

FRIENDS OF MUSIC SERIES

First Presbyterian Church

203 N. Almer St.
Caro, Michigan 48723

989.673.6630
www.carofirst.org

Friday, July 22, 2022
12:00 p.m.



Erin Whitfield
soprano

Collin Whitfield
piano

Three Love Songs (for soprano and piano)

Collin Whitfield
(b. 1992)

1. Love Sonnet, text by Pablo Neruda, translated by Mark Eisner
2. i carry your heart, text by E. E. Cummings
3. Echo, text by Christina Rossetti

Knoxville: Summer of 1915, Op. 24

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

Noted for her golden, lyric line and “hilarious acting and excellent timing” (*Great Lakes Bay Reviewers Circle*), soprano **ERIN WHITFIELD** is equally comfortable in the worlds of opera and musical theater. A Seattle native, Erin earned her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma and her Master of Music degree in vocal performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she met Collin. Beyond performing, Erin finds great fulfillment in empowering others to sing as a music director (*Seussical*, Midland Center Youth Theater, 2022; *Spelling Bee*, SASA, 2019) and as a teacher, providing private voice lessons to a growing studio of all ages. Her voice students compete annually in local- and national-level NATS adjudications, state Solo & Ensemble contests, school and local theater productions, and recitals. For information about upcoming performances or voice lesson inquiries, please visit her website: www.erinwhitfield.com.

Hailed by Mason Bates as “a fine citizen musician,” **COLLIN WHITFIELD** is an award-winning composer, pianist, and organist based in Michigan. He has been the recipient of the James Highsmith Award for new orchestral music, first prize in the American Choral Directors Association Choral Composition Competition through Central Michigan University, and first prize in the Biennial Art Song Composition Competition at the San Francisco Conservatory. His music has been praised by librettist Nicholas Giardini as “beautiful, rapturous and unabashedly romantic, without any of the failings that so often accompany these qualities.” Collin Whitfield is an active recitalist and frequently collaborates with his wife, soprano Erin Whitfield. He was recognized in the May 2021 issue of *The Diapason* as one of the 20 leaders under the age of 30 (20 Under 30 Class of 2021) for his technical achievements and creativity in the fields of organ and church music. He was awarded the 2017-18 Tacoma American Guild of Organists Scholarship and the 2020 Kent S. Dennis Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Whitfield has a substantial background as a pianist and an accompanist. His working engagements have included accompanying for the California Bach Society, Chora Nova, Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra, Saginaw Choral Society, and collaborations with notable conductors Vance George and Ragnar Bohlin. Since 2018, Collin Whitfield has served as director of music ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, where he directs the chancel choir and bell choir, guides the concert series, and is organist. He holds a Master of Music degree in organ performance from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Music in composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he received departmental honors in music theory. His primary teachers include Mason Bates, David Conte, Steven Egler, and Paul Tegels.