests. She attended the High School Classical Voice Institute at the prestigious Brevard Music Center in Brevard, North Carolina in the summers of 2022 and 2023 and is now a member of the Central Michigan University Chamber Singers - the university's top auditioned ensemble. This spring, Molly will perform her first opera, singing the role of Cupid in CMU's upcoming productions of English Composer John Blow's *Venus and Adonis* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*.

This is Molly's second time as a guest soloist with the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, with her first appearance at the Christmas Concert in 2021 singing "Benedicid su Nombre" from Dan Forrest's *Jubilate Deo* under the direction of Dr. David Bowden. She has also spent two years singing with the Philharmonic Chorus and is extremely grateful and excited to have been invited back again to perform for her hometown.

When not performing, Molly can be found reading, writing, enjoying water sports, acting, attending plays and concerts, and most especially going for long drives with her grandfather in his Nassau Blue '65 Corvette.

Holiday Hopes

December 9, 2023 • 3:00 & 7:30 PM
CEHS Robbins Auditorium



COLUMBUS
INDIANA
PHILHARMONIC

Columbus Indiana Philharmonic
Dr. Isaac Selya • Music Director

Philharmonic Chorus
Caio Guimarães F. Lopes • Choral Director

Columbus Indiana Children's Choir
Melissa Garcia • CICC Director

Molly Hotek • Soprano
Charles Vega • Tenor

Anna Ambartsumian • Soprano
Juliet Gilchrist • Soprano

Sponsored By

santa claus

Mark & Linda Pillar
and THE  REPUBLIC

**Christmas Festival
Christmas at the Movies
A Star Dances an Angel Sings**

**Sing Alleluia, Alleluia
All is Well**

**Candlelight Carol
Sleigh Ride**

**Wayne Kirkpatrick/Michael W. Smith
arr. Lloyd Larson**

**Leroy Anderson
Bob Krogstad
Greg Gilpin
arr. Daniel Powers
Mary Goetze
John Rutter
Leroy Anderson**

intermission

Excerpts from *The Messiah*

Overture

Comfort Ye, Every Valley

And the Glory of the Lord

Pifa/Angel Scene

Glory to God

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion

He Shall Feed his Flock

Hallelujah Chorus

Christmas Sing-Along

Georg Friedrich Handel

John Finnegan