



presents

A 3-D Choral Spectrum: Diverse, Dynamic, Distinctive

Sunday, February 26, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

Biemesderfer Concert Hall

Welcome to our concert this afternoon! We are proud to commemorate Black History Month with a choral repertoire that features under-represented voices, including women composers, and celebrates our university's EPPIIC values (Exploration, Professionalism, Public Mission, Inclusion, Integrity, and Compassion).

I. Choral Union

This is new arrangement of a work familiar as the Black National Anthem, yet it includes a second verse by James C. Ward, a respected black pastor in the Atlanta, GA, "that respectfully acknowledges black history, promotes unity, and celebrates creative collaboration by all races."

Lift Every Voice and Sing (2021).....J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), arr. Heather Sorenson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing 'til all the heavens ring, ring with the harmony of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies. Let it resound as the rolling sea.

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, in spite of hatred's sting, echoing justice and love and unity.

Let music swell the breeze, swaying through all the trees; each voice a call to make all people free.

Let God's love flow from the lips of each sister and brother. Let wise words drip from the lips of each father and mother.

Let us sing freedom's song, melody loud and strong. This is a call to join this prayerful throng.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand true to our God, true to our native land.

Words by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) and James C. Ward

Christina Rooks, soloist

Julian Harnish, piano

II. Cantilena Women's Choir

Shen Khar Yenakhi.....Traditional Medieval Eastern European (Georgia) Hymn

You are a vineyard, just blossoming, whose blessed roots spring up from Eden.

You are the sun, shining all over.

Words of King Demetre I (12th Century)

Dedicated to the patronage of Virgin Mary in the Georgian Orthodox Church

On the Pulse of This New Day (2021).....Rollo Dillworth (b. 1970)

Lift up your eyes upon this day breaking for you. Give birth again to the dream.

Women, children, men, take it into the palms of your hands, mold it into the shape of your most private need.

Sculpt it into the image of your most public self. Lift up your hearts, each new hour holds new chances

For a new beginning.

The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change.

Here, on the pulse of this fine day, you may have the courage to look up and out and upon me.

The Rock, the River, the Tree, your country.

Here on the pulse of this new day, you may have the grace to look up and out and into your sister's eyes,

And into your brother's face, your country, and say simply, very simply, with hope--good morning.

Maya Angelou (1928-2014) from *On the Pulse of Morning*

I'm Goin' Up a Yonder (1976/1988)Walter Hawkins (b. 1949), arr. Martin Sirvatka

III. Chorale

Poor Wayfaring Stranger, is a traditional folksong that originally dates to the late eighteenth century. This fresh arrangement was commissioned by Tonality, a professional choral ensemble focused on spreading a message of unity, peace, and social justice through a culturally diverse choral setting. The arranger is the Founding Artistic Director of the ensemble, and this piece was premiered in a December 2017 holiday concert titled *Stories of Home*, where the Nativity was compared to contemporary stories of homelessness and displacement. The intent of the work was "to fuse two musical styles that are innately American -- the folk spiritual and jazz -- to create a new perspective with this familiar melody." **No Color** was collaboratively written by two popular composers, Stacey V. Gibbs and Shawn Kirchner, as an "intentional statement of unity, mutual respect, and love. The composers in no way intend to downplay or disregard each person's unique cultural/racial heritage and the burdens or benefits belonging to it; but they do wish to assert a larger unity that embraces us all -- even as we are each vividly and truly 'seen' in our unique identities."

Poor Wayfaring Stranger (2020).....American Folk Song,
arr. Alexander Lloyd Blake (b. 1987)

*I am a poor wayfaring stranger a-trav'lin through this world of woe,
but there's no sickness, toil, nor danger in that bright land to which I go.
I'm goin' there to see my father. I'm goin' there no more to roam.
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan. I'm just a-goin' over home.
I know dark clouds will gather round me. I know my way is rough and steep.
But beauteous fields lie just before me, where God's redeemed their vigils keep.
I'm goin' there to see my mother. I'm goin' there no more to roam.
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan. I'm just a-goin' over home.
I'm goin' there to see my loved ones. I'm goin' there no more to roam.
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan. I'm just a-goin' over home.*

Haley Richard, soloist

No Color (2020).....Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1964) & Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

*No color can come between us, no shade to be thrown, no tone be taken to demean us,
No hue of hate to be shown, no color, no shade, no tone; let me be transparent with you.
Whose history is whose? Who's walking in whose shoes? Who's making whose rules? Who's learning in whose school?
Whose history, whose shoes, whose rule? Let me be transparent with you.
More love is our intention, stop--did we forget to mention that we are more alike than we are different?
United we take a stand, ignited with hand in hand, to build a band of harmony. No time to wait, don't hesitate!
Within me there's a love so strong, within me there's a hope to belong, within me there's a fire to right all wrongs.
Within me there's a love to share, within me there's a need to care, within my heart is a risk to dare.*

IV. University Choir

Elaine Hagenberg's **Tyger** represents the excellence of an award-winning composer whose music "soars with eloquence and ingenuity." She has been commissioned and had her works performed by ACDA (American Choral Directors Association), professional choirs, colleges and universities, community choirs, high schools, and churches. **Cum Sancto Spiritu** was composed by Brazilian Classical Period composer José Mauricio Nunes Garcia, whose music is finding new life in our time thanks to the research of Marques L. A. Garrett, a significant African American conductor and Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Glenn Korff School of Music. Dr. Garrett also arranged the final spiritual in our concert today, **Rise, Shine!** Both works were introduced to Pennsylvania choral conductors this past summer as Dr. Garrett conducted ACDA-PA's multi-generational ensemble, *Choir for All*. Kyle Pederson's **Heartbeat** represents another artistic collaboration that speaks to the theme of unity and common purpose. The piece begins with an English text performed in pop style, followed by a "gospel drive" section crafted with Shona lyrics for which the composer worked with members of the University of Pretoria Youth Choir (South Africa). "Shona is one of the main languages spoken in Zimbabwe, and the juxtaposition of English and Shona text reinforces the message that no matter our politics, skin color, religion, or other characteristic -- at heart, we are one."

Tyger (2021).....Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

*Tyger Tyger, burning bright, in the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye, could frame thy fearful symmetry?
In what distant deeps or skies. Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire? O What the hand, dare seize the fire?*

*What the hammer? What the chain, in what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? What dread grasp, dare its deadly terrors clasp?
When the stars threw down their spears and water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see? Did he who made the Lamb make thee?*

William Blake (1757-1827)

Cum Sancto Spiritu from *Missa Abreviada*, CPM 112 (2022).....José Mauricio Nunes Garcia (1767-1830)

With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Soloists: Melodie Martinez-Manahan, Elizabeth Wicht, Saturna Toledo, Sanai Browning,
Michael Zubak, Shane Geisel, Cale Cusimano, Matthew Cona

Heartbeat (2022).....Kyle Pederson (b. 1971)

*Before you say the thing you're thinking to say,
Before you give the look you gave yesterday, remember... he's got a heartbeat.
They and us, her and him, you and me, we and them, remember... we all have a heartbeat.
Red or blue, black or white, no matter who, just like you... all have a heartbeat.
If you would turn your head and take a look, if you could stand in her shoes right where she stood,
You'd remember... she's got a heartbeat.
All creeds, all shapes, all sizes, none of these is what defines us, but what binds us... is in our heartbeat.
[Shona translation] We all have a heartbeat, we share the same color of blood.
We all are one race, the human race, and together we are strong.*

Adam Clark and John Zirpoli, percussion

V. Choral Union

Rise, Shine! (2021).....Traditional Spiritual,
arr. Marques L. A. Garrett (b. 1984) and Tom Trenney (b. 1977)

*Rise, shine! for the light is a-comin', my Lord says he's comin' by an' by.
This is the year of jubilee.... My Lord has set his people free.
Wet or dry, I intend to try.... To serve the Lord until I die.
I intend to shout an' never stop.... Until I reach that mountaintop.*

Julian Harnish, piano

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Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell, conductor • Yajing Li & Nanga Lin, piano

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Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell, conductor • Julian Harnish, piano

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Madison Brennan
Kylie Calogero
Marisa Kowalski
Sarah Mason
Jessica Rowzer
Abigail Wieder

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Mitch McCain
Owen Dozier
Shane Geisel
Colin Staub
Vincent Tuggle

BASS

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Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell, conductor • Julian Harnish, piano

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Sophia Libonati
Rachel Mark
Melodie Martinez-Manahan
Hailey Strock
Jordan Taylor
Elizabeth Wicht

ALTO

Sanai Browning
Emily Dzbynski
Mai Elhabashy
Dara Lucas
Katie Lyle
Sarah McComas
Christina Rooks
Jessica Rowzer
Anneka Siegrist
Saturna Toledo

TENOR

Michael Asprea
Nicholas Carter
Matthew Cortes
Brett Devlin
Owen Dozier
Kasey Eurillo
Shane Geisel
Kevin Lynch
Evan Weckerly
Michael Zubak

BASS

Nick Bettendorf
Matthew Cona
Damion Crawford
Cale Cusimano
Robert Ferry
Luke George
Lucas Grant
Logan Groft
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