

MUSICORUM

PRESENTS

the songs will remain

Featuring Rutter's Gloria and works by Ola Gjeilo, Gwyneth Walker, Shireen Abu Khader, Eric William Barnum, Sarah Riskind, and others

Saturday, April 20th 2024 | 6:30pm

\$15 General Admission | \$5 Students

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

720 S 2nd St, Mankato, MN



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



About Musicorum

Founded in 1995 by David Taylor, Musicorum originally coalesced to perform rarely heard choral works from the late Medieval and Renaissance periods, affording listening variety from the musical ensembles already in existence in southern Minnesota. The chamber vocal ensemble has maintained a tradition of excellence over the past twenty-nine seasons, and the artistic output has expanded to include significant choral repertoire from all historical periods.

Currently, the choir is under the direction of Dr. Elisabeth Cherland, who is also the Director of Choral Activities at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Former artistic directors include David Taylor, Gregory Aune, David Dickau, Andrew Miller, Karen Boubel, Brandon Dean, and Andrew Kendall.

Conductor

Elisabeth Cherland

Collaborative Pianist

David Fienen

Singers

Jessica Auel
Lucas Baker
Alex Blegen
Sally Bodlovick
Angie Braunwarth
Sara Buechmann
Chuck Christenson
Jill Contreras
Alisa Eimen
Brandy Gullickson
Liz Jacobson
Taylor Jones
Ole Karstad
Scott Kingland
Rick Kramlinger
Megan Kreinbring
Sarah Krolak
Charlie Leftridge

Grace Matson
Don McGinness
Shelbi Morton
Chris Paul
Elizabeth Paul
Jeannie Phillips
Megan Poehler
Leah Renne
Rob Satterness
Anja Scheidel
Ben Scheidel
Cindy Shirk
Fred Slocum
Andrew Stumbo
Brad Ufer
Beth Winterfeldt
Chad Winterfeldt

A Note from the conductor:

We hold a lot at the same time, don't we?

During the announcements time of our Musicorum rehearsals sometimes members share personal announcements. Over the past few months singers have shared news of success at work; challenging new diagnoses; the purchase of a new home; the death of a loved one; and the joy of expecting a new baby. I love that choir is a place where we can share of ourselves. We hold the sorrows alongside the hopes alongside the joys.

Tonight's program holds this same tension. We sing of sorrow, of hope, and of joy, too.

We begin with Henry Purcell's **Hear My Prayer, O Lord**. The expressive power of Purcell's writing is evident as we hear the appeal and distress of the opening line given by the altos. The following phrase "and let my crying come unto thee" includes chromatic notes that leave us feeling unsettled and insinuate crying and angst. The melody rises in both pitch and dynamic as the piece progresses and illustrates the anguish of the text. Andrew Balfour, a Canadian composer of Cree descent, takes this same piece and offers a new perspective in **Pakaskitawew**. In his Nagamo project Balfour takes choral music of the Elizabethan masters and recontextualizes it by shifting the Latin text to Ojibway or Cree. The new text is not a direct translation of the Latin, but rather gives an Indigenous perspective of spirituality. The translation of the Cree is "they hear them crying." Listen to Purcell's music transform and take on a new dimension in the Cree language.

Next we'll sing three works that call for peace in the three Abrahamic faith traditions. Mendelssohn's lyrical **Verleih uns Frieden** is a setting of the Christian liturgical text "Dona nobis pacem" which is found in the Agnus Dei of the Latin Mass. The text is delivered three times with different voice parts having the chance to sing the gorgeous melody and bathe in the piano accompaniment. Next you'll hear a setting of **Oseh Shalom**, a prayer in Hebrew commonly found in a Jewish worship service. Sarah Riskind is a composer and choral conductor in Illinois, and her commanding and playful composition is inspired by Tango rhythms. We close this short set with an arrangement of a Syrian protest song by the Palestinian Jordanian composer Shireen Abu Khader. Written in Arabic, **Lao Rahal Soti** says that when the singer dies, the songs will remain. Khader says, "the voices of all those who have been silenced continue to resonate in our music." Both heartbreaking and hopeful, all three pieces call us to work for peace and justice, and recognize the power of music and truth telling.

The mood of the program shifts now with two movements from Carl Orff's epic work, *Carmina Burana*. From the Spring section, **Ecce Gratum** explores the joys of the world awakening and warming. The short, detached, repetitive, and triadic patterns distinctive to Carmina are present at the opening of this movement. Listen for the "ah's" of pleasure

and enjoyment that end each verse. **Were Diu Werlt Alle Min** shows the saucy and irreverent side of the work and goes by in a flash. The MSU Chamber Singers join Musicorum for these two movements, and members of Musicorum will join the MSU choirs to perform *Carmina Burana* in full at MSU April 25 – 27th.

With so many gifted brass players joining us for Rutter's **Gloria** in the second half, we're thrilled they will also perform this movement from **Bach's Cantata #146**. Originally set for tenor and bass soloists, the joy and delight of the original text translates beautifully to the bright tone and timbre of the brass instruments.

Ola Gjeilo grew up in Norway before moving to the U.S. in 2001. On a trip to Oslo in 2007 he saw aurora borealis, was struck by their powerful beauty, and composed **Northern Lights**. Though the music is serene on the surface, listen for the electric beauty he captures. We move without pause into **Dawn** by American composer and former Mankato resident, Eric William Barnum. Barnum says, "Dawn is a meditation on the coming light-filled day and all the possibilities that it possesses." We will transition from the shimmering light of dawn into **The Tree of Peace** by American composer Gwyneth Walker. Adapting the Quaker hymn text and setting it to flowing vocal and piano lines, Walker presents peace as both commanding and powerful. May we manifest the world Walker describes in the final stanza: "Then shall all shackles fall. The violence of war over the earth shall cease. Love shall tread out the fire of anger, and in its ashes plant the tree of peace."

For the final work of tonight's program, Musicorum joins forces with eleven instrumentalists and the MSU Chamber Singers. John Rutter is well known for his beautiful and intuitive melodies, but in the **Gloria** he also exhibits tremendous rhythmic vitality. The text is taken from the hymn of praise in the Ordinary of the Mass, and Rutter based much of the work on a Gregorian chant associated with this text. The three movements are similar to a traditional symphonic or concerto structure (fast, slow, fast), with moods of rejoicing, devotion, and elation. 2024 is the 50th anniversary of Rutter's **Gloria**, as it was commissioned and first performed by The Voices of Mel Olson in Omaha, Nebraska on May 5th, 1974 under the direction of John Rutter himself. We hope you enjoy this vibrant and spirited work.

- Dr. Elisabeth Cherland



I.

Hear My Prayer, O Lord

Henry Purcell (1659 - 1695)

Hear my prayer, O Lord:
And let my crying come unto Thee.

Pakaskitawew

Henry Purcell (1659 - 1695)

Arrangement and Cree text by Andrew Balfour (b. 1967)

Pakaskitawew
Mawihkatamowin

II.

Verleih' uns Frieden

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 - 1847)

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich,
Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten.
Es ist doch ja kein anderer nicht,
der für uns könnte streiten,
denn du, unser Gott, alleine.

*Mercifully grant us peace,
Lord God, in our times.
For there is no other
who could so firmly defend us
but you, our God, alone.*

Oseh Shalom

Sarah Riskind (b. 1987)

Kristen Simon-Frank, Violin

Oseh shalom bim'romav
Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu
V'al kol yisrael
V'imru, imru amen

*May the One who makes peace in the heavens
Grant peace to us
And to all Israel (all our people)
And let us say, Amen.*

Lao Rahal Soti

Samih Choukeir (b. 1957)

arr. Shireen Abu Khader (b. 1972)

Taylor Jones, solo

Lao rahal soti, mab tirhal hanazir kom:

yuni ala bukraw 'albi makom:
lao rahil muyanni bitdal lil ayani,
tizma lilu bilmaksu ra wil bit ani

*If my voice departs, your throats (voices)
will not*

*I look unto tomorrow and my heart is with you
If the singer goes (dies), the songs will remain
Bringing together the broken and suffering
hearts*

III.

Carmina Burana - Two Choruses

Carl Orff (1895 - 1982)

With the MSU Mankato Chamber Singers

5. Ecce Gratum

Ecce gratum
et optatum
Ver reducit gaudia,
purpuratum
florete pratum,
Sol serenat omnia,
Iam iam cedant tristia!
Estas redit,
nunc recedit
Hyemis sevitia. Ah!

Iam liquescit
et decrescit
grando, nix et cetera;
bruma fugit,
et iam sugit
Ver Estatis ubera;
illi mens est misera,
qui nec vivit,
nec lascivit
sub Estatis dextera. Ah!

*Behold the pleasant
and longed-for
spring brings back joyfulness,
violet flowers
fill the meadows,
the sun brightens everything,
sadness is now at an end!
Summer returns,
now withdraw
the rigors of winter. Ah!*

*Now melts
and disappears
ice, snow, and the rest,
winter flees,
and now
spring sucks at Summer's breast:
A wretched soul is he
who does not live
or lust
under summer's rule. Ah!*

Gloriantur
et letantur
in melle dulcedinis,
nessqui conantur,
ut utantur
premio Cupidinis:
simus jussu Cypridis
gloriantes
et letantes
pares esse Paridis. Ah!

*They glory
and rejoice
in honeyed sweetness
who strive
to make use of
Cupid's prize;
At Venus's command
let us glory
and rejoice
in being Paris' equals. Ah!*

10. Were Diu Werlt Alle Min

Were diu werlt alle min
von deme mere unze an den Rin,
des wolt ih mih darben,
daz diu chünegin von Engellant
lege an minen armen. Hei!

*If all the world were mine
from the sea to the Rhine,
I would do without it
if the Queen of England
would lie in my arms. Hey!*

My Spirit Be Joyful from Cantata 146

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

Arranged by Jock McKenzie

Guest Instrumentalists: Brass Choir

*How I will rejoice, how I will delight,
when all mortal sorrows are over!
There I will shine like a star
and glow like the sun,
then the divine, blessed joy will be destroyed
by no sorrow, moan or shriek.*

IV.

Northern Lights

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Pulchra es amica mea
suavis et decora sicut Jerusalem
terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.
Averte oculos tuos a me
quia ipsi me avolare fecerunt.

*Thou art beautiful, O my love,
sweet and comely as Jerusalem,
terrible as an army set in array.
Turn away thy eyes from me,
for they have made me flee away.*

Dawn

Eric William Barnum (b. 1955)

Text by Robert Bode

From the door's soft opening
And the day's first sigh,
Filling the room,
I see before me
A life of doors,
One opening on another;
Doors upon doors,
And sighs upon sighs,
Rising in a tide of mornings,
Rising, until that final sigh,
And the last morning,
And the last holy breath,
Whispering "this..."

The Tree of Peace

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

Adapted from the poem *O Brother Man*

by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

O, my sister and my brother,
All who walk upon this earth,
Fold to your hearts each other.
Where mercy dwells, the peace of the Lord is there.

To live rightly is to love one another
Each kindness a gift,
Each deed a prayer.
O, my sister and my brother,
Fold to your hearts each other.

Listen, listen to one another.
Walk with rev'rence in the steps of those who have gone before,
Where forgiveness and wisdom has stood.
So shall the wide earth become a temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

Then shall all shackles fall.
The violence of war over the earth shall cease.
Love shall tread out the fire of anger,
And in its ashes plant a tree of peace.

~ INTERMISSION ~

V.

Gloria

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Megan Kreinbring, Angie Braunwarth, and Leah Renne, solos

With the MSU Mankato Chamber Singers and Guest Instrumentalists

I. Allegro Vivace

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Glory be to God on high
And on earth peace, good will toward men
We praise thee. We bless thee.
We worship thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory.
Glory be to God on high.*

II. Andante

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

*O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ
O, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.*

III. Vivace et ritmico

Quoniam tu solus sanctus.
Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*For Thou alone art Holy,
Thou alone art the Lord.
Thou alone art most high, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit,
In the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
Glory be to God on high.*

Featured Artists

MSU Mankato Chamber Singers

Soprano

Danessa Buckingham
Cassady Callahan
Dalany Dolan
Kayla Hruska
Zoe Rickheim
Olivia Smith
Isabella Sorenson

Alto

Drew Burling
Katie Danhof
Cali Hedlund
Alison Vite

Tenor

Bryce Barry
Aedan Bertrand
Isaiah Flolo
Ethan Klein
Zachary Leasman
Garmunee Phillips

Bass

Brady Englehart
Sam Carlson
Jordan Engebretson
Wesley Granger
Christian Hickethier
Billy Krager
Claire Sundquist

Guest Instrumentalists

Trumpet:

David Kaiser
Doug Snapp
Tom Bierer
Takuto Koseki

Trombone:

Ryan Shirk
Sarah Houle

Bass Trombone:

Gerard Aloisio

Tuba:

Al Tonn

Percussion:

Ryan Rader
Scott Petersen

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to the staff of **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** for hosting us in this beautiful sacred space.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the **Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council**, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Musicorum is a proud member of the **Twin Rivers Council for the Arts**. Visit twinriversarts.org to learn more about arts opportunities in greater south-central Minnesota and for a calendar of upcoming arts and entertainment events.

Visit us online at www.musicorum-mn.org



Save the date!

Musicorum Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 14, 2024

6:30 pm