

Choral elements FIRE

71ST SEASON | 2026-2027

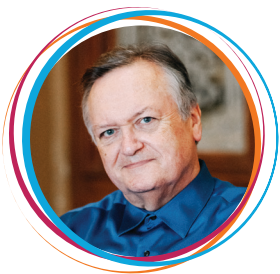


SAINT LOUIS
CHAMBER
CHORUS

Choral elements

71ST SEASON

FIRE



PHILIP BARNES,
Artistic Director

While our repertoire is inspired by both the reality and metaphor of fire, each concert also features a collaboration with invited guests, from visiting composers & instrumentalists to historians and commentators.

In the Renaissance, the greatest Spanish composer to work exclusively in Spain was Francisco Guerrero, whose 500th anniversary falls during this season. To celebrate his music, a selection of his works is sung at each of our six programs.



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chamberchorus.org



A CONSUMING FIRE

October 4, 2026
SUNDAY 3PM

Second Baptist Church
9030 Clayton Rd. Richmond
Heights, MO 63117

The fiery language of human passions is reflected in Baroque madrigals by Alessandro Scarlatti, Romantic *lieder* by Agnes Tyrrell, and contemporary songs by Dan Forrest and a new commission from Eriks Esenvalds. The fire of Pentecost is depicted in motets by Guerrero and Stephanie Martin, while Prometheus' gift to mankind is described by the great Russian master, Sergei Taneyev.



THE FIRE OF HEAVEN

November 8, 2026
SUNDAY 3PM

The Cathedral-Basilica of
St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

This concert's title comes from a cycle for three choruses by Geoffrey Burgon, while Mendelssohn adds a fourth for his monumental motet, *Hora Est*. Other polychoral works are provided by Guerrero, Ben Parry and Kerensa Briggs, for whose *Missa Brevis* choristers from Lindbergh High School join the Chamber Chorus.



CHRISTMAS FIRE

December 20, 2026

SUNDAY 3PM

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
751 N. Jefferson St., Florissant
MO 63031

From Australia comes *The Burning Babe* by contemporary composer, Anne Boyd, while we contrast two settings of the *Magnificat*, a Renaissance version by Guerrero and a world première from Maria Granillo, our Mexican 'Composer-in-Residence.' Seasonal carols from Iceland contrast the cold outside with flames lit to announce the season.

THE FIRE OF LOVE

February 21, 2027

SUNDAY 3PM

Third Baptist Church, Grand Center
620 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis
MO 63103

Cupid lies at the heart of a fiery text set by Renaissance masters, Arcadelt and Lassus, while Verdelot's version subsequently inspired Guerrero to compose a complete 'parody mass' based on its theme. *The Little Love-God* written in the 1940s by the Italian maestro, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, receives its US première, while John Conahan, Elaine Hagenberg and Francis Pott present contemporary songs of love.

THE FIRE OF REGRET

April 11, 2027

SUNDAY 3PM

E. Desmond Lee Auditorium
560 Trinity Ave., University City
MO 63130

In the *Aeneid*, Vergil relates how the ill-fated Queen Dido ends her life on a funeral pyre. Her ruin, and the challenge of destiny faced by Aeneas, inspired numerous composers from the Renaissance to the present day. Their musical treatments underpin a program exploring how Vergil has inspired composers across centuries and continents, and are complemented by settings from his other epics, the *Eclogues* and the *Georgics*.

FIRE! FIRE!

May 30, 2027

SUNDAY 3PM

Grace United Methodist Church
6199 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis
MO 63112

In various depictions of fire, Renaissance madrigalists like Thomas Morley, Francisco Guerrero and Philippe de Monte are contrasted with contemporary composers who have been similarly inspired. Recent settings by Morten Lauridsen and Mary Offer preface a world première setting of an ode from Sophocles' *Antigone* by the St. Louis composer, Carter Datz.



MARIA GRANILLO

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE, 2025-2028

The distinguished Mexican composer, Maria Granillo, has accepted the invitation to write works specifically for us. Though now well-established on the faculty of her alma mater, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Professor Granillo's training took her far from her homeland. After graduate studies in England, at the Guildhall School of Music in London, and then at York University, she earned a doctorate from the University of British Columbia.

After the success of her *Ode for Fate* which concluded last season, she has now created a new interpretation of the 'Song of Mary' after the Annunciation by the Angel Gabriel.

Hear the chorus that critics called the best *a cappella* choir in the Midwest.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS

E. Reuben and Gladys Flora Grant Charitable Trust



Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.



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** The annual conference call will introduce the upcoming season and offer a Q&A session with the Artistic Director.



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CONTACT US

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