



ENSEMBLE CONCERT SERIES

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

P R E S E N T S

SACRED PLACE

MARLA RINGEL, CONDUCTOR

ELIJAH ONG, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

in collaboration with

LIZ MORALES-MORENO, VIOLIN

DANIELA HERERA-GARCIA, CELLO

Thursday, November 14th at 7:00 PM

Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

music.tcu.edu



CONCERT CHORALE

CHORAL ARTS at

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

DR. CHRISTOPHER ASPAAS

Concert Chorale (auditioned)

MUSI 10040/60040

M 4:00-5:20 | TR 3:30-4:50

Frog Corps (non-auditioned)

MUSI 10140/60140

T 7:00-9:00

DR. MARLA RINGEL

University Singers (auditioned)

MUSI 10060/60060

TR 11:00-12:20

Cantiamo (non-auditioned)

MUSI 10130/50970

TR 2:00-2:50

DR. AMY STEWART

Vocal Jazz (auditioned)

MUSI 10070/60070

MWF 12:00-12:50

CONTACT US FOR DETAILS!

SING@TCU.EDU



UNIVERSITY SINGERS

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ELIJAH ONG, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

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Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

PROGRAM

ALLELUIA

JAKE RUNESTAD

THE OAK

BECKY MCGLADE

Daniela Herera-Garcia, cello

I AM THE GREAT SUN

JUSSI CHYDENIUS

THE NEW MOON

DAVID CHILDS

SACRED PLACE

ALEX BERKO

1. Opening Prayer
2. Amidah
3. Shema
4. Mi Shebeirach
5. Kaddish
6. Closing Prayer

in collaboration with

Liz Morales-Moreno, violin

Daniela Herera-Garcia, cello



ALLELUIA

JAKE RUNESTAD

THE OAK

BECKY MCGLADE

text by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Live thy Life,
 Young and old,
Like yon oak,
Bright in spring,
 Living gold;

Summer-rich
 Then; and then
Autumn-changed
Soberer-hued
 Gold again.

All his leaves
 Fall'n at length,
Look, he stands,
Trunk and bough
 Naked strength.

Daniela Herera-Garcia, cello

I AM THE GREAT SUN

JUSSI CHYDENIUS

text by Charles Causley

I am the great sun, but you do not see me,
 I am your husband, but you turn away.
I am the captive, but you do not free me,
 I am the captain but you will not obey.
I am the truth, but you will not believe me.
 I am the city where you will not stay.
I am your wife, your child, but you will leave me,
 I am that God to whom you will not pray.
I am your counsel, but you will not hear me,
 I am your lover whom you will betray.
I am the victor, but you do not cheer me,
 I am the holy dove whom you will slay.
I am your life, but if you will not name me,
 Seal up your soul with tears, and never blame me.

THE NEW MOON

DAVID CHILDS

text by Sara Teasdale

Day, you have bruised and beaten me,
As rain beats down the bright, proud sea,
Beaten my body, bruised my soul,
Left me nothing lovely or whole —
Yet I have wrested a gift from you,
Day that dies in dusky blue:

For suddenly over the factories
I saw a moon in the cloudy seas —
A wisp of beauty all alone
In a world as hard and gray as stone —
Oh who could be bitter and want to die
When a maiden moon wakes up in the sky?

SACRED PLACE

BY ALEX BERKO

ABOUT THE WORK

"Sacred Place is an ecological service that connects the old with the new, the sacred with the secular, and the individual with their community. The outline of the work is a Jewish service. However, rather than Jewish prayers, the text is made up of various writers and thinkers who speak of the environment as a place of safety, comfort, and beauty. The piece is at times a meditation and at times an impassioned prayer for the world we inhabit and share.

Sacred Place is broken into 6 movements: Opening Prayer, *Amidah*, *Shema*, *Mi Shebeirach*, *Kaddish*, and Closing Prayer. Opening Prayer and Closing Prayer use the same serene Wendall Berry passage from the poem "The Porch over the River." *Amidah* (to stand) uses snippets of a letter written by John Muir to Theodore Roosevelt asking him to meet at Yosemite National Park.

Muir pleads Roosevelt to "stand" with him in preserving this land. *Shema* (to listen) uses a poem by William Stafford who urges us to listen to what the earth is saying. *Mi Shebeirach* (a prayer for the sick) is the only English translation of the Hebrew prayer in the work. In the Jewish service, the *Mi Shebeirach* is often the emotional peak as it asks for the congregation to pray for those in need of healing. I view this movement as a call to action for us as inhabitants of the earth to do our part to heal it. Finally, *Kaddish* (a prayer for the dead) uses a very short line from the Bengali writer Rabindranath Tagore speaking about the sunset as a metaphor for remembering those who are no longer with us.

The title *Sacred Place* holds many meanings. Each writer that I have chosen views the earth as sacred. They speak of us as inhabitants, as visitors. Without the earth, there is no us. There is a deep, unifying power in collective listening that transcends a single person or a single group's traditions. I am thinking about the concept of the "service" in the broadest sense: coming together to sit, listen, breathe, and understand. The audience is entering a sacred space within themselves, silently resonating with those around them." — Alex Berko

SACRED PLACE

ALEX BERKO

Liz Morales-Moreno, violin
Daniela Herera-Garcia, cello

I. OPENING PRAYER

text by Wendell Berry

excerpt from "The Porch Over the River"

In the dusk of the river, the wind
gone, the leaves grow still—
The beautiful poise of lightness,
The heavy world pushing toward it.

Eduardo Guerrero, soloist

II. Amidah

*text by John Muir to Teddy Roosevelt
on preserving Yosemite National Park*

How softly these mountain rocks are adorned, and how fine and reassuring the company they keep—their brows in the sky, their feet set in groves and gay emerald meadows, a thousand flowers leaning confidently against their adamantine bosses, while birds bees butterflies help the river and waterfalls to stir all the air into music—things frail and fleeting and types of permanence meeting here and blending as if into this glorious mountain temple Nature had gathered her choicest treasures, whether great or small to draw her lovers into close confiding communion with her.

III. Shema

text by William Stafford

The earth says have a place, be what that place requires; hear the sound the birds imply and see as deep as ridges go behind each other. (Some people call their scenery flat, their only pictures framed by what they know: I think around them rise a riches and a loss too equal for their chart—but absolutely tall.)*

The earth says every summer have a ranch that's minimum: one tree, one well, a landscape that proclaims a universe sermon of the hills, hallelujah mountain, highway guided by the way the world is tilted, reduplication of mirage, flat evening: a kind of ritual for the wavering.

The earth says where you live wear the kind of color that your life is (grey shirt for me)* and by listening with the same bowed head that sings draw all things into one song, join the sparrow on the lawn, and row that easy way, the rage without met by the wings within that guide you anywhere the wind blows.

Listening, I think that's what the earth says.

Kaylynn Langham & Miguel Pesce, soloists

IV. Mi Shebeirach

Traditional Jewish Prayer

May the source of strength
Who blessed the ones before us
Help us find the courage
to make our lives a blessing
And let us say Amen

Bless those in need of healing
with *r'fuah sh'leimah*
The renewal of body,
the renewal of spirit
And let us say Amen

V. Kaddish

text by Rabindranath Tagore

Let my thoughts come to you, when I am gone,
like the afterglow of sunset at the margin of starry
silence.

*Kai Diamond, Cade Harrison, Sara Lwin, Adrian
Martinez, Will Moeller, & Sophia Yang, small group*

VI. Closing Prayer

text by Wendell Berry

excerpt from "The Porch Over the River"

In the dusk of the river, the wind
gone, the leaves grow still—
The beautiful poise of lightness,
The heavy world pushing toward it.

Telvin Culbertson, soloist



UNIVERSITY SINGERS

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Nick Aune
Landon Bradley
Sofia Dahm
Kaylyn Davis
Kai Diamond
Morgan Drummond
Eduardo Guerrero
Kaylynn Langham
Sara Lwin

Adrian Martinez
Tim McCracken
David McDaniel
Will Moeller
Alyssa Perrin
Jordan Riek
Lydia Taylor
Sophia Yang

THE SINGERS

Adam Arntson
Elliot Banks
Casey Caldwell
Timothy Chong
Mayson Clarke
Skyler Cloyd
Kimy Coe
Camden Corley
Telvin Culberson
Ahmed Elghazali
Rachel Elrod
Brennan Fisher
Karolina Flores
Hailey Gallegos
Jordana Garcia
Sophia Giffin
Sophie Gwaldo
Cade Harrison
Claire Hatfield

Emmy Irvin
Ansley Keaton
Emma Kibuchi
Emma Lewis
Golda Marcello
Louise Martin
Sabrina Martinez
Ethan McGregor
Danna Melendez Leal
Anabelle Parra
Miguel Pesce
Gael Ivan Pizana
JJ Ruiz
Daniella Sellers
Elijah Sones
Emily Spretz
Trinity Stevens
Jadyn Thompson

MARLA RINGEL, CONDUCTOR
ELIJAH ONG, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

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



SPECIAL THANKS

TCU College of Fine Arts

Dr. Amy Tully, Dean

TCU School of Music

Dr. Marc Reed, Director

TCU Vocal Faculty

Dr. James Rodriguez, Division Chair

TCU Choral Faculty

Dr. Christopher Aspaas & Dr. Amy Pummill-Stewart



SCHOOL OF MUSIC