



SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRESENTS

THE TCU
CONCERT CHORALE
and
TCU ALUMNI CHOIR

brand new day

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH 7:00PM
VAN CLIBURN CONCERT HALL AT TCU

PROGRAM

With a Voice of Singing	Kenneth Jennings
Sicut Cervus	Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina
i thank you god for most this amazing day	Christopher Aspaas
Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal	arr. Alice Parker

TCU Alumni Choir

brand new day

(please, hold applause until the end of each set)

I.

Improvisation on Veni Creator	VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS arr. Jon Hurty
Ngothando	Mbuso Ndlovu
"The Song of Incarnation"	Susan Palo Cherwien
Prelude	Ola Gjeilo

II.

What Wondrous Love is This	arr. Robert Scholz
"The Song of Creation"	Susan Palo Cherwien
A Prayer of the Middle Ages	Howard Hanson

III.

Ich lasse dich nicht BWV Anh. 159	Johann Christoph Bach
"Ubi caritas et amor"	Susan Palo Cherwien
McKay from <i>An American Thanksgiving</i>	S. M. Denton arr. Carol Barnett

TCU Concert Chorale

Light of a Clear Blue Morning	Dolly Parton arr. Craig Hella Johnson
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Combined Choirs

Notes on Our Program

We are delighted to welcome more than sixty alumni back to campus for our second alumni choral event in recent years—a day devoted to rehearsal, fellowship, and, most importantly, making music together. With our rehearsal time and the theme of today's concert in mind, the alumni choir will share four works that explore a range of musical styles while reflecting on longing, renewal, and hope.

We begin with Kenneth Jennings' *With a Voice of Singing*, a setting of Isaiah that Jennings created for a tour of the St. Olaf Choir in the 1970s. The work moves deftly between meters and musical styles, from brass-like fanfares to chant-like passages, creating an energetic and celebratory opening to the program.

We continue with Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina's beloved *Sicut Cervus*. This setting of Psalm 42 captures both the longing and beauty of its text: "As the hart desires the waterbrooks, so longs my soul for Thee." Palestrina expresses this yearning through long, interwoven lines that are passed from voice to voice, creating a sense of continuous searching and desire.

Our next selection, *i thank you god for most this amazing day*, was written for the opening of the Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU and premiered by the TCU Concert Chorale. The text by e. e. cummings celebrates rebirth and renewal—a "brand new day." The music mirrors these sentiments, moving between sweeping melodic lines and tender, intimate homophonic passages.

We conclude the alumni choir's portion of the program with Alice Parker's setting of *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*, a robust arrangement that looks with hope toward a future in "that land of perfect rest." Its vision of a joyful and eternal community provides a fitting close to this first portion of our concert.

The Concert Chorale's portion of the program begins with an arranged improvisation on *Veni, Creator Spiritus*, a hymn believed to have been written in the ninth century and traditionally associated with Pentecost and the service of Vespers. Our performance today is adapted from an arrangement by Jon Hurty, retired Director of Choral Activities at Augustana College in Rock Island. The work makes use of aleatoric, nature-like sounds to create an atmosphere of mystery and anticipation. Without pause, it leads into our next selection by South African composer Mbuso Ndlovu, whose text offers a simple and powerful message: "Through love, only, we will conquer everything."

We then turn to *Prelude* by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. The work begins with an exuberant musical statement of the word "Exsultate"—"Rejoice"—and develops into a more contemplative second section that reflects the accompanying text: "Grant us peace, console our feelings, from which our hearts sigh. Alleluia." The opening material eventually returns, bringing the work full circle.

Our program continues with two works by American composers and arrangers. Robert Scholz's setting of *What Wondrous Love* offers an expressive and lyrical treatment of this beloved text. The music builds toward a rich and full statement—"while millions join the theme, I will sing"—before returning to a simple presentation of the opening melody, sung by the sopranos.

Howard Hanson, perhaps best known for his compositions for wind ensemble, brings remarkable attention to the meaning of every phrase in his setting of an eighth-century text. The work moves swiftly among contrasting musical worlds, from fanfare to mystery to what sounds like a loving and faithful embrace.

The Concert Chorale's final set begins with a motet attributed for many years to J. S. Bach but now generally considered to be the work of his grand-uncle, Johann Christoph Bach. Since this attribution was first reconsidered, however, a manuscript in Johann Sebastian Bach's own hand has been discovered, so the mystery continues. Regardless of its authorship, *Ich lasse dich nicht* is a masterpiece in two major sections. The first features an exchange of musical material between two choirs, while the second unfolds as a highly contrapuntal setting with a chorale tune and text sung in augmentation by the sopranos. The opening section reinforces the determination of the text—"I will not let you go, until you bless me"—while the second places this same text beneath a chorale that reverses the drama with the words, "Your child will not leave you."

The final work for the Concert Chorale is Carol Barnett's arrangement of the American hymn tune *McKay*. Barnett creates energetic layers of sound that build toward a powerful climax, much like *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*. The music paints a vision of heaven in the words: "There gen'rous fruits that never fail / On trees immortal grow; / There rocks and hills and brooks and vales / With milk and honey flow."

Our program concludes with the choirs joining together for Craig Hella Johnson's arrangement of Dolly Parton's *Light of a Clear Blue Morning*. This thoughtful setting captures the hope and anticipation of a "brand new day" and brings together many of the themes that have emerged throughout the program. Its message reminds us that even in seasons of challenge and darkness, we can look toward the light with hope.

With a Voice of Singing

With a voice of singing declare ye, and tell this:
utter it even unto the end of the earth. Hallelujah!
The Lord hath redeemed his servant, Jacob. Hallelujah!

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands.
Sing forth the honor of his name;
make his praise glorious.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

– *Isaiah 48:20*

Sicut Cervus

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontem aquarum,
As a deer longs for springs of water,
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.
so my soul longs for you, O God

– *Psalms 42 v.1*

i thank you god for most this amazing day
i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)
— e. e. cummings

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters
with their deep and solemn roar.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the lamb!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, glory to the great I AM!

And my soul, tho' stain'd with sorrow,
fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters, to the city far away.
Hallelujah...

Souls have cross'd before me, saintly,
to that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.
Hallelujah...
— attr. F. R. Warren

Improvisation on Veni Creator

Creator Spirit, heavenly dove,
Descend upon us from above;
With graces manifold restore
Your creatures as they were before.

Your light to every sense impart,
And shed your love in every heart;
Thy wond'rous pow'r on us bestow,
That we in strength and grace may grow.
– *attr. Rhabanus Maurus 776-856, tr. composite*

Ngothando

Ngothando kuphela,
Through love, only,
Sonqoba konke,
We will conquer everything,
Izimo zonke,
All situations,
Azinakusigwinya.
Cannot swallow (devour) us.

Sivul' iinhliziyi zethu,
Let us open our hearts,
Singesabi lutho,
And let us fear nothing,
Ngothando...
Through love...
– *Mbuso Ndlovu*

Prelude

Exsultate, Jubilate

Rejoice, resound with joy.

O vos animae beatae

O you blessed souls,

Exsultate, Jubilate

Rejoice, resound with joy,

Summa Trinitas revelatur

The Great Trinity is revealed

Et ubique adoratur,

And everywhere adored;

Date gloriam,

Give glory,

Date illi gloriam

Give It glory,

Summa Trias adoratur,

The Great Triad is adored,

Date illi gloriam.

Give It Glory.

Tu virginum corona,

You, o crown of virgins,

Tu nobis pacem dona.

Grant us peace,

To consolare affectus,

Console our feelings,

Unde suspirat cor.

From which our hearts sigh.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

What Wondrous Love is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down;
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing!
– *American folk hymn, alt.*

A Prayer of the Middle Ages

We declare unto all the ages as the greatest marvel,
ere there were hills and trees or the mighty ocean,
ere the sunlight shone forth or the moon cast its beams,
when naught was, from end to end,
there wert Thou, O God, Thou almighty God,
from time unknown to time unknown, Eternal God,
Thou who madest heaven and earth,
give to us wisdom, prudence and strength,
give through Thy holy blessing, faith unending
that Thy will we may do.

Amen.

– 8th Century poem English version by James Francis Cooke

Ich lass dich nicht, du segnest mich denn
Ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich denn
I will not let you go, until you bless me,
Mein Jesu ich lasse dich nicht, du segnest mich denn!
My Jesus, I will not let you go, until you bless me!
Weil du mein Gott und Vater bist,
Because you are my god and father,
dein Kind wirst du verlassen nicht,
your child will not leave you,
du väterliches Herz.
your fatherly heart.
Ich Staub und Erde habe hie ja keinen Trost.
I have no consolation here, dust and earth.
– *Genesis 32:27, Erasmus Alber*

McKay

Oh, the transporting, rapturous scene
That rises to my sight!
Sweet fields arrayed in living green,
And rivers of delight.
There gen'rous fruits that never fail
On trees immortal grow,
There rocks and hills
and brooks and vales
With milk and honey flow.
– *Samuel Stennett*

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

It's been a long dark night
And I've been a waitin' for the morning
It's been a long hard fight
But I see a brand new day a-dawning
I've been looking for the sunshine
Cause I ain't seen it in so long
But everything's gonna work out just fine
Everything's gonna be all right
It's gonna be ok.

Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
And everything's gonna be all right It's gonna be ok.

– *Dolly Parton*

TCU ALUMNI CHOIR

Isaiah Allen	Abigail Hurd
Katie Cunningham	Adrianna Jagodzinski
Anderson	De'Evin Johnson
Deanna Andrews	Kristie Knickerbocker
Kyle Barker	Jeanine Krause
Melissa Barker	Nathan Krieger
Colton Blake	Briana Kuhn
Maggie Bogaski	Jason Lamb
Landon Bradley	Alyssa Lewis
Jacob Brown	Peyton Macha
Audrey Burchfield	Victoria Medrano
Kayden Burns	Jordan Murphy
Maritza Caceres	Alyssa Perrin
Alicia Cruz	Sallie Pollack
Julie Dean	Hayden Ponder
V Doan	Patrick Pummill
Morgan Drummond	Janet Pummill
Mary Farmer	Halley Radebaugh
Olivia Flores	Jaqueline Reyes
Cindy Franklin	Vivian Rodriguez
Hayley Fritz	Rachel Seagrave
Caleb Fritz	Debbie Seitter
Olivia Garza	Abbey Sensenich
Wesley Gentle	Claudia Smith
Nathan Gepanaga	Amy Stewart
Caleb Gottry	Sam Taylor
Eduardo Guerrero	Toni Ugolini
Amber Haas	Patrick Vu
Rachel Heiser	John Walker
Sterling Horning	Jéssica Webba
Tori Horton (Miller)	Becca West
Emily Hoskins	Macie Wright

TCU CONCERT CHORALE

Christopher Aspaas, *conductor*

Rashaad Calaham-Carr & Talin Richards, *assistant conductors*

Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, *collaborative pianist*

Usman Ali	Kaylynn Langham
Giri Anup	Sarah Lwin
Adam Arntsen	Golda Marcello
Elliot Banks	Adrian Martinez
Piper Baranowski	Jordan Martinez
Rashaad Calaham-Carr	Cate McCorquodale
Casey Caldwell	Tim McCracken
Kolby Carpenter	Ethan McGregor
Enrique Castilleja	Danna Melendez
Hannah Chapman	Will Moeller
Grace Choate	Faith Olores
Kimy Coe	Samantha Pantin
Cam Corely	Hunter Payne
Telvin Culberson	Michelle Pearce
Kaylyn Davis	Saul Perez
Kai Diamond	Caleb Perez
Ahmed Elghazali	Miguel Pesce
Karolina Flores	Talin Richards
Ava Gilbert	Lucia Rojas
Reed Gradke	Elijah Sones
Zach Harlow	Sarah Squires
Samantha Irvin	Talyah Thomas
TJ Kuon	Jadyn Thompson



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To emphasize collaboration
To instill professional and personal integrity
To encourage diversity of thought, skills, and musical expression
To enrich the TCU community and beyond



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TCU College of Fine Arts, Dr. Amy Tully, Dean
TCU School of Music, Dr. Marc Reed, Director
TCU Choral Faculty, Dr. Marla Ringel
& Dr. Amy Pummill-Stewart
TCU Vocal Faculty, Twyla Robinson, Division Chair



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