

TOUR HOME CONCERT

Thursday, March 23, 2023
Concert Hall
7:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY SINGERS
DR. MORGAN LUTTIG, CONDUCTOR
SKIP STRADTMAN, ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR
ASLAN CHIKOVANI, PIANO

PROGRAM

CHORAL DICHOTOMY

Der 43 Psalm: Richte mich, Gott
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
(1809-1847)

REST/RHYTHM

Rest
Ken Burton
(b. 1970)
Kate Bryant, soprano

Rytmus from “Tri etúdy”
Ivan Hrušovský
(1927-2001)

SORROW/JOY

A Hymn to God the Father
John Ness Beck
(1930-1987)
Skip Stradtman, conductor

O Sing Joyfully
Adrian Batten
(c. 1590-1637)
Skip Stradtman, conductor

WAR/PEACE

Fire from “Elements”

Katerina Gimon
(b. 1993)

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

arr. Moses Hogan
(1957-2003)

LIGHT/DARK

Luminescence

Andrea Ramsey
(b. 1977)

Nox from “Illuminare”

Elaine Hagenberg
(b. 1979)

HEAVEN/HELL

I Believe

Mark A. Miller
(b. 1958)

*Madison Gore, Kate Paras, soloists
Skip Stradtman, conductor*

Daemon Irrept Callidus

György Orbán
(b. 1947)

Skip Stradtman, conductor

ALL THINGS COMMON

In the Middle

Dale Trumbore
(b. 1987)

All Things Common

Tarik O’Regan
(b. 1978)

Hope Lingers On

arr. Andrea Ramsey

125th Program of the 2022 - 2023 season

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

To quote a text from set to music in one of tonight's pieces, *All Things Common*, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation and a house divided against a house falleth." (Luke 11:17)

Over the past few years I have wrestled with the modern day dichotomous world. We are often pulled in different directions, either directly or indirectly to be one way or another; pick a side. Once we choose a side, competition comes into play as opposing views take each other on. Not only must we pick a side, we must challenge any opposition. This world of "choose this or that" ignores the vast space in between dichotomous ideas. There is often more commonality than initially perceived. Even in one of the greatest examples of rivalry, that of college football teams, there is a mutual love of the game.

Tonight's program dives into classic dichotomies such as war and peace, light and dark, heaven and hell. The visual and aural choral dichotomy of treble vs. tenor-bass voices sets the stage for the evening in *Richte mich, Gott*. In today's world, we are often moving 100mph or in a state of absolute zero, or "numbing" (Brené Brown). *Rest* and *Rytmus* speak to this dichotomy of how we determine our worth - through rest or through constant movement. Sorrow and joy, expressed in *Hymn to God Our Father* and *O Sing Joyfully* are shown in tonight's performance through choral staging and bodily expression. The singers demonstrate solemnity in the first piece, contrasted with a radical change to evoke "joy" in tone and facial expression. The final three dichotomies consist of even more starkly contrasting concepts - war and peace (*Fire* and *We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace*), light and dark (*Luminescence* and *Nox*), and heaven to hell (*I Believe* and *Daemon*). These shocking pairings are enhanced through purposeful staging and transitions, intended to bring those listening on an almost whiplash-infused journey between opposing forces.

The final set of three pieces dives into the space between dichotomous pairings. To quote Barbara Crooker in her poem *In the Middle*, "We'll never get there, time is always ahead of us...but sometimes we take off our watches, sometimes we lie in the hammock...tangled up in love, running out of time." This piece has taken on deep meaning for our choir as we explore how to live in the present. Instead of rushing through life from birth to death, we find space in the middle to lean into the gray between the black and white. Tarik O'Regan's *All Things Common* is a musical challenge for both singer and audience, as he dives into the challenging idea of mending a divided house by discovering all things common. We encourage the listener to listen for the canons that happen in this piece, where, if you listen carefully, you will find that all voice parts are singing the same melody. We truly are "are of one heart and of one soul," even when it is not apparent. Finally, we end the evening with a song that challenges and reassures the audience in Andrea Ramsey's *Hope Lingers On*. In these final moments the choir speaks directly to the audience, and encourages all to remove themselves from the "tyranny of the or" and relish in the "genius of the and" (Jim Collins and Scott Porras, *Built to Last*).

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Der 43 Psalm: Richte mich, Gott

Richte mich, Gott, und führe meine
Sache
wider das unheilige Volk
und errette mich von den falschen und
bösen Leuten.
Denn du bist der Gott meiner Stärke;
Warum verstößest du mich?
Warum lässest du mich so traurig
geh'n,
wenn mein Feind mich drängt?
Sende dein Licht und deine Wahrheit,
daß sie mich leiten
zu deinem heiligen Berge,
und zu deiner Wohnung.
Daß ich hineingehe zum Altar Gottes,
zu dem Gott, der meine Freude und
Wonne ist,
und dir, Gott, auf der Harfe danke,
mein Gott.
Was betrübst du dich, meine Seele,
und bist so unruhig in mir?
Harre auf Gott! Denn ich werde ihm
noch danken,
daß er meines Angesichts Hilfe,
und mein Gott ist.

The 43rd Psalm: Do me justice, o God

Do me justice, o God, and fight my
fight
against a faithless people;
from the deceitful and impious man
rescue me.
For you, o God, are my strength.
Why do you keep me so far away?
Why must I go about in mourning,
With the enemy oppressing me?
Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
And bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling place.
Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the
harp, my God
Why are you so downcast, o my soul?
And why do you sigh within me?
Hope in God! Then I will again give
him thanks,
In the presence of my savior
and my God.

Rest

Based on the Gospel of Matthew 11:28-30

Come unto Him, He'll give you rest.
All ye that labour, and heavy laden,
Come unto Him,
You'll find rest unto your soul.

His yoke is easy, his burden light.
Take His yoke upon you,
Learn of Him.
You'll find rest unto your soul.
Rest.

Rytmus

Text by Ivan Hrušovský

Ave Eva	Be greeted Eve,
Fons amoris,	you source of love,
Tu regina venustatis.	you are the queen of nobleness.

A Hymn to God the Father

By John Donne (1572-1631)

Wilt Thou forgive that sin where I begun,
Which is my sin though it were done before?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin through which I run,
And do still run, though still I do deplore?

When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year of two, but wallowed in a score?

When Thou hast done, Thou has not done,
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear that when I've spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore,
Swear by Thyself, that at my death Thy Son
Shall shine as He sine now and heretofore;

And having done that Thou hast done,
I fear no more.

O Sing Joyfully

Psalm 81: 1-4

O sing joyfully unto God our strength:
Make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
Take the song, bring hither the tabret:
The merry harp with the lute.

Blow up the trumpet in the new moon:
E'vn in the time appointed
And upon our solemn feast day.

For this was made a statute for Israel
And a law of the God of Jacob.

Fire

fire,
heat, light
strength, fuel, drive
burning, melting, evaporating, transforming
fire

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

Traditional African-American Spiritual

We shall walk through the valley in peace.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.
For Jesus Himself will be our leader.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

We will meet our loved ones there.
We will meet our loved ones there.

For Jesus Himself will be our leader.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no trials there.
There will be no trials there.
For Jesus Himself will be our leader.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

Luminescence

Text by Blaire Ginsburg

Eternal light, muted at the edges,
Time forgotten, time shifting,
Luminescence.

Sifting through silence,
Finding reason, finding life.

Breathe in, silence,
Breathe in, stillness,
Whistles low like windchimes.
Voices lush in tone, uniform in soul,
Voices take me where exhale paints the sky,
Touch of color, sounding air,
Smooth as marble, light as down.

Reaching for light, uniform in soul,
Where many become one.

Nox

Traditional Ancient Greek

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.

By Aurelius Prudentius Clemens

Nox et tenebrae et nubile, confusa mundi et turbida.	Night and darkness and fog, confused world and turmoil.
Caligo terrae scinditur, percussa solis spiculo.	Dark gloom tears the earth, beats and stabs the sun.

I Believe

Anonymous Jewish poem

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.
I believe in love, even when I don't feel it.
I believe in God, even when God is silent.

Daemon Irrepat Callidus

from an anonymous medieval Goliardic text

Daemon irrepat callidus,
Allicit cor honoribus,
Ponit fraudes inter laudes, cantus,
saltus.
Quidquid amabile Daemon dat,
Cor Jesu minus aestimat.

Caro venatur sensibus;
Sensus adhaeret dapibus;
Inescatur, impinguatur, dilatatur.
Quidquid amabile Caro dat,
Cor Jesu minus aestimat.

Adde mundorum milia,
Mille millena gaudia;
Cordis aestum non explebunt, non
arcebunt.
Quidquid amabile Totum dat,
Cor Jesu minus aestimat.

The Devil speaks expertly,
Tempting the honorable heart;
He sets forth trickery amidst
praise, song, and dance. However
appealing the Devil is,
It is still worth less than the heart
of Jesus.

The Flesh is tempted by
sensuality;
Gluttony clings to our senses;
It overgrows, it encroaches, it
stretches.

However appealing the Flesh is,
It is still worth less than the heart
of Jesus.

Though the Universe may confer
Thousands upon thousands of
praises,
They neither fulfill nor put out
the desire of the heart. However
appealing the whole Universe is,
It is still worth less than the heart
of Jesus.

In the Middle

By Barbara Crooker

Of a life that's as complicated as everyone else's,
struggling for balance, juggling time.
The mantle clock that was my grandfather's
has stopped at 9:20; we haven't had time
to get it repaired. The brass pendulum is still,
the chimes don't ring. One day I look out the window,
green summer, the next, the leaves have already fallen,
and a grey sky lowers the horizon. Our children almost grown,
our parents gone, it happened so fast. Each day, we must learn
again how to love, between morning's quick coffee
and evening's slow return. Steam from a pot of soup rises,
mixing with the yeasty smell of baking bread. Our bodies
twine, and the big black dog pushes his great head between;
his tail a metronome, 3/4 time. We'll never get there,
Time is always ahead of us, running down the beach, urging
us on faster, faster, but sometimes we take off our watches,
sometimes we lie in the hammock, caught between the mesh
of rope and the net of stars, suspended, tangled up
in love, running out of time.

All Things Common

Ev'ry kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation;
and a house divided against a house falleth.

Luke 11:17, King James Version

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace,
and the things wherewith one may edify another.

Romans 14:19, King James Version

And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one
soul:

neither said any of them that ought of the things which they possessed
was their own;

But they had all things common.

Acts 4:32, King James Version (adapted)

“Hope Lingers On”

Text by Lissa Schneckenburger

My mother, when love is gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on.
My father, when peace is gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers

I will not hate, and I will not fear
In our darkest hour, hope lingers here.

My sister, when equality's gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on.
My brother, with tolerance gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on.

I will not hate, and I will not fear
In our darkest hour, hope lingers here.

My love, when honor is gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on.
My country, when justice is gone
In our darkest hour hope lingers on.

I will not hate, and I will not fear
In our darkest hour, hope lingers here.

UNIVERSITY SINGERS PERSONNEL

Dr. Morgan Luttig, conductor
Skip Stradtman, assistant conductor

Soprano 1

Kate Bryant '25; Music Therapy; Katy, TX
Chloe Hodges '24; Music Administration; Jacksonville, FL
Meg Matthews '23; Psychology; Mobile, AL
Kate Paras '24; Music, Communicative Disorders; La Grange Park, IL

Soprano 2

Katie Grace Dockery '23, International Studies; Tuscaloosa, AL
Lizzy Erbach '25; Section Leader, Social Chair; Music Education; Harvest, AL
Rainey Hill '25; Vocal Performance; Marietta, GA
Regan Southerland '23; President; Music Education; Lithia, AL

Alto 1

Sydney Helgeson '23; Section Leader; Arts Management; Bismarck, ND
Jessica Jacobs '23; Psychology; Jefferson, GA
Macy Steele '24; Piano Performance; Birmingham, AL

Alto 2

Cameron Frazier '25; Music Composition; Hoover, AL
Madison Gore '25; Criminal Justice, Political Science; Madison, AL
Sassy Mednikow '24; Music Therapy; Memphis, TN
Kelsie Verble '23; PR Chair; Marketing; Huntsville, AL

Tenor 1

Tate Goldberg '23; Anthropology, History; Potomac, MD
Thomas Sagona '23; Section Leader; Vocal Performance; New Orleans, LA
Ben Wiggins '23; Vocal Performance; Northport, AL

Tenor 2

Jordan Darnell '26; Music Education; Birmingham, AL
Owen Emerson '24; Economics, Music Composition; Huntsville, AL
Kyle Kennedy '26; Business; Woodstock, GA
Skip Stradtman '24; Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition; Birmingham, AL

Bass 1 (Baritone)

Angus Durham '25; Masters in Music Theory; Birmingham, AL
Connor Harkiewicz '25; Biology, Musical Theater; Yardley, PA
Mason McCool '24; Kinesiology, Music Composition; Gordo, AL
Trey-Lee Orndorff '24; Biology; Fayetteville, GA
Justin Tharpe '24; Secondary Social Studies Education; Dothan, AL

Bass 2

Will Broadhurst '26; Music Education; Albertville, AL
Chris Efobi '25; Chemistry; Cumming, GA
Dyllon Ravenell '25; Political Science, Philosophy; Baltimore, MD
Henry Sargent '23; Tuba Performance; Asheville, AL
Michael Walker '23; Choir Manager, Section Leader; Music Education; Birmingham, AL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Faculty Composition Recital

Saturday, April 1

7:30 p.m., Recital Hall

2'o'clock Jazz Concert

Tuesday, April 4

7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Trombone Choir and Wind Ensemble Concert

Thursday, April 6

7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Jazz Ensemble Concert

Tuesday, April 11

7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Concert and University Bands Concert

Thursday, April 13

7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Symphonic Band Concert

Monday, April 17

7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Trumpet Ensemble Concert

Tuesday, April 18

7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Huxford Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, April 20

7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

University Choirs Spring Concert

Tuesday, April 25

7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Capstone Spring Quartet Recital

Tuesday, April 25

7:30 p.m., Recital Hall

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