

# **Saint Anastasia Catholic Church**

## **Concerts 2011**

### **Gregory Sheppard, Bass and Byron Sean, Piano**

#### **Songs for Saint Augustine**

Nel cor piu non mi sento Per la gloria d'adoravi Gia il sole dal Gange	Anonymous Giovanni Battista Bononcini (1672-1750) Alessandro Scarlatti (1659-1725)
El majo timido El tra la la y el punteado Con amores, la mi madre	Enrique Granados (1867-1916) Enrique Granados Fernando Obradors (1897-1945)
Let Beauty Awake The Infinite Shining Heavens Bright is the Ring of Words	Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

#### *INTERMISSION*

A Child's Grace Compensation Prayer Song to the Dark Virgin	Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson (1932) Charles Lloyd, Jr. (1948) Leslie Adams (1933) Florence Price (1888-1953)
Amazing Grace There Is a Balm in Gilead My God Is So High	Arr. Byron Sean Leo Edwards Hall Johnson (1888-1970)

#### ***El majo timido***

A man arrives at my (her) window and looks at me through the night  
But when he sees me and sighs, he leaves to go down the street.  
Ay! What a late guy. If thus life passes, I am amused.

#### ***El tra la y el punteado***

The tra la la and the plucking  
It is in vain, my love, that you continue talking, because there are things that in answer  
I am always singing. Tra la la... The more you ask so much, tra la la...  
In me you don't cause grief, nor do I have to leave my singing. la la la...

#### ***Con amores, la mi madre*** With love, my mother

With love, my mother, with love I fell asleep; thus asleep, I was dreaming that which my heart was hiding;  
that love was consoling me with more good than I deserved. The aid lulled me to sleep, What love gave me,  
With love, put to bed my pain by the faith with which I served you.  
With love, my mother, with love I fell asleep.

Thank you for joining us this evening! We particularly encourage families and youth to come and hear great music. It is our hope that we will be able to create a full concert series through generous donations and sponsorships, allowing many concerts to be without ticket charge. Thank you for supporting us this evening with your attendance and encouraging future concerts with your financial donations.

**Gregory Sheppard**, bass has been heard in opera, concert and recital throughout the United States and Europe. Recent appearances this season include Balthazar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Nickel City Opera (Buffalo, NY) and as the Sprecher/Zweiter Priest in *Die Zauberflöte* with Connecticut Lyric Opera. Mr. Sheppard has been hailed for his beautiful singing and stage presence by critics and colleagues alike and has sung leading roles in opera with San Francisco Opera, Syracuse Opera, Central City Opera, New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera and numerous others. Orchestral appearances have included the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Denver Symphony, New Haven Symphony, Illinois Symphony, Sioux City Symphony, and the Buffalo Philharmonic to name a few. In Europe Mr. Sheppard has sung in the world premier of *A Scourge of Hyacinth's* at the Biennale Festival in Munich as well as appearances with the Vienna Festival, Savonlinna Opera (Finland) and Orchestra I solisti di Rome in Rome, Florence, Venice and Sienna. Upcoming appearances this season include Tonio in *Pagliacci* with Ottawa Opera Poche, recitals in Freehold, New Jersey, Washington, DC, St. Augustine, Florida and New York City. Next season Mr. Sheppard returns to Nickel City Opera in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and in the summer of 2012 sings James Parker in the world premier of *Shot* based on the assassination of President McKinley with that same company. Sheppard is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including a Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition Finalist and Study Grant Winner, Sullivan Grant and The Jan Peerce Scholarship from NYU. He holds degrees in voice performance from both Syracuse University and New York University.

Pianist **Byron Sean** has played all over the world and is known for his elegant style, warm sound and versatility as an artist. Mr. Sean has made solo appearances at the Hot Springs Music Festival, the Centre d'Arts Orford in Montreal, the International Keyboard Festival in New York City and the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris as part of the European American Musical Alliance. As an accompanist Mr. Sean has collaborated with critically acclaimed vocalist such as Suzanna Guzman, Alvy Powell, Patricia Prunty, Robert Sims and Angela Brown, and is featured on the newly released CD, *Climbing High Mountains* with soprano Osceola Davis. Mr. Sean has had coaching from acclaimed pianist such as Sergei Babayan (United States), Christopher Elton (London), Peter Eicher (Germany), Roy Howat (Scotland), Narcis Bonet (France) and Abbey Simon (New York). Byron Sean holds degrees and diplomas from the University of Michigan, The Royal Academy of Music (London) and the Mannes College of Music in New York City.

The St. Augustine Community Chorus, featuring our own Barbara Van Rysdam, performs tomorrow, May 15, at 2:00 PM at the Cathedral-Basilica. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

