



CAPPELLA Twelve Centuries of New Music
Amelia LeClair, Director **CLAUSURA**

Cappella Clausura Board Prospect Information Packet

**Compiled April, 2022
By Abby Lass,
Executive Director**

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in joining Cappella Clausura's Board of Directors! For the past two decades, Cappella Clausura has been dedicated to four main tenets:

- **Recognizing** the meaningful contributions that women have made to the world of classical music
- **Reconnecting** contemporary artists with the complex and often-overlooked history of underrepresented artists in this field
- **Reclaiming**, through courageous and innovative programming, the narrative from which women have been erased
- **Reimagining** what classical music can be and who can claim a place in the canon

Our work has taken us to churches and universities, auditoriums and open forums. We have partnered with dance troupes, theatre companies, and visual artists to expand not only the reach of our work, but the notion of what "classical" can mean.

We are beginning a new chapter for our organization at an exciting time. The ability of the arts to uplift spirits, connect audiences, and challenge the status quo has never been clearer. We are proud to be on the cutting edge of our field, bringing a more inclusive and democratic approach to our work without compromising its beauty, and we are looking for new board members who can help us continue to carry out our mission.

In this packet, you will find information about the history of our organization, the people who have kept us going, and our strategic goals for the future. The hope is to provide a picture of Cappella Clausura as it is; what Cappella Clausura can be is entirely up to the future stewards of our mission. We hope you'll familiarize yourself with the enclosed information and will reach out if you have any questions or thoughts.

Our ability to enrich, inspire, and nourish our artists and audiences has always come from the members of our Board. We hope you'll consider joining us.

Sincerely,



Abby Lass
she/her/hers
Executive Director, Cappella Clausura
manager@clausura.org

Company Overview

MISSION

Cappella Clausura promotes the performance of music created by women, which has often languished unheard. Our repertoire ranges from cloistered nuns of the 9th century to an increasingly diverse group of contemporary women composers.

VISION

Cappella Clausura seeks to reconfigure the world of classical music by recognizing the contributions of women, reclaiming a place for underrepresented artists, and reimagining what this field can be.

HISTORY

Cappella Clausura's name was inspired by the many female composers imprisoned in the cloisters ("in clausura") of 17th century Italy. During this period, roughly 56% of patrician daughters disappeared into convents. Our name continues to serve as a metaphor for the cultural obstacles faced by women composers throughout history, and still in the present day.

Over the past seventeen years, Cappella Clausura has performed an ever-widening repertoire for enthusiastic audiences in concert halls and churches, as well as academic and virtual settings. Our concerts have included music by Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary composers. We have also been privileged to have had compositions written especially for us by a growing number of living composers.

In addition to releasing our own recordings, Cappella Clausura is a Parma artist, with two recordings now available on the Navona label: our 2016 recording of Hilary Tann's brilliant "Exultet Terra" and Patricia Van Ness's luminous "Birds of the Psalms", released November 2017. You can experience segments of these pieces, as well as other performances, on our [website](#) or [Youtube channel](#).

ENSEMBLE

The core of our ensemble is eight-to-sixteen singers who perform a cappella, as well as with instruments appropriate to the repertoire. Both our singers and players are drawn from Boston's superb pool of freelancers; they are accomplished professionals who perform widely as soloists and ensemble musicians in Greater Boston and beyond.

Strategic Priorities 2022–2023

PROGRAMMING

- Feature an array of diverse historical composers working in a variety of genres at all of our concerts
- Commission a minimum of six BIPOC female composers over the course of the season
- Partner with existing organizations and ensembles to respectfully highlight multicultural works

ARTISTS

- Ensure the physical, financial, and emotional wellbeing of our performers as we continue to navigate the pandemic
- Reconfigure our audition model to better promote equity and access
- Invite guest conductors to work with our ensemble and take the lead on at least one of our programs
- Partner with multidisciplinary artists and organizations who share our mission to create innovative new experiences for our audiences

AUDIENCES

- Expand outreach efforts to reach new audiences across the Greater Boston area
- Cultivate new and ongoing relationships with local schools so that young people of all backgrounds can experience our music
- Continue to explore accessibility measures and virtual viewing options to ensure that everyone can access our work

STAFF & BOARD

- Increase the size of our board by up to 100%, with a special emphasis on recruiting young, diverse candidates
- Revive our internship program, thereby providing opportunities for young and early-career individuals to learn about our field
- Codify institutional knowledge to ensure a smooth transition as we begin to search for a new Artistic Director

Current Board Members

Executive Board

Robin Stein, President
Martha Bancroft, Vice President
Garrow Throop, Treasurer
Abby Rosenberg, Secretary

General Board

Helen A. Berger
Arleen Kulin
Shannon M. Larkin
John Wolff

Current Staff Members



Amelia LeClair, Artistic Director

As a researcher, educator, and conductor, Amelia LeClair has dedicated her career to the study and performance of works by female composers. After receiving her Master of Music in choral conducting, Amelia founded Cappella Clausura in 2004 with the intention of enlightening audiences about female composers throughout history and bringing this music into the canon—where it belongs. Over the past two decades, Amelia has leveraged her wisdom and passion in the service of many local arts institutions, including Choral Arts New England, the Newton Cultural Council, the Greater Boston Choral Consortium, and more; she is also an Affiliated Scholar at the Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Center.



Abby Lass, Executive Director

Abby Lass is a passionate arts administrator and educator with experience at a diverse array of local arts organizations. Abby believes strongly in the importance of accessibility within her field and is dedicated to providing young people with the opportunity to learn about themselves and the world around them through the performing arts. In addition to her work with Cappella Clausura, Abby also serves as the Director of Communications and Director of Education at Newton Theatre Company, where she is also an instructor for Newton Theatre Kids. A multi-hyphenate artist, Abby works as a director, dramaturg, designer, and intimacy coordinator.

Board Participation Overview

PARTICIPATION DETAILS

Board members are expected to use their networks and expertise to assist with the big-picture elements of leading our organization. They serve as stewards, cheerleaders, and advocates over the course of our season, helping us to expand the reach our mission and ensure the sustainability of our ensemble. Joining a non-profit board is a unique opportunity to leverage your knowledge and passion in the service of a larger cause, with the added bonus of becoming part of the Cappella Clausura family!

TIME COMMITMENT

Board members are expected to attend five full-board meetings per year. These meetings last about 90 minutes and are generally held over Zoom. Board members are also asked to join one of our subcommittees (Finance, EDI, or Nominating). Each subcommittee typically meets an additional 3-4 times per year. These meetings last about 60 minutes and are generally held over Zoom.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Board members are required to make a minimum annual financial contribution of \$250, but may give more if they have the capacity.

COMPENSATION

Although board members are not financially compensated for their work, they are acknowledged on our website. We are proud to offer board members a tight-knit community and the opportunity to network with established and up-and-coming professionals who share their interests. We believe that our work benefits both the individuals in our audiences and the broader field of classical music. Our board members are an essential part of our mission— we cannot do our work without them.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

As is true with many non-profit arts institutions, Cappella Clausura's board has historically been comprised of people who are older, affluent, and white. We recognize the disconnect between our board demographics and the communities we are hoping to serve and are working to rectify it. We encourage young professionals, as well those who identify as BIPOC or queer, to join us and help usher in a new chapter for our organization.

NEXT STEPS

Interested in joining the board? Contact Executive Director Abby Lass at manager@clausura.org for more information.



*We hope you'll join the
Cappella Clausura Team!*

