

The logo for TCU School of Music features the letters 'TCU' in a large, bold, purple, blocky font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of the 'U'. The background of the entire page is a textured, light grey surface with various abstract purple and grey geometric shapes, including curved lines, concentric circles, and overlapping rectangles.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

PUTTING PASSION INTO PRACTICE



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

# This Night, These Stars, My Dreams...

Performed by the

TCU  
*Concert*  
*Chorale*

Christopher Aspaas, *conductor*

Nikos Myrogiannis-Koukos & Annika Stucky, *assistant conductors*

Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, *collaborative pianist*

Recorded October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

ROBERT CARR CHAPEL

Fort Worth, TX

## PROGRAM

<b>Stars</b>	<b>Kyle Pederson</b>
<b>Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star</b> <i>Chorale Canticum Novum</i>	<b>Christopher Aspaas</b>
<b>Sleep</b> <i>Concert Chorale</i>	<b>Eric Whitacre</b>
<b>Come to Me, My Love</b> <i>Chorale Voces Viventem</i>	<b>Norman Dello Joio</b>
<b>The Stars Stand Up in the Air</b> <i>Chorale Canticum Novum</i>	<b>Eric Barnum</b>
<b>Underneath the Stars</b>	<b>Kate Rusby, arr. Jim Clements</b>
<b>The Stars are with the Voyager</b> <i>Chorale Voces Viventem</i>	<b>Christopher Aspaas</b>
<b>Hidden in Light</b>	<b>Stanford Scriven</b>
<b>Day is Dying (live premiere)</b> <i>Concert Chorale</i>	<b>Patrick Vu</b>

## NOTES ON OUR PROGRAM

The genesis of our program began on a bus traveling from Little Rock, Arkansas back to Fort Worth in March following the Chorale's performance at SWACDA. Originally, it was to be our Spring Concert in April, but then things changed. The SWACDA program was impassioned, dramatic, and full of motion. I wanted to say something a bit different: more subtle and soothing. Patrick Vu, a student in Chorale, sent me the score for his *Day is Dying* on that trip home, and now, here we are.

The program is in three "acts:" acknowledging the beauty and wonder of the night and stars; dreams of longing and the pain of loss in nighttime scenes; and, the promise of a new tomorrow that comes with the rising sun.

Our first piece, *Stars* by Kyle Pederson, is a setting of his own introspective text: *In whose sky will my light fall?* The music is atmospheric and ethereal to match the night sky. *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* is a setting I wrote as a Christmas gift to my bride in 2015. It sets verses of the poem by Jane Taylor that I had never heard, noting the journey of a traveler in the dark that is dependent on the starlight to guide him on his way.

*Come to Me, My Love* by Norman Dello Joio is a touchstone piece in the choral repertoire. Advanced, lush, and sometimes jarring sonorities give way to memorable melodies. The piece moves from pleading to impassioned to whispering in a few short moments. Eric Barnum's *The Stars Stand up in the Air* shares a story of rejection so painful that the poet writes, "I wish that all music were mute and I to all beauty were blind." Modal harmonies and sweeping melodic lines set this piece apart from the contemporary choral repertoire: it is a *tour de force* both musically and emotionally. Next is *Underneath the Stars*, as arranged for Voces 8, a professional vocal ensemble whose popularity has swept the globe. A balance between classical harmonies and popular styles, the piece asks for great independence and ensemble from the singers who will perform without a conductor.

I composed *The Stars are with the Voyager* for a festival in Shanghai, China last November. It was a gathering of six school choral programs from the Asia Pacific Activities Conference (APAC) that brought together around 100 singers for several days of rehearsal and a final performance. The text by Thomas Hood shares that love is a constant thing like the stars, moon, and sun. No matter how far we travel, "love is with the lover's heart." The piano part in the beginning and ending of the piece is written to sound like the churning of the seas and restless heart of the traveler.

*Hidden in Light* was commissioned for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magnum Chorum, an ensemble I conducted in Minnesota. The music is brilliantly set to follow the arc of the text from the first glimmer of dawn to the colorful radiance of sunset. The most touching part, however, is the last line that says, "That not our light, but Thine, the world may see..." Stanford sets this moment with tremendous care, and returns us to the introspection and calm found at the beginning of our program.

We end tonight with a special piece: not only because Patrick is a current member of the Chorale, but because it was one of the first pieces I had in mind for this program. Patrick writes the following about the work:

*“Day is Dying” was originally written for the 2020 University of Notre Dame Basilica Composition Commission Competition with a Lenten Vespers service in mind. Mary A. Lathbury’s hymn text begins with sorrowful imagery of an ending day, but the text is ultimately hopeful. In order to capture the image of dusk through music, I employed a sighing gesture as the basses sing a descending chromatic scale to suggest a lament bass; the chromatic descent also resembles the Sun as it sets over the horizon. However after the dying motive is complete, the melody begins to ascend to suggest the hope of morning’s arrival.*

*I tried to be conservative with harmony and dynamics in order to fit the reverent nature of Vespers, but I allowed the climactic build on the text “Let eternal morning rise” to grow and grow until the music arrives on this glorious mixolydian chord. The fullness quickly subsides because the morning has not yet come, but the piece ends peacefully with full confidence that the darkness will soon be light.*

As this tumultuous season rolls on in our lives, may we all find the comfort in the constancy of night and the possibility that each new day may bring.

**THANKS to the faculty and staff that daily contribute to our students' success:**

The TCU College of Fine Arts, Dr. Richard Gipson, Interim Dean

The TCU School of Music, Dr. Kristen Queen, Interim Director

The TCU School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

The TCU School of Music Vocal Faculty, Angela Turner-Wilson, Division Chair

## TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

*The stars are mansions built by Nature's hand,  
And, haply, there the spirits of the blest  
Dwell, clothed in radiance, their immortal vest;  
Huge Ocean shows, within his yellow strand,  
A habitation marvellously planned,  
For life to occupy in love and rest ...*  
– William Wordsworth

Stars

Kyle Pederson

Stars.  
Legacies of light  
Ages ago, you spun light into the bleak  
Ancient light falls on my eye  
And I?  
A star  
sacred stellar dust  
casting light out through time  
In whose sky will my light fall?  
– Kyle Pederson

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Christopher Aspaas

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are!  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.

Then the traveler in the dark  
Thanks you for your tiny sparks;  
He could not see which way to go,  
If you did not twinkle so.

When the blazing sun is gone,  
When he nothing shines upon,  
Then you show your little light,  
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.

As your bright and tiny spark  
Lights the traveler in the dark,  
Though I know not what you are,  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.  
– Jane Taylor

*Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed,  
The dear repose for limbs with travel tired;  
But then begins a journey in my head  
To work my mind, when body's work's expired ...*  
– William Shakespeare

## Sleep

Eric Whitacre

The evening hangs beneath the moon  
A silver thread on darkened dune  
With closing eyes and resting head  
I know that sleep is coming soon

Upon my pillow, safe in bed,  
A thousand pictures fill my head.  
I cannot sleep, my mind's aflight,  
And yet my limbs seem made of lead.

If there are noises in the night,  
A frightening shadow, flickering light...  
Then I surrender unto sleep,  
Where clouds of dream give second sight.

What dreams may come, both dark and deep  
Of flying wings and soaring leap  
As I surrender unto sleep  
As I surrender unto sleep.  
– Anthony Sylvestri

*Take this kiss upon the brow!  
And, in parting from you now,  
Thus much let me avow —  
You are not wrong, who deem  
That my days have been a dream;  
Yet if hope has flown away  
In a night, or in a day,  
In a vision, or in none,  
Is it therefore the less gone?  
All that we see or seem  
Is but a dream within a dream.  
— Edgar Allen Poe*

## Come To Me, My Love

Norman Dello Joio

Come to me in the silence of the night;  
Come in the speaking silence of a dream;  
Come with soft rounded cheeks and eyes as bright  
As sunlight on a stream;  
Come back in tears  
O memory, hope, love of finished years

Oh dream how sweet, too sweet, too bitter sweet  
Whose wakening should have been in Paradise  
Where souls brimfull of love abide and meet;  
Where thirsting longing eyes  
Watch the slow door  
That opening, letting in, lets out no more

Yet come to me in dreams, that I may live  
My very life again though cold in death:  
Come back to me in dreams, that I may give  
Pulse for pulse, breath for breath:  
Speak low, lean low  
As long ago, my love, how long ago!  
— Christina Rosetti

*Out of the darkness burst the song,  
Into the darkness moves along:  
Only a chord of memory jars,  
Only an old wound burns its scars,  
As the wild sweetness of the strain  
Smites the heart with passionate pain,  
And vanishes among the stars.*  
– Harriet Prescott Spofford

## The Stars Stand Up In The Air

Eric Barnum

The stars up in the air,  
The sun and the moon are gone,  
The strand of its waters is bare.  
And her sway is swept from the swan.

The cuckoo was calling all day,  
Hid in the branches above,  
How my stóirín is fled away,  
"Tis my grief that I gave her my love.

Three things through love I see—  
Sorrow and sin and death—  
And my mind reminding me  
That this doom I breathe with my breath.

But sweeter than violin or lute  
Is my love—and she left me behind.  
I wish that all music were mute,  
And I to all beauty were blind.

She's more shapely than swan by the strand,  
She's more radiant than grass after dew,  
She's more fair than the stars where they stand—  
"Tis my grief that her ever I knew!  
– Thomas MacDonagh

# Underneath the Stars

arr. Jim Clements

Underneath the stars I'll meet you  
Underneath the stars I'll greet you  
There beneath the stars I'll leave you  
Before you go of your own free will

Go gently

Underneath the stars you met me  
Underneath the stars you left me  
I wonder if the stars regret me  
At least you'll go of your own free will

Go gently

Here beneath the stars I'm landing  
And here beneath the stars not ending  
Why on earth am I pretending?  
I'm here again, the stars befriending  
They come and go of their own free will

Go gently

Go gently

Underneath the stars you met me  
And underneath the stars you left me  
I wonder if the stars regret me  
I'm sure they'd like me if they only met me  
They come and go of their own free will

– Kate Rusby

*Lead, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom  
Lead Thou me on!  
The night is dark, and I am far from home—  
Lead Thou me on!  
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene—one step enough for me.  
— John Henry Newman*

## The Stars are with the Voyager

Christopher Aspaas

The stars are with the voyager  
Wherever he may sail;  
The moon is constant to her time;  
The sun will never fail;  
But follow, follow round the world,  
The green earth and the sea;  
So love is with the lover's heart,  
Wherever he may be.

Wherever he may be, the stars  
Must daily lose their light;  
The moon will veil her in the shade;  
The sun will set at night.  
The sun may set, but constant love  
Will shine when he's away;  
So that dull night is never night,  
And day is brighter day.  
— Thomas Hood



When first the sun dispels the cloudy night,  
The glad hills catch the radiance from afar,  
And smile for joy.  
We say, "How fair they are,  
Tree, rock, and heather-bloom, so clear and bright!"  
But when the sun draws near in westering might,  
Enfolding all in one transcendent blaze  
Of sunset glow, we trace them not, but gaze  
And wonder at the glorious, holy light.  
Come nearer, Sun of Righteousness! that we,  
Whose swift short hours of day so swiftly run,  
So overflowed with love and light may be,  
So lost in glory of the nearing Sun,  
That not our light, but Thine, the world may see,  
New praise to Thee through our poor lives be won.  
– Frances Ridley Havergal

*Now we shall radiant be  
like stars forever  
lumen de lumine  
ever and ever*

*light  
from  
light*  
– Susan Palo Cherwien

Day is dying in the west,  
Heav'n is touching earth with rest;  
Wait and worship while the night  
Sets her evening lamps alight  
Thru all the sky.

When forever from our sight  
Pass the stars, the day, the night,  
Lord of angels, on our eyes  
Let eternal morning rise,  
And shadows end! Amen.  
– Mary A. Lathbury

The **TCU Concert Chorale**, the University's flagship choral ensemble, is committed to the exploration and performance of the finest repertoire from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to today. One of six choral ensembles in the School of Music, the Chorale is a highly-select, auditioned group of forty-five singers including music majors as well as students from other academic disciplines. All members of the Chorale recognize the important role of the arts in their personal and professional development.

In this pandemic season, the Chorale has divided into two chamber choirs for the purposes of managing risk while maximizing our ability to make music. Rehearsals for these smaller ensembles allow us to use more facilities at TCU and also provide the opportunity for simultaneous rehearsals and student-led sectionals. All of our rehearsals meet or exceed the standards set by the CDC and recent research for spacing and time allotted.

The Concert Chorale has had a remarkable history under the leadership of Texas visionaries B. R. (Bev) Henson (1929-1998) and Ronald Shirey (1933-2009) with TMEA, SWACDA, and National ACDA Conference appearances. Under Shirey's leadership, the Chorale performed numerous times at Carnegie Hall.

The Chorale frequently collaborates with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the TCU Symphony, and numerous choral ensembles from Dallas/Ft. Worth. The Chorale was also featured as one of two university choirs to perform at the 2018 TMEA Annual Conference and recently performed at the SouthWestern American Choral Directors Association Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.



*The TCU Concert Chorale in PepsiCo Recital Hall, Spring 2019*

# TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

## *Concert Chorale*

Faith Adams	Calen Garza	Tristan Olvedo
Isaiah Allen	Olivia Garza	Sydney Palomo
Aubrey Bosse	G. G. Nathan Gepanaga	Emily Platon
Amber Bowen	Grace Griffin	Hayden Ponder
Jordan Brinkschroeder	Janson Guillen	Rachel Rowe
Rachel Brookover	Joshua Haupt	Abbey Sensenich
Jacob Brown	Rachel Heiser	Tristen Smith
Chloe Bruns	Abigail Hurd	Andy Stellar
Kayden Burns	Adrianna Jagodzinski	Tyler Stuart
Sarah Clark	Jack Johnson	Annika Stucky
Isaak Crum	Peyton Macha	Patrick Vu
John Dubois	Ben McKean	Andrew Walters
Jacob Dyksterhouse	Maddie Miller	Jessica Webba
Coleton Evans	Anna Morgan	Maggie Williams
Kalina Fajardo	Nikos Myrogiannis-	
Olivia Flores	Koukos	

## THE VOCAL ARTS AT TCU

### MISSION

To educate and empower students of the Vocal Arts to perform at the highest level  
in their art and in their lives

### VISION

To take our place as a leading center of excellence in Vocal Arts:  
regionally, nationally, and globally

### GOALS

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