

# STILL WE RISE: CHANGING HERSTORY

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN WHO HAVE CHANGED HISTORY

## Artist Bios

### About Ensemble Lyrae

Inspired by the natural beauty and brilliance of the constellation Lyra, Ensemble Lyrae brings together four uniquely and highly talented musicians. While each shines as a soloist, together, these women form deep connections in performing quartets and trios. The pianist and four vocalists of Ensemble Lyrae seek to illuminate musical works often unknown or under-played. They also premiere cutting-edge pieces written specifically for the Ensemble and their remarkable sound.

Whether performing in a spacious concert hall or a more intimate salon-style setting at home, these captivating Boston-based musicians enliven the audience's senses, engage their imaginations, and invite them to live in a world of timeless beautiful sound. Ensemble Lyrae has performed on the Music at Norway Pond Concert Series and Music at Whitehead Series and have been invited to perform at Boston Public Library's 'Concert in the Courtyard' summer series in the summer of 2020. They are the recent recipients of a 2019 Medford Arts Council Grant and Mass Cultural Council Grant, which allowed them to bring their program "Nevertheless, She Persisted" to a private audience at the Medford Council on Aging in June 2019.

### Artists

Flourishing mezzo-soprano **Grace Allendorf** is known for her "creamy timbre, evenness of color and coloratura agility." A consummate musician, she is dedicated to performing opera, oratorio, art song, musical theatre, and new music. Grace made her debut with Opera 51 as a member of the chorus in their production of *Faust* and she performed the role of Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel* with Longwood Opera. She has shared the stage as a soloist with Milton Community Concerts, Concord Community Chorus, Coro Allegro, Andover Choral Society, Metropolitan Wind Symphony, Freisinger Chamber Orchestra, and Spectrum Singers. She was honored to premiere the role of Lilac Fairy in *Sleeping Beauty* by Francine Trester as a second-year apprentice in the Nahant Music Festival in 2014. Other premieres include works by Charles Tarver, Josh Hummel, and Dominick DiOrio.

Grace has been a core member of Ensemble Lyrae since its formation in 2016. The pianist and four vocalists seek to illuminate musical works often unknown or under-played. They also premiere cutting-edge pieces written specifically for the Ensemble, including works by Vartan Aghababian, Charles Tarver, Brian John, and Eva Kendrick.

Grace holds the position of Administrative Director of Community Performances and Partnerships at New England Conservatory, a community service-based program designed to connect students with the community. Her role there has reinvigorated her passion for giving back to the community through music. She has performed solo recitals at a number of senior care facilities including Fuller Village, Needham Council on Aging, Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association, Norwood Housing Authority, Café Emmanuel, and Hale House. Grace currently serves as a section leader and soloist at First Parish in Milton and as a cantor at St. Richard's Parish in Danvers. She holds a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Longy School of Music and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music with a minor in Theatre Arts from Brandeis University. She is a student of Jayne West and has participated in master classes with Ryan Turner, Sharon Daniels, James Maddalena, David Kravitz, Martin Katz, Sondra Kelly, and Sheri Greenawald.

Grace belongs to Beyond Artists, a coalition of artists that pledge a portion of their concert fees to organizations they care about and therefore publicize the nonprofit's work. With every performance she supports Norwood Circle of Hope, established to support Norwood residents who need assistance due to a catastrophic medical occurrence. [www.graceallendorf.com](http://www.graceallendorf.com)

**Anastasia Black**, soprano, is dedicated to the performance and preservation of rarely performed music, especially music from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque eras, and music by female composers. She recently gave a lecture recital on the life and works of Fanny Hensel. In 2019, she curated a program of French and Italian Baroque music titled *From Shipwreck to Sleep*, which included music by Barbara Strozzi and Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, among others. Anastasia has often appeared in the Summer Chamber Music on the Hill concert series at Church of St. Andrew, Marblehead. Her recent roles include Eumene in the UK premiere of Cavalli's *Xerse*, Pasatea in Cavalli's *L'Ercole Amante*, and Abra in a staged production of Vivaldi's oratorio, *Juditha Triumphans*. She has appeared as a concert soloist in Bach's "Cantata No. 1," Schütz's "Magnificat," Vivaldi's "Gloria," Handel's "Messiah," John Rutter's "Magnificat," Bach's "Cantata No. 92," Fauré's "Requiem," and Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater." Other performances in the Boston area include three collaborations with the Boston Camerata: *The Play of Daniel*, *The Night's Tale*, and *City of Fools: Songs of Rule and Misrule in the Middle Ages*. In 2016, Anastasia appeared in the chorus of Mozart's *Apollo et Hyacinthus* with Emmanuel Music, and in the chorus of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, a Boston Opera Collaborative production. Anastasia sings with Nightingale Vocal Ensemble and is a staff singer at First Lutheran Church in Boston.

Anastasia holds a Master's Degree in Early Music from Longy School of Music, where she studied under Laurie Monahan, and a Bachelor's degree in Music from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where she studied with Dr. Richard Kosowski. She currently studies with Pamela Dellal. Anastasia maintains a private voice studio in Melrose and is on the faculty at Clark University and Early Music Week at World Fellowship Center in Conway, NH.

Soprano **Rachael Chagat** is known for her "clear and pure tone which ranges from soaring to sweet." Dedicated to both art song and vocal chamber music, Ms. Chagat has performed in venues across the U.S. and in Europe. Recent performances include Nova Cantatae Ensemble and the Magdalene Ensemble. Rachael is a founding member of Ensemble Lyrae, a Boston-based chamber ensemble.

An experienced music educator, Rachael is a Teaching Artist with the Handel and Haydn Society and teaches K0-6th grade general music at the Winship School in Brighton. She is currently Director of the Choral Program at the New School of Music in Cambridge, MA.

In the Fall of 2021, Rachael was named a Fellow in the third cohort of the Music Educator and Teaching Artist (META) Fellowship. Previously, she has been a Choral Artist with the Metropolitan Opera Guild and served on faculty for the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Days in the Arts at Tanglewood program.

Rachael graduated with Distinction from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge with both a Masters and Graduate Performance Diploma in Vocal Performance. While at Longy she was a 2005 Honors Competition winner and a finalist in the 2007 Concerto Competition. Ms. Chagat earned her Bachelor's degree at Capital University in Music Education and a certificate from the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music in Kecskemét, Hungary.

Mezzo-soprano **Michelle Deluise** captivates audiences with her magnetic stage presence and rich voice. A Tennessee native, Michelle has thrived in the Northeast's musical scene, debuting in musical theater as Alice/Mrs. Winthrop in *The Secret Garden* with The Longwood Players. Her notable roles include Maurya in *Riders to the Sea*, Suzy in *La Rondine*, Sally in *Die Fledermaus*, Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and The Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas*. Michelle's talent spans stage performances, liturgical services, and recording, making her a sought-after entertainer across New England. She has performed with various prestigious groups such as Boston Opera Collaborative, MetroWest Opera, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus.

At St. John the Evangelist Parish in North Cambridge, where she served as Director of Music and Cantor from 2009 to 2019, Michelle significantly improved the music program. She expanded the all-volunteer adult choir from eight to 25 members, enabling them to tackle complex polyphony with 6-8 part divisions, elevating the parish's musical offerings and community services.

As an educator, Michelle is dedicated to teaching voice, guitar, and general music to students of all ages. Her most recent role was at St. Charles of Borromeo School in Woburn, where she taught General Music to children ages three to fourteen. In both classroom and private studio settings, Michelle excels in helping students find their voices and develop a love for music. She continues to inspire as a cantor across Massachusetts.

Michelle holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from the University of Dayton, and a Master of Music and Graduate Performance Diploma in Opera Performance with Distinction from Longy School of Music.

Pianist **Amy Lee** is a multi-faceted musician, passionate about collaboration, chamber music, and education. Her repertoire ranges from Johann Sebastian Bach to Donald Martino; she enjoys performing unique programs, exploring new works and working with composers. She has performed throughout the Northeast and abroad, with recent solo appearances at the Gardner Museum, New England Conservatory, the Rosecliff Mansion, Brevard Music Center, and chamber music concerts in New York, the UK, and Hong Kong. She has collaborated with members of the Johnson String Quartet, A Far Cry, the Boston New Music Initiative, and recently performed with The Irish Tenors, MetWinds Symphony, Philharmonic Society of Arlington, and Symphony NH.

Amy is a graduate of the Longy School of Music, where she studied with Randall Hodgkinson. She was a Finalist in the 2009 Longy Honors Competition, with her performance of Three Visions by William Grant Still. In 2011, she performed Mozart's Piano Concerto in d minor with the Longy Chamber Orchestra, self-conducted from the keyboard.

Amy was previously on the faculty at the Indian Hill Music School, where she served as the co-chair of the Piano Department. She was also a chairman on the board of the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association from 2012 to 2018. Aside from being a musician, she also enjoys photography, baking, Third-wave coffee, learning the cello, and playing with her dog.

**Emma Terrell**, a percussionist and music educator from San Antonio, Texas, is passionate about using music to drive social change and foster cross-cultural collaboration. Her unique musical style blends Mexican, Tejano, and other Latinx traditions with jazz, funk, and lofi, utilizing unconventional instrumentation and electronics to create dynamic experiences for diverse audiences.

With a Master's in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Bachelor's in Percussion Performance from Rice University, Emma is committed to providing culturally-responsive and equitable musical experiences globally. She has led masterclasses in community-based music education organizations worldwide, including Musicians Without Borders in Rwanda, the Central American Percussion Festival at Fundación Danilo Pérez in Panamá, and El Sistema San Salvador with MusAid in El Salvador.

Currently based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Emma maintains an active freelance schedule performing throughout New England with various chamber groups.