

VOX GRATA

celebrates its 10th anniversary
with

“You Belong to Infinity”

to benefit

FROM YOUR
FATHER

Tuesday, May 10, 2022, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Thursday, May 12, 2022, Second Presbyterian Church

Conducted by
Jeanette MacCallum, Susan Kelly and Ashley Vance
John Semingson, Accompanist

Custom videography by José Francisco Salgado

You Belong to Infinity

Night

Moonset	Don Macdonald
There Will Be Rest <i>Jane Kirchner, flute</i>	Daniel Kallman
A Witness to Majesty	Andrea Ramsey
Flying <i>Diana Dunn, oboe; Sherry Merideth, violin; Elizabeth Browne, cello</i>	Rachel DeVore Fogarty
The Dawn is not Distant <i>Donna Stokes-Rogers, soloist</i>	Christine Donkin

Dawn Breaks

Daybreak <i>Jesse Strauss, percussion</i>	Stephen Paulus
Sing, Wearing the Sky <i>Mareike Sattler, soloist; Sherry Merideth, violin; Jesse Strauss, percussion</i>	Jake Runestad

The Moon Rises Again

Stars	Sheldon Rose
As the Rain Hides the Stars	Elaine Hagenberg
Choose Something Like a Star	Randall Thompson
Stars in Your Bones	Joan Szymko

Please join us for a reception to celebrate our 10th anniversary at the conclusion of the concert!

Vox Grata Women's Choir

Sopranos

Jan Allison, Allison Asarch, Hannah Baisley, Brittany Carnegis, Amanda Craft, Amy Finka, Susan Kelly, Janice Kemp, Terry Maroney, Diana Neely, Anne Osborne, Sandra Shepherd, Brittany Smith, Ashley Vance, Kelly Walsh, Susan Wood

Altos

Annabelle Absar, Sara Chang, Kelly Christie, Brianna Corbett, Jane-Coleman Cottone, Emily Fenech, Jane Kirchner, Suzie Lane, Denise Linn, Jeanette MacCallum, Dory Miller, Mareike Sattler, Haley Smith, Rosie Smith, Donna Stokes-Rogers, Maggie Ward, Karen Weir

Board of Directors

Jan Allison, Jill Austin, St. Clair Blue, Kelly Christie, Teresa Davidson, Jane Ferrell, Vanessa Jackson, Denise Linn, Jeanette MacCallum, Kimberly Pace, Pam Schneller, Rosie Smith, Martha Trammell

Vox Grata is grateful to John Semingson and Westminster Presbyterian Church for providing rehearsal space for us each week!

**Would you be willing to provide us with valued feedback about this concert?
If so, we invite you to participate in a 1-minute survey by scanning this QR code:**



Thank you for helping us GIVE VOICE TO WOMEN IN SONG!

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These concerts are supported, in part, by federal award number SLFRP5534 awarded to the State of Tennessee by the U.S. Department of Treasury, by the Tennessee Arts Commission, by Metro Arts Nashville and by donors like you.



Did you know? When you purchase an Arts Specialty License plate in Tennessee, your fee is supporting the arts in your state through the grants provided by the Tennessee Arts Commission? Approximately 75% of all grant funding to Vox Grata and other arts organizations is provided through the specialty license plate program! Learn more at <https://tnspecialtyplates.org>.

Song Texts/Poetry Credits

Moonset

by Emily Pauline Johnson

Idles the night wind through the dreaming firs,
That waking murmur low,
As some lost melody returning stirs
The love of long ago;
And through the far, cool distance, zephyr fanned.
The moon is sinking into shadow-land.

The troubled night-bird, calling plaintively,
Wanders on restless wing;
The cedars, chanting vespers to the sea,
Await its answering,
That comes in wash of waves along the strand,
The while the moon slips into shadow-land.

O! soft responsive voices of the night
I join your minstrelsy,
And call across the fading silver light
As something calls to me;
I may not all your meaning understand,
But I have touched your soul in shadow-land.

There Will Be Rest

by Sara Teasdale

There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,
The music of stillness holy and low.

I will make this world of my devising
Out of a dream in my lonely mind,
I shall find the crystal of peace, - above me
Stars I shall find.

A Witness to Majesty ("Stars")

by Sara Teasdale

Alone in the night
On a dark hill
With pines around me
Spicy and still,

And a heaven full of stars
Over my head
White and topaz
And misty red;

Myriads with beating
Hearts of fire

That aeons
Cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven
Like a great hill,
I watch them marching
Stately and still,

And I know that I
Am honored to be
Witness
Of so much majesty.

Flying

based upon the words of Amelia Earhart

After midnight the moon set and I was alone with the stars.
I need no other flight to convince me
that the reason flyers fly,
whether they know it or not, is the appeal of flying.
The stars seemed near enough to touch
and never before have I seen so many.
I always believed the lure of flying is the lure of beauty,
but I was sure of it that night.

The Dawn is not Distant

Latin from Genesis: 15:5

English by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

English translation:

Look at the heavens and count the stars

The dawn is not distant, nor is the night starless.

Daybreak

Anonymous

The day breaks – the first rays of the rising Sun,
stretching her arms.
Daylight breaking, as the Sun rises to her feet.
Sun rising, scattering the darkness, lighting up the land
With disk shining, bringing daylight, lighting up the land.
People are talking, moving about, feeling the warmth.
Burning through the gorge she rises, walking westwards,
Wearing her waistband of human hair.
She shines on the blossoming coolabah tree,
with its sprawling roots, its branches spreading.

Sing, Wearing the Sky
excerpted from poetry by Lalla

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,
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 so beautiful,
or more sacred?

Stars
by Marjorie L.C. Pickthall

Now in the West the slender moon lies low,
And now Orion glimmers through the trees,
Clearing the earth with even pace and slow,
And now the stately-moving Pleiades,
In that soft infinite darkness overhead
Hang jewel-wise upon a silver thread.

And all the lonelier stars that have their place,
Calm lamps within the distant southern sky,
And planet-dust upon the edge of space,
Look down upon the fretful world, and I
Look up to outer vastness unafraid
And see the stars which sang when earth was made.

As the Rain Hides the Stars
traditional Gaelic prayer

As the rain hides the stars,
as the autumn mist hides the hills,
as the clouds veil the blue of the sky,
so the dark happenings of my lot
hide the shining of Thy face from me.

Yet, if I may hold your hand in the darkness,
it is enough.
Though I may stumble in my going,
You do not fall.

Choose Something Like a Star
by Robert Frost

O Star (the fairest one in sight),
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud –
It will not do to say of night,
Since dark is what brings out your light.
Some mystery becomes the proud.
But to be wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed.
Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says, "I burn."
But say with what degree of heat.
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
Use language we can comprehend.
Tell us what elements you blend.
It gives us strangely little aid,
But does tell something in the end.
And steadfast as Keats' Eremitic,
Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
to carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.

Stars in Your Bones
by Alla Bozarth

The small plot of ground
on which you were born
cannot be expected
to stay forever the same.
Earth changes,
and home becomes different places.
You took flesh from clay
but the clay did not come
from just one place.
To feel alive,
to feel important, and safe,
know your own waters
and hills, but know more.
You have stars in your bones
and oceans in blood.
You have opposing
terrain in each eye;
you belong to the land
and sky of your first cry,
you belong to infinity.

Program Notes

Moonset

Don Macdonald

Don Macdonald (born 1966) is an award-winning composer of film and concert music with an eclectic musical background as a performer, producer, educator, and conductor. Don's composition credits include music for theatre and dance, published choral works, and forays into everything from rock and jazz to world and folk music. A multiple Canadian Film Awards nominee and 3-time Leo Award winner, he has over fifty film music credits and has worked with many of the major studios including 20th Century Fox and Lions Gate Films. Macdonald's choral works have been performed and recorded by many fine ensembles all over the world including Rajaton (Finland), the Vancouver Chamber Choir (Canada), and the Luther College Nordic Choir (USA).

Moonset is taken from the composer's six-movement suite entitled *Fire-Flowers* commissioned by the University of Western Ontario Women's Choir.

There Will Be Rest

Daniel Kallman

Daniel Kallman's compositions for orchestra, winds, and choir are widely published and performed across the United States, Europe and east Asia. He has composed for the National Symphony Orchestra, the Air Force Academy Band, the Hong Kong Children's Choir, the Minnesota Orchestra, A Prairie Home Companion, and VocalEssence, among others. Kallman resides in Northfield, Minnesota where he has served as a member of the St. Olaf College music faculty and as a church musician.

A Witness to Majesty

Andrea Ramsey

Dr. Andrea Ramsey enjoys an international presence as a composer, conductor, scholar and music educator. Before leaping into full time composing and guest conducting, Andrea held positions at The Ohio State University and the University of Colorado Boulder, respectively. An award-winning composer with approximately 100 works to date, she believes strongly in the creation of new music. A native of Arkansas, Andrea has experienced in her own life the power of music to provide a sense of community, better understanding of our humanity and rich opportunities for self-discovery.

Flying

Rachel DeVore Fogarty

Rachel DeVore Fogarty's works have been commissioned, awarded, or performed by premiere choral and instrumental ensembles including ACDA national honor choirs, St. Olaf College, VocalEssence, Muse (Cincinnati Women's Ensemble), the Concert Chorale of Nashville and the Festival Singers of Atlanta. Rachel received both her M.M. in Composition and her B.M. in Piano from Belmont University and now resides in Long Island City, NY with her husband, musical theatre composer Kevin Fogarty.

The Dawn is not Distant

Christine Donkin

Christine Donkin was born into a musically active family in northwest Alberta, Canada. She studied composition at the University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia. She now composes choral, chamber, and orchestral works which are performed across Canada and beyond. *The Dawn is not Distant* joins fragments of text from two very different sources – the Latin scriptures and writings of H.W. Longfellow. Through this marriage of word, a new meaning is created.

Daybreak

Stephen Paulus

Raised in Minnesota, Stephen Paulus studied piano in his youth and later earned a doctorate degree in composition from the University of Minnesota, where his teachers included Dominick Argento. While a doctoral student in 1973, Paulus, ever a supporter of the music and careers of his colleagues, cofounded the American Composers Forum, still the largest composer-advocacy organization in the United States. His music has been described by critics as rugged, angular, lyrical, lean, rhythmically aggressive, original, often gorgeous, moving, and uniquely American.

Day Break comes from *The Earth Sings*, a set of pieces for female chorus.

Sing, Wearing the Sky

Jake Runestad

Lalla, a 14th-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.

Stars

Sheldon Rose

Ontario-based composer Sheldon Rose creates a tone of wonder and awe in his setting of a poem by Canadian poet Marjorie C. Pickthall (1883-1922), once thought to be the "best Canadian poet of her generation."

As the Rain Hides the Stars

Elaine Hagenberg

Composer Elaine Hagenberg has crafted an exquisite setting of a traditional Gaelic prayer, with the piano providing an important personification of the text itself. Hagenberg writes, "Desolate and uncertain, the dissonant opening piano motifs of *As the Rain Hides the Stars* evoke an image of dismal rain on stark hills. As the text portrays one who is lost and searching for clarity, voices weave and wander, yearning for direction. With transitions to C minor, the piano creates churning triplets of longing and unrest, but at last resolves into hope. As the clouds part, the sun shines clearly for the first time. The voice enters softly but with assurance, eventually proclaiming together in confident unison, 'Yet, if I may hold your hand in the darkness, it is enough. Though I may stumble in my going, you do not fall.'"

Choose Something Like a Star

Randall Thompson

This piece is the final movement of *Frostiana*, Seven Country Songs for men's, women's and mixed voices with band or orchestra. The set was commissioned in 1958 for the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of Amherst, Massachusetts. The premiere was conducted by the composer, and the poet was present for the occasion. Randall Thompson, eminent American composer, led a successful career as both composer and educator, holding academic positions at a number of prestigious colleges and universities, including Princeton and Harvard, New England Conservatory of Music and the Curtis Institute of Music.

Stars in Your Bones

Joan Szymko

Joan Szymko (born 1957), in addition to being an active composer, has directed choirs in the Pacific Northwest for over twenty-five years. Abundant lyricism, rhythmic integrity and vigorous attention to text are hallmarks of her diverse and distinctive choral writing. Especially noteworthy is Szymko's significant contribution to the body of literature for women's voices. Her music provides opportunities for women's choruses to stretch beyond the ordinary and expected, to the refreshing and powerful. In 2010, Szymko was selected as the composer of the Raymond W. Brock Commission by the American Choral Directors Association.

The opening chords and exuberant opening unison of *Stars in Your Bones* suggest the "big bang" – the singular explosion theorized by astronomers as the origin of our expanding universe. The piano ostinato that follows consists of a 5-note 16th-note pattern over a steady quarter-note 5/4 pulse, lending an unstable, fluctuating quality to the lyrics: "Earth changes..." As the underlying rhythm in the accompaniment settles, the lyrical quality of the setting takes hold, building toward a galvanizing, uplifting expression of "belonging."