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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Bridget Skaggs

[bridget@fourthcoastensemble.com](mailto:bridget@fourthcoastensemble.com)

(817) 800-9954



## **FOURTH COAST ENSEMBLE 2021/2022 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT**



**Subscriptions now available for four concert events featuring hybrid viewing options, a world premiere commission, and a comedy show**

**CHICAGO** – Fourth Coast Ensemble is pleased to announce an innovative season of hybrid music-making. After a smash-hit inaugural HD season, the quartet is proud to offer live-streaming capabilities for three of the season’s four live events; audiences around the world can tune in to watch high-quality, multi-camera immersive experiences while locals will rejoice in the return of live concert events.

The season commences with a much-anticipated world premiere of Fourth Coast’s original commission, *A Brush With Our Time* by composer Andrea Clearfield and librettist Doreen Rao. Accompanied by excerpts of Bernstein’s *Mass*, this 40-minute piece for four voices, shakuhachi, percussion, and piano is based on the poetry of Zen artist Kazuaki Tanahashi and explores the tension between peace and conflict. The performance will feature live calligraphy painting by the artist.

Later, the quartet will help close 2021 with a much needed laugh in November. Hosted by comedian Gretchen Eng and WFMT’s Robbie Ellis, *Laughterreise* (“LAHF-tuh-RIZE-uh”) is a comedy revue about art songs, satirizing the old chestnuts of the cannon and debuting original works that expand how we think of the genre. A cast of Chicago’s most talented comedians will update, re-stage, and rethink music from the era of Franz Schubert to contemporary composers as

sung by members of Fourth Coast Ensemble in two of Chicago's prominent comedy locales, The Revival and The Annoyance Theatre.

The second half of the season kicks off in March 2022 with *Roaring 20's*, a program that explores the exuberance, and irrepressible joy of vocal music from the 1920s. From the boundary-pushing French art songs of Satie and Poulenc, to the blossoming of American jazz under composers like Gershwin and Ellington, this program will help us usher in our new era of the roaring 2020s.

Finally, Fourth Coast Ensemble could not be more proud to present the third annual Chicago songSLAM, a competition for regional art song composers, hosted by composer Stacy Garrop. This initiative brings performers, audience, and composer together to celebrate the thriving contemporary art song landscape in Chicago.

### **A BRUSH WITH OUR TIME**

**Sunday, September 19, 2021**

**Newberry Library**

Sarah Van der Ploeg, soprano | Bridget Skaggs, mezzo-soprano

Ace Gangoso, tenor | David Govertsen, bass

Dana Brown, piano | Michael Firman, shakuhachi | Kyle Flens, percussion

### **LAUGHTERREISE**

**Saturday, November 20, 2021 - The Revival**

**Sunday, November 21, 2021 - The Annoyance Theater**

Sarah Van der Ploeg, soprano | Bridget Skaggs, mezzo-soprano

Ace Gangoso, tenor | David Govertsen, bass

hosted by Robbie Ellis, composer and Gretchen Eng, director

featuring comedians Kennedy Baldwin, Joelle Mendoza, Brad Pike, and Andrea Sharavsky

### **ROARING 20'S**

**March 2022, Date TBA - South Loop**

Sarah Van der Ploeg, soprano | Bridget Skaggs, mezzo-soprano

Ace Gangoso, tenor | David Govertsen, bass

Kuang-Hao Huang, piano

### **THIRD ANNUAL SONGSLAM**

**April 3, 2022 - Evanston**

hosted by composer, Stacy Garrop

To find out more about the upcoming season and subscribe to a four concert series (either to attend in-person or view online), visit the website <http://www.fourthcoastensemble.com/season8.html>

Please note that in accordance with local guidelines all in-person audience members will be required to wear a mask at Fourth Coast Ensemble performances until further notice, regardless of vaccination status. The Annoyance and Revival Theaters further require proof of vaccination to attend events on their premises. Please reach out to [info@fourthcoastensemble.com](mailto:info@fourthcoastensemble.com) with any inquiries.

**Fourth Coast Ensemble** is a classical vocal quartet specializing in the unique style and repertoire of vocal chamber music. Celebrated for its "horizon-expanding programming", (Chicago Classical Review), Fourth Coast Ensemble embraces a repertoire that spans the history of the genre, from Schubert and Brahms to composers of the present day. Founded in 2013, the ensemble commissioned its first world premiere song cycle in 2018, *I-Thou*, by Wayland Rogers. In 2019, Fourth Coast produced the Chicago premiere of *songSLAM*, an annual competition for emerging art song composers and performers in the region. The ensemble has earned a reputation of excellence "built on the quality of its small roster of artists" (Vocal Arts Chicago) - soprano Sarah van der Ploeg, mezzo-soprano Bridget Skaggs, tenor Ace Gangoso, and bass-baritone David Govertsen. A full schedule of concerts can be found at [www.fourthcoastensemble.com](http://www.fourthcoastensemble.com)

Fourth Coast Ensemble, 4955 S Kimbark Ave, Chicago, IL 60615

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