



ACDA-MN State Conference

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers
ReMix: Interest Session

VocalEssence Chorus
Performance



VOCAL ESSENCE Chorus

Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 10 AM
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road
Mahtomedi, MN 55115

VocalEssence Chorus
G. Phillip Shoultz, III, *conductor*
Philip Brunelle, *organist*
Mary Jo Gothmann, *collaborative artist*

THE PROGRAM

| | |
|--|---|
| San'bonani | arr. Michael Barrett Blake Downing, <i>tenor</i> ; Reagan Lee, <i>tenor</i> (2017) |
| Processional from "The Masque of Angels" | Dominick Argento (1963) |
| To Sit and Dream | Rosephanye Powell (2010) |
| Alleluia | Jake Runestad (2013) |
| August, lebe, lebe, König! (BWV 207A) | Johann Sebastian Bach (1734) |
| Seinn O | arr. J. David Moore (2007) |
| Micah 6:8 | Lisa Fuglie and Mark Anderson, arr. Carol Barnett Andrew Alness, <i>tenor</i> ; Becca Bellman, <i>alto</i> ; Becky Gaunt, <i>alto</i> (2017) |
| Let Beauty Be Our Memorial | J.A.C. Redford (2013) |

Please take a moment to check that cell phones, paging devices and wristwatch alarms are turned off before the reading session begins. Recording devices and cameras are prohibited. Thank you.

TEXTS

SAN'BONANI

arr. Michael Barrett

San'bonani – Good morning/Hello
Nonke – all of (you) – everybody
Nisaphila nje? – Are you well?
Hololo – no meaning
— *Traditional isiZulu*

TO SIT AND DREAM

Rosephanye Powell

To sit and dream, to sit and read,
To sit and learn about the world
Outside our world of here and now—
our problem world—
To dream of vast horizons of the soul
Through dreams made whole,
Unfettered free—help me!
All you who are dreamers, too.
Help me make our world anew.
I reach out my hands to you.
— *Langston Hughes*

ALLELUIA

Jake Runestad

Program Note:

Through history, the singing of “alleluia” has served as an outward celebration as well as an introspective expression of praise. The work begins with a rhythmic declaration of joy and builds intensity through metric changes, tonal shifts, glissandi, and hand clapping. This lively exultation soon gives way to a reverent meditation with soaring melodic lines and lush harmonies. The dancing rhythms from the beginning return with a gradual build in intensity as one’s praises rise to the sky.

AUGUST, LEBE, LEBE, KÖNIG! (BWV 207A)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Long live Augustus,
Live long, o King!
O Augustus, our guardian, be the harsh foe’s opponent;
May you live long for your country, and may God protect your soul and hand;
Then, through Augustus’ life our welfare as Saxons will be confirmed.
Then no enemy will dare rise up against our prosperity.

SEINN O

J. David Moore

Program Note:

Seinn O comes from the Gaelic tradition of “mouth music,” a style of vocal music intended to accompany dancing. The most popular legend of the origins of Scottish mouth music (*port a beul*) suggests

that it was born when the British banned the bag-pipes after the Jacobite uprising in 1745. Nonsense lyrics were applied to the old pipe tunes so that the precious melodies wouldn’t be lost. Whatever the truth of the matter, mouth music appears in many varied forms and under many names in every Gaelic culture in the world, from Ireland to Cape Breton to Appalachia. Like most mouth music, the lyrics are light, flirtatious, and improvisatory, with a healthy amount of nonsense.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| The fiddler is coming tonight | I will go across the river |
| The girls will get a tune | I will come back across the river |
| The fiddler is coming tonight | I will go across the river |
| Tonight, the fiddler is coming | Visiting the tailor |

The bailiffs are after me
The joiners are after me
The bailiffs are after me
I won’t have anyone but the tailor

MICAH 6:8

Lisa Fuglie and Mark Anderson, arr. Carol Barnett

The wrongs of one to another can seem too much to understand.
We hate in turns, we never learn.

An eye for an eye leaves both blind. It’s a pound of flesh for an ounce of crime
And no one wins, the wheel just spins.

CHORUS

He has shown you, oh man, what is good; what does Yahweh require of you?
Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.

Let mercy fall like gentle rain, without compulsion, without strain.
When grace is real, we all can heal.
When we forgive another’s debt, we free ourselves to love, and yet
We honor those we miss the most.

This light of mine is not my own;
It shines from these few seeds I’ve sown.
On just terrain will mercy reign.

— *Lisa Fuglie and Mark Anderson*

LET BEAUTY BE OUR MEMORIAL

J.A.C. Redford

Let beauty be our memorial;
Let love be our last, best word;
Let our dissonant counterpoint finally resolve
In a graceful, consonant chord.

Let goodness hallow the holy ground
Where under the Mercy we rest;
Let beauty be our memorial
And let all the earth be blest.

— *J.A.C. Redford*

ABOUT VOCALESSENCE

VocalEssence, called “one of the irreplaceable music ensembles of our time” by Dana Gioia, past chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts—and the choral ensemble that Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones says “sings magnificently”—impacts thousands of students, singers, and composers each year through its initiative programs, contests, and support for innovative art. VocalEssence was founded in 1969 and has debuted more than 250 commissions and world premieres. For more information, visit vocalessence.org.



Philip Brunelle
Artistic Director and Founder

Philip Brunelle, artistic director and founder of VocalEssence, is an internationally-

renowned conductor, choral scholar, and visionary. Philip has conducted symphonies, choral festivals, and operas on six continents. He recently completed 9 years as Vice President of IFCM (International Federation for Choral Music), holds five honorary degrees, and has been recognized for his commitment to choral music by the governments of Norway, Hungary, Sweden, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. His thoughts on music are at RenaissanceManpodcast.com. vocalessence.org/philipbrunelle



G. Phillip Shultz, III
Associate Conductor and Education Program Director

Known for his innovative pedagogy

and ability to inspire singers, **G. Phillip Shultz, III**, serves as the Associate Conductor and Education Program Director of VocalEssence. Phillip completed doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota and also earned degrees from the University of Georgia and Georgia State University. His work in the public schools garnered multiple honors. Phillip won the 2015 ACDA Graduate Conducting Competition and will represent ACDA in the 2017 International Conductors' Exchange program. vocalessence.org/gps



Mary Jo Gothmann
Accompanist

Mary Jo Gothmann joined VocalEssence as staff accompanist in 2015. She enjoys

a varied career as a chamber musician, soloist, opera coach, and organist. Mary Jo performs frequently with the Minnesota Orchestra and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Program, University of Minnesota, New England Conservatory, and St. Olaf College. Mary Jo is the founder and Artistic Director of the Joya Chamber Music Series at Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka.

VOCALESSENCE ENSEMBLE SINGERS



Minnesota is home to an international choral music gem—the **VocalEssence Ensemble Singers**. Declared by the Oxford Times (UK) as having “a blend that could—and should—be the envy of every choir in the business,” this 32-voice professional chorus is enjoyed by millions from Duluth, Minnesota to Shanghai, China. The VocalEssence Ensemble Singers are equally at ease premiering music by Pulitzer Prize winning composers as well as teen moms in our Lullaby Project. vocalessence.org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-ensemble-singers

SOPRANO

Sophie Amelkin
Jennifer Bevington
Anna Christofaro
JoAnna Johnson
Anika Kildegaard
Samantha Noonan
Margaret Sabin
Mari Scott

TENOR

Anders Eckman
Michael Fairbairn
Robert J. Graham
JW Keckley
Nicholas R. Mattsson
William Pederson
Kyle Schwartz
Jacob Watson

ALTO

Robin Joy Helgen**
Marita J. Link
Anna George Meek
Judith McClain Melander
Anna Mooy
Sadie Nelson
Erin Peters
Kristina Rodel Sorum

BASS

Joshua Conroy
Joseph Ellickson
Harrison Hintzsche
Erik Krohg
Ryan LaBoy
A.J. Lund
Nathan Petersen-Kindem
Robert C. Smith

** Board Liaison

VOCALESSENCE CHORUS



Hailed by the Minneapolis Star Tribune as “singing impeccably, making even the most complex harmonies sound transparent” and performing with “consummate professionalism,” the VocalEssence Chorus is an exceptional group of talented, committed singers from many walks of life. Equally at ease sharing the stage with famous guest artists such as Dessa and Sweet Honey In The Rock and budding young singers from across the metro, the VocalEssence Chorus embodies the tagline Together We Sing.

Directed by VocalEssence Artistic Director and Founder Philip Brunelle and Associate Conductor G. Phillip Shoultz III, this 110-voice chorus sings everything from Bach to Bluegrass, debuting more than 250 commissions and world premieres since the organization’s inception in 1969. The VocalEssence Chorus performs separately and in tandem with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, gracing the stage of prestigious venues such as Orchestra Hall, The Ordway, the Basilica of Saint Mary, and the Cathedral of Saint Paul. VocalEssence Chorus auditions are held every spring, and returning members of the Chorus re-audition every two years.

vocalessence.org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-chorus

SOPRANO

Amanda Allen
AnnaLisa Anderson
Barbara Anderson
Libby Anderson
Jessica Belt
Whitney Al Bembenek
Ali Biatek
Julia Braaten
Jennica Date
Cathryn Davis
Regan Debban
Judy Drobeck
Kristina M. Guiffre
Jeanne Kenney
Gillian Koch
Kartra Kohl
Sarah Kurtz
Joy MacArthur
Hannah Miller
Lisa Moncur
Sophia Pechaty
Christina Pederson
Shira Rabkin
Leah Refuerzo
Elizabeth Robbins
Alexa Rosenbaum
Cheryl Roberts Saunders
Cassandra Schwartz
Susan Scofield

LeAnn Stein
Katherine Tonn Eisinger
Amanda Troolin
Jennifer S Vickerman*
Laura Walklet
Dannika Wright

ALTO

Akosua Obuo Addo
Jo M. Beld
Becca Bellman
Alyse Carbonell
Constance Chen
Becky Gaunt
Judy Gaunt
Yvonne Grover*
Autumn Gurgel
Beth Gusenius
Marjorie Hakala
Meghan Hanna
Dee Hein
Susan E. Hill
Kristin Howlett
Sally Jaffray
Jenny Kisner
Jeene Lee
Rebecca Modert
Kristi Mueller
Sarah Olson
Samantha Phillippe

Ana Lucía Piedrahita Fernández
Marty Raymond
Coral Sampson
Erin Sandsmark
Katie Sandsmark
Marcelyn Smale
Johanna Smith
Sandra Swami
Laura Tanner
Brandee Polson
Cassandra Warn
Emma Wheeler

TENOR

Steve Aggergaard**
Andrew Alness
Larry Brandts
Ben Demaree
Blake Downing
Samuel Fouts*
Flynn Franzen
Jason Kaiser
Reagan Lee
Jonathan Posthuma
Rabindra Tambyraja

BASS

Robert Atendido
Haskel Black
James Bowen

Phil Bratnober
David Erickson
Matt Ferguson
Tim Graham
Alex Halverson
Ward Jacobson
Joe Kastner
Philip Lowry
Walker MacSwain
Nicholas Mroczek*
Ross Mumford
Milo Oien-Rochat
David Olson
Jonathan Pinkerton
Brian Ruhl
Joseph Scheller
Richard L. Shallbetter
David Skodje
William B Smale
Connor Smith
Trent Stenoien
Matthew Terhaar
David Toht
Liam Vance
Christopher John Wallace
Stefan Weijola

*Section Leader

**Board Liaison



Investing in our communities has always been, and continues to be a cornerstone of our company. It's why since 1946 Target has invested 5 percent of our profit back into the communities where our guests and team members live, work and play. **Learn more at [Target.com/corporateresponsibility](https://www.target.com/c/corporate-responsibility).**