

UNIVERSITY SINGERS FALL CONCERT
“WONDER”

Thursday, November 9, 2023
Concert Hall
7:30 p.m.

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

PROGRAM

Awe

Joy
Kate Bryant, Kaylie Gaggiani, soloists
Skip Stradtman, primo piano
Hans Bridger Heruth
(b. 1997)

Sing, my Child
Ella Boyd, Kyle Kennedy, soloists
Sarah Quartel
(b. 1982)

Unicornis Captivatur
Ola Gjeilo
(b. 1978)

Disillusionment

To Sit and Dream
Rosephanye Powell
(b. 1962)

Ave verum corpus
William Byrd
(1543-1623)

Child of Wonder from “The Sacred Veil”
Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)

Rediscovery

Soon Ah Will Be Done
William L. Dawson
(1899-1990)

To See the Sky
Jocelyn Hagen
(b. 1980)

Eventide
Skip Stradtman, conductor
Skip Stradtman
(b. 1993)

Joy

Haec Dies
Jacob Handl Gallus
(1550-1591)

Ta Na Solbici
Samo Vovk
(b. 1989)

22nd Program of the 2023 - 2024 season

PROGRAM NOTES

“Never lose your sense of wonder” - Anonymous

They call it a “childlike sense of wonder” for a reason. As children, everything is new, exciting, awe-inspiring. We build blanket forts and escape to imaginary lands far, far away. We experience science for the first time as we learn about chemical interactions that create volcano-like eruptions in our home. The world inspires our sense of wonder, and our sense of wonder allows us to be open toward potential in the world.

Research shows that the sense of awe “slows your heart rate, orients your attention toward others, and prompts you to explore and engage with the world.” -Dacher Keltner in “*Awe*”. We hope you took advantage of our wonder playground in the lobby prior to the performance, a world the UA choral students created to stimulate creativity and inspire wonder, putting you into the mental space for this evening.

Tonight’s performance takes us on a journey from the innocence of childhood (*Joy, Sing my Child*) through the vivid imagination of a young person (*Unicornis Captivatur*). As we progress through life, the sense of wonder often diminishes, leaving a sense of disillusionment as we realize the dreams we have for the world are not as attainable as they once seemed (*To Sit and Dream*). As we progress through teenage years and the beginning of young adulthood, our focus turns not toward personal fulfillment and joy, but instead toward the tangible: work, progress, success. Together, we mourn our childhood sense of wonder (*Ave Verum Corpus, Child of Wonder*), coming to a point where there is seemingly no hope for awe and wonder to ever return. In this dark moment, we exhibit relentless determination to find hope in the world by looking beyond ourselves (*Soon-ah Will Be Done*). As we shed what does not serve us anymore, Sara Teasdale’s words find voice, “but the little leaves that die have left me room to see the sky” (*To See the Sky*). It is only then that we have the space to reinvigorate our sense of hope and wonder. In this renewed sense of childlike spirit, we open ourselves to love (*Eventide*) and get swept away in the joy of companionship and awe of seeing the world through someone else’s eyes. In this newfound sense of wonder, thinking not only about ourselves but also about those around us, we celebrate the duality of life (*Haec est Dies*) and engage in one of life’s most vulnerable and joy-filled experiences, dance (*Ta Na Solbici*).

We hope you’ll allow yourself to experience this journey with us tonight, taking a moment to reflect on where you may lie in your own sense of wonder. Are you open to childlike awe? Do you find yourself disillusioned with the world in its tragedy and anger? Have you found someone else’s eyes through which to view the world in a more wonderful way? Jump back into your childlike joy with us tonight as the University Singers present *Wonder*.

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Joy

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

I am wild, I will sing to the trees,
I will sing to the stars in the sky,
I love, I am loved, he is mine,
Now at last I can die!

I am sandaled with wind and with flame,
I have heart-fire and singing to give,
I can tread on the grass or the stars,
Now at last I can live!

Sing, my Child

Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)

Sing for the promise in each new morning.
Sing for the hope in a new day dawning.
All around is beauty bright!
Wake in the morning and sing, my child.

Dance in the joy of the day unfolding.
Dance as you work and dance as you're learning.
All around is beauty bright!
Take in the day and dance, my child.

But when troubles come
And worry is all that can be found,
Gather your strength and hear your voice.
Sing, my child.

Laugh in the cool and the fresh of the ev'ning.
Laugh in your triumph, laugh in succeeding.
All around is beauty bright!
Rest in the ev'ning and laugh, my child.

Peace in the stillness and dark of the night.
Peace in the dreams of your silent delights.
All around is beauty bright!
Sleep in the night and peace, my child.

Unicornis Captivatur
from the Engelberg Codex

Unicornis captivatur,
Aule regum presentatur
Venatorum laqueo,
Palo serpens est levatus,
Medicatur sauciatus
Veneno vipereo.

Alleluia canite,
Agno morienti,
Alleluia pangite,
Alleluia promite
Leoni Vicenti.

Pellicano vulnerato
Vita redit pro peccato
Nece stratis misera,
Phos fenicis est exusta,
Concremanturque vetusta
Macrocosmi scelera.

Alleluia canite...

Idrus intrat crocodillum,
Extis privat, necat illum,
Vivus inde rediens;
Tris diebus dormitavit
Leo, quem resuscitavit
Basileus rugiens.

Alleluia canite...

The Unicorn is Captured
from the Engelberg Codex

The Unicorn is captured,
It's presented to the royal court
In the hunter's snare;
Creeping, it freed itself from the pole;
Because it's wounded, it heals itself
With the viper's venom.

Sing Alleluia
To the dying lamb;
Sing Alleluia,
Cry Alleluia
To the victorious Lion.

Life returns to the wounded Pelican
After miserable death
In its nest for the sings of the world.
The Phoenix' light is burnt out,
The ancient sins of the world
Are utterly consumed by flame.

Sing Alleluia...

The Hydra enters the crocodile,
Deprives it of its entrails, kills it,
And comes back alive.
Three days long
The Lion slept till the King
Awakened it with a roar.

Sing Alleluia...

To Sit and Dream

Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

From "To You"

To sit down and dream, to sit and read,
To sit and learn about the world
Outside our world of here and now-
Our problem world-
To dream of vast horizons of the soul
Through dreams made whole,
Unfettered free-help me!
All you who are dreamers, too,
Help me to make our world anew.
I reach out my dreams to you.

Ave Verum Corpus

From *Gradualia*

Ave verum corpus, natum
de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine
cuius latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.

O Iesu dulcis, O Iesu pie,
O Iesu, fili Mariae.
Miserere mei. Amen.

Hail True Body

From *Gradualia*

Hail, true Body, born
of the Virgin Mary,
having truly suffered, sacrificed
on the cross for mankind,
from whose pierced side
water and blood flowed:
Be for us a sweet foretaste
in the trial of death.

O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,
O Jesus, son of Mary,
have mercy on me. Amen.

Child of Wonder
Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Child of wonder,
Child of sky.
Time to end your voyage
Time to die.
Silent slumber calls you
Dark and deep,
Child of soft surrender
Child of sleep.

Child of sorrow,
Child of rain.
There is no tomorrow,
No more pain.
Turn your silvered sail
Toward the light.
Child of mourning, child of night.

Child of iridescence,
Child of dream.
Stars and moons will guide you
Down the stream.
Stretched on ocean waves
Of endless foam,
Welcome home my child,
Welcome home.

Soon-Ah Will Be Done
Traditional Negro Spiritual

Soon ah will be don' awid be troubles ob de worl',
Troubles ob de worl',
De troubles ob de worl'.
Soon ah will be don' awid be troubles ob de worl',
Goin' home t'live wid God.

I wan' t' meet my mother,
I wan' t' meet my mother,
I wan' t' meet my mother,
I'm goin' t'live wid God.

No more weepin' an' a wailin'
No more weepin' an' a wailin'
No more weepin' an' a wailin'
I'm goin' t'live wid God.

I wan' t' meet my Jesus,
I wan' t' meet my Jesus,
I wan' t' meet my Jesus,
I'm goin' to live wid God.

To See the Sky
Sara Teasdale

From "Leaves"

One by one, like leaves from a tree,
All my faiths have forsaken me;
But the stars above my head
Burn in white and delicate red,
And beneath my feet the earth
Brings the sturdy grass to birth.
I who was content to be
But a silken-singing tree,
But a rustle of delight
In the wistful heart of night,
I have lost the leaves that knew
Touch of rain and weight of dew.
Blinded by a leafy crown
I looked neither up nor down—
But the little leaves that die
Have left me room to see the sky;
Now for the first time I know
Stars above and earth below.

Eventide

Edward Lear (1812-1888)

Excerpted from "The Owl and the Pussy-cat"

And hand in hand,
On the edge of the sand,
They danced
By the light of the moon.

Haec Dies

From Gradualia

Haec dies quam fecit Dominus;
Exultemus et laetemur in ea.
Alleluia.

This is the Day

From Gradualia

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Alleluia.

Ta na Solbici

Samo Vovk (b. 1989)

Ta-na Solbici se paračalo
Ja lo li li le lo le lo li lo

And so we dance in Resia

Samo Vovk (b. 1989)

There was a wedding in village Solbica
Ja lo li li le lo le lo li lo

So nōge nag las tärnale
Da so Bilo rizglasnile

Feet were hitting the floor so loudly
That drown out the river Bila

Od Čanīna tintinalo, od Čanīna

It was echoing off the mountain Kanin

UNIVERSITY SINGERS PERSONNEL 2023-2024

Dr. Morgan Luttig, conductor
Skip Stradtman, assistant conductor

+ = *President*
* = *Choir Manager*
^ = *Section Leader(s)*
~ = *PR Chair*
‡ = *Social Chair*

Soprano 1

^Kate Bryant '25; Music Therapy; Katy, TX
Grace Dell '26; Music Education; Fayetteville, NC
Jenna Johnson '26; Vocal Performance; Fredericksburg, VA
Kate Paras '24; Music, Communicative Disorders; La Grange Park, IL

Soprano 2

Ella Boyd '25; Neuroscience of Music (Pre-Med); Dothan, AL
Rainey Hill '25; English; Marietta, GA
Kaylie Gaggiani '26; Biology (Pre-Med); Savannah, GA
Meredith Taylor '25; Music Education; Hazel Green, AL

Alto 1

Erin Chatman '24; African American Studies; Birmingham, AL
+^Lizzy Erbach '25; Music Education; Harvest, AL
Faith Kirkland '26; Marketing, Music; Tucson, AZ
^Macy Steele '24; Music; Birmingham, AL

Alto 2

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

Tenor 1

~Jordan Darnell '26; Music Education; Birmingham, AL
Darian Polke '25; Musical Theatre, Criminal Justice; Tuscaloosa, AL
Kenvelle Taylor '25; Biology (Pre-Med); Tuscaloosa, AL

Tenor 2

Kyle Kennedy '26; Computer Science; Woodstock, GA
^Skip Stradtman '24; Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition; Birmingham, AL
Walker White '24; Music Composition; Madison, AL

Bass 1 (Baritone)

Angus Durham '25; Masters in Composition; Tuscaloosa, AL
Connor Harkiewicz '25; Biology, Musical Theater; Yardley, PA
Ryan Johnston '25; Arts Administration; Opelika, AL
*Trey-Lee Orndorff '24; Biology (Pre-Med); Fayetteville, GA
Justin Tharpe '24; Secondary Social Studies Education; Dothan, AL

Bass 2

Will Broadhurst '26; Music Education; Albertville, AL
Chris Efobi '25; Chemistry (Pre-Med); Cumming, GA
^Mason McCool '25; Music Composition, French; Gordo, AL
Lucas Oosthuizen '26; Accounting; Schaumburg, IL
Dyllon Ravenell '25; History; Baltimore, MD
^Michael Walker '24; Music Education; Birmingham, AL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harrison Bruner, horn

Friday, November 10
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Jake Pietroniro, viola

Saturday, November 11
3:30 p.m., Recital Hall

Hailey Beard, Soprano

Saturday, November 11
3:30 p.m., Byrant Jordan Hall

No One Else: An Afternoon of Solo Scenes

Sunday, November 12
3:00 p.m., Byrant Jordan Hall

Tuba/Euphonium Studio Recital

Sunday, November 12
3:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Cameron Duncan, Trombone

Sunday, November 12
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Fall Student Chamber Ensembles

Tuesday, November 14
7:30 p.m., Recital Hall

Fall Choral Showcase

Tuesday, November 14
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Faculty Recital: Eric Yates

Wednesday, November 15
7:30 p.m., Recital Hall

Huxford Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, November 16
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Check out the SOM on Social Media!



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