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season
46
2014 - 2015




VOCALESSENCE
PRESENTS
**RADIO
HOUR**
AT
FITZGERALD THEATER



Christina Baldwin



Jake Heggie

Sponsored by
NEWMUSIC
USA

A Commission and Regional Premiere of The Radio Hour by Jake Heggie was supported by New Music USA, made possible by annual program support and/or endowment gifts from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Francis Goellet Charitable Lead Trusts, Anonymous.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AT 8 PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 15 AT 4 PM



2014-2015
46TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

SPECIAL THANKS
FOR THE SUPPORT
OF THIS CONCERT

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RADIO HOUR

Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 8 pm
Fitzgerald Theater
10 East Exchange Street
Saint Paul, MN

Pre-Concert Conversation with Classical Minnesota Public Radio Host John Birge, composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer at 7 pm.

Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 4 pm
Fitzgerald Theater

Pre-Concert Conversation with Classical Minnesota Public Radio Host John Birge, composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer at 3 pm.

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers
Philip Brunelle, *conductor*
Christina Baldwin, *actor*
Nikki Swoboda, *director*
Charles Kemper, *pianist*

2014-2015 SEASON SPONSORS



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

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VOCAL ESSENCE

1900 Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403
612-547-1451
www.vocalescence.org

VocalEssence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



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**In remembrance*

Artistic Staff

Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director
Sigrid Johnson, Associate Conductor
Charles Kemper, Accompanist

PLEASE NOTE

- This concert may be recorded for broadcast — please help us keep the performance space quiet. Take a moment now to check that all cell phones, paging devices, wristwatch alarms and the like are turned off before the concert begins. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Recording devices and cameras are prohibited. No photography, video, or audio recording is allowed in the concert hall. Please abstain from texting, tweeting or checking your email during the concert.
- Student and group discounts are available for most VocalEssence concerts. Half-price tickets are available to students (ages 6-18 and college) with a student ID. Groups of 10 or more save 15% on tickets. Children under age 6 are not allowed at VocalEssence performances, except for select community and family concerts, including ¡Cantaré! and **Star of Wonder**.
- Accessible seating is available at all of our concert venues. However, some of our facilities do not have elevator access to the balcony level. Please make your needs known when you order tickets.
- You may return VocalEssence single concert tickets for resale up to 48 hours prior to a performance. No refunds or exchanges can be given; however, you will be sent a receipt for your tax-deductible contribution. (VocalEssence subscribers may call 612-371-5642 to request free ticket exchanges and lost ticket replacement.)
- Latecomers will be seated at appropriate pauses in the concert according to the conductor's wishes. Please plan plenty of time for locating the concert venue and parking. Or better yet, allow an extra hour and join us for **Concert Conversations** with the composers and artists, held one hour before most concerts.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Janet Babcock, Ecumen Seasons
at Maplewood
John Birge, Minnesota Public Radio
Jack and Linda Hoeschler
William Morrissey
Judy Sagen

VINTAGE VOICES

VocalEssence would like to welcome our special guests attending this **Radio Hour** concert through the **VocalEssence Vintage Voices** program, which enriches the appreciation of choral music for older adults in the Twin Cities.

Ecumen Seasons at Maplewood

TEXT

God Bless America

*Irving Berlin (1918, 1938 revised)
arr. Hawley Ades (1962)*

God bless America, land that I love;
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home.

VocalEssence would like to
thank The Saint Paul Hotel.



THE SAINT PAUL HOTEL

THE PROGRAM

VOCALESSENCE CHORUS

Philip Brunelle, *conductor*

| | |
|---|---|
| Viva l'Amour | arr. Hawley Ades (1962) |
| Begin the Beguine | Cole Porter (1935), arr. Kirby Shaw (1991) |
| Home on the Range | arr. Mark Hayes (1990) |
| God Bless America | Irving Berlin (1918), arr. Hawley Ades (1962) |
| All the Things You Are | Jerome Kern (1939), arr. Mark Hayes (2014) |
| Vigolin | Norman Luboff (1958) |
| Those Were the Days Medley | arr. Paul Gerike (2015) |
| <i>Gilligan's Island</i> (1964) | |
| <i>Oscar Mayer Wieners</i> (1965) | |
| <i>Mister Rogers' Neighborhood</i> (1967) | |
| <i>Ding Dong School</i> (1952) | |
| <i>The Howdy Doody Show</i> (1956) | |
| <i>Armour Hot Dogs</i> (1967) | |
| <i>The Mickey Mouse Club</i> (1955) | |
| <i>Bonanza</i> (1959) | |
| <i>Green Acres</i> (1965) | |
| <i>Sesame Street</i> (1970) | |
| <i>The Roy Rogers Show</i> (1951) | |
| Grandma's Thanksgiving | Harry Simeone (1947) |

— INTERMISSION —

THE RADIO HOUR

Jake Heggie, Gene Scheer (2014)

Midwest Premiere

Commissioned by Pacific Chorale, VocalEssence,
Conspirare, and The Philadelphia Singers

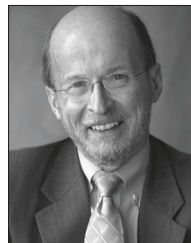
Part One: A Really Bad Day
Part Two: Through the Door
Part Three: A New Day

Christina Baldwin, *Nora*
VocalEssence Ensemble Singers
Philip Brunelle, *conductor*
Nikki Swoboda, *director*
Scotty Gunderson, *scenic designer*
Wu Chen Khoo, *lighting designer*
Carissa Bombard, *stage manager*

ORCHESTRA ROSTER

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Flute: Jane Garvin | Bass: Christopher Brown |
| Clarinet: Rena Kraut | Percussion: David Hagedorn |
| Alto saxophone: Joan Hutton | Piano: Charles Kemper |
| Violin: Alastair Brown | Contractor: Christopher Volpe |
| Cello: Diane Tremaine | |

WELCOME TO RADIO HOUR



Throughout the 46 years of VocalEssence there have been a number of firsts when it comes to staging operas: There was Mozart's *La Finta Giardinera*—fully staged at the original Guthrie Theater, and

because the story takes place in a garden, the entire stage *was* a garden, with the largest number of fresh flowers ever seen (or smelled) on the Guthrie stage! In subsequent years we staged Rossini's *La Gazza Ladra* at the Fitzgerald (with Fred Kaemmer as the magpie up in a tree!), Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Snow Maiden* at O'Shaughnessy, P.D.Q. Bach's *Oedipus Tex* at the just-opened Ordway Theater, and Britten's *Paul Bunyan* at the Ordway and at the Aldeburgh Festival in England. This is just part of the list of operas and musicals that VocalEssence has staged over the years, which also includes works by Aaron Copland, Kurt Weill, Cole Porter and Leonard Bernstein.

Now, for the first time, we present a fully-staged opera for the Ensemble Singers composed by Jake Heggie, one of the outstanding American opera composers of his generation. We are delighted to have this opportunity and pleased that both composer and librettist (Gene Scheer) are joining us for these performances of *The Radio Hour*.

I also want to feature our fantastic Chorus—and the best way is to harken back to the early days of radio when network stations had radio choirs in residence. Fred Waring was first, organizing a choir in 1939 for radio broadcast prepared by Robert Shaw. In 1948 Waring began a five-year television stint along with his radio broadcasts which evolved into Fred Waring and His Pennsylvanians. Waring had a brilliant staff of arrangers (including Harry Simeone and Roy Ringwald) and they—along with names like Norman Luboff and Hawley Ades—brought choral music to an ever-widening audience through the medium of radio. And we can't forget Kate Smith and her Singers—without them I doubt Irving Berlin would have had such a patriotic success!

Enjoy this time with early radio and television—past and present!

— Philip Brunelle,
Artistic Director and Founder, VocalEssence

PROGRAM NOTE

The Radio Hour: A Choral Opera

Jake Heggie (b. 1961) and Gene Scheer (b. 1958)

We've all experienced "one of those days." When everything in the world seems to be set against you, ready to mock and make life more difficult.

If only a magic door would open and transport you to a different place. After all, Alice fell into Wonderland, Dorothy barreled to Oz, and Wendy flew with Peter Pan to Neverland. But what about Nora? A lonely, hard-working, middle-aged woman no longer in the playground of childhood fantasy. Is there still a magic door for her?

Welcome to *The Radio Hour*, where sound tracks and sound waves are going on inside, around and through us all the time: It's up to us to decide what to tune in and what to turn off. But first, along with Nora, we have to discover that the connection begins within. By now, Gene Scheer and I have created two full-length operas (*Moby-Dick*, *Three Decembers*), a one-act opera (*To Hell and Back*), numerous song cycles (*Camille Claudel*, *Rise and Fall*, *Pieces of 9/11*, etc.), as well as *Out of Darkness*, a Holocaust remembrance opera in three parts (*Another Sunrise – Farewell*, *Auschwitz – For a Look or a Touch*). One of our guidelines for taking on a new project is that it has to terrify us a little bit. We actively seek out challenging projects, but, truthfully, when John Alexander (artistic director and conductor of the Pacific Chorale) asked us to create a choral opera, our first response was:

A what?

John had a feeling that there was new territory to be explored in the choral repertoire, and that it had to do with the mixing of genres. But, operas require action, characters, conflicts, journeys, transformation, movement. Choirs stand still and make beautiful sound. Right? Still, loving a challenge, Gene and I said: "Yes! Of course. A choral opera!"

What seemed like a challenge turned out to be a mind-bending, extraordinarily difficult climb. What does a choral opera look and sound like? We thought of existing stories, but soon realized we'd need an original story. The biggest question was what were all those choristers going to DO on stage? We needed a goal, a motivation that would bring it all together.

Choirs are about community, participation, a collective of human voices working together to express emotions. We decided we wanted to find a way to celebrate the transformative power of singing in our lives. But we needed a unifying focus for our journey, and we needed an actor.

That's when Gene found our central character, Nora, to be played by a silent actress. The choir would be her inner voice as well as the sounds she "channels." With the choir split in two at the beginning, we could hear Nora's inner voice as well as the sounds she chooses to hear. Recalling Ravel's magical *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, the choir could become objects in Nora's apartment, too. And the transformative journey would be actually to enter the sound waves, to open a portal into the radio, to make the choice to connect and become joyful, youthful and energized again.

This concept also allowed us to explore a wonderful variety of textures, colors and sounds: traffic noise, swing tunes, radio ads, a quasi-rap song, big band, a touch of 12-tone music, and finally a full, celebratory flowering of grand choral singing. It was an immensely challenging world to enter; and all of us experienced many "Nora days" along the way. But always, the magic of the choir, of connection, of community through singing, took us to the hopeful place on the other side of a door marked "possibility."

— Jake Heggie

VOCALESSENCE  Resonate

HAPPY HOUR
with Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer
after Radio Hour on Saturday, March 14



Great Waters Brewing Co.
426 Saint Peter Street, Saint Paul

BIOGRAPHIES



Jake Heggie is the composer of the operas *Moby-Dick*, *Dead Man Walking*, *Three Decembers*, *To Hell and Back*, *The End of the Affair*, *Out of Darkness*, and the choral opera

The Radio Hour. He has also composed more than 250 songs, as well as chamber, choral and orchestral works. The operas—most created with writers Terrence McNally and Gene Scheer—have been produced on five continents. *Moby-Dick* was telecast throughout the United States in 2013 as part of *Great Performances*' 40th Season and is the subject of a book by Robert Wallace, *Heggie & Scheer's Moby-Dick—A Grand Opera for the 21st Century*.

Upcoming are *Great Scott* in 2015 for the Dallas Opera, starring Joyce DiDonato, and *It's a Wonderful Life* for Houston Grand Opera in 2016. A Guggenheim Fellow, Jake served for three years as a mentor for Washington National Opera's American Opera Initiative. He is also a frequent guest artist and master teacher at universities and conservatories, including Boston University, Bucknell, Cornell, The Royal Conservatory in Toronto, University of North Texas, University of Colorado, and Vanderbilt University, and at festivals such as SongFest at the Colburn School, Ravinia Festival, and VISI in Vancouver. www.jakeheggie.com



Gene Scheer, librettist, is noted for the scope and versatility of his work. He has collaborated on a number of projects with composer Jake Heggie, including *Moby-Dick*,

Three Decembers, and *To Hell and Back*. Other works by Scheer and Heggie include *Camille Claudel: Into the Fire*, a song cycle premiered by Joyce DiDonato and the Alexander String Quartet. Gene worked as librettist with Tobias Picker on *An American Tragedy*, which premiered at the Metropolitan Opera in 2005, and their first opera, *Thérèse Raquin*, written for the Dallas Opera in 2001, was cited by Opera News as one of the 10 best recordings of 2002. Recent collaborations include the lyrics for Wynton Marsalis's "It Never Goes Away," featured in Wynton's work *Congo Square*. With composer Steven Stucky, Gene wrote

the oratorio *August 4, 1964*, a Grammy Award nominee. A composer in his own right, Gene has written songs for singers such as Renée Fleming, Sylvia McNair, Stephanie Blythe, Jennifer Larmore, Denyce Graves, and Nathan Gunn. Gene's "American Anthem," sung by Norah Jones, was featured in Ken Burns's Emmy Award-winning World War II documentary *The War*.



Christina Baldwin, a singer and actor who has engaged audiences on stage and in concert, is an advocate of new work and serves as artistic associate, music director and

performer with the Moving Company, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her Guthrie Theater collaborations range from Shakespeare works and contemporary plays to musical theater and operetta (PBS national broadcast of *HMS Pinafore*). A collaborator with Theatre de la Jeune Lune for nearly 10 years, Christina co-adapted and performed the title role in their critically-acclaimed touring production of *Carmen*. She is a frequent soloist and recording artist with the Minnesota Orchestra and has appeared with the Jungle Theater, Park Square Theater, Great American History Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, American Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Skylark Opera, Minnesota Opera, The Schubert Club, VocalEssence, and the Astoria Music Festival. She writes and performs opera outreach programs for the young, has performed on *A Prairie Home Companion*, is a frequent actor on the nationally broadcast public radio show *Wits*, and lent her voice to animated short films by Cannes Film Festival award-winner Rostio A.D.



Nikki Swoboda is a director/choreographer and educator from Marshall, Minnesota. She has directed and/or choreographed more than 90

productions across the Midwest and the East Coast, including Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. She is focused on directing new musical theatre, and some of her favorite projects to premiere have been *Abiyoyo*, *Rikkie Recycle & the Eko-Kidz*, and *Virgin Territory* (MNSU), and *Fruit*

Fly and *Shelly Bachberg Presents ...* (The Catalysts, Illusion Theatre). She has been on faculty as artist in residence at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, as assistant professor of theater at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, and as musical theater and dance faculty at Walnut Hill School of the Arts in Natick, Massachusetts. She is education program manager at Stages Theatre Company by day and a founding member of The Catalysts. Nikki earned a Master of Fine Arts in directing from Minnesota State University-Mankato and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in musical theatre from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Scotty Gunderson is a theatre director, visual artist, designer and producer residing in Minneapolis. His visual art has been exhibited in Minnesota, Wyoming, and New York City. He has directed over 20 plays and musicals, most recently *FLUFF*, *CHIEF*, *Little Women*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. This summer he will direct *Under the Covers*, a multimedia musical by clown funk band Red 40 & the Last Groovement at Fringearts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a director and designer, he has worked with Red Eye Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Stages Theatre Company, VocalEssence, Mu Performing Arts, Rachel Jendrzewski and Theo Goodell, Lake Harriet Players, and St. Olaf College. Scotty is the Artistic Director of the Buoyant Group, a Twin Cities performance group, and a teaching artist and director at Stages Theatre Company. Born and raised in Wyoming, he graduated from St. Olaf College with a Bachelor of Arts with distinction in theatre and studio art.

Wu Chen Khoo is a lighting designer, technical director and stage technician based in the Twin Cities. Over the last 15-plus years he has lit plays, dance, opera, musicals, concerts and events for a diverse range of companies including Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Mu Performing Arts, Stages Theater, Mixed Blood Theater, Bloomington Civic Theater, Stepping Stone Theater, Minnesota Dance Theater, Skylark Opera, Guthrie Theater, Ballet of the Dolls and Jon Ferguson Theater. He runs a technical and design training company known as Technical Tools of the Trade.

ABOUT VOCALESSSENCE

The Mission of VocalEssence

As a leading Minnesota arts organization, VocalEssence uses the power of choral music to enhance our community by producing innovative vocal music events that stir people's souls.

Minneapolis-based VocalEssence has decades of history as one of the world's premier choral music organizations. Despite its global influence, VocalEssence has kept its focus local—consistently pioneering ways to strengthen Minnesota's community through thrilling musical experiences. We engage people of all ages and cultures through innovative, enticing choral music programming, such as performing ensembles, school curricula, elder learning initiatives and advocacy projects.

Called "one of the irreplaceable music ensembles of our time" by Dana Gioia, past chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, our two performing groups—the Ensemble Singers (32 professionals) and the VocalEssence Chorus (100 volunteers)—are made up entirely of local residents.

VocalEssence is renowned for its innovative exploration of music for voices and instruments under the enthusiastic direction of Artistic Director and Founder Philip Brunelle. Each season, VocalEssence presents an eclectic series of concerts featuring the VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers and an array of guest soloists and instrumentalists.

VocalEssence was founded in 1969 as the Plymouth Music Series, an arts outreach program of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis and incorporated as a separate 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1979. In 2002, the Plymouth Music Series changed its name to VocalEssence, capturing the essence of its mission to explore music for the human voice.

In addition to championing lesser-known works of the past, VocalEssence has an unwavering commitment to today's composers, which has resulted in more than 160 world premieres to date. The organization has received the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music six times and has been honored with more Chorus America awards than any other ensemble nationwide, including the once-in-an-organizational-lifetime Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence.

VocalEssence reaches into the community with programs that impact thousands of students, singers and composers every year. WITNESS celebrates the contributions of African Americans and **iCantaré!** brings the talents of composers from Mexico into Minnesota classrooms. VocalEssence partners with American Composers Forum to offer the annual **Welcome Christmas Carol Contest**.

At VocalEssence, we believe when we sing together, we succeed together. We invite you to be a part of it.



Philip Brunelle
Artistic Director and Founder

Philip Brunelle, artistic director and founder of VocalEssence, is an internationally renowned conductor, choral scholar and performer. Believing that listeners and musicians alike must experience music of many genres and styles, he has worked enthusiastically—and tirelessly—to expand audiences for rarely heard works of the past and worthwhile new music. In addition, to date VocalEssence has commissioned more than 160 works. Philip has conducted symphonies (New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra among others) as well as choral festivals and operas on six continents. In the fall of 2014, he conducted Dominick Argento's *Postcard from Morocco* at the Cape Town Opera in South Africa.

Over the past decade Philip has been deeply involved with the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM). He served as president of the Sixth World Symposium on Choral Music held in Minneapolis (2002), was on the Artistic Committee for the Eighth Symposium, held in Denmark (2008), and the Ninth Symposium, held in Argentina (2011). Philip is a Vice President of the IFCM Board and served as Executive Director for the 2014 World Symposium on Choral Music held in Seoul, South Korea. He is also Organist-Choirmaster

at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis.

Philip holds five honorary doctorates, was invested as an Honorary Member of the Order (MBE) from the British Empire in 2005 for his services to music, and Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit in 2007. The governments of Sweden, Hungary, and Mexico have also honored him.



Sigrid Johnson
Associate Conductor

As the associate conductor of VocalEssence, Sigrid Johnson is affectionately known as "Ears" for her unique skill in helping develop the choral blend and balance that give the VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers their signature sound. She provides expert input in the selection of repertoire and assists throughout the audition process. Her ability to achieve excellence in choral blend and intonation is a priceless asset to VocalEssence.

Sigrid is a member of the voice and choral faculty of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and the conductor of the Manitou Singers, St. Olaf's 100-voice first-year women's chorus. She maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician at choral festivals, workshops and all-state music festivals across the country. She is known internationally for her work with musicians at all levels, having conducted workshops in Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland. In August 2008, Sigrid was one of the featured lecturers for the Eighth World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen; in 2011, she was featured at the Ninth World Symposium in Argentina.

Sigrid is active in the American Choral Director's Association, the Music Educator's National Conference, the International Federation for Choral Music, and Chorus America.



Charles Kemper
Accompanist

Charles Kemper, pianist, has taught at St. Olaf College, Northwestern College and Bethel University, and is

currently organist for Calvary Baptist Church in Roseville, Minnesota. A native of Houston, Texas, Charles made his debut with the Houston Symphony at the age of 17, playing Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. He has earned several degrees in piano performance, including a doctor of musical arts degree from Yale University. He has appeared as a soloist with the New Haven Symphony, University of Houston Orchestra, Yale Philharmonia, and the Jacksonville Symphony. Charles has been the VocalEssence staff accompanist since 1993.

VOCALESSANCE CHORUS

The VocalEssence Chorus is an exceptional group of talented, committed singers from many walks of life: doctors, lawyers, nurses, educators, homemakers, business people, and others. Most have college level or higher training in classical music and voice. Chorus auditions are held every spring, and returning members of the Chorus re-audition every two years.

SOPRANO

Amanda Allen
AnnaLisa Anderson
Barbara Anderson
Stacey Athorn
Hannah B. Bolt
Maria Therese Deutsch
Janelle Disrud
Judy Drobeck
Kristina M. Guiffre
Katie Henrichsen
Meghan Kane
Anika Kildegaard
Jan Kilton
Kartra Kohl
Heidi Larson
Joy MacArthur
Anna Maher
Jessica McMahan
Laura Olson
Christina Pederson
Nadine Sanders
Vickie Sanders Dunn
Ann M. Sather
Cheryl E. Roberts
Saunders

LeAnn Stein
Naomi Taylor
Jennifer Vickerman
Jennifer E. Wallis
Sharon Williams

ALTO

Akosua Obuo Addo
Alanna Bach Kucera
Jo Michelle Beld
Rebecca Bellman
Junette Dale
Sarah Fincham
Yvonne Grover
Autumn Gurgel
Dee Hein
Katherine Scholl
Holisky
Kristin Howlett
Sally Jaffray
Kirkja Anna Janson
Jeanne Kavanaugh
Jennifer Kisner
Jeenee Lee
Benta LeMunyon
Sheri Lieftring

Rebecca Modert
Kathryn Mosiman
Kristi Mueller
Samantha Phillippe
Brandee Polson
Marty Raymond
Signe Reistad
Coral Sampson
Laura Tanner
Ruth Torkelson
Cassandra Warn
Andrea Young
Cynthia L. Youtz
Linda Zelig

TENOR

Steve Aggergaard
Max Athorn
Scott Berger
Richard J. A.
Cedergren
Lloyd Clausen
Nicholas Mattsson
Nicholas Mroczek
Jordan Ray
Spencer Rudolf

Luke Slivinski
Bryan Oliver Smith
Rabindra Tambyraja

BASS

John R. Henrich
Thomas M. Hollenhorst
Stephen Kemp
Robert Komaniecki
Benjamin Kucera
Joshua LaGrave
Philip Lowry
Robert Metzger
Paul L. Nevin
Sheridan O'Keefe
Milo Oien-Rochat
David Olson
Jonathan Pinkerton
Brian D. Ruhl
William B. Smale
Trent Stenoien
Dwight S. Williams
Michael Reid Winikoff

THE RADIO HOUR CHOIRS

NORA CHOIR

SOPRANO

Paige Armstrong
Angela Grundstad
Carolyn Steele
JoAnna Swantek

ALTO

Robin Helgen
Anna George Meek
Clara Osowski
Sandra Schoenecker

TENOR

Chase Burkhart
Anders Eckman
Michael Fairbairn

BASS

Joseph Ellickson
Ryan French
James Ramlet
Josiah Telschow

RADIO CHOIR

SOPRANO

Jennifer Bevington
Magaret Sabin
Mari Scott

ALTO

Marita Link
Judith Melander
Erin Peters

TENOR

Robert Graham
Curtis Kettler
John Notermann
William Pederson

BASS

Eric Bartlett
Seth Keeton
Robert Smith



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VOCALESSENCE ENSEMBLE SINGERS

Minnesota is home to one of the truly international gems in choral music—the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers. This 32-voice professional chorus is a beloved national treasure that has been enjoyed by millions in Minnesota, around the country, and indeed, around the world. On their recent Asia Pacific Tour in August, the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers traveled to Seoul, South Korea, to perform at the 10th World Symposium on Choral Music, then continued on to Shanghai and Nanjing, China, for more concerts.

The Ensemble Singers serve as the core of the larger VocalEssence Chorus, and returning members of the Ensemble Singers audition every year. The Ensemble Singers are renowned internationally, nationally and locally. Recently, they were featured at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota and at the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Dallas, Texas, where they received standing ovations for their performances of music by Mexican composers.

SOPRANO

Paige Armstrong graduated in 2012 from Luther College with a B.A. in music education and sang in the Nordic Choir for three years under the direction of Dr. Craig Arnold and Dr. Allen Hightower. Paige is in her third year with The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, and for the past two summers was also a member of the Minnesota Beethoven Festival under the direction of Dale Warland. In 2013 Paige won the National American Choral Directors Association Undergraduate Student Conducting Competition. She is a choral director at Delano Public Schools and a soprano section leader at Wayzata Community Church.

Jennifer Bevington grew up playing the violin, studying both classical music and various styles of fiddling. She earned a bachelor's degree at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she studied voice with Peter Halverson, played in the Concordia Orchestra and sang in the Concordia Choir under the direction of René Clausen. When she is not singing, Jennifer is teaching English, spending time with her family and friends, and reading through the never-ending pile of books on her bedside table. This is Jennifer's third season with VocalEssence.

Angela Grundstad holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Simpson College and a Master of Music in voice from Louisiana State University. She can be heard regularly with the Mirandola Ensemble, Lumina Women's Ensemble, Silver Swan, and Glorious Revolution Baroque. She's also an active voice teacher, soloist, and cantor/section leader at Holy Family Church. She lives in Minneapolis with her furry fox-dog and magical cat. This is Angela's fifth season with VocalEssence.

Carolyn M. Steele has been a featured vocalist with the Bach Society of Saint Louis and director of choral activities at Marquette High School in Chesterfield, Missouri. A graduate of Millikin University, Carolyn was active in Sigma Alpha Iota (earning the National Collegiate Treasurer of the Year Award), the Collegiate

Music Educators National Conference and the American Choral Directors Association. Carolyn is a choir and drama teacher in Minneapolis Public Schools and has shared her joyful directing style with the **VocalEssence iCantaré!** Latino Children's Choir and First United Methodist Church in Stillwater.

Margaret Sabin is a vocal music teacher at Champlin Park High School and directs numerous choirs and ensembles throughout the year. Her choirs have commissioned and premiered several works and have brought local composers in to work with students. Margaret has taught in public schools in Hopkins, Iowa City, Iowa, and White Cloud, Michigan. She received her M.A. in choral conducting, literature and pedagogy from the University of Iowa and a B.A. in music education from Western Michigan University. With VocalEssence she has performed in two operas, *Loss of Eden* by Cary John Franklin and *Barnum's Bird* by Libby Larsen.

Mari Scott is a singer and educator who has been featured in John Rutter's *Requiem* and Stephen Paulus's *So Hallow'd Is the Time*. She has performed with Magpies & Ravens, Magnum Chorum, and as soloist at Wayzata Community Church. Mari earned her Bachelor of Music Education degree at Valparaiso University and has pursued training in Orff-Schulwerk and Kodály at the University of St. Thomas. Her experience ranges from conducting high school choir to teaching K-8 general music and leading early childhood music classes. She has premiered works through the **VocalEssence iCantaré!** program as a singer and conductor and teaches at Meadow Lake Elementary.

JoAnna Swantek pursued her college education at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, as a Palmar Scholar in Vocal Performance. She is a property manager with Bigos Management, Inc. and a section leader at Wayzata Community Church. JoAnna has sung in choirs throughout Minnesota. At age 16, she sang with the Lincoln Choir and was a featured soloists on the album *Butterfly Songs*—music written by Jeanie-Brindley Barnett featuring poetry from Holocaust victims of a concentration camp. Her passion for music has included musical theater productions, opera, and playing the cello with the Bemidji and Grand Forks symphonies.

ALTO

Robin Joy Helgen has sung with the Minnesota Opera and the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus with Helmuth Rilling. She has a Bachelor of Arts in music education from Bethel University and has studied toward a master's degree in Vocal Performance at the New England Conservatory of Music. Robin teaches voice at a studio in her home and at St. Olaf College. This is her sixth season with VocalEssence.

Marita Link has sung in the Ensemble Singers most years since 1994, including solo work ranging from "Jenny Lind" to "Cow." She is a cantor and Gregorian chant schola director at St. Louis Church. Marita teaches voice lessons at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music, and holds a voice degree from Indiana University where she studied with Martha Lipton, Paul Elliott and Thomas Binkley. She also studied at Westminster Choir College. Marita appears regularly with early music ensembles of her own and others' creation. She has recorded as a soloist on the Naxos label,

and expects to do so again this summer. She is an alumnus of the Interlochen camp and academy.

Anna George Meek has performed with the Dale Warland Singers, Silver Swan, Magpies & Ravens, First Readings Project, and the Saint Paul Cathedral Choir, where she was a section leader. She studied voice and violin at the Yale School of Music and Peabody Conservatory. Also a professor of English and a nationally known poet, Anna has written three award-winning books and has received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship for her writing. This is her ninth season with VocalEssence.

Judith McClain Melander's performing career includes Minnesota Opera, solo appearances with the Oratorio Society of Minnesota, regular engagements with the Center City Opera Company, and frequent recitals and recording projects. Judith is director of music at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, where she conducts the choir, serves as cantor and soloist, and occasionally plays the hammered dulcimer. Judith enjoys working with young musicians and teaches singing for StageCoach Theater Arts School and StageTime Studios, and music directs theater productions for Stages Theater in Hopkins, Saint Paul Academy, and Wayzata High School.

Clara Osowski recently completed the Vancouver International Song Institute, was a featured young artist at the Baldwin-Wallace Art Song Festival, and traveled to Tours, France to attend the Académie Francis Poulenc. She won the 2014 Bel Canto Chorus Regional Artists Competition in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; her international competition includes the International Vocal Competition in s'Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, and Thomas Quasthoff's Das Lied competition in Berlin, Germany. Clara performs with several ensembles in the Twin Cities, teaches adjunct voice at the University of Minnesota-Morris, and is associate artistic director of Source Song Festival.

Erin Peters is on the music faculty at the University of Wisconsin Barron County and is section leader at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Recent solo engagements include recitals at the Chalice Stream Studio and performances with the Red Cedar Symphony Orchestra. Erin has performed at venues including the Music Center at Strathmore in Maryland, and Lincoln Center in New York. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in choral/general music education, and a B.A. in English and violin performance from the Lawrence Conservatory of Music. Erin has a Master of Music degree in music education and choral conducting from Ithaca College.

Sandra Schoenecker, a native of the Twin Cities, has performed with many local organizations including the Mill City Opera, Minnesota Opera, North Star Opera (now Skylark Opera), Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and the Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera Company. Sandra is an alto section leader and soloist at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. She is also a private vocal instructor at Armstrong and Tartan High Schools and maintains a home studio to the delight (and sometimes consternation) of her cats, Chester and Ferguson. This is Sandra's fifth season with VocalEssence.

TENOR

Chase D. Burkhart is an educator and creative music professional. He teaches at Field Middle School in Minneapolis, where he runs a dual music program directing both choir and guitar ensembles. He is also praise band director for contemporary worship services at North Presbyterian Church in North Saint Paul. Chase earned a bachelor's degree in vocal music education at North Dakota State University (NDSU), where he studied under Dr. Michael Weber. He taught grades 6-12 choir and band at Northern Cass Public School in Hunter, North Dakota, as well as private guitar lessons at the NDSU Music Academy.

Anders Eckman has a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Gustavus Adolphus College and sang with the Gustavus Choir under the direction of Dr. Gregory Aune. Anders is a corporate recruiter at Ameriprise Financial in Minneapolis. His favorite VocalEssence production was William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* in 2007, though a close second would be when he was featured as the Western Union Boy in Benjamin Britten's *Paul Bunyan*, in which he was required to sing a solo and ride a bicycle onstage—simultaneously! This is Anders's ninth season with VocalEssence.

Michael Fairbairn lives in Minneapolis, where he is pursuing a career in singing. He is completing degrees in music and psychology at North Dakota State University and has studied under Dr. JoAnn Miller, Dr. Michael Weber, and Prof. Angela Broeker. Michael has sung in vocal ensembles including the Summit Singers and Magpies & Ravens, and with the Wayzata Community Church Choir. He has been featured in productions such as *Paul Bunyan*, *Forever Plaid*, and *The Mikado* and is a published choral composer.

Robert Graham has a Master of Music degree in both vocal performance and choral conducting from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and a B.A. in vocal performance from Xavier University of Louisiana. Robert's roles include Basilio in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Damis in Kirk Mechem's *Tartuffe*, the Foreman of the Jury in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*, and tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Vesperae Solemnis*. Robert is the Education Manager at VocalEssence, overseeing the **WITNESS School Program** and **Vintage Voices**. He teaches voice lessons at St. Michael-Albertville High School and is a cantor and section leader at St. Patrick's Church of Edina.

Curtis Kettler received a Master of Music in choral studies degree from the University of Cambridge, where he studied under renowned conductor Stephen Layton, and a B.A. in church music from Crown College. Curtis is assistant director of choral activities at Crown College and director of music at St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Wayzata. He teaches voice at Crown College, North Central University, and Waconia High School. He has also performed with the Minnesota Opera, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Chorale, and Minnesota Beethoven Festival Chorale. In 2014 Curtis founded Magpies & Ravens, a chamber choir of high school students and professional vocalists.

John Notermann sings professionally as a cantor in liturgical services, primarily with the Cathedral of St. Paul where he is the choir's Tenor 1 section leader. His primary performance emphasis

is sacred music, including weddings, funerals, concerts, and fundraisers. John also enjoys singing countertenor, and competed in the Minnesota State High School League Singing Competition, for which his interpretation received a perfect score. He was a co-founder and performer for the group Quattro Formaggio, which competed at the Minnesota State Fair and has performed at other venues.

William Pederson has a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the University of Minnesota, where he studied with Clifton Ware, Glenda Maurice, and Wendy Zaro-Mullins. Along with being cantor/section leader at the Church of St. Louis King of France in Saint Paul, William has performed with the Minnesota Chorale, the Minnesota Bach Society, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Chorale, Consortium Carissimi, and Ensemble Polaris. A Bach performer, he has performed numerous cantatas throughout the Midwest, and has been featured as the Evangelist in the *St. John Passion*. William is library supervisor for the music library at the University of Minnesota.

BASS

Eric Bartlett has degrees in English, creative writing, and K-12 vocal music education from Gustavus Adolphus College and Concordia University in St. Paul. He has sung in the Gregorian Singers, the Rose Ensemble, St. Martin's Chamber Choir, the MPR Carolers, and VocalEssence, and has sung under the direction of Dr. Greg Aune, Stephen Cleobury, Dr. David Mennicke, Dale Warland, and Eric Whitacre. He has been bass section leader of several church choirs, and has toured with choirs to China, England, Estonia, Latvia, Russia, South Africa, and South Korea. A voice-over actor with work for Berlitz and Ford among his credits, Eric is narrating educational children's books.

Joseph Ellickson has traveled the world to share his musical talents. He sings with VocalEssence, Magpies & Ravens, and the Lord of Life Canticle Choir. He is an active soloist, singing with the Performing Arts Institute of Wyoming Seminary, the Amman Symphony Orchestra, and Dozan wa Awtar. His stage credits include the roles of Masetto in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Norton in Rossini's *The Marriage Contract*, and Orazio Prospero in Donizetti's *Viva la Mamma*. Joseph has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Iowa and studies voice with George Smith. This is his third season with VocalEssence.

Ryan French's vocal career encompasses chamber music, oratorio, choral, and early music. At age 23 he made his debut as Alfred Doolittle in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's production of *My Fair Lady*. He has been a featured soloist with the Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra, the Bloomington Symphony, and the Oratorio Society of Minnesota. Now in his 15th season with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, Ryan is a former member of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, the Rose Ensemble, and the Dale Warland Singers, where he was a soloist on the *Bernstein & Britten* recording (2000). A graduate of St. Olaf College, he was a member of the St. Olaf Choir. Ryan is the Marketing Director for the Walker Art Center.

Seth Keeton has performed on the stages of the Minnesota Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Arizona Opera,

Indianapolis Opera, and Theater Bremen in Germany. He has been seen in concert as the bass soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Bach's *Magnificat* and Haydn's *Creation*. He frequently appears with the Rochester Aria Group and the St. Catherine Choral Society, and recently performed with the Minnesota Bach Ensemble. He has received awards from the Sullivan Foundation and the Eleanor McCollum Competition. Seth is on the voice faculty at Gustavus Adolphus College and has a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota.

James Ramlet is in his third decade on the Twin Cities choral scene, including ten years in the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers and eight in the Dale Warland Singers. He has performed more than 40 roles with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Vienna State Opera, Washington National Opera, and others. He has appeared in productions with the Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre Company, History Theatre, Theater Latté Da, Frank Theatre, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, and American Repertory Theater. He was seen on *Great Performances* in Samuel Barber's *Antony and Cleopatra* produced by the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and has been heard on *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Dr. Robert Smith has instrumental and vocal music degrees from Yale University, the University of Texas at Austin, and St. Olaf College, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1995. He teaches voice and vocal literature, and directs the Early Music Singers. Robert has served on the faculties of the University of New Mexico, the Berkshire Choral Festival and the University of Vermont. He has been featured at the Aspen Festival, Madeira Bach Festival, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and Covent Garden Festival. Robert was a member of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and Música Antigua de Albuquerque, and has sung with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers since 1996.

Josiah Telschow graduated with a Bachelor of Music in music education from St. Olaf College, where he was a member and soloist of the St. Olaf Choir for three years, with highlights including a tour of Norway and singing for President Bush at the White House for the 2005 National Day of Prayer. Josiah teaches at Kennedy High School in Bloomington, Minnesota; he heads the show choir program and directs several choirs including the award-winning show choir Rhythm In Gold. He also teaches theater, directs school plays and talent shows, and is music director of the annual school musical.

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EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

TWO PROGRAMS BRING THE JOY OF CHORAL SINGING TO SENIORS

Older adults are pursuing active lives, and VocalEssence is gladly adding to their options with the launch of **VocalEssence Vintage Voices**—an exciting choral program that integrates the arts into the everyday lives of older adults by fostering the creation of choirs in assisted living facilities and senior centers. With funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board, VocalEssence is partnering with ArtSage and Ecumen to provide Vintage Voices at six sites in 2015.

Conductor Rob Graham, VocalEssence education manager and music librarian, and piano accompanist John Jensen will spend 12 weeks this spring developing choirs in Minneapolis at the Sabathani Community Center Senior Center and Open Circle at Heritage Park Senior Services Center, and at Ecumen Seasons at Maplewood. In the fall they will work with groups at the Waters of Edina, Walker Methodist in Minneapolis and Augustana Open Circle of Apple Valley.



The rehearsals will culminate in an on-site concert by the singers for their friends, family and community members. Weekly rehearsals focus on the process of singing together, and incorporate sensory-rich activities, social and reflection time. This interactive, ongoing approach aims to elicit proven health benefits of creative arts, including improved health outcomes, reduced depression, increased engagement and pleasure, and improved self-esteem. Auditions are not necessary, but partner sites need to demonstrate interest and commitment from a group of at least 20 who will consistently attend rehearsals, as well as a VocalEssence concert.

VocalEssence Choral Pathways enriches the appreciation of choral music and the arts for older adults in assisted living homes across the Twin Cities metro area. More than 500 residents and community members have participated since 2012, attending VocalEssence concerts and exploring the legacies of the featured composers and artists. All of these activities are free, and include free ADA-accessible transportation to and from the performance venues.



Photos by Stephen Maturen

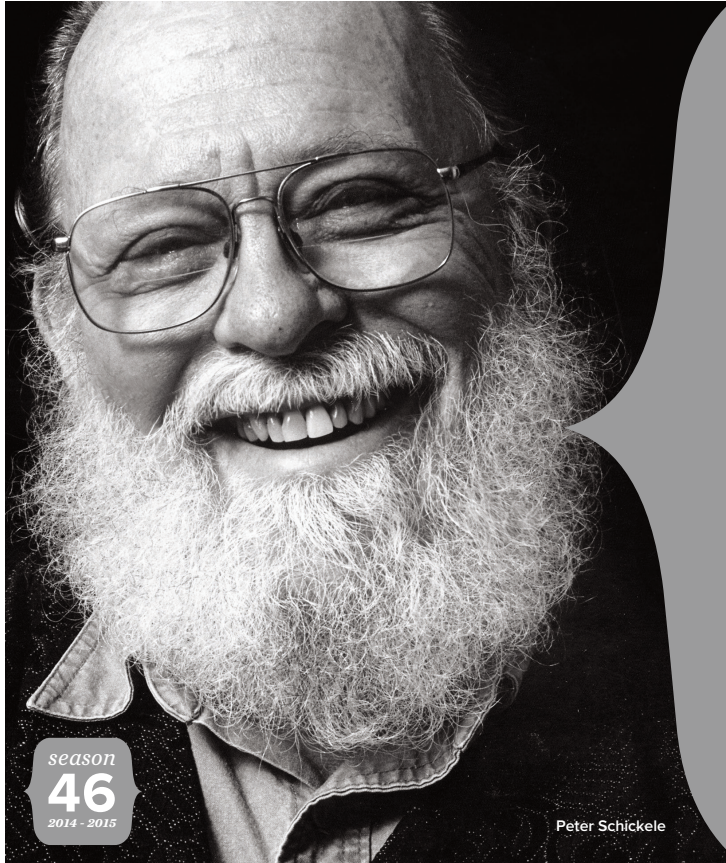
Choral Pathways Program Participants Since 2012

Ecumen Prairie Lodge of Brooklyn Center
 Ecumen Seasons at Apple Valley
 Ecumen Seasons at Maplewood
 The Manor at Copperfield Hill of Robbinsdale
 Lyngblomsten of Saint Paul
 Amherst H. Wilder Adult Day Health Program
 at the Center for Community Aging
 Sabathani Community Center Senior Center
 Ebenezer Minneapolis Adult Day Program

After the **VocalEssence WITNESS: Let Freedom Ring** concert in February, Georgia Marinkov-Omorean, program director at the Sabathani Senior Center, shared this about the experience:

“... Thank you! Thank you! Everything went extremely well. The seats were incredible and the busing was on time! ... The concert was ‘off the chain’ as we say at Sabathani. The senior participants were thrilled and again we were all inspired by the message of unity when overcoming adversity. I hope we can carry that theme into 2015. VocalEssence provided a good start. ... Thanks again for your loving kindness when working with our seniors. You are fabulous!”





season
46
2014 - 2015

Peter Schickele



VOCALESSENCE

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Peter Schickele
BIRTHDAY BASH**

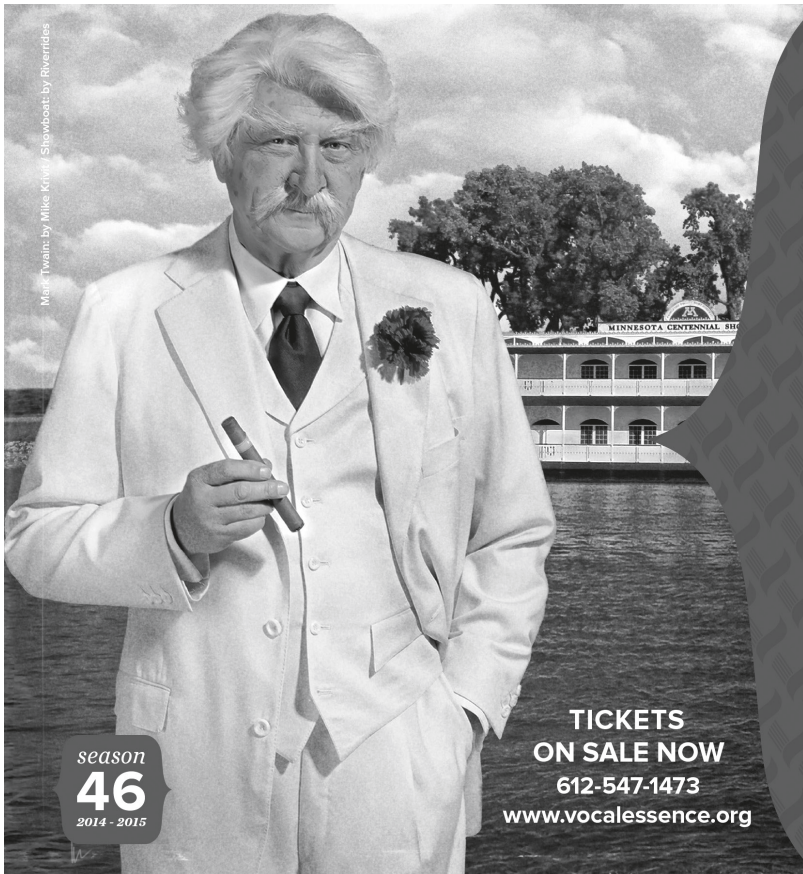
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Saint Paul

Two Performances

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Matinee Performance | Evening Performance |
| 3:30-6:00 pm | 7-9:30 pm |

FEATURING:

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers
Don Shelby, *actor*
Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, *conductor*
Jon Cranney, *director*

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

BOARD MEMBER JENNY WADE FINDS UNIQUE BLEND OF ARTISTRY AND EDUCATION IN VOCALESSENCE



When a co-worker suggested to Jenny Wade in 2011 that she might be a good fit to take his place on the VocalEssence board of directors, he didn't know that she enjoyed singing and was in her church choir—a good fit indeed. So that Jenny might get a better feel for what VocalEssence is about, Executive Director Mary Ann Aufderheide encouraged her to attend **The Sound of Eternity: Bach Mass in B minor** concert, performed with

27 short films by Bastian Clevé. “From that night, I was hooked. I joined the board in the fall of 2011 and am now starting my second term,” said Jenny, who is a vice president in the public finance investment banking department at Piper Jaffray.

“Every VocalEssence concert is special, but particular performances that have stood out to me include the **VocalEssence WITNESS** concerts,” she shared, citing the Marian Anderson play in 2013 and Stomp & Sing with Melanie DeMore in 2014. Others include **VocalEssence Presents: An Evening in Havana**, with Cuba's Schola Cantorum Coralina, and **Welcome Christmas 2013** with the Dave Brubeck cantata and Dan Chouinard on piano. “My favorite piece I've seen performed by the Ensemble Singers is ‘Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine’ by Eric Whitacre,” Jenny added.

A highlight of a different sort was the opportunity last spring to chair the auction committee for the VocalEssence gala, Choralia. “I worked very closely with staff, particularly Elissa Weller (Grants and Special Events Manager), and was struck by the tremendous amount of passion and dedication each person on staff has for VocalEssence, its mission, and our education programs. ... It was really exciting to see how well the event was received.”

‘A soundtrack to my life’

Jenny's introduction to music was through her mother, who sang to her as a baby and played the piano. “My mom grew up in the Southern Baptist Church, singing in choirs and small groups as well as being a piano accompanist,” she explained. Her mother

helped with the children's choir at church and took Jenny along to rehearsals. “I was always watching and listening intently. She said that at probably the age of 3, I could have been right up on stage with the older kids as I knew every lyric and note to all the songs and every word of dialogue.”

Choral music and singing is “like a soundtrack to my life,” described Jenny. “I can't say how many times I've heard a song on the radio or sang a hymn in church that has brought me back to a specific time period, person, place traveled, or event in my life. ... Choral music is a collective of so many things—history, storytelling, memories, culture, and emotional expression. I just love to sing and hear others sing!”

Supporting VocalEssence and music education

Jenny finds VocalEssence unique among performing arts organizations “because of the combination of the high level of artistry in the Ensemble Singers and Chorus and the first-class education programs. I think there are numerous organizations that do one or the other, but not both, or certainly not both at the level of VocalEssence.”

Because she finds school cutbacks in music programs so disheartening, Jenny loves that VocalEssence is adding to school music curricula through programs such as **iCantare!** and the **VocalEssence WITNESS School Program**. “Many students that VocalEssence serves would never have the opportunity, other than through these programs, to work with the caliber of artists that participate or to attend concerts at some of the Twin Cities' great performance halls like the Ordway or Orchestra Hall. I had the opportunity when I was in elementary school to sing in a special youth chorus with the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra at a prominent theater in town, the Paramount, and I still remember how cool I thought that was at the time.”

Jenny also doesn't want to see choral music diminish as an art form. “The Midwest and Minnesota have a rich choral tradition, but I have seen so many singers after college stop singing as part of an organized group. The talented singers of VocalEssence remind audiences of the power of choral music in every performance.”

THE ENDOWMENT HONOR ROLL

VocalEssence salutes the individuals and corporate and private foundations whose generosity and leadership sparked the creation of the Endowment Fund. This permanent fund was established in 1987 and is now valued at \$3 million. Its interest income provides ongoing support to VocalEssence. We welcome new contributions to the Endowment Fund and extend our deepest appreciation to the following for their generous gifts.

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Norman and Brenda Canedy
Mary Lou Judd Carpenter
Norm and Janet Carpenter
Chris and John Causey
Kent and Marilyn Christensen
Thomas and Susan Christiansen
Jack and Ann Cole
John and Joan Colwell
Dr. Susan and Dick Crockett
Charles and Kathy Cunningham
Catherine Davies
Harry Lerner and Sandra Davis
Thomas and Elizabeth Drought
Len and Susan Druskin
Jerry and Cathie Fischer
Paul Folin
Tom and Carol Gilkey
Stanley and Luella Goldberg
Alan and Stephanie Gordon
Kathleen Grammer
Ken and Suanne Hallberg
Margarette and Charles Hann
A. Stuart and Gail Hanson
Dob and Janis Hardy
John Haugen and Alicia Reeves
Louise Heffelfinger
Norton and Mary Hintz
Bill Hodder
Spencer and Nancy Holmes
Gordon and Nita Howell
Pat and Bob Hoyt
Thomas Hunt and John Wheelihan
Mike and Sig Johnson
Doug and Mary Jones
Vivian and Mary Jones
Neil and Micki Kay
Sandra Klapperich
Robert and Jeanne Koller
Claire Kolmodin and John Carstens
Paul Laederach
Mark and Susan Larson
LeRoy Lehr and Veronica Reed
Jim Leslie and Lynnanne Warren
Michael and Diane Levy
Allan and Jackie Lotsberg
Bob and Jan Lubar
Donald and Diana Lee Lucker
Michael MacDougal
Mary Lou Mathison
Louise Matson
Kay and Mike McCarthy
Bob and Polly McCre
Dick and Joyce McFarland
Laurie Merz

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| David and Karen Minge Mary Morton Mason and Gwen Myers Penny Needham Robert Davidian and Rick Nelson Susan Nicol Bev Norris Susan and Herbie Nyhammer Paul Olson and Mark Baumgartner Phyllis Palmer Joan Parsons Dick and Jeanne Patterson Felix and Ann Phillips Sally B. Polk John and Anne Polta David and Judy Ranheim Dennis and Ellen Rau Lisa Reed Jo Robles Coral Sampson Michael and Shirley Santoro Hervé and Jennifer Sarreau Eric and Mary Claire Schultz Estelle Quinn Sell Fred and Gloria Sewell Mark and Mary Sigmond Jan Sigmund and Michael Jereczek Arturo Steely Cherie Stofer Bill and Sara Stout Vivian Stuck Vern Sutton Bill and Bryce TenBroek Jean Thomson and John Sandbo Ken and Barbara Tiede Elaine B. Walker Dale and Ruth Warland Steve and Kathy Wellington Dorene and Alan Wernke Barbara White Kent and Missy Wilson Wilson and Gayle Graham Yates Larry and Katherine Youngblood Al and Judy Zabin | In honor of Sigurd Hoppe's birthday Rick and Katie Fournier | In remembrance of Arthur Pejisa David* and Ann Buran | In celebration of the birth of Eve Kathryn to Josiah and Heidi Telschow Robert and Sigrid Johnson |
| | In honor of the wedding of Jerry Johnson and Larry Montan Mary Ann Aufderheide Kevin Bailey and Ken Kieffer Scott and Martha Baron Jim Bohn and Linda Zelig Christopher Brunelle and Serena Zabin Steve and Karen Burger Glen and Marilyn Carlson Nelson Jennifer DesLauriers Knop Steve and Judy Drobeck Sarah Garis Paul and Mona Gerike Mary Johnson Susan Johnson Karen and Clinton Kennedy Brian Roberts Margaret and Matthew Sabin Kathryn Sandahl Carolyn J. Steele Frank Stubbs and Tom Lee Paul and Elissa Weller Dr. Preston and Sharon Williams | In remembrance of Ken Pokorny John and Joan Colwell | In remembrance of Gedney Tuttle David* and Ann Buran |
| | | In remembrance of Jud Reaney W. Brooks Donald and Karen MacKenzie John and Carole Humphrey Jeanne LeFevere | In honor of the marriage of Peter Vitale and Dr. Stephen Nelson David* and Ann Buran |
| | | In remembrance of Roy A. and Shirley Sather Ann Sather | In honor of the VocalEssence 45th Season Carolyn Brunelle |
| | | In honor of the wedding of Henry Charles Smith and Norma Jean Falink Elizabeth Murray | In remembrance of John Welshons Rick and Katie Fournier |
| | | In remembrance of Jorge Salvatierra James and Tomie Conaway Amanda Fogg Richard and Carolyn Fogg Michael and Margaret O'Sullivan | In remembrance of Karen Wendt David Wendt |
| | | In remembrance of Ed Sootsman and Scott Appelwick Mary Lou Judd Carpenter | In remembrance of Carl White Alan and Stephanie Gordon |
| | In remembrance of N. Judge King Reatha Clark King and family | In honor of the wedding of Ed Sootsman and Scott Appelwick Mary Lou Judd Carpenter | |
| | | In celebration of the marriage of Carolyn and Mike Steele Robert and Sigrid Johnson | |
| | In remembrance of Barbara Laederach Mike and Sally Bosanko David* and Ann Buran Carol J. Miller Don* and Bev Norris | In remembrance of Richard (Dick) Stuck Elaine Arndt Philip and Carolyn Brunelle David* and Ann Buran Mary Lou Judd Carpenter Clyde and Patti Collins Cynthia Colwell John and Joan Colwell Tom and Phyllis Colwell Marcus and Joan Cox Tucker and Carolyn Dahl Alan and Stephanie Gordon Ken and Suanne Hallberg Tor and Sunny Hansen David and Mim Hanson Dob and Janis Hardy Doug and Mary Jones Bud Kraehling Jack and Cindy Lau Mary Lou Loud Irene Lovejoy Jan Mattox Craig and Judy Moen Richard and Suzanne Moriarity Glen and Marilyn Carlson Nelson Nancy Nelson Jo Nielsen Don* and Bev Norris Joan Otness Dean and Masako Potter Lizabeth Ralles and Al Aukee Jane Riley-Koll Sue Shepard and Don Helgeson John and Carmen Skog Mary Sommers Bill and Sara Stout Charles and Marilyn Stuck Jean Thomson and John Sandbo Richard and Rosemary Thorsen Gedney* and Emily Anne Tuttle Jack and Anita Witt Anne and Philip Worrell Timothy Zuel | |
| In remembrance of Paul and Mary Carson Margit Carson Johnson | In remembrance of Audrey MacArthur David and Patti Brufloft Joy MacArthur and Sarah Cohn | | |
| In celebration of Jon Cranney's birthday Ann Barkelew and Jim O'Hagan | In honor of Kay McCarthy and her marvelous talent as a quilter Nancy Slaughter | | |
| In remembrance of Thurston H. Davini Bill and Ruth Davini | In remembrance of David Nelson Carol J. Miller | | |
| In celebration of the birth of Tilda Florence to Ryan and Jenny French Robert and Sigrid Johnson | In remembrance of Judy Nelson Ann Buran John and Joan Colwell Bob and Sig Johnson Mark and Susan Larson | | |
| In remembrance of Elsie H. Goetz Goeta Goetz Bird | In remembrance of Don Norris David* and Ann Buran John and Joan Colwell Vivian Stuck | | |
| In remembrance of Dr. Robert Goodale David* and Ann Buran | In remembrance of Barbara P. Odegard Kevin Odegard | | |
| In remembrance of Lauretta Graetz Jerald Graetz | In remembrance of Robert Odegard Kevin Odegard | | |
| | In remembrance of Stephen Paulus Allan and Jackie Lotsberg | | |