

# Vox Grata

WOMEN'S CHOIR

Presents

## **“Lifting the Veil”** *Maidens, Mystics and Muses*

Jeanette MacCallum and Susan Kelly, Conductors  
John Semingson, Pianist

Second Presbyterian Church  
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Thursday, November 9, 2017

Free will offering to benefit The Mary Parrish Center

# Lifting the Veil

Please silence all cell phones and pagers for the duration of the program.

<b>Moon Goddess</b> ( <i>text by Enheduanna, 2300 BC</i> ) <i>Alan Fey and Jennifer Barnes, percussion</i>	Jocelyn Hagen
<b>Ave Generosa</b> ( <i>text by Hildegard of Bingen, 12<sup>th</sup> century</i> ) <i>Anna Horne, soloist</i>	Ola Gjeilo
<b>O Antiqui Sancti</b> ( <i>text by Hildegard of Bingen</i> ) <i>Elizabeth Stroud, soloist</i> <i>Quentin Flowers, bass; Alan Fey, percussion</i>	Michael Engelhardt
<b>Sing, Wearing the Sky</b> ( <i>text by Lalla Ded, 14<sup>th</sup> century</i> ) <i>Erica Scaramuzza, soloist</i> <i>Janet Darnall, violin; Alan Fey, percussion</i>	Jake Runestad
<b>Illuminations of Julian of Norwich</b> ( <i>text by Julian of Norwich, 14<sup>th</sup> century</i> ) <i>Elizabeth Stroud and Susan Kelly, soloists</i> <i>Alan Fey, handbells</i>	Daniel J. Hall
<b>Nada te turbe</b> ( <i>text by St. Teresa of Ávila, 16<sup>th</sup> century</i> ) <i>Emily Nelson, cello</i>	Joan Szymko
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<b>Remarks by concert beneficiary</b>	The Mary Parrish Center
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<b>I Cannot Hold You</b> ( <i>text by Juana Inés de la Cruz, 17<sup>th</sup> century</i> ) <i>We dedicate this song to the women served by The Mary Parrish Center</i>	Dana Wilson
<b>A Canticle of Blessing</b> ( <i>text by St. Thérèse of Lisieux, 19<sup>th</sup> century</i> ) <i>Janet Darnall, violin; Alan Fey, handbells</i>	Linda Tutas Haugen

# Vox Grata Women's Choir

## Soprano 1

\*Hannah Baisley  
Catherine Birdsong Broyles  
Brianna Daugherty  
Anna Horne  
Anne Louise Jones  
Aimee Moiso  
Emily Neely  
Diana Neely  
\*Libby Skolnik  
Leigh Sutherland  
Sharon Warfield

## Soprano 2

Jan Allison  
Emily Beavers  
Amanda Cormier  
Jj Ebelhar  
Katy Ferrell  
Susan Kelly  
Tracy Monaghan  
Anne Reeve-Osborne  
Jenna Payne  
\*Erica Scaramuzza  
\*Elizabeth Stroud

## Alto 1

\*Jennifer Barnes  
\*Julie Birdsong  
Devin Bradbury  
Kelly Christie  
Colleen Halfmann  
Jane-Coleman Harbison  
Amy Kadish  
Jane Kirchner  
Suzie Lane  
Mary Louise McCullough  
Haley Smith  
Rosie Smith  
Krysta Waldrop

## Alto 2

Sylvia Leins  
Denise Linn  
Caitlyn Lovell  
Jeanette MacCallum  
Linda McFadyen-Ketchum  
\*Mareike Sattler  
\*Nancy Williams-Nettles

\*Chamber choir in "Ave Generosa"

**Jeanette MacCallum** is the Director of Music Ministries at Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN and founder and Artistic Director of *Vox Grata*. She previously served as an Adjunct Professor in music theory and history at Belmont and Lipscomb Universities. In addition, she served as the Director of Choral Activities at Saint Cecilia Academy in Nashville, TN, from 2002 to 2012, where she conducted various ensembles and taught AP Music Theory. During her tenure at Saint Cecilia, the Advanced Choir received superior ratings at all regional and state adjudication festivals in which it participated. In addition, the St. Cecilia Advanced Choir performed at ACDA and TMEA state conferences. Mrs. MacCallum led the St. Cecilia Choir on performance tours to Carnegie Hall, Canada and Italy. In 2007, the Saint Cecilia Choir performed by invitation at the *Ospedale della Pietà* and the *Ospedale dei Derelitti* in Venice. Her students earned positions in numerous All-State and ACDA Honor Choirs.

Reared in Princeton, New Jersey, Mrs. MacCallum's passion for choral music began as a member of the distinguished Princeton High School Choir. She received her musical education at the Eastman School of Music and Belmont University, and received the Master of Church Music degree from Belmont. A frequent adjudicator and clinician, Mrs. MacCallum has directed choirs at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University, as well as at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN. She is the President of Tennessee ACDA and has served as the Tennessee Chair for Women's Choir Repertoire and Standards. Mrs. MacCallum is the Past President and Treasurer of the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association. She is also the author of "*The Sacred Choral Works of the Venetian Ospedali*," published by GIA in "*Conducting Women's Choirs: Strategies for Success*," Debra Spurgeon, Editor and Compiler (2012).

**Dr. Susan Kelly** was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Music/Choral Director at Tennessee State University. She directs the University Choir and Meistersingers, teaches classes in Music Education and Conducting, teaches Applied Voice, and serves as advisor for Club V, the student vegan organization. Aside from her work at TSU, Susan is the Associate Conductor for the Vox Grata Women's Choir, and serves as a soprano section leader at Westminster

Presbyterian Church. Additionally, she sings soprano with the Tennessee Chamber Chorus, a professional choir based in East Tennessee and The Cecilia Ensemble, a professional choir based in Augusta, Georgia.

Before coming to Tennessee State University, Dr. Kelly taught at Abington Heights High School in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, where she directed the 120-voice Concert Choir, the Women's Ensemble, the Men's Ensemble, and served as music director for the musical. She was also the director of the Cantare Choir of The Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania, a community high school women's ensemble that performed at both state ACDA and PMEA conferences. She also served as the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, and sang soprano with The Lyric Consort, an eight-voice vocal ensemble.

Susan holds undergraduate degrees in Music Education and English Education from Wilkes University, a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting from Temple University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of South Carolina. Prior to her move to TSU, Susan was active in both PMEA, in which she served as Choral Coordinator of District 9, and ACDA, in which she served as President-Elect Designate of ACDA-PA. Currently she is serving as the President-Elect for ACDA-TN.

**Dr. John W. Semingson** serves as Accompanist for Vox Grata Women's Choir. Since 2001, John has served as the Director of Music Ministries for Westminster Presbyterian Church – Nashville, where he oversees a multi-faceted music program of nine choirs involving over 200 children, youth, and adults. John holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting, the Master of Church Music in both conducting and organ, and the Bachelor of Music in organ performance. He has conducted and/or served as an accompanist for church, community, and university choirs in Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Tennessee over the past 30 years.

## Mission of Vox Grata

Vox Grata is comprised of joyful women who, out of gratitude for the fullness of their own lives, possess a desire to sing together for the benefit of others. The group performs repertoire that expresses a uniquely feminine spirit, especially works that promote the best interests of women in society. Vox Grata sings concert programs that directly benefit the needs of women in the Nashville community. Vox Grata is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization.

To be added to our mailing list, for information about supporting Vox Grata or to find out about auditions and upcoming events, please visit our website at [www.voxgrata.com](http://www.voxgrata.com), or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/VoxGrata>.

100% of the contributions received at this program will benefit The Mary Parrish Center whose mission is to provide a therapeutic transitional housing program and a myriad of loving, comprehensive services that enable survivors of domestic and sexual violence to heal from their abuse, reclaim their autonomy, and reawaken their hopes and dreams. All donations to The Mary Parrish Center are tax-deductible.

## Special Thanks

**Vox Grata Board of Directors** – St. Clair Blue, Karen Weir, Sylvia Leins, Susan Hassell, Laurie Cooper, Jennie Renwick, Jane Kirchner, Linda Koon, Jane Ferrell, Vicky Tarleton, Doug MacCallum, Jeanette MacCallum, and Franco Scaramuzza

**Kevin Edlin**, audio engineer

**Nolan Huizenga and Joe DeBusk**, AV and sound reinforcement

**Ian Petty**, website design

**Franco Scaramuzza and threeseventwo creative media**, graphic design

**Rev. Dr. Mary Louise McCullough**, Pastor, **Second Presbyterian Church**

**Dr. John Semingson**, Director of Music Ministries, **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

## Save the Dates

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018** – Vox Grata with Alias Chamber Ensemble, Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music, 7:30 PM

**Thursday, May 10, and Tuesday, May 15, 2018** – Vox Grata presents “A Living Voice: The Diary of Anne Frank” in connection with *Violins of Hope* concert series at The Temple (May 10) and Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music (May 15)

# Texts and Translations

## Moon Goddess

O my lady, on hearing your sound,  
hills and flatlands bow.  
O my lady, guardian of all the great essences,  
you have picked them up and hung them  
on your hand.  
You are lofty like Heaven. Let the world know!  
You are wide like the earth. Let the world know!  
You strike everything down in battle.  
O my lady, on your wings  
you hack away the land and charge disguised  
as a charging storm,  
roar as a roaring storm,  
thunder and keep thundering, and snort  
with evil winds.  
O primary one,  
moon goddess Inanna of heaven and earth!  
On your harp of sighs  
I hear your dirge.  
O my lady, this song has made you great  
and exalted you.  
O my lady, wife of An, I have told your fury!

*(Adapted by composer, based on adaptations by Aiki and Willis Barnstone,  
from William W. Hallo and J.J.A. van Dijk, The Exaltation of Inanna (New  
Haven: Yale University Press, 1968)*

## Ave Generosa

Hail, girl of a noble house,  
shimmering and unpolluted,  
you pupil in the eye of chastity,  
you essence of sanctity,  
which was pleasing to God.

## O Antiqui Sancti

O ancient holy ones,  
why do you marvel at us?  
The Word of God gleams brightly within  
the human form,  
and therefore, we shine with him,  
enhancing the parts of his beautiful body.

## Sing, Wearing the Sky

Meditate, within eternity.  
Don't stay in the mind.  
The soul, like the moon, is new and always new again.  
Since I scoured my mind and my body, I too, Lalla, am new, each moment new.  
My teacher told me to "live in the soul" –  
when that was so, I began to go naked and dance!  
Dance, Lalla, with nothing on but air!  
Sing, Lalla, wearing the sky!  
Look at this glowing day!  
What clothes could be more beautiful, or more sacred?

## **Illuminations of Julian of Norwich**

All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.  
It behoved that there should be sin.  
And for Love He made humankind,  
and for the same Love would be man.  
Turning all our blame into endless worship.  
Alleluia!  
Mercy is a sweet gracious working in love,  
mingled with plenteous pity.  
For mercy worketh in keeping us,  
and mercy worketh turning to us all things to good.  
All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.

## **Nada te turbe**

Let nothing disturb you,  
nothing frighten you,  
all things are passing.  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things.  
Whoever has God lacks nothing.  
God is enough.

## **I Cannot Hold You**

I cannot hold you and I can't leave you,  
and sorting the reasons to leave you or hold you,  
I find an intangible one to love you,  
and many tangible ones to forgo you.  
Oh!  
As you won't change, nor let me forgo you,  
I shall give my heart a defense against you,  
though the other half be ready to adore you.  
Oh!  
Then, if our love, by loving flourish,  
let it not in endless feuding perish!  
Let us speak no more in jealousy and suspicion!  
Oh!  
He offers no part, who would all receive  
so know that when it is your intention,  
mine shall be to make believe.  
Oh!  
I cannot hold you! I cannot leave you!

## **A Canticle of Blessing**

May today there be peace within.  
May you trust God that you are where you are meant to be.  
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.  
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.  
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.  
Let this presence settle into your bones,  
and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.  
It is there for each and every one of us.  
Alleluia!

# Program Notes

## Moon Goddess

Jocelyn Hagen

Enheduanna (born *c.* 2300 BC) was a moon priestess, the daughter of King Sargon of Agade, who reigned over the world's first empire, extending from the Mediterranean to Persia. Sargon is the first important leader to emerge from the half-light of prehistory into the full light of a written record. His daughter, Enheduanna, is the first writer, male or female, in history whose name and work have been preserved. Her personal history survives in highly politicized poems, which in their cosmic vision and ethical outrage recall Isaiah. In her poems to the Sumerian goddess of love Inanna, she speaks to a deity who has descended to earth as an ally, as a friend to help her in her need. In the poems' sensuality, surprising metaphors and intimacy recall Sappho's poems to her ally Aphrodite.

Composer Jocelyn Hagen (born 1980) composes music that has been described as "dramatic and deeply moving" (Star Tribune, Minneapolis/St. Paul). Much of her compositional output is for voice—solo, chamber and choral. An accomplished pianist and accompanist, Hagen holds degrees in Theory, Composition and Vocal Music Education from St. Olaf College and the University of Minnesota. This piece was commissioned in 2011 by a large consortium of women's choirs through the American Choral Directors Association.

## Ave Generosa

Ola Gjeilo

Hildegard of Bingen (born 1098) was a German writer, composer, Christian mystic and abbess of the Benedictine order. She was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012. Hildegard is often credited as the first important female composer in music history. Her poetry and melody reveal imagination and genius in expression. Her plainchant melodies, inspired by her daily singing of the Divine Office, are characterized by wide vocal ranges, large leaps and dramatic flourishes. She composed antiphons, responsories, sequences and hymns for monastic use. She is also credited for writing the first musical drama, "The Ritual of the Virtues." She believed music to be the highest form of praise to God.

Ola Gjeilo (born in 1978 in Norway) moved to the United States in 2001 to begin his composition studies at the Juilliard School in New York City, where he currently resides and composes full-time. Gjeilo is one of the most frequently performed composers in the choral world. His choral works have been widely recorded by the Choir of Royal Holloway, Voces8, the Phoenix Chorale, Tenebrae and many others. His music is described as cinematic and evocative, characterized by thick harmonies and rich textures recalling film scores.

## O Antiqui Sancti

Michael Engelhardt

Hildegard von Bingen's *Ordo Virtutum (Play of the Virtues)* is possibly the first sacred musical morality play ever written (*c.* 1151). The plot is quite basic – Anima (Soul), the main character, finds herself in a cosmic tug-of-war between the Virtues and the Devil, and the forces of good eventually triumph in the end.

The Prophets and Patriarchs open the play by raising the question, "Who are these, who seem like clouds?" *O Antiqui Sancti* is the chorus that the Virtues boldly sing in response.

Michael Engelhardt (born 1974) has made it his mission to compose music that appeals to the common listener. He frequently combines historical choral material with elements of pop, soul and electronic music to create new (and sometimes daring) sounds. To bring "choir to the people," he founded a social singing movement called Beer Choir in 2014. In this work, Engelhardt retains every note of the original chant melody but radically adapts it through contemporary harmony and groove.

## Sing, Wearing the Sky

Jake Runestad

Lalla, a 14<sup>th</sup>-century Sufi-mystic poet from the Kashmir region of India, believed strongly in the development of the self while reaching enlightenment. The metaphor of dancing while feeling free or naked exemplifies the beauty of empowerment and self-worth. Commissioned by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota and the Minnesota Music Educators Association in 2014/2015, this work uses influences of Classical Indian music and other vocal effects to allow Lalla's message to come to life.

Jake Runestad (born 1986) is an award-winning composer who has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles such as Seraphic Fire, the Netherlands Radio Choir and the Washington National Opera.

## Illuminations of Julian of Norwich

Daniel J. Hall

Julian of Norwich (born 1342) is venerated in both Anglican and Lutheran traditions as a deeply devout mystic. It is widely held that her *Revelations of Divine Love* (*c.* 1395) is the first book in the English language written by a woman. The text for this composition is a carefully selected amalgam of four fragments from her revelations. The word "alleluia" does not appear in any of the selected Julian texts, but the composition inspired such a response in a culminating passage. The two solos represent celestial messengers, reminiscent of the duo seraphim (two angels) calling to one another as set by master composers Victoria and Monteverdi.

Composer Daniel J. Hall (born 1971) is Director of Choral Activities at Ohio University. His compositions have been featured in venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center and his choral works have been performed at conventions and festivals throughout the United States.

### **Nada te turbe**

Joan Szymko

Saint Teresa of Ávila (born 1515) was a Spanish nun and one of the great mystics of the Roman Catholic Church who founded the Carmelite Reform. In 1970 she was the first woman to be elevated to doctor of the church by Pope Paul VI.

Joan Szymko (born 1957) is a composer and choral conductor in the Pacific Northwest. Her choral music is characterized by abundant lyricism, rhythmic intensity and vigorous attention to text. Especially noteworthy is her significant contribution to the body of literature for women's voices.

### **I Cannot Hold You**

Dana Wilson

Juana Inés de la Cruz (born 1651) was a self-taught philosopher, poet and composer of the Hieronymite order. Living in Mexico, she wrote poetry and prose dealing with such topics as love, feminism and religion. Ultimately, her criticism of the hypocrisy of men led to her condemnation by the Bishop of Puebla and most of her writings were confiscated. The poem which inspired this composition is translated from Spanish and describes a tormented woman who loves a man she knows is no good for her.

The compositions of Dana Wilson, Composer Emeritus at the Ithaca College School of Music have been performed throughout the United States, Europe and East Asia. His commissions have been performed by such diverse ensembles as the Chicago Chamber Musicians, the Netherlands Wind Ensemble and the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra. *I Cannot Hold You* is the fourth song in a set of songs for women's voices. The use of rapidly alternating major and minor chords portrays the intense ambivalence of the text.

### **A Canticle of Blessing**

Linda Tutas Haugen

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (born 1873) was a French Carmelite nun nicknamed "The Little Flower of Jesus." She serves as a model of sanctity for many Catholics because of the simplicity and practicality of her approach to the spiritual life. *A Canticle of Blessing* is a setting of her well-known prayer, often referred to as "St. Theresa's Prayer."

*A Canticle of Blessing* opens with choral alleluias, evoking a sense of timelessness during which the listener might imagine the life of the young St. Thérèse. As the text unfolds, each statement builds lyrically upon the previous one, moving to the dance-like setting of the last three lines. The solo violin both supports and presents expository material and the use of vibrating handbells or optional Tibetan singing bowls add a universal, meditative and spiritual presence.

Linda Tutas Haugen's music has been critically acclaimed as "music of character and genuine beauty" (Minneapolis Star Tribune). She has written for both instrumental and vocal ensembles and her choral music has been performed throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia.

The San Francisco Girls Chorus commissioned Haugen's tour-de-force "Anne Frank: A Living Voice" in 2004. Vox Grata performed the multi-movement work based upon the *Diary of Anne Frank* at their inaugural concert in 2013 and will present the piece again in conjunction with the Violins of Hope project in May 2018.



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*Vox Grata*  
WOMEN'S CHOIR

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Second Presbyterian Church Choir

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Based upon gifts received June 1, 2016 through present



## THE MARY PARRISH CENTER

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OUR MISSION is to provide a therapeutic transitional housing program and a myriad of loving, comprehensive services that enable survivors of domestic and sexual violence to heal from their abuse, reclaim their autonomy, and reawaken their homes and dreams.

### WHAT IS THE MARY PARRISH CENTER?

The Mary Parrish Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. Survivors can stay in our program for up to two years. Throughout their entire stay, we cover the costs of rent and utilities—eliminating one of the most significant barriers that survivors face in leaving an abusive relationship and becoming safe. In addition to safe, fully-furnished apartments, we offer a wide range of flexible and optional support services designed to enhance survivors' autonomy by nurturing their capacity to live independently, establish self-sufficiency, and secure permanent housing.

### HEALING STARTS WITH YOU.

Get involved as a volunteer or make a gift to help us enable survivors of domestic and sexual violence to heal from their abuse, reclaim their autonomy, and reawaken their hopes and dreams.

Take action today by completing a volunteer application or submitting a donation on our website at [www.maryparrish.org](http://www.maryparrish.org).