

Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS) presents



Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:15 pm
St. Malachy's Church — The Actors' Chapel in New York City
Live Streamed to midtownconcerts.org and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

Koester and Figg
Dynasties: Two Families, Four Hands
Caitlyn Koester & Elliot Figg ~ harpsichords

Concerto for Two Harpsichords in C Major, BWV 1061 J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

I. Allegro

Concerto for Harpsichord in F minor, BWV 1056

II. Adagio

Le Parnasse ou l'Apothéose de Corelli, Grande Sonade en Trio François Couperin (1688–1733)

Unmeasured Prelude in F Major Louis Couperin (ca.1626–1661)

Concerto for Two Harpsichords in F Major, Fk 10 W.F. Bach (1710–1784)

I. Allegro

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Harpsichord provided by Rebecca Pechefsky



www.gemsny.org

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Two dynasties reign within the Baroque keyboard world: the Bachs and the Couperins. Each family boasts generations of organists and courtly keyboardists, and their compositions create the bulk of Baroque keyboard repertoire explored in classrooms and concert halls today. Harpsichordists Elliot Figg and Caitlyn Koester honor these dynasties with a selection of music for two keyboards and four hands.

ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE AND ARTISTS

Harpsichordists Caitlyn Koester and Elliot Figg met in New York City in 2019. Sharing a love of opera scores, double-continuo, and modern arrangements of historical music, they strive to show audiences the sonic possibilities of their instrument. After much time spent workshopping their individual projects together, they make their duo debut with their program, *Dynasties: Two Families, Four Hands*.

Caitlyn Koester is a harpsichordist and music director active in early music communities throughout North America. Her international duo, AKOYA, releases its debut album of Graupner's complete sonatas for violin and harpsichord under ATMA Classique in December 2023. Caitlyn holds degrees from the University of Michigan and The Juilliard School, and is pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts at SUNY Stony Brook under the tutelage of Arthur Haas. She has been on collegiate and pre-college faculty at San Francisco Conservatory of Music in the Theory and History departments. Her 2023–2024 season includes concerts for two harpsichords with Elliot Figg for Gotham Early Music Scene and The Berkshire Bach Society; AKOYA's debut at the Montreal Bach Festival; and she plays with ensembles including New York Baroque Incorporated, Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra, and the Johnstown Symphony, among others. When not playing the harpsichord, Caitlyn enjoys going on adventures with her dog, a Great Pyrenees mix named Polyphony.

Elliot Figg is a keyboardist, conductor and composer from Dallas, Texas. He is a graduate of the Historical Performance Program at The Juilliard School where he studied harpsichord with Kenneth Weiss. He has also studied with Arthur Haas at the Yale School of Music. Elliot is an active member of several New York-based early music and contemporary ensembles including Ruckus, ACRONYM, and House of Time. Recent engagements include Handel's *Rodelinda* at Hudson Opera Theater with Ruckus and the recording of their forthcoming second album with flutist Emi Ferguson; concerts at Boston Early Music Festival and the Naumburg Orchestral Bandshell in Central Park with ACRONYM; and several concerts at the Sweetwater Music Festival in Canada including J.S. Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5*. Elliot received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music composition from the University of North Texas where he studied composition with Cindy McTee and Joseph Klein, and harpsichord with Lenora McCroskey. His own works combine Baroque performance techniques with altered tuning systems and modern formal approaches.

Next Week: In Nomine Ensemble
New Sounds, Old Notes