# MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTS •

# **Houston Baroque**

Patrick Parker with sopranos Julia Fox & Megan Stapleton

# Music of Telemann



Saturday February 11 7:00 pm

St. Philip Presbyterian Church 4807 San Felipe St | Houston

FREE (DONATIONS WELCOME),

# **ABOUT THE MUSIC**

Two cantatas bookend tonight's program focusing on the music of the underserved composer **Georg Philipp Telemann**. A highly prolific composer in all genres of music of his day — opera, oratorio, chamber music, etc. — we present cantatas, unaccompanied works, and organ chorales to represent his style. A cosmopolitan composer influenced by trends in Italy and France, we also present two exquisite duets for two sopranos and continuo from generations preceding Telemann.

Almost completely self-taught in music, Telemann became a composer against his family's wishes after initially studying law at the University of Leipzig. He held important positions in Leipzig, Sorau (now Żary, in Poland), Eisenach, and Frankfurt before settling in Hamburg in 1721, where he became musical director of the city's five main churches. While Telemann's career prospered, his personal life was always troubled: his first wife died only a few months after their marriage, and his second wife had extramarital affairs and accumulated a large gambling debt before leaving Telemann.

Telemann was and still is one of the most prolific composers in history, and he was considered by his contemporaries to be one of the leading German composers of the time, above Bach and Handel. Equally important for the history of music were Telemann's publishing activities. By pursuing exclusive publication rights for his works, he set one of the most important early precedents for regarding music as the intellectual property of the composer. The same attitude informed his public concerts, where Telemann would frequently perform music originally composed for ceremonies attended only by a select few members of the upper class.

Telemann's music incorporates French and Italian national styles and is even at times influenced by Polish popular music. He remained at the forefront of all new musical tendencies and his music is an important link between the late Baroque and early Classical styles.

# ABOUT HOUSTON BAROQUE

**Houston Baroque** — where the new millennium's first generation of artists presents fresh takes on old masters, performing vocal and instrumental chamber music of the Baroque.

Initially compelled by the music of J.S. Bach, Patrick Parker established Houston Baroque in 2014. Now in its third season, Houston Baroque consists of a core quintet of professional period-instrumentalists and singers with occasional guests. Houston Baroque performs exclusively in churches capable of recreating the resonant acoustics of the Baroque period and housing organs built using historically-informed methods, including mechanical action. Houston Baroque concerts feature fabulous singers, period-instrument violins and flute, an exceptional continuo group, and solo organ music. All these elements form to recreate sacred and secular aspects of a bygone era in a veritable time machine experience.

In January 2017, Houston Baroque released its début album **My Soul Sees and Hears!** (RAVEN OAR–988). The disc features arias, cantatas, and solo organ works by Buxtehude and Handel. In its forthcoming review, *Early Music America* comments: "A superb debut CD...this ensemble lends its youthful ingenuity and spirit to the works of the old masters in a compelling collection of Baroque delicacies...Houston Baroque has provided its listeners with a diverse and delectable menu of selections, each brimming with enthusiasm and vigor. The excitement and talent of this young group is palpable as they take us on a musical adventure. We can only hope to hear much more from them in the near future." And *Classical Voice of North Carolina* recently reviewed this album as "a best-foot-forward offering...every piece is a superb little gem. This CD is scrumptious Baroque easy listening. But a totally focused hearing reveals the very high level of music making these players bring to their music...the music, taken as a whole, is marvelous. This is a sparkling CD, one deserving of your purchase, one that it is hoped is only the first in a strong series." CDs are available for purchase before and after the concert this evening.

More information about the new CD and the remainder of the 2017 season may be found online by visiting Houston Baroque's website.

# TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

# Houston Baroque

Fresh Takes on Old Masters 💠 Season Three: Landmarks 💠 Patrick Parker, Artistic Director

# www.houstonbarogue.org

# Packe dich, gelähmter Drache

# Georg Philipp Telemann

1681-1767

Cantata for the Feast of Saint Michael

Text by Matthäus Arnold Wilckens (1704–1759) 

Based on Revelation 12: 7-12

Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed. For the accuser of our brothers is cast out, who accuses them before our God day and night. They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; love for life did not deter them from death. Therefore, rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them. But woe to you, earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great fury, for he knows he has but a short time."

### SUNG IN GERMAN

Aria

Packe dich, gelähmter Drache! Wälze dich bezwungen fort! Hört, hört wie Zions Himmel schallen: die Verfolger sind gefallen! Michael, der Kirchen Hort, schwingt den Donner seiner Rache.

### Rezitativ

Der Helfer sei gelobt, der seine Frommen schützet und auf des Feindes Scheitel blitzet der wider seine Kirche tobt! Wenn Jerub Baal, Joas Sohn, mit Mut und Kraft vor seinem Heere ziehet, so weichet Amaleck, so fliehet Midian, eh' Israel noch einen Streich getan. O Häuflein Gottes, freue dich! Es gehe auch an dir der Feinde Rat verloren. Hie Schwert des Herrn und mehr als Gideon! Der Schutzherr, den du dir so wie er dich erkoren, ist der des Drachen Macht gebrochen und den Verfolger überwunden. Ja, ob der dir gleich schnaubend wieder dräut, so lebet doch auch der, der dich vorhin befreit, der, wie er hier bereits der Feinde Kraft verkürzet, zur letzten Zeit ihn vollends in den Abgrund stürzet. Doch Satan sucht uns nicht nur äußerlich und durch Verfolgung zu bezwingen, er trachtet, uns mit List durch unser eignes Herz sogar an sich zu bringen. Drum wenn sich dieser Streit bei dir, o Mensch, erhebet, wenn Michael und der ihm widerstrebet den Kampf in deiner Brust beginnen, was ist dein Wunsch, wer soll in dir gewinnen?

# TRANSLATION

Aria (Allegro)

Clear off, you crippled dragon! Limp away in your defeat! Hark, hark how Zion's heaven now resounds: the persecutors are all vanguished! Michael, the great bastion of the church, brandishes the lightning of his vengeance.

### Recitative

Praised be the helper, who protects the faithful souls and casts down lightning bolts upon the head of the enemy who rages against the church! When Jerub Baal, son of Joash, advanced in front of his army with courage and strength, Amalek yielded, Midian fled, before Israel had struck a blow. O you little handful of God's chosen, rejoice! It is also due to you that the enemy is bewildered, though, here the sword of the Lord worked more than Gideon's! The great protector whom you chose, as he chooses you, is the one who has broken the power of the dragon and defeated the persecutor. Indeed, if he should again threaten you in a snorting fit of rage, the one who previously set you free also lives, he who has already belittled the enemy's strength, he who recently sent it crashing down finally back into the abyss. Yet Satan seeks not only to defeat us externally by his persecution, he strives with cunning to bring us to him through our own feelings. Thus, O humankind, if this conflict arises in you, when Michael and he who opposes him begin to battle in your heart, what is your wish, who shall win inside you?

### Aria Aria (Vivace)

Hinweg, hinweg, o höllisches Getümmel! Mein Herze gleichet jenem Himmel, wo Michael den Drachen fällt. Erhebt euch, ihr Engel, mit jauchzenden Chören, weil Jesus, der kämpfende König der Ehren, in meiner Brust den Sieg behält.

Be gone, depart, O hellish turmoil! My heart is like heaven itself, where Michael defeated the dragon. Exalt in praises, all you angels, with jubilant choirs, for Jesus, the battling King of Glory, retains his victory in my heart.

# Fantasia for Transverse Flute without Bass No. 2 in a minor

Grave-Vivace-Adagio-Allegro

Vanitas vanitatum l	Motet for Two Voices and Continuo		Giacomo Carissimi 1605–1674
	SUNG IN LATIN	TRANSLATION	
Cantus I et II		Voices I and II	
Vanitas vanitatum et omnia vanitas.		Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.	
<b>Cantus I</b> Erat dives in civitate; epulabatur quotidie, induebatur purpura accingebatur bysso. Mille servi pendebant ab eo; dicebat huic; "Vade," et ibat; alteri: "Facito," et faciebat. O quanta bona, o quantae deliciae; prae multitudine divitiarum non erat ei similis in universo. Misera gloria, aegra superbia, quae ictu oculi firma non est. Stulte dives jam non dives, jam te ego dum discerno et sepultum in inferno.		Voice I There was in the city a rich man; he feasted every day, and was clothed in purple and fine linen. He had a thousand servants; he said to one: "Go," and he went; and to another: "Do this," and he did it. O how many good things, O how many delights; none in the world was like him in his great wealth. O miserable glory, O sick pride, no more stable than the flickering of an eyelid. O foolish rich man, rich no more, I see thee buried in hell.	
Vanitas vanitatum	<b>Cantus I et II</b> et omnia vanitas.	<b>Voices I and II</b> Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.	
qui erectam statuam auream immens ad sonum cyt jussit illam "Venite, accurrit et voce submissa et fronte laudes spargite preces ad imaginer Sed ecce, ibi subito scisso statua nobilis in mille par	tharae et fistulae, n populis adorari; e, volate, gentes, e humiliatis dicite n formidandam." de monte lapide, tibus dissolvit se. Ubi nunc aurum, eris fundata stat? umbra, in nihilo."	Voice II There was a most mighty Assyrian who made an image of gold of imr and commanded that at the sound all the people should worship it: "Come, make speed, fly, ye people and with soft voices and humble b praise the awesome image and pra But behold, suddenly a rock was co and broke the image into a thousa Say: "Where now is the gold, where now is the weighty creation In the mud, in the dust, in darkness	measurable size, d of the harp and the flute, s, irows ay unto it." ut out of the mountain, nd pieces.
	Cantus I et II	Voices I and II	

Vanitas vanitatum et omnia vanitas. Vanity of vanities, all is vanity. O our hope, O divine love, inflame us forever; Nostra spes, amor divine, sine fine accende nos; and while we stagger in the darkness of mortal life, et dum in tenebris vitae mortalis in poenis, in malis agitate vacillamus solum te corde quaeramus. | in torments and afflictions, our hearts seek only thee.

## **Three Chorale Preludes for Organ**

Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Telemann

# Troisième Leçon de Ténèbres pour le Mercredi Saint

François Couperin 1668-1733

Motet from the Office of Tenebrae for Maundy Thursday

Lamentations 1: 10-14

### SUNG IN LATIN TRANSLATION

Jod

Jod Manum suam misit hostis The enemy has put out his hand ad omnia desiderabilia ejus; to everything that Jerusalem considers precious; quia vidit gentes ingressas sanctuarium suum she has seen the Gentiles enter her sanctuary; you commanded de quibus praeceperas, ne intrarent in Ecclesiam tuam. that they should not enter your church.

Telemann

<b>Caph</b>	<b>Caph</b>
Omnis populis ejus gemens, et quaerens panem;	All her people sigh, and seek bread;
dederunt pretiosa quaequae procibo	they have given all their precious things for food
ad refocillandam animam.	to relieve their souls.
Vide, Domine, et considera, quoniam facta sum vilis.	See, O Lord, and consider, for I have become vile.
<b>Lamed</b>	<b>Lamed</b>
O vos omnes, qui transitis per viam, attendite,	O all you who pass by, stop,
et videte si est dolor sicut dolor meus;	and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow;
quoniam vindemiavit me, ut locutus est Dominus	for the Lord has ruined me, as he said he would
in die irae fuoris sui.	in the day of his raging fury.
<b>Mem</b>	<b>Mem</b>
De excelso misit ignem in ossibus meis,	From above he has sent fire into my bones,
et erudivit me:	and he has chastised me:
expandit rete pedibus meis, convertit me retrorsum:	he has made a net under my feet, and turned me back:
posuit me desolatum	he has made me desolate
tota die moerore confectam.	and overburdened with sorrow all day long.
<b>Nun</b>	Nun
Vigilavit jugum iniquitatum mearum;	The yoke of my iniquities weighs me down;
in manu ejus convolutae sunt et impositae collo meo;	they are folded together in his hand and made into a collar;
infirmata est virtus mea:	my strength is weakened:
dedit me Dominus in manu	the Lord has delivered me into the hands of those
de qua non potero surgere.	from whom I cannot rise up.
Jerusalem, convertare ad Dominum Deum tuum.	Jerusalem, turn to the Lord your God.

# Fantasia for Violin without Bass No. 1 in B-flat major

Largo-Allegro-Grave-Allegro

## Weg mit Sodoms gift'gen Früchten

Cantata for Easter Day

Text by Matthäus Arnold Wilckens Based on Revelation 12: 7-12

Your boasting is not appropriate. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

# SUNG IN GERMAN TRANSLATION

Aria	Aria
Weg mit Sodoms gift'gen Früchten	Away with Sodom's poisonous fruits
samt Ägyptens Fleischgerichten	along with Egypt's fleshpots.
Weg, weg mit aller sauern Kost!	Away, away with all sour food!
Süss und rein muss der Christen Passah sein,	Sweet and pure the Christians' Passover must be,
Denn aus Jesus' Wundenhöhlen	for from Jesus' deep wounds
rinnet den erlösten Seelen	to the redeemed souls flow
Milch und Honig, Wein und Most.	milk and honey, wine and must [grape juice].
Rezitativ	Recitative
Wie sollt' ich da, wo Not und Tod in Töpfen,	How should I — where misery and death lie in pots —
Vergnügung schöpfen,	partake of my pleasure,

Vergnügung schöpfen, da ich mein Freund in seinen Keller führt, since my friend leads me into his cellar wo selbst er mich mit Lebenswein begabet, where he bestows to me the wine of life, mit Blumen stärkt, mit Äpfel labet? strengthened with flowers, and refreshed with apples? Ihr Speisen weg, die mir die Weltlust beut! Away with food that offers me worldly delights! Das Osterlamm, das sich für uns gegeben, The Paschal Lamb, who sacrifices himself for us, heischt, daß wir nicht bei seiner Süssigkeit promises that with his sweetness we shall not live im Sauerteig der Bos- und Schalkheit leben. in the bitter leaven of malice and roguery. Das heisst: Der Heiland macht uns rein, This means: the Saviour makes us pure, so muß der Wust der alten Sünden so the tangled mess of old sins sich nicht bei uns von neuem inden. Wohlan, mein Heil, so gib, dass ich dies stets betrachte und alle Lüste dieser Zeit wie Treber achte, so wird nicht dieser Tag allein,

### will not again find its way to us. Well then, my salvation, grant that I always contemplate this and regard all the desires of this age as musty swill, so that not just this day alone,

Telemann

# Telemann

mein ganzes Leben wird ein stetes Passah sein, bis daß ich einst auf Zions Höhe dein ewig's Ostermahl aufs heiligste begehe.	but my whole life will be a constant Passover, until one day on Zion's heights I celebrate in the holiest way your eternal Easter meal.
Aria	Aria (Andante e gratioso)
Gewünschtes Fest der süssen Brote,	Long-wished-for Feast of sweet breads,
das uns die Ewigkeit verspricht,	which promises us eternity,
wann zeiget sich dein frohes Licht!	when will your joyous light show itself!
Hier feiern wir's, als die von hinne reisen;	Here we celebrate it as those who journey hence;
hier müssen wir wohl bitt're Salsen speisen.	here we must eat bitter herbs.
Dort wird die Zunge Manna schmecken,	There our tongues will taste Manna,
dort wird uns keine Trennung schrecken	there we will not be afraid of any separation
die unsre Wollust unterbricht.	to interrupt our pleasure.

# Please join us for a reception in the gathering area following the program. A freewill offering in support of this concert will be received at the sanctuary exits. Your presence and your generosity are welcome.

# **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

Soprano Julia Fox excels in opera, concert, chamber, and new music realms, and is known for her "vibrant" performances (*Gramophone*) and "great sound" (*Marketing for Orchestras*). A graduate of Amherst College, Julia apprenticed with the Brentano String Quartet and Peabody Trio, and was a recent Stern Fellow with SongFest Los Angeles and Young Artist Fellow with Da Camera of Houston. "Fox is at her best" hailed *Opera News* for her portrayal of the heroine in Lewis Spratlan's multi-media opera *Architect*, released through Navona Records and screened at festivals in New York, Dallas, Chicago, and Milan. Julia has been presented locally and internationally by the Banff Centre, *A Prairie Home Companion*, Mercury, Empire Opera, Foundation for Modern Music, 47 Strings, Greenbriar Consortium, enCANTA collective, Concordia University, Midland Opera Theatre, Music at St. Philip, Grace Song Inc., Texas A&M University, Imperial Arts, the Museums of Fine Arts of Houston and Dallas, The Menil Collection, Rothko Chapel, Young Audiences of Houston, and Opera Leggera.

Soprano **Megan Stapleton** "has a crystalline, ethereal voice. She sings purely and seemingly effortlessly…" (*Broadway World*). Megan has performed with Houston Grand Opera, Mercury, Houston Baroque, Ars Lyrica, Galveston Symphony Orchestra, Bach Society Houston, Houston's Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Ensemble Correnti, Boston Early Music Festival, Boston Metro Opera and Boston Opera Collaborative. Megan holds degrees with honors from New England Conservatory and Sam Houston State University.

www.meganstapleton.com +

Bulgarian-born violinist Nadia Lesinska has garnered an exceptional career spanning continents and genres. As a specialist in baroque violin technique, Nadia performs throughout the country, and is a frequent guest with Ars Lyrica Houston, Austin Baroque, Bach Society Houston, Houston Baroque, Mercury Baroque, and Viols of Houston. She can be heard on five commercial recordings, including Handel's *Concerti Grossi*, Op. 6, Vivaldi's *L'Estro Armonico*, and Rameau's *Les Indes Galantes* with Mercury Baroque, Colonna's *Psalmi ad Vesperas* with the Houston Chamber Choir, and Ars Lyrica's Grammy-nominated recording of Hasse's *Marc Antonio e Cleopatra*. As a modern violinist, Nadia's credits include Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, Los Angeles Pops Orchestra, and San Juan Capistrano Symphony. An active recitalist and chamber musician, Nadia can be heard throughout the year in her own concert series and as a collaborator with many of Houston's top musicians. In addition to classical music, Nadia is also a frequent jazz violinist and fiddler. A graduate of Chapman University, Nadia's teachers included Paul Manaster and Todor Pelev. She received her period performance training from Oberlin's Baroque Performance Institute and from studies with Jann Cosart, Marc Destrube, Marilyn McDonald, and Cynthia Roberts. Nadia resides in Houston with her husband, viola da gamba player Jordan Witherspoon.

www.nadialesinska.com +

Hailing from Albuquerque, New Mexico, flutist **Alaina Diehl** is currently pursuing her doctorate in performance at the University of Houston. Alaina received a Bachelor of Music from Oklahoma City University, a Master of Music from the University of New Mexico, and studied at The Flute Studio of Trevor Wye in Kent, England. Alaina made her Baroque debut in 2010 at the Victoria Bach Festival in Victoria, Texas, performing with the Victoria Bach Festival Baroque Orchestra. She has since performed several chamber music recitals on traverso in New Mexico (Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Madrid, Los Alamos) and at the National Flute Association annual convention in New Orleans. As an orchestral flutist, Alaina performs regularly on modern flute with the Santa Fe Pro Musica Orchestra. She has also performed on flute, piccolo, and/or alto flute with the Santa Fe Symphony, Opera Southwest Albuquerque, New Mexico Philharmonic, San Juan Symphony (Durango, CO), Festival Ballet Albuquerque, the Figueroa Project, and the 2011 New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players Pacific Coast Tour. She performed as a soloist with Santa Fe's Canticum Novum in Cimarosa's *Concerto for Two Flutes*; the *Albuquerque Journal* described the performance as "a romp through bright Italian sunshine."

Gambist Jordan Witherspoon is a frequent soloist, chamber musician, and continuo player with early music ensembles in Houston and beyond. Recent engagements include Ars Lyrica, Bach Society Houston, Golden West Early Music Ensemble, Mercury Baroque, Musikanten Montana, and Viols of Houston. As an active recitalist, Jordan can be heard performing throughout the year with his wife, baroque violinist Nadia Lesinska. Originally trained as a double bassist, Jordan received his music education from Chapman University, Oberlin's Baroque Performance Institute, and from studies with Mary Springfels and Sarah Mead. He has performed in master classes with Catharina Meints, Siegfried Pank, John Mark Rozendaal, Kenneth Slowik, and the musicians of Fretwork. Jordan performs on a 7-string Tielke-model viol by Dominik Zuchowicz and a 6-string division viol by Jacques Camurat.

Artistic Director **Patrick Parker** has been hailed for his "excellent technique and musicality" and "strong rhythmic lines and expressive phrasing . . . superlative" (*Classical Voice of North Carolina*), and he has been proclaimed "one of the nation's top rising stars of the organ world" (*American Press*). He enjoys a successful three-fold career as an Anglican choir trainer, early music specialist, and concert organist. Since 2016 Patrick has been Minister of Music and Organist at Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake Charles, Louisiana. At Good Shepherd, Patrick leads an ambitious schedule of choral activities for adults and children, including monthly Evensong services and a concert series. This season's major works include Vivaldi's *Gloria,* Stainer's *The Crucifixion*, Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Schütz's *Lukas-Passion*, and Fauré's *Requiem*.

As artistic director of two early music ensembles, Patrick is quickly gaining recognition as a major figure on the early music scene. Alongside Houston Baroque, Patrick recently founded and is Artistic Director of Southwest Renaissance, a professional eight-voice choir dedicated to *a cappella* music of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The group debuts in the spring of 2017 and has planned a season of four concerts in the 2017-18 concert season, including Rachmaninov's *Vespers*.

As a concert organist, Patrick's repertoire spans six centuries and ten nations, including the complete solo organ works of Bach, Brahms, Jan Albert van Eijken, Mendelssohn, Reincken, and Schumann. He has performed at major venues such as St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and Grace Episcopal Church (New York City); St. Cecilia Cathedral (Omaha); Trinity Cathedral (Cleveland); Wells Cathedral (England); Nieuwe Kerke (Amsterdam); Auferstehungskirche and Michaeliskirche (Leipzig); and Michaeliskirche (Hamburg). His forthcoming début solo album will be a two-CD set of the complete organ works of Dutch composer Jan Albert van Eijken (1823–1868), recorded at St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha. In 2015, Patrick resided in Leipzig and performed on historic organs throughout Europe. He holds degrees from Cleveland Institute of Music and University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and will soon hold the Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance from the University of Houston. His perspective has been influenced by his teachers Robert Bates, Matthew Dirst, and Todd Wilson, and especially by the great Messiaen interpreter Jon Gillock.





# JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Friday, March 10 at 7:30 pm | Baroque Trio Concert Elizabeth Blumenstock, Mary Springfels, and Matthew Dirst

Saturday, April 15 at 5:00 pm | Musical Reflections for Holy Saturday Tony Boutté, Colin St. Martin, Barret Sills, and Matthew Dirst

> Sunday, April 23 at 11:00 am | Jazz Communion Paul English and friends

Sunday, April 23 at 6:00 pm | Organ Concert in Honor of Robert Bates Retirement celebration featuring current and former students of Dr. Bates

> Sunday, **May 14** at 11:00 am | **Vivaldi** *Gloria* St. Philip Choir, Julia Fox and Cecilia Duarte with period instruments

St. Philip Presbyterian Church + 4807 San Felipe Street + Houston, Texas 77056

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