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We are proud to have contributed to this evening's production of the Gonzales Cantata, and congratulate Melissa and her talented band of performers, volunteers, stagehands, supporters, and members of the Fire Watch.

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THE GONZALES CANTATA

Sept 4-6, 2009 at The Rotunda

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INFORMATION

Bathrooms are available through doors on either side of the stage—facing the stage, women's to the left, men's to the right. Emergency exits are also on either side of the stage.

CDs of a previous performance of the Gonzales Cantata - with a complete libretto - and poster designed by Molly Crabapple are available for purchase near the entrance to the venue. This previous performance is also available on iTunes and the Amazon MP3 store.

As we will be recording these performances, now is a great time to put down this program and turn off your mobile phone. Thanks!

SPECIAL THANKS

Gina Renzi
Jeff Goldstein
Becca Burrow
Nick Gilewicz
Christine Hobson
Julie Kremm
Robert Maggio
Van Stiefel
Larry Nelson

Timothy Weeks
Ovidiu Marinescu
Sean Francis
Our loyal Twitter followers & Facebook fans
Ashby Jones
Rachel Maddow
The makers of Metoprolol

COMPOSER'S NOTES

The Gonzales Cantata is a musical setting of the drama and politics of the events leading up to the resignation of disgraced Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. In 2007, NPR news ran several stories featuring electrifying audio excerpts from the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings into wrongdoings by Gonzales' Justice Department, and like many listeners, I was shocked by the tension and emotion in the voices of the men (and the single woman) involved. As Gonzales was mercilessly grilled, I was reminded of Orpheus, alone and defenseless, facing the terrifying and all-powerful Furies of the Underworld. The doomed Orpheus in this modern tale, however, lacks the noble cause and incredible talent of the mythical Orpheus, and he even had a hand in the poisoning of his own Eurydice – the country he serves. This is the account of a man who has risen to the level of his own incompetence and must face the terrible consequences without hope of escape or redemption.

The cantata's libretto was taken from two main primary sources – transcripts of the actual hearings, and Gonzales' resignation speech. The text was carefully edited for length and clarity, but most of what is sung by the chorus and soloists was actually spoken during these events. One exception is Gonzales' aria "Differently," in which snippets from Gonzales' replies to the committee were pieced together to give a portrait of the man in his last moments in office.

In protest of the continued male domination of American politics – made obvious by the near-exclusivity of male voices in this drama – the genders of the soloists in the cantata have been reversed in relation to the characters they portray.



Melissa Dunphy is better known to Philadelphia audiences as “unquestionably the city’s leading Shakespeare ingénue” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*); in 2008, she played Juliet and Marina for the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, and this year she concurrently tackled Ophelia for the Lantern Theater and Lady Macbeth for the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre. Her true calling, however, is composing vocal and incidental music. She has written for Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival, Gamut Theatre, and the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre. In 2008, her song for baritone and piano trio, “Black Thunder,” was performed at the Kimmel Center by Network for New Music, who also premiered her 2009 piece *Tangled/Triangle*, a collaboration with visual artist Becca Burrow.

Melissa grew up in Australia, where she studied piano, violin, viola and voice, and directed Ionesco’s *Rhinoceros* and Peter Shaffer’s *Amadeus* for the University of NSW Theatrical Society while pursuing a short-lived career as a med student. After moving to the USA in 2003, Melissa switched to the cello and received her Bachelor of Music (summa cum laude, Pi Kappa Lambda) from West Chester University, where she was a recipient of the Harry Wilkinson Music Theory Scholarship, the Charles S. and Margherita Gangemi Memorial Theory and Composition Scholarship, and the Janice Weir Etshied '50 Scholarship for academic excellence. This fall, Melissa will begin a Ph.D. in composition at the University of Pennsylvania on a Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, and a composition residency with the Immaculata Symphony. In 2010, she will be the musical director at Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre and the composer for their production of *Macbeth*, and she plans to write a space opera. She designs websites on the side and is married with three cats.

PROGRAM

Three Patriotic Songs

For countertenor, harpsichord, piccolo and two flutes

Arranged by Melissa Dunphy

The Gonzales Cantata

For SSAT chorus/soloists, string octet and harpsichord.

1. **Freedom Overture**
2. **Introduction (Recit.)**
Leahy, Chorus
3. **Loyalty Over Judgment (Chorus)**
4. **The Purpose (Recit.)**
Grassley, Specter
5. **The Oath (Recit.)**
Leahy, Gonzales, Cardin
6. **What Is One to Think? (Chorus)**
7. **The Decisions (Recit.)**
Finstein, Gonzales, Sessions
8. **I Don't Recall (Aria)**
Gonzales
9. **You Don't Recall (Recit.)**
Leahy, Gonzales
10. **Preparation (Duet)**
Specter, Gonzales
11. **Stand by the Decision (Duet)**
Cardin, Gonzales
12. **This is Not About Alberto Gonzales (Aria)**
Gonzales
13. **Flagellation (Chorus)**
14. **I Think We All Will Agree (Aria)**
Hatch, Gonzales, Chorus
15. **Attack Me (Chorus)**
Gonzales, Leahy, Chorus
16. **Differently (Aria)**
Gonzales
17. **God Bless America (Chorale)**
Gonzales

Text taken from:

Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings

January 18, 2007

April 19, 2007

July 24, 2007

Alberto Gonzales' resignation statement

August 27, 2007

God bless America!

by Robert Montgomery Bird, published 1834

CAST & CREW

Composer, Conductor, DirectorMelissa Dunphy

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales Mary Thorne

Patrick Leahy (D) VT Jessica Lennick
Arlen Specter (R) PA..... Danya Katok
Orrin Hatch (R) UT Julia Mintzer
Ben Cardin (D) MD Sydney de Lapeyrouse
Jeff Sessions (R) ALEmily Eisen
Chuck Grassley (R) IA Esha Datta
Diane Feinstein (D) CA Dan Williams

Sam Brownback (R) KS..... Amanda Williams
Ted Kennedy (D) MA..... Kris Neel
Herb Kohl (D) WI Christine Stief
Russ Feingold (D) WI, Flute Shannon M. Rafferty
Tom Coburn (R) OK, Piccolo/Flute..... Chrissy McHugh
Charles Schumer (D) NY Angela Lattanzio
John Conryn (R) TX Andrea Greenwald
Jon Kyl (R) AZ Roseallie Kasloski
Dick Durbin (D) IL James Alexander
Joe Biden (D) DE..... Jordan Hale
Sheldon Whitehouse (D) RI..... Dan Moyer
Lindsey Graham (R) SC.....Dan Pardo

Countertenor Soloist (Saturday, Sunday)..... Nicholas Tamagna

Countertenor Soloist (Friday) Dan Williams

Harpichord Daniel Paul Lawson
Concertmaster Snow Shen
Violin 1 Julieanne Leung
Violin 2 Emily Miyahara Weigert
Violin 2 Heather Mehr
Viola..... Heather Wright
Viola..... Katie Moyer
Cello Continuo Sarabeth Taber-Miller
Cello (Friday, Sunday) Floreta Shapiro
Cello (Saturday)..... Gozde Tiknak

Stage Manager Dina Steiner
Technical Director..... Doug Durlacher
Publicity Liaison Dan Williams
Lighting Design Dave Mallett
Program, Photography..... Matt Dunphy
Poster Art..... Molly Crabapple
Publicity Design Matt & Melissa Dunphy
Recording Engineer Joe Procopio
Production Assistant Jorge McConnie-Saad

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



James Alexander (*Dick Durbin, D-IL*) is excited to be making his Philadelphia debut! He recently moved back to the area after completing his BA in Vocal Performance at the College of Charleston. During his time in Charleston, SC, he performed in productions of *Once Upon a Mattress*

(*Dauntless*) and *Company* (Paul) with Footlight Players. Classical singing credits include performances of Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, *Carmina Burana*, and Brahms' *German Requiem* with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Other Performing credits include Toby in *The Medium* and Goon #1 in *HOBO: the Musical* for Piccolo Spoleto and Piccolo Fringe, respectively.



Esha Datta (*Chuck Grassley, R-IA*) soprano, is thrilled to participate in the Gonzales Cantata. Last spring, Esha performed in Eastern Festival Opera's *Suor Angelica* in Westchester, NY. She recently participated in Regina Opera's *Lucia* as a chorus member, and has performed in various

workshops in roles such as *Fiordiligi*, *Mrs. Ford* and *Susanna*. In August 2008, Esha toured Austria and the Czech Republic with a choir and performed in a mass premiere in Salzburg. She was in Germany this summer and sang in the summer program: *Elysium* between two continents. She will be reprising that performance in New York City this September.



Sydney de Lapeyrouse (*Ben Cardin, D-MD*) was most recently seen as *Hilda Miller* in *Rose Valley Chorus* and *Orchestra's musical, Plain and Fancy*, and in the chorus for the *Opera Company of Philadelphia's* production of *Turandot*. Last summer, she performed

the *Nursing Sister* in *Suor Angelica* with the *Professional Advantage* program in Italy. Ms. de Lapeyrouse received her M.M. from Temple University in 2008, where she sang in productions of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* and was a frequent soloist with groups such as the Temple University Concert Choir and Temple University Contemporary Music Ensemble.



Soprano Emily Eisen (*Jeff Sessions, R-AL*) has collaborated on new music in the United States and abroad, working with composers *Lewis Spratlan*, *Tim Benjamin*, *Deborah Pritchard*, and *James Orsher*. In October she will perform *Benjamin's String Quartet II* in London, which she premiered in 2006.

Upcoming opera engagements include *Susanna (Figaro)* and *Morgana (Alcina)* with the *New York Opera Forum*, and she will give song recitals this fall in London and Philadelphia. A native of Boston, Ms. Eisen currently resides in Philadelphia and studies with *Benita Valente*. She holds degrees in music from the *University of Oxford* and *Amherst College*.



Andrea Greenwald (*John Conryn, R-TX*) is jazzed to be a part of this production yet again. In the past few years at *West Chester University* she has participated in all of the choirs and has sung for multiple jazz ensembles. She is returning as a vocal music education major for her last year and then off to the real world! She

would like to thank *Melissa* & the whole crew for this wonderful experience.



Jordan Hale (*Joe Biden, D-DE*) is a clarinet performance and music education major at West Chester University. He was born and raised in Fenwick Island, Delaware and went to high school at Indian River High School, graduating in 2005. He wishes to pursue a career in classically-trained clarinet repertoire. He has

been involved in and enjoyed composer Melissa Dunphy's vocal and instrumental compositions for the past three years. He enjoys having this opportunity to perform this cantata for a public audience, and wishes the best of luck to the Dunphys.



Roseallie Kasloski (*Jon Kyl, R-AZ*) is currently a sophomore working to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. In June 2008, Roseallie graduated from Central Bucks High School West, with high hopes of having a successful career as a

performer in the classical world of music. She would like to thank her teachers Alicia Tracy and Reginald Pindell for the support and encouragement they have given her throughout the years. This is Roseallie's first professional performance outside of school, and she is honored that she was given the opportunity to be a member of this outstanding work.



Danya Katok (*Arlen Specter, R-PA*), originally from State College, PA, is a vibrant, young soprano whose shimmering vocal quality, excellent musicianship, and captivating stage presence have led her to burst onto the contemporary classical music scene. Her recent operatic and concert

credits include Soprano Soloist in Oliver Knussen's *Requiem: Songs for Sue* at the Tanglewood Music Center's Contemporary Music Festival, the title role in Melissa Shiflett's *Dora* with Peabody Chamber Opera, and *Governess* in Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of*

the Screw with Peabody Opera Theatre. She recently graduated from Peabody Conservatory with an M.M. in Voice Performance and currently lives in Syracuse, NY.



Angela Lattanzio (*Charles Schumer, D-NY*) resides in Reading, PA where she's currently teaching elementary music. She is a Spring 2009 West Chester University alumna with a B.M. in Music Education: voice concentration. Back home, she participated in many school and community theater productions, including

Godspell, Cabaret, and How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying. When Angela is not singing on stage or with her students, she enjoys writing, making movies, watching USA network, dancing, karaoke, and hanging out with her friends and family. She would like to thank Melissa for this opportunity and for all the food and fun!



Daniel Paul Lawson (*Harpsichord*) As a performer at the keyboard, Daniel has performed solo and in collaboration with vocalists and instrumentalists in both the Philadelphia area as well as the Harrisburg area. As a composer, he has premiered works on West Chester University campus and has written

for several groups, including the esteemed Network for New Music in Philadelphia. Currently, he is heading up a project with WCU's composition and dance departments, a collaboration to be presented this coming Fall. When not playing or composing, Daniel spends his leisure time writing poetry and working through vegetable platters.



Coloratura Jessica Lennick (*Patrick Leahy, D-VT*) is completing her M.M. in voice at the Peabody Conservatory. Jessica was recently recognized as "magnificent... a true star-blazing monarch" for her appearance as Die Königin der Nacht in *Die Zauberflöte*. As a finalist in the Annapolis Opera

Competition, her performance was described in The Capital Times as "gorgeous" and "heartfelt." Jessica graduated magna cum laude with a B.M. from West Chester University, where she performed Amy in *Little Women* and Angelina in *Trial by Jury*. She also appeared with the West Chester Symphony Orchestra as Elvira from *I Puritani*. Her engagement with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County as Yum-Yum in their *Mikado* broke box office records and was the vehicle for her Verizon Hall debut in Philadelphia.



Julienne Leung (*Violin I*) was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where she began studying music at an early age. At the age of 5, she began studying the piano, and at the age of 7, she began studying the violin. During her free time, she enjoys being with friends, cheering for her favorite sports teams, and traveling. She is

currently a senior at Temple University, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance. In the future, she would also like to pursue a Master of Music degree in violin performance.



Chrissy McHugh (*Tom Coburn, R-OK, Piccolo/flute*) is a 21-year-old singer originally from Nocomix Township, PA. Currently, she makes her home in West Chester, PA as a student of West Chester University, where she studies flute with Dr. Kimberly Reighley and voice with Mr. Randall Scarlata. She originated

the role of Senator Orrin Hatch in the premiere performance of The Gonzales Cantata last spring, and is thrilled to be performing the cantata with such a talented cast once again. Thanks to Melissa for this wonderful opportunity, and let freedom ring!



Heather Mehr (*Violin 2*) is a sophomore music major at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Despite being a classical violinist in school, her true passions lie in the world of electric strings. She hopes to be accepted at Berklee College of Music for her graduate studies. Heather is truly honored to be a

part of the Gonzales Cantata; in her personal opinion, it is one of the most original pieces she has ever had the privilege to play. She would like to thank Melissa Dunphy wholeheartedly for this opportunity and looks forward to working with her again in the future.



Julia Mintzer (*Orrin Hatch, R-UT*) has been hailed as "rich-sounding and sultry" by *Montreal Gazette* and by *The Bostonist* for her "brooding, seductive mezzo" and "immediate and vivid" performance. She recently performed the title role in *Thérèse Raquin* with the Opera Institute and Carmen in

La Tragédie de Carmen at the Hot Springs Music Festival. She reprised this role at the Institut Canadien d'Arts Vocal, to which La Presse wrote: "a true Carmen: extremely sensual, with the grace of a serpent, the violence of a tiger, and a mezzo of penetrating depth." Julia was a Studio Artist with Wolf Trap Opera Company, and has concertized with Opera Boston, Opera for Humanity, the Kennet Symphony, at Alice Tully Hall, and with the Austrian American Society, whose competition she won. A finalist in the American Bach Society Vocal Competition, Julia will participate in the 2010 Rachmaninoff Vocal Competition. She graduated from Juilliard with Scholastic Distinction in 2008.



Dan Moyer (*Sheldon Whitehouse (D) RI*) is a senior Music Education major at West Chester University. Dan is the tenor soloist and section leader at St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church in Devon PA. He has been an active member of the West Chester University Opera

Program and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Chester County since his freshman year. Dan will be playing Frederic in the upcoming GSSCC production of *Pirates of Penzance*. Dan currently studies voice with Dr. Anne Gross.



Katie Moyer (*Viola*) is a fifth year music education major on viola at West Chester University. Her interests include reading, composing music, and camping. Katie also plays the French horn, and hopes to one day run her own marching band; she will graduate in Spring of 2010.



Entering her third year as a vocal performance major, **Kris Neel** (*Ted Kennedy, D-MA*) is avidly involved in with performing at West Chester University. In addition to singing *The Gonzales Cantata* for a second time, she is involved in several performing ensembles that range in style from

classical opera to barbershop to jazz. Kris currently studies under Emily Bullock. She hopes that through this performance, she can pay proper homage to her recently deceased character Ted Kennedy, rest in peace and God Bless America.



Dan Pardo (*Lindsey Graham, R-SC*) is a senior at West Chester University, majoring in Music Education, and is thrilled to be in *The Gonzales Cantata* again, after singing it last spring. For the past two summers, Dan has worked as the Pianist and Drama Director at Greylock Camp for Boys in Becket, MA,

and in 2007, he worked at the prestigious Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, CT, assisting the music director. Dan has also played piano and music-directed numerous shows at school and in his hometown, Reading, PA. He studies piano with Dr. Vincent Craig and voice with Dr. In Young Lee.



Shannon M. Rafferty (*Russ Feingold, D-WI, Flute*) was a member of the debut performance of *The Gonzales Cantata* (Grassley), Shannon is pleased to appear once more as Sen. Feingold. A graduate of WCU, Ms Rafferty studied flute performance with Dr. Kimberly Reighley and voice with Dr. Emily

Bullock. She performed in WCU's choirs and premier instrumental ensembles. Shannon has appeared in productions of *L'enfant et les Sortilèges*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and has performed at the Kimmel Center and venues from Pennsylvania through Virginia, and with numerous local and collegiate orchestras. Later this year, Shannon will begin serving the Washington DC National Guard in the 257th Infantry Band.



Born in Buzau, Romania, **Floreta Shapiro** (*Cello*) is a graduate of the prestigious National Conservatory of Music in Bucharest, Romania, receiving her Licentiate Diploma in 2003. She continued her studies in the United States obtaining two Masters of Music: Performance (SLU, 2005) and Theory/

Composition (WCU, 2008). She has performed in the US with many orchestras and companies including the Harrisburg Symphony, Philadelphia Virtuosi and the Wilma Theater and also in Romania, Germany, Switzerland and France where she participated in the 2009 Music Summer Session of the Fontainebleau Schools working with such notable musicians as Philippe Entremont, Diana Ligeti and Herre-Jan Stegenga.



Snow Shen is a violin performance graduate student at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. She is the concertmaster at West Chester University Symphonic Orchestra and first violin in Southeastern Symphony Orchestra. Snow picked up violin at the age of 4 and was trained in China. She got her first master

degree in Music Performance at GuiZhou University in China in 2007. Snow came to the United States in the fall of 2007 and has been studying with Sylvia Ahranjian since then.



Christine Stief (*Herb Kohl, D-WI*) recently graduated from West Chester University with a Bachelors Degree in Music Education. She is an alumnus of Kappa Kappa Psi, an honorary band fraternity, as well as Pi Kappa Lambda, an honorary music fraternity. She has performed with Mastersingers and

Concert Choir while at West Chester, and she also sings at St. Madeline Parish in Ridley Park. Christine is currently working for Northeastern Music Programs, teaching instrumental and general music to students in Philadelphia and the surrounding area. She is very excited to be working on *The Gonzales Cantata* once again!



Sarabeth Taber-Miller (*Cello continuo*) is a cello performance major at West Chester University. Originally from the Poconos, she retains an affinity for mountain air and a love of open skies. Sarabeth has been an active member of many small ensembles, including the *Colored Moments Cello Quartet*

and her present piano quintet with university students, which is preparing to compete in the MTNA competition this fall. Sarabeth started her musical career with a Suzuki program at age four, and has been playing ever since with little sign of letting up. She also loves dogs.



Countertenor **Nicholas Tamagna** recently performed the roles of Ulrica in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* and Orpheus in *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Brooklyn Repertory Opera. He appeared in the 2008 Philly Fringe with Center City Opera in *The Hunger Art*. Companies he has worked with include Amor

Artis, 46 Barrow Street Recital Series, Bridges Vocal Ensemble and the Oratory Church Choir of St. Boniface in Brooklyn. This fall, Mr. Tamagna will sing his first Giulio Cesare in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* with Bel Cantanti Opera in DC, and will reprise his role as Orpheus with Opera Memphis in January. He received his Master's Degree in Music in 2007 from CUNY at Hunter College.



Soprano **Mary Thorne** (*Attorney General Alberto Gonzales*) was acclaimed as an "engaging soloist, bright and agile" for her recent performance in Haydn's *Missa Sanctae Caeciliae* on Cape Cod. Frequently heard in Mozart roles, she has sung *Susanna*, *Despina*, *Königin der Nacht*,

Papagena, *Mademoiselle Silberklang*, *Barbarina*, and *Blondchen* with companies such as Amato Opera, Opera Company of Brooklyn and Bronx Opera. Upcoming concerts include a solo recital on the prestigious *Concerts at One* series presented by New York City's historic Trinity Wall Street Church. Ms. Thorne holds degrees from Mannes College of Music and the City University of New York Graduate Center.



Gozde Tknaz (*Cello*) started her cello studies at Istanbul University State Conservatory with Professor Sevil Gokdag. In 2006, she graduated from her Bachelor's degree program as the most successful graduate student. She has participated in Kronberg, Beethoven, Berlin,

Bebersee, Bitola and Istanbul Music Festivals at the international level. She has also participated in cello master classes with Professor Dennis Parker, Professor Wolfgang Boettcher, Helmut Rochol and Rupert Thompson. In 2008, she was selected to receive the Fulbright Scholarship and in fall 2008, she started her Master's degree at Temple University Boyer College of Music's Cello performance program with Professor Jeffrey Solow.



Emily Miyahara Weigert (*Violin 2*), a music education major at West Chester University, is making her Philly Fringe debut as a violinist in *The Gonzales Cantata*. The Langhorne resident has served as director of the Youth Orchestra of Bucks County String Ensemble and was a guest mentor for the North Brunswick

Township High School Orchestra in its Carnegie Hall debut this past February. Emily is a five-time state finalist in the KCEA Fine Arts Competition and an OYCA scholarship award winner. She teaches violin privately. Next up for Emily: this fall's MTNA *Chamber Music Performance Competition* with the WCU piano quintet.



Amanda Williams (*Sam Brownback, R-KS*) is in her junior year at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. She is pursuing a degree in Music Performance, specializing in voice. In academics, she is the recipient of the Board of Governors Scholarship, and in music she is a recipient of both the Roz

Patton Music Scholarship and the Friday Memorial Scholarship. She has been an avid member of the West Chester University Opera Workshop since the spring of 2008. She is just starting out in the world of public performances, and now is looking forward to making a long-lasting career of her passion for music.



Daniel Williams (*Diane Feinstein, D-CA, Countertenor soloist*) attended West Chester University for voice and theatre. He is currently the Tenor Section Leader at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Chester. Daniel has performed numerous roles in the greater Philadelphia area, including Marco in *The Gondoliers*, Edwin in *Trial by Jury*, Camille in *The Merry Widow* and The Sorcerer in *Dido and Aeneas*. He has also been a featured soloist for performances of Handel's *Messiah*,

Schubert's *Mass in G*, Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Saint-Seán's *Christmas Oratorio*. Daniel is a founding member of the Spare Change barbershop quartet and sings with The Brandywine Singers.



Heather Wright (*Viola*) graduated from Temple University with a Master's in music performance on viola, where she also earned her Bachelor's degree. She enjoyed a number of memorable performances as a member of the Temple Symphony, including the annual spring concerts at the Kimmel Center and

an unforgettable trip to New York to perform at Carnegie Hall. Currently, she enjoys teaching her violin and viola students in Exton. She has performed with the Chester County Pops, the Shaw Strings Symphonette, and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Symphony Orchestra. Heather also enjoys playing for weddings and other celebrations or holiday events.

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ABOUT THE ROTUNDA



The Rotunda, a community gathering place for the promotion of arts and culture, is fueled by the belief that art is a catalyst for social change and that the arts can lead to the formation of meaningful partnerships between the University of Pennsylvania and the surrounding community.

Over 300 events are presented every year, ranging from live music of all types, film, theater, dance, art, spoken word, education, youth events, activist gatherings, and various experimental forms of art and performance. National acts often perform side by side with local artists, illustrating Philadelphia's eclectic and robust music scene.

Built in 1911 as a house of worship for the First Church of Christ Scientist, it was designed by Carrere and Hastings, the New York-based firm who set the tone of the American classicism of the twentieth century. With its low, tile-roofed narthex, circular main hall, and oversized windows, The building is of unsurpassed simplicity and elegance recalling Early Christian

spaces such as Rome's Santa Sabina.

The University of Pennsylvania purchased the building in 1996. With its prime location at 40th and Walnut, Penn explored several redevelopment options such as retail use, a radio station, and restaurant, as well as the ideas put forth in a 1998 Urban Studies seminar which called for the formation of The Foundation Community Arts Initiative.

Beginning in 1999, the Foundation, led by an undergraduate student Andrew Zitcer and later local event organizer Gina Renzi, quickly began programming weekly events and monthly series, showcasing world music, Jazz, Rock, Experimental, and more, while consciously striving to unite diverse groups of people through arts and culture experiences.

With a handful of exceptions, the sanctuary space of this former Christian Science church has been unoccupied since the University purchased the building, while the former Sunday school/meeting hall in the rear is occupied on nearly every day of the week.

ABOUT ALBERTO GONZALES

In February 2005, President George W. Bush appointed White House Counsel and former Texas Secretary of State Alberto Gonzales the 80th Attorney General of the United States. By the end of 2007, Gonzales had resigned in disgrace after disastrous testimonial hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

As the top government lawyer, the Attorney General heads the US Department of Justice and advises the President on legal issues, particularly with regard to upholding the Constitution. Gonzales' constitutional interpretations, however, have been heavily criticized throughout his career. Even as White House Counsel, Gonzales caused a crisis within the Justice Department in 2004 when he tried to pressure then-Attorney General John Ashcroft into authorizing illegal domestic surveillance programs. As Attorney General, Gonzales' missteps included allowing the Justice Department to authorize the torture of detainees by the CIA, and misinterpreting the Constitution on the topic of Habeas Corpus ("There is no expressed grant of habeas in the Constitution. There's a prohibition against taking it away.")

The hearings from which this cantata's text is excerpted discussed the illegal firing in 2006 of federal judges based on their political leanings. The Justice Department claimed the firings were performance-related, however six of the eight fired prosecutors had positive or exceptional internal Justice Department performance reports. Investigations made it clear that the dismissals were motivated by the desire to install attorneys more loyal to the Republican party, or as retribution for actions or inactions damaging to the Republican party.

On March 13th, 2007, Gonzales told a press conference that although he was head of the Justice Department, he "was not involved in seeing any memos, was not involved in any discussions about what was going on." However, documents soon



surfaced showing that Gonzales attended a meeting where the plan to fire the attorneys was finalized and approved. On March 26th, he sought to restate what he had claimed a couple weeks earlier: "When I said... that I wasn't involved, what I meant was that I have not been, was not involved in the deliberations."

For weeks leading up to the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings, Mr. Gonzales spent up to five hours a day studying documents and undergoing mock testimony in preparation. Despite this, during his testimony on April 19, 2007, Gonzales stated 72 times that he could not recall events related to the controversy. By this time, members of both houses of Congress were publicly calling for Gonzales to resign or be fired by Bush. Amid allegations of perjury, Gonzales announced his resignation as Attorney General on August 27, 2007. In one of his final acts before leaving office, Mr. Gonzales denied he was planning to quit, despite having already told the president of his intention to resign. He finally left the post on September 17.

Alberto Gonzales, a Harvard Law School graduate, onetime award-winning corporate lawyer and Texas judge, has since been unable to secure a position at any law firm, and has only recently found employment as a visiting professor at Texas Tech, despite a petition signed by over 90 faculty protesting his appointment.

According to iCasualties.org, 4,228 people in U.S. Military Service have died in Iraq, and over 141,000 soldiers have been wounded. Speaking to the Wall Street Journal in December of 2008, Gonzales stated, "I consider myself a casualty, one of the many casualties of the war on terror."

For more information about the events portrayed in the Gonzales Cantata, including video and transcripts from the hearings, recordings and credits from past performances and websites related to the performers in tonight's show, please visit www.gonzalescantata.com.

For more information about composer Melissa Dunphy, please visit www.melissadunphy.com.

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