

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

CHORALE & CHAMBER SINGERS

DR. JEREMY MIMS, CONDUCTOR,
ZINORL BROÑOLA, PIANIST
SARAH OCHOA, GRADUATE ASSISTANT

DREAMS

ENSEMBLE SERIES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2023 – 7:30 P.M. – MCBRYDE HALL

PROGRAM

Ohtul **Paert Uusberg**
(b. 1987)

MLK **U2**
(Arr. Bob Chilcott)
(b. 1955)

Chorale
Justin Feaster, tenor

Te Lucis **Thomas Tallis**
(1505-1585)

Felicissimo Sonno **Carlo Gesualdo**
(1566-1613)

Silence and Music **Ralph Vaughn**
Williams
(1872-1958)

Chamber Singers

Vital Dance **Dale Trumbore**
(b. 1987)

Abendlied **Johannes Brahms**
(1833-1897)

Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine

Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)

Chorale

Olivia Newton, soprano
Lillie Kyger, soprano
Lorynn Kyger, soprano
Kaylee Stanaland, soprano
Chelsea Stepp, alto
Emma Swire-Clark, soprano
James Gragg, percussion

Gaur Akelarre

Josu Elberdin
(b. 1976)

Double, Double Toil and Trouble

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi
(b. 1963)

Chamber Singers

Hold Fast to Dreams

Roland Carter
(b. 1942)

Chorale and Chamber Singers
Blue Setzer, tenor

Flight Song

Kim André Arnesen
(b. 1980)

Bring Me All Your Dreams

Christopher H. Harris
(b. 1971)

Chorale

Chorale Roster

* Chamber Singers

Sopranos

Meera Chokshi
Jayla Council*
Savannah Grigg
Mackenzie Hafer*
Zoe Hartsfield
Deja King*
Lilie Kyger*
Lorynn Kyger
Olivia Newton
Sarah Ochoa*
Kaylee Stanaland*
Kaydee Stanton
Emma Swire-Clark*
Edy Yon*
Lura Zimmerman

Tenors

James Amaker*
Jaylin Brown
Justin Feaster
Eric Hughey*
Dan Rajaratnam
Caleb Selph
Blue Setzer*
Dallis Sheridan*
Wren Thompson*
NeTorian Patton*
Matthew Howard*

Altos

Yolanda Cleveland
Rhianna Dowling
Trinity Ferguson
Olivia Greene
McKenzy Harrison
Erica Jenkins
Mackenzie McKey*
Alisyn McClure
Abby Mervine
Peyton Moore
Maggie O'Toole*
Shaylah Ortiz-Howard*
Seyven Schleuter
Chelsea Stepp*
Olivia Zur Verth
Piper Jones
Kathryn Kiser*

Basses

Henry Barry*
Alex Bowers
Clyde Lee Fisher Carter
James Gragg*
Jack Johnson
Josiah Johnson*
Andrew Krabbenhoft*
Nekoda Moses
Harrison Warner
Nathan Wheaton*

Join us for "Holiday Delights," on December 2nd for our annual fundraiser. Scan the QR code below to purchase your tickets.



Program Notes:

Ohtul is an Estonian folk song arranged by Paert Uusberg. The composer is an active composer and choral singer, versed in Estonian choral culture. The text of this piece reads:

The little bird grows silent
as the wind blows.
The small flower falls sleep
caressed by the dew.

Twilight blushes
as she kisses the night.
The forest trees sleep
in memory and silence.

They are wistful
for my song,
now a silent memory,
as it paddles far away.

Te Lucis by Thomas Tallis is a Latin hymn written to be sung at Compline, the day's final service. Tallis' setting of the hymn is appropriately valedictory, with the words translating as "To thee before the close of day. Thomas Tallis was an extremely talented Renaissance English composer. Tallis flourished as a church musician in England during the turbulent sixteenth century. He holds a prominent place in anthologies of English church music and is regarded as one of the best of its earliest composers due to his life of service to others through his sacred and secular compositions.

Translation

O we pray to you, before the end of day,
creator of the world,
That with your usual forbearance
You might be our protector [for our keeping].

May the dreams and ghosts
Of night retreat;

Check our enemy [sin]
Lest our bodies be polluted.

Grant this Father, through your Son
Grant it through the caring Spirit
Who with these is one God
With three names.
Amen.

Translation from Latin to English copyright © 2012 by David Wyatt

Felicissimo Sonno comes from Carlo Gesualdo's *Fifth Book of Madrigals*. Gesualdo published this book of madrigals only six years before his death in 1611. They are regarded as radical settings because of the dissonance and how it is exposed. Carlos Gesualdo was a composer from the Renaissance. He was the Prince of Venosa, who killed his guilty wife and her lover in 1590. He later married into the d'Este family, who were the rulers of Ferrara, because their tastes in music matched his own. He composed a lot of sacred and secular vocal music, as well as a few instrumental pieces. He composed many sacred and secular vocal works in addition to some instrumental pieces.

Translation

Most happy sleep,
dwelling in the eyes of my lady
and so depriving us of light,
I beg you, take her a message in a dream
to show her the affliction of my soul;
when you leave her, let mercy remain in her
so that she awakes inclined to pity.

Translation by Mick Swithinbank

Silence and Music composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams, is the setting of a poem by his wife Ursula in 1953 to form part of "A Garland for the Queen", a collection of ten tributes to the newly-crowned Queen Elizabeth II by leading British composers and poets. In its harmonic language, floating soprano part, unaccompanied scoring, and eerie atmosphere, it is a tribute 'to the memory of Charles Villiers Stanford and his Blue Bird' and mirrors Stanford's masterwork. Ralph Vaughan Williams was a renowned romantic composer. He studied history at Cambridge and music at the Royal College of Music, where he was taught by Parry, Wood, and Stanford. Vaughan Williams believed in the importance of music education and wrote practical competition pieces as well as church music.

Vital Dance by Dale Trumbore gives way to a contemplation of life and mortality. This composition alternates between a simpler, comforting arpeggio and a precise, nearly metronomic motive, creating a dreamy, suspended-in-time dance-like atmosphere that makes us feel as though we're counting down the minutes. Born in 1987, Dale Trumbore is a composer and writer based in Los Angeles. The Washington Post has described her music as "devastatingly beautiful," and The New York Times has praised it for its "soaring melodies and beguiling harmonies deployed with finesse." Trumbore holds a dual degree in Music Composition (B.M.) and English (B.A.) from the University of Maryland, as well as a Master of Music degree in Composition from the University of Southern California. Originally from New Jersey, Trumbore currently lives in Azusa, CA, with her spouse and a perfectly reasonable number of cats.

Abendlied comes from Johannes Brahms' Four Quartets, Op. 92. Brahms had a great sense of lyrical quality throughout his life. In his opus 92, Vier Quartette ("Four Quartets"), for voices and piano, Brahms sets four poems by Hebbel, Daumer, Allmers, and Goethe. It is a particularly poignant example of his mastery of music. The cycle is about sultry reflections on fall, romantic nighttime ambiance, and romantic, covert, nocturnal misadventures.

Translation

Peacefully does night
struggle with the day:
how to muffle it,
how to dissolve it.

That which depressed me,
are you already asleep, o Pain?
That which made me happy,
say, what was it, my heart?

Joy, like anguish,
I feel has melted away,
but they have gently
invoked slumber instead.

And as I float away,
ever skyward,
it occurs to me that life
is just like a lullaby.

Translation from German (Deutsch) to English copyright © by Emily Ezust

Leonardo Dreams is by the prominent composer and conductor Eric Whitacre. Through music, Eric Whitacre aimed to capture the sensation of soaring over the rooftops and towers of an Italian Renaissance city, just as Leonardo da Vinci had imagined. He gained international recognition

for his revolutionary virtual choir projects, where singers from across the globe come together virtually to create harmonious choral performances. Whitacre's musical compositions, such as "Lux Aurumque" and "Sleep," have left an indelible mark on contemporary choral music. His innovative and technologically-driven approach to music has earned him numerous awards and accolades, establishing him as a leading figure in choral music.

Gaur Akelarre by Josu Elberdin tells the story of a coven of witches and warlocks preparing for the night through energetic rhythms and interesting melodic leaps and harmonic passages. Elberdin began his musical studies at Pasaia Musikal Conservatory, where he earned a degree as a piano and singing teacher. He is also a UPV (Universidad del Pas Vasco) graduate in social education. He has been a music teacher at Pasaia's Musical School since 2000, and he has also been an organist at Nuestra Señora del Carmen de Trintxerpe Church (Pasaia) since 1991. He has also written compulsory scores for international choral competitions such as the Tolosa International Choral Competition, Taipei International Choral Festival, Europa Cantat Junior, World Choral Symposium Argentina 2011 and Barcelona 2017, Quincena Musical de San Sebastián International Festival, Musikaste, and others.

Translation

Today coven, forests and meadows
colors of night, jai! (Cheer)
we celebrate our graces,
let us come.
Prepare, prepare now everything
Come, Juana Vicenta, come to our house
take the cauldron.
Go, Josemari and don't forget the herbs
if you don't do it the intxixu will put us in the pot.
(shouts of joy)
(expression of emotion)
Today, Coven! (shouts of joy)

Double, Double Toil, and Trouble by Jaakko Mäntyjärvi is based on William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The rhyming couplet is chanted by the supernatural three witches. The witches represent pure evil. They are not real characters, and, indeed, they can be seen simply as the voice of temptation in the mind of Macbeth. Shakespeare distinguishes them from the other characters by making them speak in a distinctive way. When Macbeth is at his wits end, sleepless with guilt, hated by everyone, his marriage broken, he goes to find the witches to try and find out how it's going to end for him. Jaakko Mäntyjärvi (b. 1963) is a Finnish translator and composer. Most of his output as a choral composer consists of choral works, some 150 of which have been published to date. He describes himself as an eclectic traditionalist.

Hold Fast to Dreams by Roland Carter is based on the poems "Dreams" and "Freedom's Plow" by Langston Hughes. Langston Hughes's "Dreams" advises us to nurture our dreams and that life has no meaning without them. "Freedom's Plow" describes Thomas Jefferson's immorality and hypocrisy in the Declaration of Independence. The American political system was founded on the Declaration of Independence, which sought to prevent oppression, tyranny, and despotism. Thomas Jefferson owned slaves who were governed without consent. The poem aims to recognize when a system is unjust and to redefine freedom so that it is inclusive of all. Roland M. Carter is a renowned musician, conductor, and professor, celebrated for his extensive contributions to American music. During his 23-year tenure at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, he excelled as a conductor, teacher, and scholar while actively promoting affirmative action. He is known for his compositions and arrangements, widely performed worldwide, and has received national recognition and awards. Carter's advocacy for the arts is evident through his involvement in various national and regional committees and associations. He is also the founder and CEO of MAR-VEL, a music publisher specializing in African American composers and traditions.

Flight Song by Kim André Arnesen is a captivating choral piece that beautifully captures the theme of hope and transcendence. Through ethereal harmonies and soaring melodies, it conveys a sense of liberation and the joy of taking flight, both metaphorically and literally, into a brighter future. The composition's uplifting and evocative nature makes it a moving musical experience. Kim André Arnesen is a Norwegian composer known for his exceptional contributions to choral and classical music. He studied composition at the Norwegian Academy of Music and has since gained international recognition for his compositions,

including choral works like "Magnificat" and "The Wound in the Water." Arnesen's music is celebrated for its emotional depth and modern sound, making him a respected figure in the world of contemporary classical music.

Bring Me All Your Dreams, by Christopher H. Harris, is based on the poem “The Dream Keeper” by Langston Hughes. The poem is about protecting our dreams from the harsh realities of life before they are crushed by "the two rough fingers of the world." Dr. Christopher H. Harris is a prominent music educator, conductor, composer, and performer originally from Fort Worth, Texas. He currently holds the position of Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Arkansas Tech University, where he conducts various choral groups and teaches courses in choral methods, conducting, and arranging. With a strong educational background, he earned a Ph.D. in Choral Music Education from Florida State University and master's in Choral Conducting from Ithaca College. Before his academic career, Harris achieved success as a public school teacher in Houston, Texas, earning accolades and honors for his choirs. He is also a published composer, receiving recognition and awards for his compositions, which have been performed internationally. Dr. Harris has a rich history of performing as a baritone soloist and continues to lead choirs that receive numerous performance invitations and honors.

Program notes by Sarah Ochoa.