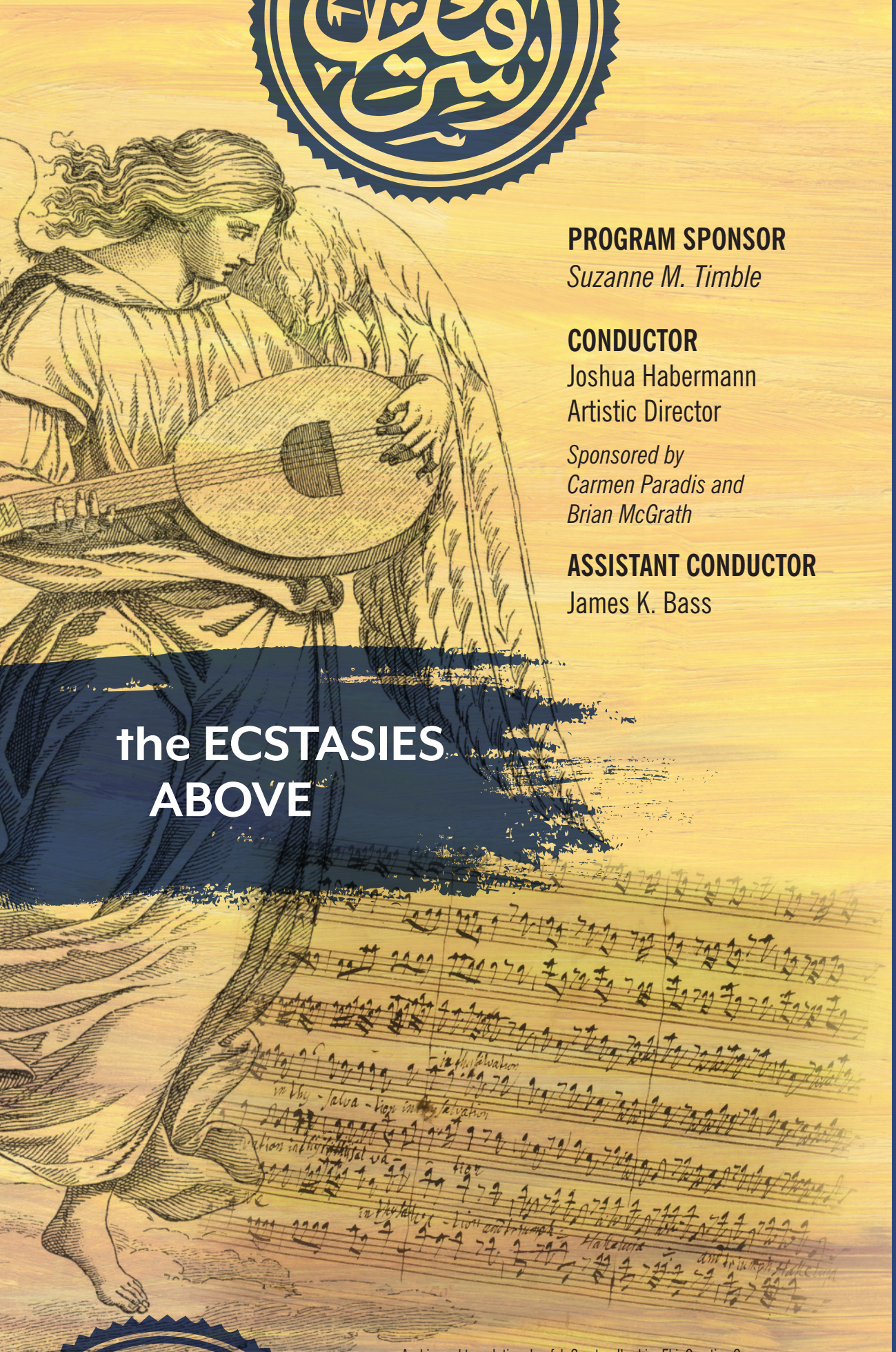

PROGRAM SPONSOR
Suzanne M. Timble

CONDUCTOR
Joshua Habermann
Artistic Director

Sponsored by
Carmen Paradis and
Brian McGrath

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR
James K. Bass

the ECSTASIES ABOVE

Arabic seal translation: Israfel, Creator: Ibrahim Ebi, Creative Commons;
George Frederick Handel - The king shall rejoice; in the composer's hand.
British Library MS 30308 f. 16r, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons, PD-US.
Right photo: Shiprock, NM courtesy of David J. Levy Photography.

Two Glorious Collaborations that Will Keep You on the Edge of Your Seat

Prepare to be transported by two virtuosic works for strings and voices from the celebrated George Frideric Handel and award-winning living composer Tarik O'Regan. The program opens with O'Regan's work, *The Ecstasies Above*, which is a setting of Edgar Allen Poe's poem "Israfel," describing an angel whose "heart strings are a lute, and who possesses the sweetest voice of all God's creatures."

We then continue into *Dixit Dominus*, showcasing Handel at his most Italianate with exciting ornamentation and rhythmic drive. Several Desert Chorale artists step out of the full ensemble texture for impressive solos throughout the piece. A chamber orchestra joins the twenty-four voices of the Chorale for this masterful program filled with musical acrobatics and ethereal soundscapes you won't soon forget.

Thursday, July 27, 2023 | 7:30 pm
Sponsored by Sara J. McKenzie

Sunday, July 30, 2023 | 4 pm
Sponsored by Patricia "Tish" Romer in memory of Joan Berner

Saturday, August 5, 2023 | 7:30 pm

Pre-concert Lecturer: Dr. Kathryn Lowerre
Sponsored by Steven Kerchoff

All concerts will be held at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

CONCERT PROGRAM

Violin I: Stephen Redfield, Elizabeth Baker
Violin II: David Felberg, Carla Kountoupes
Viola: Jeffrey Smith, Laura Steiner
Cello: Katie Rietman
Bass: Deborah Dunham
Organ & Harpsichord: Kathleen McIntosh

The Ecstasies Above — Tarik O'Regan (b. 1978)

Dixit Dominus — George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

I. Chorus: Dixit Dominus
II. Aria: Virgam virtutis tuae
III. Aria: Tecum principium in die virtutis
IV. Chorus: Juravit Dominus
V. Chorus: Tu es sacerdos in aeternum
VI. Soli and Chorus: Dominus a dextris tuis
VII. Soli and Chorus: De torrente in via bibet
VIII. Chorus: Gloria Patri et Filio