

Meet Soprano Soloist Katelyn G. Aungst



photo credit: Kristina Sherk

City Choir audiences have enjoyed soprano Katelyn Aungst's performances singing baroque music in 2017's *Solomon* and 20th century repertoire last November in Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Now they will have an opportunity to hear her sing from the classical period in the Haydn *Lord Nelson Mass*.

Katelyn prepares for her vocal performances as if she were going to conduct the piece. "I want to intimately know the score and how all the musicians will interact with each other," she tells *Allegro*. "It's a global approach that evolves into the minutely detailed work of

putting breath behind the notes on the page. I'll also do very normal things like schedule coachings with teachers and mentors who have experience with the repertoire."

Although Katelyn is adept in repertoire from all eras, she is currently particularly interested in performing works by living composers. "I'm intrigued by how different composers use all the facets of the human voice to communicate and how that can inform my performance of older, more traditional repertoire," she says.

Katelyn is delighted to be performing with City Choir again. Having worked with Robert Shafer in the past, she notes that "it's clear that [Shafer's] loyalty is to the composer, which I truly respect and love. Everything he does is in the service of the music, an approach I emulate."

A sought-after soloist in the Washington, DC area, Katelyn has a busy year ahead. Some highlights include Salvatore Sciarrino's *12 Madrigali* and Monteverdi's *La Sestina* with Third Practice as part of UMBC's Livewire festival. "The Sciarrino is incredibly difficult and audibly fascinating," says Katelyn. "I'm so excited for the audience to experience it." Another intriguing upcoming project is the premiere of a choral opera by Scott Ordway, which Katelyn will present with The Thirteen in May. "I'm looking forward to this new challenge," Katelyn tells us. Stay tuned for these exciting performances and more from this rising star!