



AD ASTRA

MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY

12

7:30 PM

DEAR LOVE

St. John Lutheran Church · \$20 · 60 minutes

To kick off the festival, three choirs join forces to sing works of various styles on love. Corie Brown will spend three days in rehearsals and workshops with our High School Honor Choir. Alex Underwood will prepare the annual Russell Community Choir and spend the week with the professional Ad Astra Chamber Choir. The concert is a celebration of love songs in the choral canon, including Brahms' *Liebeslieder Walzer* and Libby Larsen's *Love Songs*.

Paul Lee, pianist · Juan Sebastian Avendaño, pianist
Alex Underwood, conductor

JULY

13

8:00 PM

JAZZ AT THE BARN

Granny Mae's · \$20 · 90 minutes

A perennial favorite, Russell-native Brad Dawson is back again with his colleagues from Kansas City to bring us an evening of jazz at Granny Mae's. We will have popcorn and a signature cocktail to offer at this event.

Brad Dawson, trumpet · Matt Otto, saxophone
Roger Wilder, piano · Gerald Spaits, bass
Brian Streever, drums

JULY

14

2:00 PM

ANNA PIDGORNA, AN INTRODUCTION

Deines Cultural Center · \$10 · 60 minutes

This concert will introduce the remarkable music of Anna Pidgorna to western Kansans. Ad Astra is commissioning Ms. Pidgorna and her sister Maria to write an original opera about the life of Russell High School art teacher legend Trudy Furney to be premiered at Prairiasta in 2021.

JULY

19

7:30 PM

OUR UNION TO RESTORE

Trinity United Methodist Church · \$20 · 75 minutes

The festival's young artists sing songs exploring the American Civil War. Works by Jennifer Higdon, Richard Danielpour, and C. Curtis-Smith feature soldier camp songs, the words of the preeminent American poet Walt Whitman, and a speech delivered by Abraham Lincoln, as a story of the heartbreak of war is weaved together through music.

Christina Han, soprano · Grace Volker, mezzo-soprano
Bo Shimmin, tenor · Jacob Lay, bass-baritone
Juan Sebastian Avendaño, pianist

JULY

20

7:30 PM

PROVING UP

LaSada Lodge · \$20 · 75 minutes

In this 2017 opera by critically acclaimed composer Missy Mazzoli, a Nebraska family struggles to acquire land through the Homestead Act of 1862. The Ad Astra musicians will perform this work outdoors on land acquired via the Homestead Act. A chamber instrumental ensemble is featured alongside six renowned singers in this challenging, contemporary work.

Gregorio Taniguchi, tenor · Dominic Aragon, baritone
Aani Bourassa, soprano · Alyssa Toepfer, soprano
Courtney Evans, mezzo-soprano · Gabe McGuire

Austin McWilliams, conductor
Sasha Hildebrand, stage director

JULY

21

2:00 PM

FEMININE EXPERIENCES

Deines Cultural Center · \$10 · 60 minutes

In a collaboration with Russell artist Dustin Poché, our house mezzo Katelyn Mattson-Levy explores four archetypes of women: maid, mother, crone, and enchantress, featuring music from Amy Beach, Florence Price, Ellen Mandel, Lori Laitman, Ethel Smyth, and Rebecca Clarke. Katelyn will be joined by Victoria-native Matthew Piatt, now assistant director for Chicago Lyric Opera and San Francisco Opera, on piano.

JULY

26

7:30 PM

UNACCOMPANIED, IN CONCERT

Deines Cultural Center · \$20 · 60 minutes

Formed by students at Northern Arizona University, Unaccompanied is a nationally recognized a *cappella* and vocal jazz group whose original arrangements fuse popular stylings with sophisticated jazz harmonies. From the tradition that brought the film *Pitch Perfect* and the popularity of the Pentatonix, Unaccompanied delivers its music with a sleek vibrancy. In fact, a few members of Unaccompanied have been featured on Pentatonix recordings.

Shelby Matlock & MaryAnne Mugila, sopranos
Aaliyah Bancod & Courtney Evans, altos
Gabe Hernandez & Jake Colvin, tenors
Marty Rickert, vocal percussion & baritone
Alan Williams, bass

JULY

27

7:30 PM

HANDEL'S THEODORA

Trinity United Methodist Church · \$20 · 90 minutes

After a Handel hiatus last year, the festival is returning to its tradition of producing a semi-staged oratorio. This tragic love story centers around Christian martyr Theodora and her converted lover Didymus. Often disliked in Handel's day, the work is now a favorite in part thanks to a brilliant 1996 production by Peter Sellars.

Madeline Apple Healey, soprano
Tim Parsons, countertenor · Gregorio Taniguchi, tenor
Alan Williams, bass · Katelyn Mattson-levy, mezzo-soprano

Alex Underwood, conductor
Sasha Hildebrand, stage director

JULY

28

1:00 PM

MUSIKALISCHE EXEQUIEN

The Basilica of St. Fidelis · \$10 · 45 minutes

This early German Baroque music by Heinrich Schütz was composed with a text compiled by Count Henry II of Ruess-Gera for his own funeral. It has grown to become one of Schütz's most beloved works and is a quintessential example of his unmatched use of language in music. The picturesque basilica in Victoria serves as the stage for this choral masterpiece.

2019




AD ASTRA

MUSIC FESTIVAL

CLASSICAL MUSIC IN RUSSELL, KANSAS, SINCE 2014

Each July, the Ad Astra Music Festival, founded by Russell native Alex Underwood, colors central Kansas with classical music by integrating emerging young artists, community members, and professional musicians. Audiences have come to expect fresh, new music alongside vibrant performances of history’s richest musical works of art. From opera and chamber music performances at the Deines Cultural Center, to sunset services at the picturesque Basilica of St. Fidelis, to live jazz at Granny Mae’s barn, each season offers concerts for every Kansan to enjoy. We’re dedicated to making this festival of and for the people of Russell as we annually collaborate with local visual artists, poets, and musicians to produce meaningful creative experiences.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY

-  Online at adastramusicfestival.org
-  In person at Espresso Etc. or at the Russell County Economic Development Office
-  At the door to each event

MAIN STAGE

Our six main stage performances on Friday and Saturday evenings are large-scale events featuring many world-class performers, suitable for large audiences. Tickets to each event are \$20.

- July 12 · Dear Love
- July 13 · Jazz at the Barn
- July 19 · Our Union to Restore
- July 20 · Proving Up
- July 26 · Unaccompanied, In Concert
- July 27 · Handel’s Theodora


CHAMBER MUSIC


These three Sunday afternoon events place audiences intimately close to smaller casts of performers. Limited seating available. Tickets to each event are \$10.


- July 14 · Anna Pidgorna, an Introduction
- July 21 · Feminine Experiences
- July 28 · Musikalische Exequien

- COMPLETE SEASON PASS • \$120**
Save \$30 when you purchase a pass for the entire season.
- MAIN STAGE SEASON PASS • \$100**
Save \$20 when you purchase a pass to our six Main Stage performances on Friday and Saturday evenings.

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 Ad Astra Music Festival

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MUSIC FESTIVAL

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