

double-bass – VILLA



presents

Basso Cantante

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a concert benefitting
Chandler Children's Choir

7PM, MAY 29
CGCC Performing Arts Center

➤ SABA – bass-baritone

Basso Cantante

double-bass, Nicholas Villalobos *Richard Ollarsaba*, *bass-baritone*
piano, Christopher Rice *Jeremy Peterman*, *piano*

Don Carlo

G. Verdi

"Ella giammai m'amò"

Nicholas Villalobos, Richard Ollarsaba, Jeremy Peterman

Cello Sonata in G minor, op.19

S. Rachmaninov

III. Andante

Nicholas Villalobos, Christopher Rice

The War Prayer

S.M. Kohn

Richard Ollarsaba, Jeremy Peterman

Concert-Polonaise

A. Míšek

Nicholas Villalobos, Christopher Rice

— **INTERMISSION** —

Tuesday

X. Foley

Nicholas Villalobos

Blue Mountain Ballads

P. Bowles

Lonesome Man

Sugar in the Cane

Richard Ollarsaba, Jeremy Peterman

Der Schauspieldirektor, K.486

W.A. Mozart

"Bester Jüngling"

special guest - Aimee Stewart, soprano, Jeremy Peterman

Witness

D. Baker

We Has a Hard Time

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel

Death is Riding

Sorrow Song

And He Never Said a Mumbling Word

My Lord What a Morning

Nicholas Villalobos, Richard Ollarsaba



Nicholas Villalobos is an accomplished bassist whose passion for music began at the age of eleven. He was first introduced to string instruments at age eight through the violin, but after discovering the bass just before sixth grade, he quickly found his calling and has been dedicated to the instrument ever since.

Villalobos has performed with a wide range of distinguished ensembles, including the Phoenix Symphony, Phoenix Ballet, Phoenix Chamber Music Society, Utah Chamber Orchestra, Utah Ballet, Sphinx Virtuosi, and the Orchestra at Temple Square.

As a soloist, he has appeared with the Phoenix Symphony, Scottsdale Baroque Orchestra, Coeur d'Alene Symphony Orchestra, and the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra, performing a diverse range of concerto repertoire.

In 2010, Villalobos co-founded Simply Three, a genre-defying string trio featuring violin, cello, and bass. Known for their innovative arrangements and original compositions, the group has garnered hundreds of millions of views and streams across Digital platforms. Simply Three has toured internationally, captivating audiences with dynamic performances and showcasing the versatility of string instruments.

Villalobos earned his Bachelor of Music Bass Performance from Arizona State University, where he studied under world-renowned bass soloist Catalin Rotaru. He was later recruited by Southern Utah University to help launch its Master of Music in Music Technology program, becoming a member of its inaugural graduating class.



Mexican-American bass-baritone, **Richard Ollarsaba**, praised for his "meltingly smooth bass-baritone" and for "evoking a young Ruggero Raimondi in looks and manner," represented the USA in the 2019 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, was member of the prestigious Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago for three seasons, and a grand finalist in the 2013 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

The 2025-2026 season brings Richard to Opera Columbus as Dr. Rappaccini in Catán's *La Hija de Rappaccini*, a house debut with The Florentine Opera in the title role in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, his role debut as Ping in Puccini's *Turandot in Concert* with Detroit Music Hall: Classic Opera Series, his 15th production as Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen* with Piedmont Opera, and as soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana* with New Philharmonic, Verdi's *Requiem* with Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Oratorio Society of Virginia, and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and in presentations of his latest solo recital-project, *Side Quest: Quixote, the men of La Mancha*, a musical retrospective inspired by Miguel de Cervantes' timeless character Don Quixote in collaboration with University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Arizona Opera, and Piedmont Opera.

A native and current resident of Tempe, Richard recently moved back to the valley having lived almost two decades away from Arizona. Richard received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and his Master of Music degree and post-graduate certificate from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. In addition to the Ryan Opera Center, he trained at Minnesota Opera, Music Academy of the West, Chautauqua Opera, Aspen Music Festival, Tanglewood, and Wolf Trap Opera.

Christopher Rice is an internationally acclaimed pianist and cellist, performing from Carnegie Hall to Disneyland. His concerts engage audiences in a way that no other virtuoso artist can. By weaving together emotional performances of classical music, intimate personal stories, and deep dives into the lives and passions of the great composers, Rice is able to make classical music accessible and relevant to the modern listener. He also shares about the impact that music has made on his own life and the vital need for the arts to play a central part in the life of a flourishing society.

Rice is also very passionate about ensuring the love of classical music never dies. He started his teaching experience giving private lessons in his family's home and continues to have a thriving studio of cello and piano students on fire for music. He expanded his teaching reach when he became the Chamber Music Program Director at Hammer and Strings Conservatory in Gilbert, AZ. Here he is able to work with students both at the conservatory and in the general community and introduce to them the beauty of making music together. He plans to expand his teaching even further by releasing online programs for a range of music lovers and students.

Former CCC pianist, **Dr. Jeremy Peterman** is active in the Phoenix Metropolitan area as an organist, vocal coach, and collaborative pianist. Growing up in central North Carolina, he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he majored in French and Piano. While earning his Master's and Doctoral degrees in Collaborative Piano from Arizona State University, he was simultaneously working with Arizona Opera and playing many of the great operatic works in the repertoire.

Jeremy plays all varieties of keyboard instruments (organ/piano/celesta/synthesizer) regularly with the Phoenix Symphony, most notably joining them in *The Planets*, *Jurassic World*, *Petrushka*, *Ainadamar*, *Belshazzar's Feast*, *Pines of Rome*, and *Carmina Burana*. In 2016, he completed his final summer as director of staff pianists and church music at the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in beautiful Graz, Austria—having been involved with the program every summer since 2003.

Since 2016, Dr. Peterman has been the organist/handbell director at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church. He frequently collaborates with Arizona Opera, Valley Opera, Arizona Musicfest, the Phoenix Symphony, and the Grammy Award-winning Phoenix Chorale. He also enjoys participating in French conversation/culture groups around the Valley to simply have discussions in French.

Aimee Stewart is the founder as well as Executive and Artistic Directors of Chandler Children's Choir. Since its inception in 2008, CCC has grown from a young choir of 27 singers to a highly respected choral organization in Arizona, with four performing ensembles and an introductory choir. In both 2020 and 2024, CCC's top ensemble was selected to perform at ACDA Western Region conference under her direction. She also conducts the Chamber Singers at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, the Tempe Community *Messiah*, has served as President of the Arizona chapter of ACDA and was elected as western Region ACDA President for 2026-2028. In 2022, she was awarded AzACDA Choral Director of the Year.

In her youth, Aimee studied voice and violin, and performed in a string quartet. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and recently received her Master's degree in Conducting from Arizona State University. She is a frequent clinician, adjudicator and honor choir director as well as a presenter for school districts and state conferences. She and her husband, Adam, are the parents of four children all of whom have sung with CCC.



The **Chandler Children's Choir** is the premier youth community choir of the East Valley, having offered performance-based choral education to hundreds of young people since 2008. Creative programming, and inspiring teaching form the backbone of our program, which instills a love of singing in our community's youth.

Now in its 18th season, CCC offers 5 ensembles and a branch in San Tan Valley. CCC believes "Every Voice Counts." In keeping with their motto, directors teach the joy of singing in true CCC style, with lots of creativity and fun, and a constant focus on the children.