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# IOCSF CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY WITH **BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE** SATURDAY, JUNE 8

## CELEBRATION TO FEATURE WORLD PREMIERE OF REX ISENBERG'S "ANTHROPO-SCENES"

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

San Francisco, CA (March 15, 2024) – The **International Orange Chorale of San Francisco** (IOCSF) announced today the dates for **Bridge to the Future**, a celebration of IOCSF's history since its founding in 2003, and a look towards its next chapter as it continues to honor its mission to champion new choral works and make new music accessible.

**Bridge to the Future** will take place for one night only on Saturday, June 8 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco (1111 O'Farrell St.). Tickets (\$25–\$50) are available online now at [iocsf.org/events](https://iocsf.org/events), with community tickets available at no cost.

Bridge to the Future will feature the world premiere of "Anthropo-scenes," IOCSF's new commission from Rex Isenberg, which journeys through this climate era (often referred to as the "Anthropocene") – present, past, and future – reflecting on where we are now, where we've been, and where we might be going. Written for choir and piano quintet, the



four-movement work weaves together poignant testimony submitted by IOCSF singers, as well as academic, philosophic, and religious texts.

“I had the great fortune to work closely with IOCSF and experience their tremendous artistry, depth of expression, and musical storytelling ability when they performed and recorded my oratorio *Messiahs: False and True* in 2022, so I was incredibly excited and honored to have the opportunity to compose a new narrative work for their 20th anniversary this season,” said Isenberg. “IOCSF will not only be singing the work, but they are very much a part of the piece itself; much of the libretto comes from personal stories from IOCSF members about how climate disruption has impacted their lives, as well as their hopes and wishes for what we can preserve for future generations. I can't wait to hear how they tell their own stories through this music and am greatly looking forward to celebrating IOCSF's milestone moment with them in June.

Isenberg's piece will be paired with Caroline Shaw's moving work "To the Hands," a treatise on refugee crises around the world.

“We are honored to present this program dedicated to such timely and important themes for our 20th anniversary concert,” said Assistant Artistic Director **Chris Filice**, who will be conducting Shaw's work. “Both Isenberg and Shaw's works depict a range of human experiences, from anger and fear to resiliency and hope. The program exemplifies IOCSF's commitment to performing contemporary music, and will take audiences on what we hope will be both an emotional and moving journey.”

This six-movement work for choir and strings is a response to *Ad manus* from Dieterich Buxtehude's 17th century masterpiece, *Membra Jesu Nostri*. Incorporating portions of Buxtehude's original text, a riff on Emma Lazarus' sonnet “The New Colossus” — made famous for its engraving at the base of the Statue of Liberty — data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, and more, it offers a reflection on the suffering of those around the world seeking refuge, and of our role and responsibility in these global and local crises.

The program features local chamber music group, the **Cable Car String Quartet**, bassist **Joe Belson**, and collaborative pianist **Fred Cummins**. For more information, visit [iocsf.org](https://iocsf.org).

### **ABOUT IOCSF**

The International Orange Chorale of San Francisco (IOCSF), led by Artistic Director Zane Fiala, was founded in 2003. Named after the color of the Golden Gate Bridge, the



International Orange Chorale of San Francisco is an auditioned, all- volunteer chamber choir devoted to performing established repertoire of all periods, with particular attention to contemporary music, including newly commissioned works by promising composers. For more information on IOCSF, visit the IOCSF website at [iocsf.org](http://iocsf.org), and follow them on Facebook at [facebook.com/iocsf](https://facebook.com/iocsf), Instagram [@iocsf](https://instagram.com/iocsf), and YouTube at [@Internationalorangechorale](https://youtube.com/Internationalorangechorale).

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