Dr. Michael Mackey is the Director of Vocal Music and Musical Theatre at Central Catholic High School, a college preparatory school for young men. His performing ensembles are held in high regard for their artistry, excitement, and rich sound. The Central Catholic Chamber Singers, the school’s premier vocal ensemble, regularly perform throughout the greater Pittsburgh region, including Carnegie Music Hall of Oakland, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, and St. Paul’s Cathedral, and will perform a concert at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City in February 2024. As producer and music director of the Central Catholic – Oakland Catholic Masque Drama Society, Dr. Mackey leads a staff of Pittsburgh-area theatre professionals to mount large-scale productions, including Guys and Dolls (2021), Me and My Girl (2022), and Les Misérables (2023), and Hello, Dolly! (2024).

Dr. Mackey’s professional appointments have been distinctly multi-disciplinary, with posts in vocal and instrumental music, musical theatre, jazz, and music theory at such institutions as University of Pittsburgh, Point Park University, Robert Morris University, Penn State Greater Allegheny, and South Fayette High School. As a PhD teaching fellow at the University of Pittsburgh, he presented his research on various jazz topics at academic conferences both stateside and abroad. His dissertation on Pittsburgh-born jazz pianist Ahmad Jamal has been cited in several publications, and he recently moderated a panel honoring the life of Jamal at the 2023 University of Pittsburgh International Jazz Seminar. He is currently the Director of Music Ministries at Corpus Christi Parish in Bridgeville, PA and continues to perform as a freelance musical theatre and jazz pianist in the area.

About the Series

Joan Chambers, late wife of President Emeritus George F. Chambers, was an ardent supporter and representative of Pitt-Greensburg in the community for many years. While her interests were widespread, she especially enjoyed participating in book-discussion groups, attending cultural events, hosting themed luncheons at her home, and spending winters in southwest Florida. The Children’s Literature Collection in Millstein Library, another of her passions, was developed and named in her honor.
Program

Près des remparts de Séville
from Carmen

Frauenliebe und leben
1. Seit ich ihn gesehen
2. Er, der Herrlichste von allen
3. Ich kann's nicht fassen, nicht glauben
4. Du Ring an meinem Finger
5. Helft mir, ihr Schwestern
6. Süßer Freund, du blickest mich verwundert an
7. An meinem Herzen, an meiner Brust
8. Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan

To Build a Home
from The Bridges of Madison County

Meadowlark
from The Baker’s Wife

It Takes Two
from Into the Woods

My Time of Day / I’ve Never Been in Love Before
from Guys and Dolls

My Funny Valentine
from Babes in Arms

Orange Colored Sky

About Our Performers

Gina Morgano is currently an alto in professional core of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh where she sings regularly with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at Heinz Hall. While living in New York, she performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, 54 Below, The Laurie Beechman Theatre, Don’t Tell Mama, The Strand and St. Patrick’s Cathedral. In addition to being a soloist, chorister and artist teacher with National Chorale, Gina is an avid recitalist and cabaret artist throughout the country. This past summer, she performed the National Anthem for the Pittsburgh Pirates at PNC Park.

As an educator, Gina’s teaching experience includes the 92nd Street Y School of Music and the Professional Performing Arts School in New York City, as well as Oakland Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, PA. She currently maintains a private online voice studio. She also hosts The Voice Space podcast and Facebook group and is the creator of The Practice Planner.

Through her work with organizations such as Sing for Hope and Vocal Ease, Gina strives to create a world of beauty for those who cannot easily access live performance. She is also passionate about supporting our veterans and regularly uses her voice to fundraise for charitable causes she believes in.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Gina graduated with vocal honors from Northwestern University (B.M., M.S.J.) and San Francisco Conservatory of Music (M.M.)

Gina believes that curiosity and storytelling are the floodgates to empathy and compassion - and that, sometimes, the best way to use your voice is to listen.

Visit GinaMorgano.com to say hello and for more information.
Bizet—Near the walls of Seville, from Carmen
Near the walls of Seville at my friend place, Lillas Pastia
I will dance the Seguedille and drink Manzanilla.
I will go to the home of my friend Lillas Pastia.
Yes, all alone one can get bored, and real pleasures are for two;
So, to keep me company, I'll take my lover!
My love, he is the devil, I did away with him yesterday!
My poor heart is very consolable my heart is free as a bird!
I have a dozen suitors, but they are not to my liking.
This is the end of the week:
Who will love me? I will love him!
Who wants my soul? It is for you to take.
You arrive at the right time!
I have little time to wait, because with my new lover,
Near the walls of Seville, I will go to my friend, Lillas Pastia!

Schumann—A Woman’s Life and Love

1. Since first seeing him
Since first seeing him, I think I am blind,
Wherever I look, him only I see;
As in a waking dream his image hovers before me,
Rising out of deepest darkness ever more brightly.
All else is dark and pale around me,
My sisters’ games I no more long to share,
I would rather weep quietly in my room;
Since first seeing him, I think I am blind.

2. He, the most wonderful of all
He, the most wonderful of all, how gentle and loving he is!
Sweet lips, bright eyes, a clear mind and firm resolve.
Just as there in the deep-blue distance that star gleams bright and brilliant,
So does he shine in my sky, bright and brilliant, distant and sublime.
Wander, wander on your way, hush to gaze on your radiance,
Just to gaze on in humility, to be but blissful and sad!
Do not heed my silent prayer, uttered for your happiness alone,
You shall never know me, lowly as I am, you noble star of splendour!
6. Sweet friend, you look
Sweet friend, you look at me in wonder, you cannot understand
How I can weep; let the unfamiliar beauty of these moist pearls
Tremble joyfully bright in my eyes!
How anxious my heart is, how full of bliss!
If only I knew how to say it in words; come and hide your face
Here against my breast, for me to whisper you all my joy.
Do you now understand the tears that I can weep,
Should you not see them, beloved husband?
Stay by my heart, feel how it beats, that I may press you closer and closer.
Here by my bed there is room for the cradle, silently hiding
My blissful dream; the morning shall come when the dream awakens,
And your likeness laughs up at me.

7. On my heart, at my breast
On my heart, at my breast, you my delight, my joy!
Happiness is love, love is happiness, I've always said and say so still.
I thought myself rapturous, but now am delirious with joy.
Only she who suckles, only she who loves the child that she nourishes;
Only a mother knows what it means to love and be happy.
Ah, how I pity the man who cannot feel a mother's bliss!
You dear, dear angel, you, you look at me and you smile!
On my heart, at my breast, you my delight, my joy!

8. Now you have caused me my first pain
Now you have caused me my first pain, but it struck hard,
You sleep, you harsh and pitiless man, the sleep of death.
The deserted one stares ahead, the world is void.
I have loved and I have lived, and now my life is done.
Silently I withdraw into myself, the veil falls,
There I have you and my lost happiness, you, my world!