The Seasons with Emily Dickinson
Wednesday, September 22, 12:15 pm
St. Clare Auditorium
Michael Novak, tenor
Robert M. Hutmacher, ofm, piano

Born in New Jersey, Mike has been a performing artist and church musician for almost as long as he can remember, singing in venues as varied as the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and a pub in the village of Moate, Ireland. He has been a cantor for over forty years, and has directed children’s choirs and parish choirs, most recently the Men’s Choir at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee. In the past few years Mike has most enjoyed singing with his young grandchildren Teddy and Daphne.

Fr. Bob has been a Franciscan friar since 1968. His compositions have been published and recorded in the U.S. and Italy. He founded Chiesa Nuova, a ministry for the arts in Chicago and concertized in the U.S., Canada, Asia, Germany and Italy, including concerts in all the major Basilicas and churches of Assisi. His largest works are the oratorio Dialogue of Francis and Clare, The Nature Suite for chamber orchestra and Prayer for Peace that was commissioned by Orchestra da Camera di Perugia for the 2007 UN Festival of Peace in Assisi. Fr. Bob serves at Ascension and St. Peter’s in the Loop.

These two talented men premiere Fr. Bob’s song cycle of eleven poems by one of the most revered of U.S. poets, Emily Dickinson. The cycle was begun in 1999 and finally completed in 2020. They capture the four seasons through the quirky and whimsical vocabulary of Dickinson plus her unique view of God and religion. The program also includes two works for piano.

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