



The TCU School of Music Presents

TCU CONCERT CHORALE

# **O GUIDING NIGHT, O PERFECT LOVE**

FALL CONCERT 2021

Arborlawn United Methodist Church  
October 25th, 7:00pm

Free & Open to the Public

**TCU**



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

**O Guiding Night,  
O Perfect Love**

Performed by the

TCU

*Concert  
Chorale*

Christopher Aspaas, *conductor*

Annika Stucky & Janson Guillén, *assistant conductors*

Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, *collaborative pianist*

October 25, 2021

ARBORLAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Fort Worth, TX

## PROGRAM

### **i. infinite love**

- from *Prayers of Kierkegaard* Samuel Barber
- Hear My Prayer (premiere) Christopher Aspaas
- “Kyrie” from *Mass in B minor*, BWV 232 Johann Sebastian Bach  
Annika Stucky, *conductor*

### **ii. the springtime of lovers**

- The springtime of lovers* Jalāl ad-Dīn Mohammad Rūmī
- Lamma badaaaa yatathannaa Traditional mūwashshah  
arr. Shireen Abu-Khader
- Los suspiros no sosiegan Juan del Encina  
Janson Guillén, *conductor*
- In the Arc of Your Mallet* Jalāl ad-Dīn Mohammad Rūmī
- Invitation to Love (premiere) Till Maclvor Meyn
- O Guiding Night Roderick Williams

### **iii. perfect love**

- Dominus Vobiscum Sydney Guillaume
- Seekers* Dorothy Walters
- O Perfect Love arr. Stephen M. Murphy

## NOTES

Our program this evening is an exploration of love: love desired; an invitation to love; and, the celebration of love realized. The genesis of the program came from Till Meyn's *Invitation to Love*, an amazing setting of poetry by Paul Lawrence Dunbar, an African-American poet from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Dr. Meyn's composition was written for premiere by the King's Singers, one of the world's most well-known professional vocal ensembles, but then the pandemic... We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to premiere this work, and also to work with Dr. Meyn in preparation for our performance this evening.

The first selection in our program comes from Samuel Barber's *Prayers of Kierkegaard*, a work of about eighteen minutes in length for choir, soprano soloist, and orchestra. Barber fills this chant, sung by the tenors and basses, with complex metrical shifts that are juxtaposed against the "unchanging" and "infinite love" of the Creator. The Chorale will move without pause into our second piece, my own setting of Psalm 39, *Hear My Prayer*, written for tonight's performance. While the opening melody hearkens to Henry Purcell's touchstone setting, dissonant harmonies and metrical shifts take us in a very different direction. The discord of the piece seeks to emphasize the longing and need of one who feels unimportant, small, and like a stranger to God. The piece slowly builds several times, eventually reaching out with a tremendous crescendo followed by an unresolved plea, "hear my cry." J. S. Bach's second "Kyrie" from the *Mass in B Minor* follows with a fugue that opens with an unsettling series of half-steps (F# G E#) traded between the voices. The piece rises and falls in dynamic and energy, arriving at the climax with a series of cascading melodies beginning with the sopranos and moving downwards until arriving at a satisfying F# major final sonority.

Our second set of pieces begins with *Lammaa Badaa Yatathannaa*, Shireen Abu-Khader's arrangement of an Arabic *mūwashshah*, whose origins date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The swaying 10/8 rhythm evokes the attraction and captivation of the singer for the one he loves. We move to the Renaissance and Spain with a work whose mood will not be calmed or find rest until seeing the one that they love. While simple in form (ABBA), Juan del Encina's *Los sospiros no siegan* captures the essence of the text with tension-building harmonies. This brings our program to Till Meyn's new work, *Invitation to Love*. Meyn paints the text with brilliant effects throughout the

piece, and portrays a wistful and sometimes somber expression during textless interludes. The work ends with an unsettled offer, "welcome..." A dramatic opening from the piano opens our next piece, *O Guiding Night* by Afro-British composer Roderick Williams. The text from St. John of the Cross, a Spanish mystic, describes the journey of the soul from the body to its union with God using imagery of one stealing into the night to meet with their lover.

Our final two selections celebrate love in musically distinctive ways. Sydney Guillaume's *Dominus Vobiscum* utilizes complex and layered rhythms from his home country of Haiti. The libretto, written by the composer's father, Gabriel Guillaume, responds to the Latin phrase "Dominus vobiscum" (The Lord be with you) in Haitian Creole (God is among us. God is in the depths of our hearts). Our final work, *O Perfect Love*, has been selected for performance by the 2022 TMEA All-State Mixed Chorus, and was arranged by Stephen Murphy, a current member of the Oakwood University faculty. The work's higher tertian/jazz harmonies are representative of works by one of the Murphy's composition teachers, Cedric Dent of the popular a cappella group, Take 6. Murphy's textless transitions between verses are thoughtful and expressive, and set up a beautiful ending to the work and our program.

### **A Special Thanks to composer Sydney Guillaume**

The Concert Chorale was able to work with composer Sydney Guillaume on his *Dominus Vobiscum* and other works as the result of funding and support from a TCU College of Fine Arts Programming and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative Programming Grant and support from the TCU School of Music. In addition to his clinic with Chorale, Mr. Guillaume lectured to a Choral Literature class on the "Music of Haiti," noting specifically the influence of traditional rhythms and rhythmic units on contemporary choral composition. His presentation highlighted the vibrancy of Haitian culture in contrast to the mostly tragic news from Haiti related to natural disasters and immigration.

TEXT & TRANSLATIONS

from *Prayers of Kierkegaard*

Samuel Barber

O Thou Who are unchangeable,  
Whom nothing changes,  
May we find our rest  
and remain at rest  
in Thee unchanging.  
Thou art moved  
and moved in infinite love by all things:  
the need of a sparrow, even this moves Thee;  
and what we scarcely see,  
a human sigh,  
this moves Thee, O infinite Love!  
- Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)

Hear My Prayer

Christopher Aspaas

Hear my prayer, O God,  
and give ear to my cry.  
Don't be silent at my tears.  
My life's but a hand's breadth to you, O God,  
for I am a stranger with you.  
Hear my cry, O God.  
- Psalm 39, alt

“Kyrie” from *Mass in B minor*, BWV 232

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Kyrie eleison*

*Lord, have mercy*

**Lammaa badaaa yatathannaa**

**Traditional mūwashshah  
arr. Shireen Abu-Khader**

*When whom I love started to sway  
(Oh night...oh my eye!)  
The beauty of my lover attracted me  
though a wink which captivated me  
When they swayed their body looked like a bent branch  
(Oh my awful luck, oh my confusion!)  
Who will have mercy on my yearnings, but the sovereign of beauty.*

**Los suspiros no sosiegan**

**Juan del Encina**

Los suspiros no sosiegan	<i>The sighs I send you</i>
que os envió,	<i>will not be calmed</i>
hasta que a veros llegan,	<i>until they manage to see you,</i>
amor mío.	<i>my love.</i>
No sosiegan ni descansan	<i>They will not be calmed</i>
hasta veros,	<i>or take rest</i>
y con veros luego amansan	<i>until they see you, and with seeing you</i>
en teneros,	<i>they will be eased by possessing you,</i>
y mis tristes ojos ciegan	<i>and my sad eyes,</i>
hechos río,	<i>turned into a river,</i>
hasta que a veros llegan,	<i>will be blind until they manage to see you,</i>
amor mío.	<i>my love.</i>

## Invitation to Love

Till Maclvor Meyn

*Come when the nights are bright with stars  
Or come when the moon is mellow;  
Come when the sun his golden bars  
Drops on the hay-field yellow.  
Come in the twilight soft and gray,  
Come in the night or come in the day,  
Come, O love, whene'er you may,  
And you are welcome, welcome.*

*You are sweet, O Love, dear Love,  
You are soft as the nesting dove.  
Come to my heart and bring it to rest  
As the bird flies home to its welcome nest.*

*Come when my heart is full of grief  
Or when my heart is merry;  
Come with the falling of the leaf  
Or with the redd'ning cherry.  
Come when the year's first blossom blows,  
Come when the summer gleams and glows,  
Come with the winter's drifting snows,  
And you are welcome, welcome.  
- Paul Lawrence Dunbar*



*One dark night,  
fired with love's urgent longings  
- O the sheer grace! -  
I went out unseen,  
my house being now all stilled.*

*On that glad night,  
In secret, for no one saw me,  
nor did I look at anything,  
with no other light or guide  
than the one that burned in my heart.*

*This guided me  
more surely than the light of noon  
to where he was awaiting me  
- him I knew so well -  
there in a place where no one appeared.*

*O guiding night!  
O night more lovely than the dawn!  
O night that has united  
the Lover with his beloved,  
transforming the beloved in her Lover.*

*Upon my flowering breast  
which I kept wholly for him alone, (in secret)  
There he lay sleeping,  
and I caressing him  
there in a breeze from the fanning cedars.*

*I abandoned and forgot myself,  
laying my face on my Beloved;  
all things ceased; I went out from myself, leaving my cares  
forgotten among the lilies.  
- Juan de Yepes y Alvarez (1542-1591)*

**Dominus Vobiscum**

**Sydney Guillaume**

*Dominus Vobiscum*

*The Lord be with you*

*Gran Mèt-la avèk nou,  
Li la nan mitan nou,  
Li la nan fon kè nou,  
Amen, Amen, Aleluya.*

*The Lord is with us,  
He is among us,  
He is in the depths of our hearts,  
Amen, Amen, Alleluia.*

*Depi nan tan benmbo  
Nap mache, nap chèche,  
nap mande:  
Ki lè, ki tan, ki jou, Limiè-a va  
leve pou vi delivre nou?  
Limiè lapè-a,  
Limiè la verite-a,  
Limiè la joua-a,  
Limiè lespwa-a,  
Limiè lanmou-a,  
Limiè la vi-a.*

*Since the beginning of time  
We have been searching, seeking,  
asking:  
When will the light come, at last,  
to deliver us?  
The light of peace,  
The light of truth,  
The light of joy,  
The light of hope,  
The light of love,  
The light of life.*

*Jodia an nou chante:  
"Dominus vobiscum"*

*Today, let us all sing:  
"Dominus vobiscum"*

*Gran Mèt-la avèk nou,  
Li la nan mitan nou,  
Li la nan fon kè nou,  
Amen, Amen, Aleluya.*

*The Lord is with us,  
He is among us,  
He is in the depths of our hearts,  
Amen, Amen, Alleluia.*

*Mache, chèche, mande:  
Li la nan mitan nou;  
Mache, chèche, mande:  
Li la nan fon kè nou.*

*Search, seek, ask:  
He is among us;  
Search, seek, ask:  
He is in the depths of our hearts.*

*Amen, Amen, Aleluya.*

*Amen, Amen, Alleluia.*

*- Gabriel T. Guillaume (b. 1939)*

## O Perfect Love

arr. Stephen M. Murphy

*O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,  
lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,  
that theirs may be the love that knows no ending,  
whom thou forevermore dost join in one.*

*O perfect Life, be thou their full assurance  
of tender charity and steadfast faith,  
of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance,  
with childlike trust that fears no pain or death.*

*Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;  
grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife;  
grant them the vision of the glorious morrow  
that will reveal eternal love and life.*  
- Dorothy F. Gurney (1858-1932)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

The TCU College of Fine Arts, Dr. Richard Gipson, Dean  
The TCU School of Music, Dr. Sean Atkinson, Director  
The TCU School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff  
The TCU School of Music Vocal Faculty,  
Angela Turner-Wilson, Division Chair

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Programming Grant



## TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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 five choral ensembles in the School of Music, the Chorale is a highly-select, auditioned group of forty-nine 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.

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. In January 2022, the Chorale will be featured at the Biannual Conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization hosted at Morehouse University, and recently performed at the 2020 SWACDA Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas as well as the 2018 TMEA Annual Convention in San Antonio.



*The TCU Concert Chorale in PepsiCo Recital Hall, Spring 2020*

# TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

## *Concert Chorale*

Isaiah Allen	Olivia Garza	Emily Platon
Aubrey Bosse	G. G. Nathan Geganaga	Hayden Ponder
Amber Bowen	Madilynn Gomez	Rachel Rowe
Landon Bradley	Janson Guillén	Ryan Sawicki
Rachel Brookover	Joshua Hauptert	Carson Scott
Jacob Brown	Rachel Heiser	Abbey Sensenich
Chloe Bruns	Jack Johnson	Tristen Smith
Kayden Burns	Alyssa Lewis	Andy Stellar
Emma Cave	Peyton Macha	Annika Stucky
Sarah Clark	Isaak McGuire	Sam Taylor
Alicia Cruz	Anna Morgan	Wesley Vaughn
Catherine DiGrazia	Tristan Olvedo	Patrick Vu
Victor Doan	Sydney Palomo	Andrew Walters
John Dubois	Courtney Parnitke	Maggie Williams
Coleton Evans	Alyssa Perrin	Macie Wright
Olivia Flores	Kat Piña	Sarah Zimmerman

### 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

## **UPCOMING CHORAL EVENTS:**

### **Fall Concert**

University Singers & Cantiamo  
PepsiCo Recital Hall  
7pm October 28<sup>th</sup>

### **Fall Concert**

Purple, White, & Blues Vocal Jazz Ensemble  
PepsiCo Recital Hall  
7pm November 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Winter Concert**

University Singers  
PepsiCo Recital Hall  
7pm December 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Winter Concert: The Marvel of This Night**

TCU Concert Chorale  
Arborlawn United Methodist Church, Ft. Worth, TX  
7pm December 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Winter Concert**

TCU Frog Corps & Cantiamo  
PepsiCo Recital Hall  
7pm December 7<sup>th</sup>

Visit [https://calendar.tcu.edu/school\\_of\\_music/calendar](https://calendar.tcu.edu/school_of_music/calendar) for more information, ticketing, and livestream links