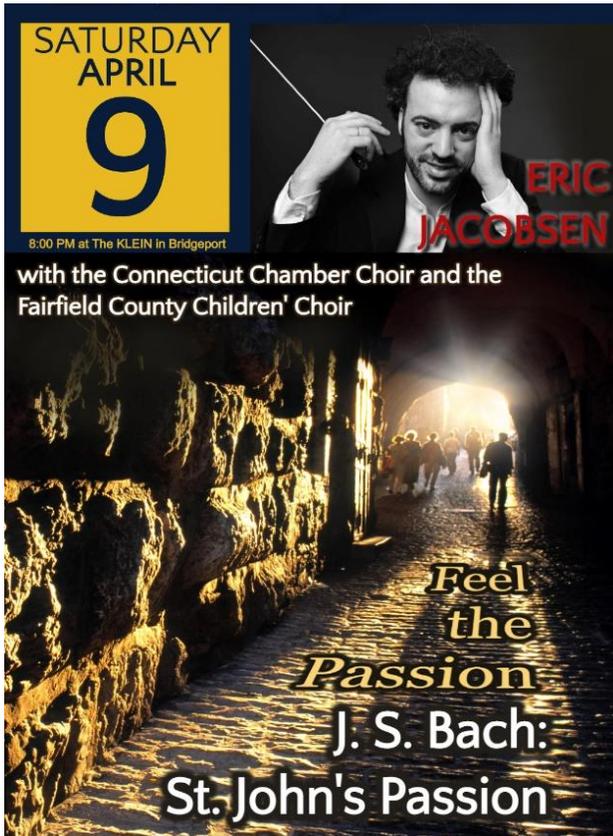


SEASON 76: COMING TOGETHER AGAIN



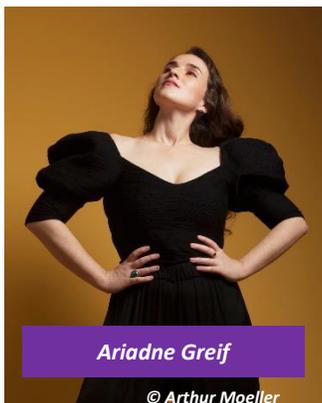
SATURDAY APRIL 9, 2022
8 PM at The Klein in Bridgeport

FEEL THE PASSION



On the eve of Passion Sunday, the Greater Bridgeport Symphony (GBS), under direction of Eric Jacobsen, will perform the dramatic *St. John's Passion* by Bach on Saturday April 9, joined by a large choir – the combined Fairfield County Children's Choir and the Connecticut Chamber Choir. Vocal soloists will be

Ariadne Greif, David Vanderwal, and Agnes Vojtko. Vanderwal and Vojtko are new to GBS, but GBS fans may remember Greif's stunning performance as Musetta in *la Boheme*, showcased by GBS in December 2016.



The timing of this passion play couldn't be better: the eve of Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), which will be celebrated

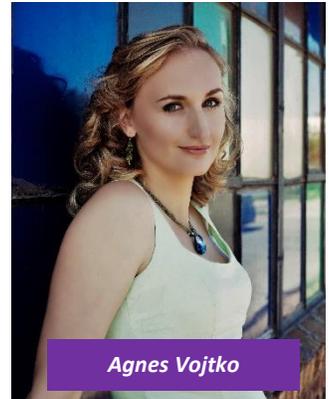


worldwide by Christian denominations on April 10 this year. The vocals (presented in English) tell the story of the passion of death of Christ, ensconced in the rich music of Bach. This musical passion play was first presented in 1724 in Leipzig, Germany, and is based on the Gospel of St. John. Bach also wrote another Passion based on the Gospel of St. Matthew, but the St. John version as the more expressive and unbridled of the two – a more passionate Passion.



David Vanderwal

The two choirs together will form a formidable group of about 75 singers, and are favorites with GBS fans. Soloists Agnes Vojtko and David Vanderwal, both Connecticut artists, are looking forward to singing St. John; Vojtko says, “Even though the whole journey of the passion is intense and arduous, at the end I always feel cleansed and transformed.” Vanderwal feels similarly moved by the music, saying “The St.



Agnes Vojtko

John is so raw - so emotional, that one can't help but be swept away by the personal drama, angst, and spiritual import of this excruciating story.”

For “Feel the Passion,” GBS will put a full orchestra onstage, including harpsichord and organ, to bring out the rich Baroque sound of the composition. Conductor Eric Jacobsen has been wanting to play this piece for several years, and is excited that the *St. John Passion* is part of GBS’s series of live performances this season. “It’s so incredible to be back at The Klein, in person with our friends again,” said Jacobsen.

This will be GBS’ third live concert at The Klein this season. GBS presented live concerts to audiences about 55% of normal size in October and November, 2021. Their December 18 concert had to be released by livestream and recorded version, due to members of the company testing positive for Covid. The multi-concert series originally scheduled for March 10-12 has been moved to Friday/Saturday, July 8 at 9 at the Mertens Theater at Paier College (formerly the University of Bridgeport). “Our audience levels have been consistent with the national average for people returning to live venues after Covid,” said Executive Director Mark Halstead, “but we expect those numbers to rise again, and hope to see an even bigger crowd, safely, for our April and July concerts.”