

A photograph of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in a dark, starry night sky. The aurora displays vibrant green and blue hues, swirling across the upper half of the frame. Below the aurora, a snowy, hilly landscape is visible in the foreground, though it is out of focus. A crescent moon is visible in the upper right corner of the sky.

# **SINGING GIRLS OF TEXAS** **NORDIC TOUR**

of Denmark, Sweden, and Finland

**COLLABORATIVE CONCERT WITH**  
**TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY CHORALE**  
**MARCH 6, 2024 | 7:00PM**



# PROGRAM

Singing Girls of Texas presents

## **BOUNDLESS** TALES OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Rauði Riddarinn

Stardust

Kaipaava

Boundless

Gådevisen (The Riddle Song)

My Soul is Awakened

Tystnaden

Touch the Sky from “Brave”

Hreiðar Ingi Þorsteinsson

B.E Boykin

Traditional Finnish/arr. Jussi Chydenius

Katerina Gimon

Traditional Danish/arr. Ole Faurschou

Sarah Quartel

Frida Johansson/arr. Kraja

arr. Mac Huff





# ABOUT THE TOUR

During the Spring of 2021, SGT began to do zoom sessions with current living choral composers to learn more about their creative process, inspiration, and to dig into their pieces that were programmed for them. On one of these days, our singers met Sarah Quartel. This composer zoom was not ordinary - it was extraordinary. The connection that Sarah built immediately with our students and the connection they gave right back was palpable, even through a computer screen. After several email exchanges, it was decided that this connection needed to be explored through a composer-in-residence format.

We had no idea what that meant for us, but we knew it would be special.

Conversations around treble choir music, the lack of larger works for treble choirs, and the need to elevate and celebrate SSAA repertoire began to fuel incredible inspiration. Many ideas about what the piece could be able were thrown around until a dissertation on the stages of womanhood in a Finnish poem was brought to the table. It seemed serendipitous as Sarah's mentors were in Finland and the characters of this poem represented many facets of not only girlhood but also humanity.

Once the seed was planted, it only made sense to create a tour that not only visited Finland, but also explored the European countries that celebrate and elevate the treble choir. The countries we are visiting have some of the best treble choirs in the world, including the award-winning Aarhus Girls Choir, SORA (formerly EVE), Bella Voce in Lund, Sweden, The Adolf Filkkors Girls Choir in Stockholm, Sweden, and the Sibelius High School Girls Choir in Helsinki, Finland.

Our students will be meeting and collaborating with over 200 singers from these countries!

Singing Girls of Texas is so excited to be traveling to Denmark, Sweden, and Finland from March 7-17, 2024. Please help support our students in their endeavors!



# SGT PERSONNEL



NAYELY AGUIRRE



KAILYN ALEE



CHRISNA BENSON



CAROLINE BURSHEARS



JANIRIS CAEZ-MERCADO



CAITLYN CASTILLO



FIONA CORBIN



ABIGAIL DAVIS



SOPHIA DOMINGUEZ



ALEXA FLORES



NATALIA GOLEBIEWSKI



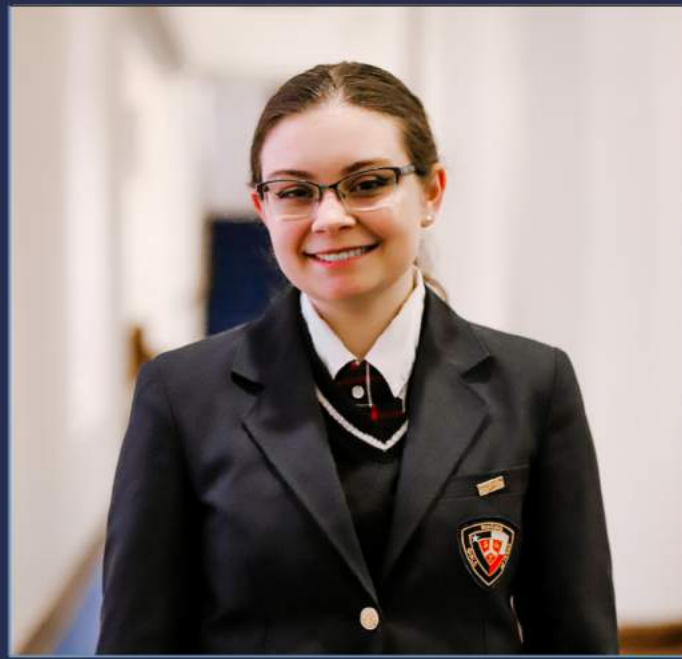
MADELEINE GRIM



# SGT PERSONNEL



PROMISE HENDERSON



RORIE HERLACHE



SILVIA HO



SARAH HOWELL



KOLBY HRIBAR



SELAH HUGHES



NOVELLA HUYNH



SAM IKEDA



JAYLA JOHNSON



KAYLEE LEHR



MEREDITH MARTIN



SUSANNA MEYN



# SGT PERSONNEL



AILEEN MORALES



KYLEE NICHOLS



MICHELLE PEARCE



SAWYER POE



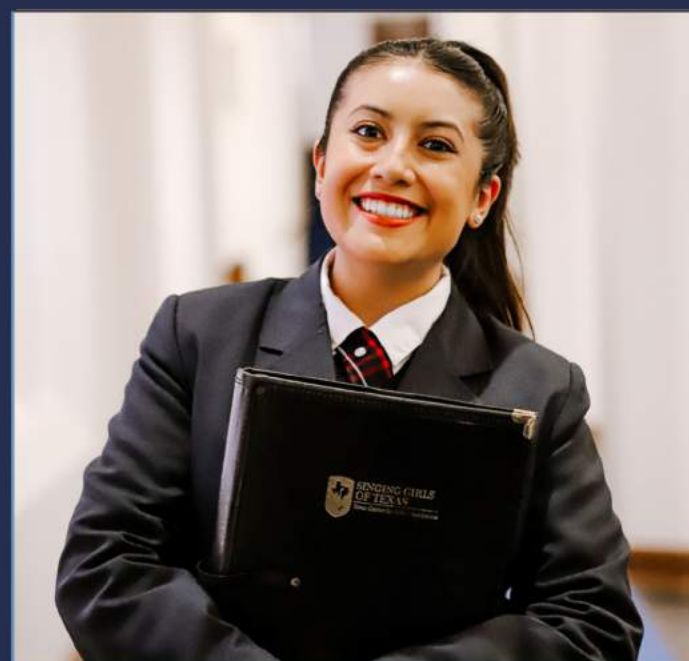
KATE PORTELE



MADELYN PRICKETT



EMMA RABER



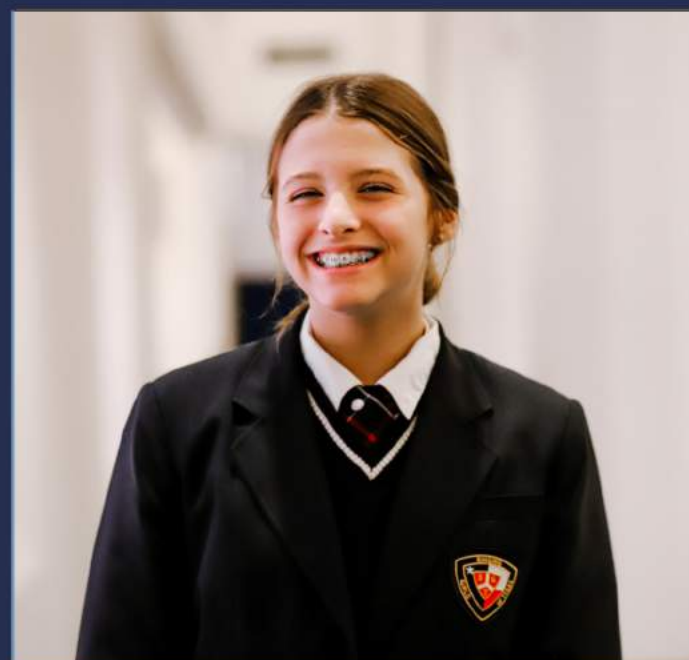
ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ



LIZULY RODRIGUEZ



EVIE RUNNELS



JULIANNA RZECHULA



JORDAN SALEM



# SGT PERSONNEL



AVERY SCROGGINS



JAYLA SMITH



SAVANNAH SOLSBERY



EMBRY STRINGER



VIRGINIA SZOK



ACACIA THOMAS



ZAMYA WIDEMON



RACHEL WILLIAMS



KENLEY YOUNG



KERRA SIMMONS

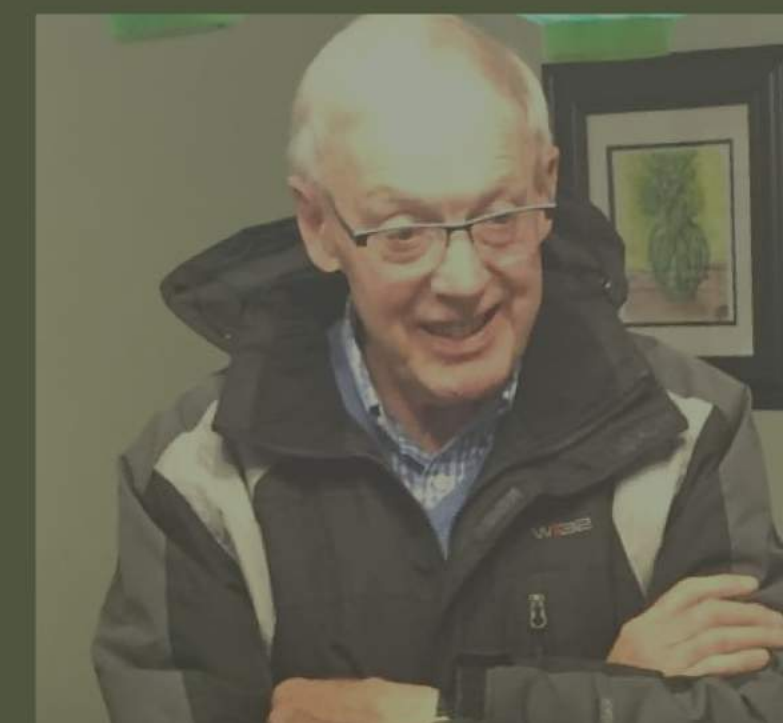


SEWON KIM





# Where Brave Souls Have Walked Before Us



presented by the TCU Concert Chorale

March, 6, 2024 | 7:00 PM

VAN CLIBURN CONCERT HALL at TCU



# WHERE BRAVE SOULS HAVE WALKED BEFORE US

March 6, 2024

Van Cliburn Concert Hall

7:00 p.m.

**Debbie Seitter**, Conductor

**Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao**, Collaborative Pianist

## **Collaborating Musicians**

Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, Organ

Lucas Raulino, Violin

Lyndsey Walker, Viola I

Juan Vega, Viola II

Alexander J. Jaime, Cello

Giuliano Bucheli, Cello

## **TCU Cello Ensemble**

**Dr. Herlin**, director

Giancarlo Gonzales

Nathan Hoang

Daniela Herrera Garcia

Alexander Jaime

Grady O'Gara

Riley Kee

Emily Torkelson

Giuliano Bucheli

Edna Rincon Jimenez

*This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements of a  
Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting.  
Debbie Seitter is a student of Dr. Christopher Aspaas.*



# NOTES ON OUR PROGRAM

The Concert Chorale's program, *Where Brave Souls Have Walked Before Us*, is about life and death. Our first selection, *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 61, is a cantata by Johann Sebastian Bach. With its profound depth, Bach's music speaks not only to the Christian story of Jesus' birth but also to broader themes of hope and salvation. In the opening section, Bach combines the ancient Advent melody *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* with a French royal overture. Such an overture was played as the king entered, which is very fitting for the reading on the first Sunday of Advent when Jesus entered Jerusalem as a king riding on a donkey.

Claudio Monteverdi's Italian madrigal *Si ch'io vorrei morire* includes themes of desire. Death in this context is not a literal yearning for the end of life but a metaphor for a state of ecstasy where the lover wishes to remain forever, beyond the constraints of mortal existence. Next in the program is Norman Dello Joio's *Come to Me, My Love*, a setting of Sara Teasdale's poem *Echo*. It beautifully encapsulates the longing for the return of cherished moments or loved ones who have passed. This longing reflects the enduring impact of love and loss, suggesting that our connections with those who have passed continue to shape our lives and experiences.



The *Dies Irae* text, originating from the Latin Requiem Mass, vividly portrays the Day of Judgment. Z. Randall Stroope sets this ancient hymn to describe the human experiences of fear, hope, and the longing for peace. Abbie Betinis' *God of Owls* is about seeking comfort and guidance in facing the unknown or feared aspects of life. It is a request for the strength to walk paths that others have bravely walked before.

*Pavane* by Gabriel Faurè is a reference to a slow, processional dance that originated in Europe in the 16th century. The work serves as a metaphor for the journey of life and the passage of time. The inevitability of the conclusion of the dance, and by extension life, is highlighted, emphasizing the natural cycles of life and death.

Alice Parker's *Come Away to the Skies* explores the transition from life to death. The song's emphasis on joy, celebration, and spiritual ascent offers a hopeful perspective on death, framing it as a continuation of life's journey rather than a definitive end. Our program ends with Carol Barnett's *By and By*, a reflection on life's burdens and the hope for redemption. The song envisions an afterlife free from earthly sorrows and offers hope for something beyond life.



# Where Brave Souls Have Walked Before Us

**Debbie Seitter**, Conductor

**Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao**, Collaborative Pianist

Please, hold applause until the end of each set

## I.

### **Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 61**

J.S. Bach

No. 1 Chorale Fantasia: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

(1685-1750)

No. 6 Chorale: Amen, Amen, komm du schöne Freudenkrone

Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, Organ

Lucas Raulino, Violin

Lyndsey Walker, Viola I

Juan Vega, Viola II

Alexander J. Jaime, Cello

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## II.

### **Si, ch'io vorrei morire**

Claudio Monteverdi

(1567-1643)

### **Come to Me, My Love**

Norman Dello Joio

(1913-2008)

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## III.

### **Dies Irae**

Z. Randall Stroope

(b.1953)

### **God of Owls**

Abbie Betinis

soloists: Kaylyn Davis, Anna Borges, Lydia Taylor, and Kai Diamond

(b.1980)

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## IV.

### **Pavane**

Gabriel Faurè

(1845-1924)

with TCU cello ensemble

Dr. Herlin, director

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## V.

### **Come Away to the Skies**

Alice Parker

(1925-2023)

### **By and By**

Carol Barnett

soloists: John Dubois, Casey McEvoy, Adrian Martinez, and Morgan Drummond

(b.1949)

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# WHERE BRAVE SOULS HAVE WALKED BEFORE US

*Please, hold applause until the end of each set*

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## I.

***Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 61***

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

No. 1 Chorale Fantasia: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

No. 6 Chorale: Amen, Amen, komm du schöne Freudenkrone

### **No. 1 Chorus:**

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland,  
der Jungfrauen Kind erkannt,  
des sich wundert alle Welt,  
Gott solch Geburt ihm bestellt.

Now come, savior of the gentiles,  
recognized as the child of the Virgin,  
at whom all the world is amazed, that  
God decreed such a birth for him.

-Martin Luther's ancient Advent melody

### **No. 6 Chorale:**

Amen, amen!  
Komm, du schöne Freudenkrone,  
bleib nicht lange!  
Deiner wart ich mit Verlangen.

Amen, amen!  
Come, you beautiful crown of joy,  
do not delay for a long time!  
I wait for you with longing.

-Final verse of Philipp Nicolai's *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*"

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## II.

### **Si, ch'io vorrei morire**

Claudio Monteverdi  
(1567-1643)

Sì, ch'io vorrei morire,  
ora ch'io bacio, amore,  
la bella bocca del mio amato core.

Oh yes, I would welcome death;  
now, as I kiss, O love,  
the soft lips of my beloved.

Ahi, car' e dolce lingua,  
datemi tanto umore,  
che di dolcezza in questo sen' m'estingua!

Ah, tongue so dear and sweet,  
bestow such nectar upon me  
that I die of delight on your breast!

Ahi, vita mia, a questo bianco seno,  
deh, stringetemi fin ch'io venga meno!  
Ahi, bocca! Ahi, baci! Ahi, lingua! Torn' a dire:  
Sì, ch'io vorrei morire!

Ah, my love, upon this snowy breast  
hold me, I pray, until I faint!  
Ah, lips, ah kisses, ah tongue, I repeat:  
Oh yes, I would welcome death.

### **Come to Me, My Love**

Norman Dello Joio  
(1913-2008)

Come to me in the night.  
Come to me in the silence of the night;  
Come in the speaking silence of a dream;  
With soft and rounded cheeks and eyes as bright  
As sunlight on a stream;  
O come, come back in tears,  
My love of finished years,  
In dreams too sweet, too bitter sweet,  
Of Paradise where souls of love abide and meet,  
Come back my love.  
Come back to me.

Yet, come to me in dreams that I may live my life again.  
A memory of those thirsty, longing eyes,  
Those eyes so bright.  
Come back to me my love that I may give,  
Pulse for pulse, breath for breath;  
Speak low, lean low  
O come in silent dreams, my love;  
And whisper low, as long ago.

-Echo by Christina Rossetti

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### III.

#### ***Dies Irae***

Z. Randall Stroope  
(b. 1953)

Dies irae, dies illa  
quando judex est vantage  
Solvat saeculum in favilla,  
Cuncta stricte discussurus!  
Teste David cum sibylla.  
Pie Jesu Domine, Salve me.  
Quantus tremor est futurus,  
dona eis requiem.

Day of wrath, day that  
when the judge comes  
Dissolve the world into burning coals,  
To strictly sentence all.  
As David prophesied with the Sibyl.  
Merciful Lord Jesus, help me.  
How great trembling there will be,  
Grant them rest.

#### ***God of Owls***

Abbie Betinis  
(b. 1980)

soloists: Kaylyn Davis, Anna Borges, Lydia Taylor, and Kai Diamond

God of Owls and of all night creatures,  
both great and small, walk also with us  
who fear the dark. Accustom our eyes  
to that [part of the world] which turns away  
from the sun; prevent us from being blind  
to what we're afraid to see.

Whenever our spirit is sleepless,  
share us stars to outline a landmark tree  
or to see the sheltering hills.  
Teach our feet to feel for the ground  
where brave souls have walked before us.

- Anonymous  
(note: text in brackets omitted by the composer)

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## IV.

### ***Pavane***

Gabriel Fauré  
(1845-1924)

**TCU Cello Ensemble**

**Dr. Herlin, director**

Giancarlo Gonzales

Nathan Hoang

Daniela Herrera Garcia

Alexander Jaime

Grady O'Gara

Riley Kee

Emily Torkelson

Giuliano Bucheli

Edna Rincon Jimenez

C'est Lindor, c'est Tircis  
et c'est tous nos vainqueurs!  
C'est Myrtille, c'est Lydé!  
Les reines de nos coeurs!  
Comme ils sont provocants!  
Comme ils sont fiers toujours!  
Comme on ose régner sur nos  
sorts et nos jours!

Faites attention!  
Observez la mesure!  
Ô la mortelle injure!  
La cadence est moins lente!  
Et la chute plus sûre!

Nous rabattons bien leur caquets!  
Nous serons bientôt leurs laquais!  
Qu'ils sont laids! Chers minois!  
Qu'ils sont fols! (Airs coquets!)

Et c'est toujours de même,  
et c'est ainsi toujours!  
On s'adore! On se hait!  
On maudit ses amours!  
Adieu Myrtille, Eglé, Chloé,  
démons moqueurs!  
Adieu donc et bons jours  
aux tyrans de nos coeurs!  
Et bons jours!

It is Lindor, it is Tircis,  
and it is all our victors!  
It is Myrtille, it is Lyde!  
The queens of our hearts.  
As they are defying!  
As they are always proud!  
As we dare rule our fates  
and our days!

Pay attention!  
Observe the measure!  
Oh mortal insult!  
The cadence is rushed!  
And the fall more certain!

We'll make them sing a different tune!  
We will soon be their running dogs!  
They are ugly! Dear little face!  
They are madmen! (Quaint airs and tunes!).

And it is always the same,  
and so forever!  
We love! We hate !  
We curse our loves!  
Farewell Myrtille, Egle, Chloe,  
mocking demons!  
Farewell and good day  
to the tyrants of our hearts!  
And a good day!



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V.

***Come Away to the Skies***

Alice Parker  
(1925-2023)

Come away to the skies, My beloved arise,  
And rejoice in the day thou wast born:  
On this festival day, Come exulting away,  
And with singing to Zion return.

We have laid up our love and our treasures above,  
Though our bodies continue below:  
The redeemed of the Lord will remember His word,  
And with singing to paradise go.

Hallelujah, we sing to our Father and King,  
And His rapturous praises repeat,  
To the Lamb that was slain, Hallelujah again,  
Sing all heaven and fall at his feet!

-traditional hymn by Charles Wesley

***By and By***

Carol Barnett  
(b.1949)

soloists: John Dubois, Casey McEvoy, Adrian Martinez, and Morgan Drummond

O by and by, by and by,  
I'm gonna lay down my heavy load.

I know my robe's gonna fit me well,  
Cause I tried it on at the gates of hell.

O hell is deep and in dark despair,  
So stop, poor sinner and don't go there.

Oh, one of these mornings, bright and fair,  
Gonna take my wings and cleave the air,

Oh when I get to heaven gonna sing and shout,  
For there's no one there to shut me out,

-traditional spiritual and revival hymn

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# TCU Concert Chorale



Abney, Mary Grace  
Borges, Anna  
Bradley, Landon  
Burns, Kayden  
Cassie Westlund  
Cave, Emma  
Cruz, Alicia  
Davis, Kaylyn  
Diamond, Kai  
DiGrazia, Catherine  
Drummond, Morgan  
Dubois, John  
Fischer, Brennan  
Garza, Olivia  
Gomez, Madilynn  
Guerrero, Eduardo  
Harvey, Owen  
Langham, Kaylynn  
Martinez, Adrian  
McCracken, Tim  
McDaniel, David  
McDonald, Dory  
McEvoy, Casey  
McGregor, Ethan  
Medlin, Jae  
Moeller, Will  
Nelson, Charlie  
Perez, Saul  
Perrin, Alyssa  
Riek, Jordan  
Schulte, Katie  
Scott, Carson  
Sofia Dahm  
Squires, Sarah  
Taylor, Lydia  
Taylor, Sam



**Thank you to the TCU Administration, Faculty, and Staff  
who daily contribute to student success.**



The TCU College of Fine Arts, Dr. Amy Tully, Dean  
The TCU School of Music, Dr. Sean Atkinson, Director  
The TCU School of Music Vocal Faculty,  
Dr. James Rodriguez, Division Chair

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Rod and Leigh Anne Seitter  
Dr. Christopher Aspaas  
Dr. Marla Ringel  
Dr. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao  
Dr. Juliette Herlin  
Dr. German Gutiérrez  
Dr. Corey Trahan  
Dr. James Rodriguez  
Sydney Palomo  
David Mejía  
Corey Hale & the TCU stage team  
The TCU Concert Chorale

**Chorale would like to dedicate this program in memory of:**

Jeremy Bowen  
Deane Bruce  
Virgilio A. Cajipe  
Juan Mauricio Dubois  
Olga Dubois  
Jake Ewingand  
Eliseo Hernández  
Gertrude Hyde  
McKenna Johnson  
Patrick McEvoy  
Virginia McEvoy  
Alan Moreland  
Janie Parra  
Jeanette Parra  
Girard Seitter III  
Margaret Sinnott Seitter  
Carolyn Venetoff