

# Echoing Air, Inc.

## PRESS KIT



### who we are

Echoing Air, Inc. is a chamber ensemble devoted to the exploration of music featuring singers accompanied by Baroque instruments, with a particular focus on the repertoire of the English Baroque era.

Most of our concerts showcase two countertenors, two recorders, and basso continuo.

### our mission

The mission of Echoing Air is to promote the beauty and inherent power of music to audiences of all ages through dynamic and educational performances featuring voices and instruments.

*Echoing Air*

VOCAL ENSEMBLE with BAROQUE INSTRUMENTS

**14+**

SECULAR AND/OR  
SACRED PROGRAM  
OFFERINGS

**100+**

COMBINED YEARS OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
MUSICIANSHIP

**14**

STATES PERFORMED IN  
SINCE 2009

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## Tours

Echoing Air tours frequently, appearing on a variety of concert series including civil, church, and collegiate venues. While our home base is in Indianapolis, Indiana, we often journey throughout the Midwest and Florida. However, our performances have taken us as far as the western landscapes of Arizona and the enchanting cities of Europe to the east.

*“Many, many thanks for a truly wonderful program Saturday night. The multiple standing ovations were the clearest demonstration of how appreciative the entire audience was!”*

**—Richard Benedum, Organist-Choirmaster, Christ Church, Brandenton, FL**

## Tour History



## booking

-  **Steven Rickards,**  
**Founder and Artistic Director**
-  123 E Westfield Blvd  
Indianapolis, IN 46220
-  317-252-4311
-  317-414-8374
-  [steven@echoingair.org](mailto:steven@echoingair.org)

## visit us online

-  [EchoingAir.org](http://EchoingAir.org)
-  [facebook.com/EchoingAir](https://facebook.com/EchoingAir)
-  [youtube.com/@EchoingAirInc](https://youtube.com/@EchoingAirInc)
-  [linkedin.com/company/echoing-air-inc](https://linkedin.com/company/echoing-air-inc)

## concerts for the church year

- **ADVENT: "MY HEART IS READY"**
  - Featuring works by John Blow, Heinrich Schütz, André Campra, and more.
- **CHRISTMAS: "OUT OF THE ORIENT CRYSTAL SKIES"**
  - Spanning from Medieval Gregorian Chant to Baroque chamber music, highlighting composers such as Böhme, Buxtehude, Byrd, and Monteverdi.
- **EPIPHANY: "WALK IN LIGHT"**
  - Including Buxtehude's "In Dulci Jubilo" and Telemann's solo cantatas for the season.
- **LENT AND PASSIONTIDE: "MEDITATIONS ON THE PASSION"**
  - Dedicated to penitential compositions for Holy Week, featuring works by Charpentier, Campra, Couperin, and others.

## other sacred concerts

- **"EIN FESTE BURG IS UNSER GOTT"**
  - Focuses on German sacred music by Lutheran composers before J. S. Bach.
- **"PSALMS OF PRAISE AND PENITENCE"**
  - Showcasing varied settings of well-known texts by Monteverdi, Merula, Schütz, and others.

## secular / combined sacred and secular

- **"BAROQUE AND BEYOND"**
  - Juxtaposing early English repertoire with 20th and 21st Century compositions for countertenor and early instruments.
- **"CELEBRATIONS AND REMEMBRANCES"**
  - Musical selections from the Odes of Henry Purcell commemorating special occasions in Restoration Britain.
- **"CUPID'S DART"**
  - Exploring timeless aspects of love through Renaissance and Baroque poetry and song.
- **"AN EVENING WITH MR. HENRY PURCELL"**
  - A scripted program offering a historical perspective on England's illustrious 17th Century composer.
- **"HARK HOW THE SONGSTERS"**
  - Featuring duets, solo songs, and chamber works by Henry Purcell and contemporaries.
- **"THE IMMORTAL SHAKESPEARE"**
  - Explore the enduring nature of Shakespeare's genius through word and song, spanning the Elizabethan Age to the present.
- **"MUSIC'S DWELLING"**
  - Guiding listeners through Baroque liturgical, chamber, courtly, and operatic literature.
- **"THE HARMONIOUS VAGABOND"**
  - Inspired by the life and travels of Scottish countertenor and composer John Abell, exploring music from Baroque Scotland, England, Ireland, France, and Italy.



## Exploring Vocal Arts

Echoing Air, Inc. presents Exploring Vocal Arts (EVA), a Summer Music Workshop for young solo singers aged 15 to 20 years. The camp offers a chamber music experience singing with Baroque instruments, as well as daily voice lessons and artistic coaching on early repertoire, primarily from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Students will have the opportunity to sing with a harpsichord, recorders, viola da gamba, and lute. Additionally, singers will perform in concert with Echoing Air at the end of the session. The repertoire will be suitable for district and state solo and ensemble competitions, as well as for recital planning.



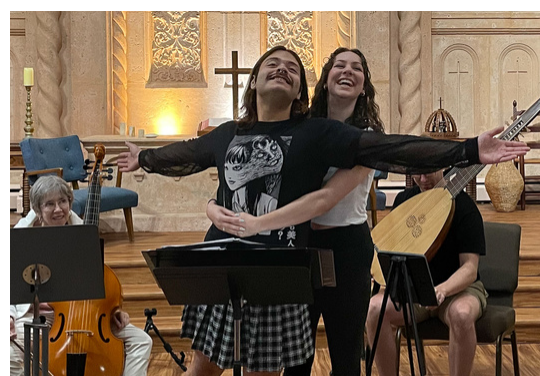
**Daytona State College,  
Daytona Beach, FL**

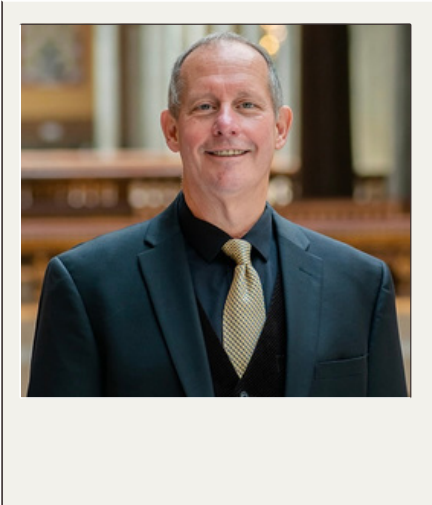


**June 9-15, 2024**

*"[Echoing Air]'s two hours with our students was, without question, the most positive and productive master class I have experienced in my 28 years at UF."*

**—Ronald Burrichter, Professor of  
Music, University of Florida,  
Gainesville**





## **Steven Rickards** **COUNTERTENOR**

Steven Rickards, countertenor, is the founder and Artistic Director of Echoing Air, Inc. He has received international acclaim as one of the finest American countertenors of his generation. Since his Carnegie Hall debut in Handel's *Messiah* with the Oratorio Society of New York, Rickards has performed internationally as a soloist with leading ensembles, including Joshua Rifkin's Bach Ensemble, the American Bach Soloists, Apollo's Fire, Chicago's Music of the Baroque, the Folger Consort, the Gabrieli Consort, the New London Consort, the Smithsonian Chamber Players, and the Baroque orchestras of Indianapolis, Seattle, and Portland.

Ensemble singing has played an important part in Rickards' musical life, especially his work with Chanticleer and Paul Hillier's Theatre of Voices. Rickards can be heard on numerous record labels, including Chanticleer, Decca, Dorian, Four Winds, Gothic, Harmonia Mundi, Koch, Newport Classics, Smithsonian, and Teldec. His recordings of lute songs of John Dowland and Thomas Campion may be found on the Naxos label. Rickards is also a published composer and an advocate for new music. In his book "Twentieth Century Countertenor Repertoire" (Scarecrow Press), he championed the creation and collection of contemporary works for the countertenor. It is the only published resource on the subject.

Rickards was featured in the premiere of John Adams's oratorio "El Niño" at the Châtelet Opera in Paris in 2000, and he has since performed the piece in numerous venues throughout the world. Additional operatic premieres include John Eaton's operas "Danton and Robespierre" at Indiana University and "The Tempest" at the Santa Fe Opera. He also premiered Bruno Moretti's "Vespro" with the New York City Ballet.

Dr. Rickards received his undergraduate and master's degrees from Indiana University. A Fulbright-Hays Scholarship and Rotary Grant provided funds for additional study in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. His doctorate was conferred by Florida State University. He has served on the faculty of the Historical Performance Institute at the IU Jacobs School of Music and currently teaches at Butler University, Marian University, and the University of Indianapolis.



## **William Sauerland** **COUNTERTENOR**

William Sauerland, countertenor, is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies for the School of Music at Purdue University – Fort Wayne. In this role, he conducts the choral ensembles, teaches classes in music education, and supervises student teachers. Prior to this position, he served as a Lecturer in Voice at San Francisco State University and held the position of Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at Chabot College in Hayward, CA, where he received an Educator of Excellence Award from the Chabot Black Scholars.

Dr. Sauerland's teaching experience extends to his six-year tenure teaching choral music at Lick-Wilmerding High School. Additionally, he served as the Associate Music Director for the Grammy Award-winning Pacific Boychoir Academy.

Praised by the San Francisco Chronicle for his "limpid tone and astonishing eloquence," Dr. Sauerland remains active as a professional countertenor. His recent solo appearances include collaborations with esteemed ensembles such as the American Bach Soloists, Festival Opera Company, Folger Consort, Handel Opera Project, Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra, Oakland Symphony Orchestra, and Pacific Chorale. He was also a former member of the Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer and has performed extensively worldwide, recording multiple albums for Warner Classics.

Dr. Sauerland received the Doctorate of Education in College Teaching of Music and Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. As a Marshall Scholarship recipient, he earned a Master of Music (MMus) and Post-Graduate Diploma (PGDip) in Advanced Vocal Performance from the Royal College of Music in London. Born in Indiana and raised on a small dairy farm in Ohio, he received his Bachelor of Music (B.M.) in Music Education and Vocal Performance from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.





## **Christopher Armijo** **RECORDER**

Christopher Armijo is an instrumentalist specializing in the Baroque and Renaissance recorder. He is a performing member of Forgotten Clefs, Inc., Bloomington, Indiana's Renaissance wind band, for which he also serves as the corresponding secretary. Christopher can be heard regularly as a soloist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bloomington, as well as at several other venues in Monroe and Brown Counties. He has participated in early music workshops across the country, including the San Francisco Early Music Society Baroque Workshop, the Mountain Collegium Early Music Workshop, and the Amherst Early Music Festival, where

he has worked with notable figures such as Bruce Dickey and members of ¡Sacabuche!, the Flanders Recorder Quartet, and Tempesta di Mare.

As a diverse musician, Christopher has also recently begun performing on the cornetto and shawm in period ensembles. In addition to his work with historical instruments, he is a member of the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra's horn section. His academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Columbus State University and a Master of Music in Recorder from Indiana University – Historical Performance Institute.



## **Jeffrey Collier** **RECORDER**

Jeffrey Collier is a founding member of Echoing Air and enjoys transcribing and arranging music of the Baroque period for the ensemble. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he studied singing with Mac Morgan and performed on the recorder and other early instruments with the Emory Early Music Consort. Following the completion of medical school, he has remained an avid musical performer, specializing in Early Music. He furthered his skills by studying Baroque flute with Barbara Kallaur and participating in intensive workshops and masterclasses with renowned artists,

including Christopher Krueger, Michael Lynn, Max van Egmond, Eva Legene, Janet See, and Stephen Preston.

Currently calling Indianapolis home, Jeffrey has showcased his talent on both Baroque flute and recorder with the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra and Ensemble Voltaire, along with various ensembles throughout the Southeast and Midwest. Reviews have lauded his "pure and focused" playing (Classical Voice of North Carolina, March 2005).

In addition to his musical pursuits, Dr. Collier is a physician with a private solo practice in Family Medicine in Carmel, IN, and serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor for the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine.





## **Erica Rubis**

### **VIOLA DA GAMBA**

Erica Rubis, viola da gamba, is a versatile performer on both viols and Baroque cello. Performances range from renaissance viol consort music to improvising and co-creating new music. Erica holds a B.A. in Music from St. Olaf College, a Performer's Certificate from The Royal Conservatory in The Hague, Netherlands, and an MM in Early Music Performance at Indiana University. She is a member of Alchymy Viols and Les Ordinaires Trio, and also plays with Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, Bourbon Baroque, Catacoustic Consort, and Generation Harmonique. Recordings include Les Ordinaires, Inner Chambers and contemporary music of Tomas Lozano,

Eternal Juan Ramón Jiménez. Active in music education, Erica holds regular workshops on the viola da gamba for string students and has pioneered a multi-media program, Shakespeare's Ear, with regular tours since 2009.



## **Thomas Gerber**

### **HARPSICHORD**

Thomas Gerber, specializing in the harpsichord, is a founding member of the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra and Ensemble Voltaire. He is a graduate of Hillsdale College and Ball State University, where he earned a Master of Music degree in harpsichord and early music performance practice from Indiana University.

Mr. Gerber's extensive musical career has included positions as an assistant professor of music and humanities at Marian University, along with teaching roles at the University of Indianapolis and Butler University. His exceptional continuo keyboard skills are highly sought

after, both by period instrument groups and modern orchestras. He has graced the stage with various ensembles, including the Ann Arbor-based 17th-century music chamber quintet Anaphantasia, the liturgical early music ensemble Musik Ekklesia, and other period-instrument early-music groups such as Alchymy, Catacoustic Consort, the Callipygian Players, Pills to Purge Melancholy, Ars Antigua Chicago, and Haydn-by-the-Lake. Furthermore, Thomas Gerber performs regularly with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. He has made notable appearances at the Early Music Festival of St. Louis, the Bloomington Early Music Festival, and the Tropical Baroque Festival. His musical contributions can be heard on various labels, including Dorian, Concordia, Indie Barock, and Catalpa Classics.

## booking



**Steven Rickards,  
Founder and Artistic Director**



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## visit us online



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*“The singers of the University of Miami Collegium Musicum loved the collaboration. Countertenors are not commonplace; [Steven Rickards] and Nathan Medley are a wonderful pair of artists who inspired our young singers with [their] skill, musicianship, and style. This was an ideal educational experience for these collegiate and high school students.”*

**—Donald Oglesby, Professor Emeritus, University of Miami Frost School of Music, FL**

*“They immediately proceeded to ‘wow’ the audience with their incredible talent and musical authenticity. Their personalities shined through as they entertained and educated us all.”*

**—Dianna Campbell, Director of Choral Activities, Seminole State College, Sanford, FL**

**Echoing Air, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.**

**Echoing Air is grateful to all our presenters, audience members, donors, and especially the following sponsors, who make our seasons possible:**

