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49

2017 - 2018

SPRING CONCERTS

VocalEssence WITNESS
Of Such I Dream

Rutter Returns

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**In remembrance*

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PLEASE NOTE:

- Concerts will be recorded for possible 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 **VocalEssence ¡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.
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- 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.



2017-2018 49TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

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VOCALESSENCE WITNESS OF SUCH I DREAM

Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 4 PM
Orchestra Hall
1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN

Concert Conversation with William C. Banfield at 3 PM

VocalEssence Chorus
VocalEssence Youth Choir
Orchestra
Mary Jo Gothmann, *collaborative pianist*
G. Phillip Shoultz, III, *conductor*

2017-2018 SEASON SPONSORS



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota
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WELCOME

Dreams. We all have them. Some use dreams to prioritize life's personal decisions. Others cast off dreams as unattainable visions. Then, there are those visionary thinkers whose dreams shape the thoughts of generations. Langston Hughes was such a dreamer. His work best characterizes the explosion of creativity and artistic output known as the Harlem Renaissance and it still calls us into action today.

This afternoon's program is the result of a dream. VocalEssence WITNESS began as a single concert with a single school partner in 1991. Now, in its twenty-eighth year, the program celebrates the outstanding contributions of African Americans in the arts through concerts, conversations, recitals, workshops, and programming in nearly fifty schools throughout the metropolitan region. Each year, with the help of our phenomenal teaching artists, we use a theme to highlight past achievements and illuminate our role in making today's society more equitable for all.

As we celebrate the Harlem Renaissance through the lens of Langston Hughes's pen, we share many musical settings of his poetry in juxtaposition with thoughts from contemporary poets and composers. We also present the world premiere of *I Trust Harlem is Still There*, a new large scale work by our dear friend and commissioned composer William C. Banfield.

We are also delighted to share the inaugural performance of the VocalEssence Youth Choir. We have piloted this comprehensive choral arts apprenticeship with students from Minneapolis and St. Paul High Schools. Since October, these young people have met together on a weekly basis with artists and educators from many disciplines diligently preparing to become one dynamic chorus. I know you will be absolutely amazed by their sound and inspired by their presence.

Now, I encourage you to sit back and dream with us as people of all ages and backgrounds come together in song!

—G. Phillip Shoultz, III, *Associate Conductor*
Director of Learning, Engagement, and Community Programs

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VOCALESSENCE ReMix

ReMix Singer Studio

Be part of something new, and join us as we redefine choir. Pull up a chair and discover new voices as members of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers perform music by up-and-coming Minnesota composers, and reimagine songs you know as vocal band "Nation" sings stunning pop a cappella cover songs.

Landmark Center Courtroom, St. Paul
March 6, 2018 7 PM

Icehouse, Minneapolis
March 19, 2018 7 PM

Tickets \$12 in advance, and \$15 at the door.
[vocalescence.org](https://www.vocalescence.org)

THE PROGRAM



VOCALESSENCE Vintage Voices

VocalEssence would like to welcome our special guests attending this concert through the VocalEssence Vintage Voices program, which integrates arts into the everyday lives of older adults by creating choirs in assisted living communities and senior centers. Activities include weekly choral rehearsals for 12 weeks, culminating in an on-site concert for all residents and attendance at a VocalEssence concert.

Sabathani Senior Center, Minneapolis
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center,
Saint Paul
Trillum Woods, Plymouth

**For more information about
VocalEssence Vintage Voices, visit
vocalessence.org/vintagevoices.**

VocalEssence Chorus and VocalEssence Youth Choir

Jambo, Rafiki Yangu

David Montoya, arr. Ron Kean
(2001)

I Dream a World

André Thomas
(2002)

VocalEssence Chorus

Micah 6:8

Lisa Fuglie and Mark Anderson,
arr. Carol Barnett

Andrew Alness, *tenor*; Becca Bellman, *alto*; Becky Gaunt, *alto* (2017)

I Trust Harlem is Still There

(Symphony 12, Chamber Songs)

William C. Banfield
(2017)

- I. Orchestral Prelude
- II. Dear Carlo
- III. I Trust Harlem is Still There
- IV. The Cape is Charming
- V. Poppa
- VI. Orchestral Interlude
- VII. The Cuban
- VIII. Disturbing the Peace
- IX. Breeze at Sunset
- X. American Paper

Ryan LaBoy, *baritone*; JoAnna Johnson, *soprano*;
Patricia Brown and Karla Nweje, *dancers*
World Premiere



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INTERMISSION

Presentation of Reatha Clark King Award Philip Brunelle and Reatha Clark King

VocalEssence Youth Choir

Dream Variation from *Three Dream Portraits*

Roxane Wallace, *dancer*
G. Phillip Shoultz, III, *baritone*

Margaret Bonds
(1959)

The Dream Keeper

Rollo Dilworth
(2006)

Violence (What For?)

Niles
(2017)

Love Has Broken Down the Wall

Mark Miller
(2014)

VocalEssence Chorus

To Sit and Dream

Rosephanye Powell
(2010)

In Time of Silver Rain

Rollo Dilworth
(2013)

VocalEssence Chorus and VocalEssence Youth Choir

The Dream Cycle

- I. Sweet and Wonderful
- II. Hold Fast
- III. I Continue to Dream

Laura Caviani, *pianist*
World Premiere
VocalEssence ReMix Composer Winner

Laura Caviani
(2017)

When Dreams Take Flight

Rollo Dilworth
(2017)

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TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

JAMBO, RAFIKI YANGU

David Montoya, arr. Ron Kean

Jambo rafiki yangu. Welcome my friend!
Kawaida ume fahamu, ni se fahamu. Always remember me and I
will remember you.
Wewe ni mwema. You are so wonderful.
—*Carah Reed and David Montoya*

I DREAM A WORLD

André Thomas

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn.
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind—
Of such I dream, my world!
—*Langston Hughes*

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*

I TRUST HARLEM IS STILL THERE (SYMPHONY 12, CHAMBER SONGS)

William C. Banfield

PROGRAM NOTE:

My program note for this symphony is very simple. I came across a letter written by Langston Hughes, April 1, 1931 to Carl Van Vechten, huge supporter of the young writer. Reading the letter, which was Langston Hughes's summary of a trip he had taken with his friend, Zell Ingram, I was immediately struck by the depth and richness of description, picturesque details, and riveted by the emotional urgency and "cultural reporting." The letter read like an opera libretto, adventure and artist's lament all in one. I immediately called Philip Brunelle and inquired about a collaboration to bring this story to life in music. I divided the letter into his chapters of travels, and adapted the letter to song form. After setting the text and pouring my songs, I orchestrated the work to form my chamber symphony for voices and instruments, telling the story of Langston's travels. This work is written in honor of and dedicated to my dear friends, Philip and Carolyn Brunelle, who birthed me professionally as a composer 25 years ago and have stood with me all the way and beyond. With love and huge admiration. We hope you enjoy.

—*Bill Banfield*

II. Dear Carlo

Dear Carlo, I've been trying to write you for weeks. We've been moving so fast, I haven't had a moment. But alas, we have come to a stopping place, where the sight of the citadel La Ferrière was twenty miles away on a mountain top. We came across from Cuba in old cars and buses full of peasants and chickens. We took deck on a French ship for Port au Prince, riding in the open air, picking up cargo for three days traveling around Southern Haiti with sugar cane workers and cargo, while the boat went all around Haiti.

III. I Trust Harlem is Still There

Last night a storm came up as we slept in the ship's hold with the Haitian crew. Port au Prince struck us as little more than wooden huts with tin roofs and gangs of marines, badly lit streets and everything at American prices or higher. So we left for the North. We went North, but halfway to the cape the spring floods held us up for nearly two weeks. We had a swell time and stayed at St. Marc, there is a splendid beach and mountains all around and lots of congos on weekends, drums sounding everywhere, men and women dancing alone or together as they choose all circling around the maypole in the middle, singing and throwing hips.

I trust Harlem is still there.

We reached the cape last week and found a grand hotel on the waterfront for Dominican revolutionaries, a place where they play dominoes all day, dance to Cuban records, and they talk revolution and drink mojitos all night.

Dear Carlo, I trust Harlem is still there.

IV. **The Cape is Charming**

The Cape is charming, full of old ruins from the days of the French. Pushed into the sea by the hills, it's much cooler and not so ugly as Port au Prince. Our windows and balconies look out on the ancient embankments, the bay, and the mountains beyond. Our rooms and meals for only twenty-five dollars a month! All the native crew from the ship we took at Santiago live here at the Cape. We have plenty of friends.

They take us to congos and cockfights, dances and bars, and out on the bay in their fishing boats, and we're hoping for a voodoo dance this Saturday. We got tight on sugar cane rum and out danced the natives. The snake hips was a new one to them!

V. **Poppa**

The next morning the musicians came to our hotel. They brought their drums; a "mama" and a "baby" drum, but you need the "poppa" drum to make a full set. But the Marines and the priests try to stop the singing and the dancing and try and take the drums. So the poppa drum is really scarce. They can only be found way, way back in the hills, so we went looking for the poppa.

VII. **The Cuban**

We had a swell and glorious time in Havana. I was surprised at the amount of publicity our visit got in Cuba, reporters and flashlights. We made the front page the next morning, a full account of my poetry readings, but the next day we were arrested at the beach. We went to meet a professor from the university and Addison Durland, a most amazing Cuban-American man who makes swell pictures. You must meet him when he comes to New York again.

VIII. **Disturbing the Peace**

In Havana they wanted to charge us ten dollars to come on the beach. They refused to let us wait for our friends at the entrance, and when we stepped outside they arrested us and charged us with "escandota," disturbing the peace. They testified we had bathed inside, put up our feet on the beach chairs and misbehaved. Of course we did not. This was absurd as they did not let us in. The judge was aware of attempts of discrimination against the Cubans of color. He rebuked the beach authorities and cleared us. The rights of all the people of color under Cuban law can go freely to all places. Can you imagine us disturbing the peace?

IX. **Breeze at Sunset**

With the rainy season and boats being very difficult to get we decided not to go no further south but to take a sailing vessel from here to the Bahamas, then to Miami, then home.

X. **American Paper**

Oh Carlo, Zell has a summer job in sight and I want to do my novel. The next island of interest is a long way away. I haven't had any mail from home for about six weeks, nor have I seen an American paper. So I don't know what's going on. However, I hope Harlem is still there. I haven't done any work either, been trying to wear trouble off my mind.

I trust Harlem is still there.

—Original letter written by Langston Hughes, 1931
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DREAM VARIATION FROM THREE DREAM PORTRAITS

Margaret Bonds

To fling my arms wide
In some place of the sun,
To whirl and to dance
Till the white day is done.
Then rest at cool evening
Beneath a tall tree
While night comes on gently,
Dark like me—
That is my dream!

To fling my arms wide
In the face of the sun,
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!
Till the quick day is done.
Rest at pale evening . . .
A tall, slim tree . . .
Night coming tenderly
Black like me.
—Langston Hughes

THE DREAM KEEPER

Rollo Dilworth

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamer,
Bring me all your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.
—Langston Hughes

VIOLENCE (WHAT FOR?)

Niles

Spread the peace and love every day.
Spread the peace and love in every way.
We gotta move on from the hatred.
We gotta move on, love is sacred.
— *Niles*

LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALL

Mark Miller

Love has broken down the wall. Let us join our hearts as one.
Through love's power all is reconciled. We're accepted as we are.
Cast aside your doubts and fears. Peace and love, freely offered here.
We will tear down the walls! We will tear down every wall!
Love has called us, one and all. Love has broken down the walls.
— *Mark Miller*

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*

IN TIME OF SILVER RAIN

Rollo Dilworth

In time of silver rain
The earth puts forth new life again,
Green grasses grow
And flowers lift their heads,
And over all the plain
The wonder spreads

Of life,
Of life,
Of life!

In time of silver rain
The butterflies lift silken wings
To catch a rainbow cry,
And trees put forth new leaves to sing
In joy beneath the sky
As down the roadway
Passing boys and girls
Go singing, too,

In time of silver rain
When spring
And life
Are new.

— *Langston Hughes*

THE DREAM CYCLE

Laura Caviani

I. SWEET AND WONDERFUL

There are words like Freedom
Sweet and wonderful to say.
On my heartstrings freedom sings
All day everyday.

There are words like Liberty
That almost make me cry.
If you had known what I know
You would know why.
— *Langston Hughes*

II. HOLD FAST

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.
— *Langston Hughes*

III. I CONTINUE TO DREAM

I take my dreams and make of them a bronze vase
and a round fountain with a beautiful statue in its center.
And a song with a broken heart and I ask you:
Do you understand my dreams?
Sometimes you say you do,
And sometimes you say you don't.
Either way it doesn't matter.
I continue to dream.
— *Langston Hughes*

WHEN DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

Rollo Dilworth

What dreams we have and how they fly
Like rosy clouds across the sky;
Of wealth, of fame, of sure success,
Of love that comes to cheer and bless;

And how they wither, how they fade,
The waning wealth, the jilting jade —
The fame that for a moment gleams,
Then flies forever, —dreams, ah —dreams!

O burning doubt and long regret
O tears with which our eyes are wet,
Heart-throbs, heart-aches, the glut of pain,
The somber cloud, the bitter rain,

You were not of those dreams — ah! well,
Your full fruition who can tell?
Wealth, fame, and love, ah! love that beams
Upon our souls, all dreams — ah! dreams.
—based on text by *Paul Laurence Dunbar*

BIOGRAPHIES



A composer, author, recording artist, musical director, and exceptional live jazz performer, **Bill Banfield** bridges many worlds. He received his Bachelor of Music from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, a Master of Theological Studies from Boston University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from

the University of Michigan. Bill currently serves as professor of Africana Studies/ Music and Society, director of Africana Studies programs, Berklee College of Music. billbanfield.com

VocalEssence Youth Choir is an eight-month choral arts apprenticeship for Twin Cities high school students expanding upon the work we have done for nearly three decades. Under the visionary leadership of Associate Conductor, G. Phillip Shoultz, III, we have created an ensemble that is learning from and creating with master artists from multiple artistic disciplines and that reflects the diversity of our community in its membership. Through this choir, we are awakening artistic expression and creativity in young people, harnessing the community building capacity of group singing, and encouraging a wider circle of participation in our art form.

JoAnna Johnson pursued her college education at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, as a Palmer Scholar in Vocal Performance. JoAnna is employed at the International School of Minnesota as the Music Conservatory Coordinator, overseeing and managing all aspects of the conservatory's operations as well as teaching private vocal lessons within the program. She also maintains her own private vocal studio out of her home, freelances as a Soprano soloist in the Twin Cities, and sings with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers.

Ryan LaBoy is an active singer, conductor, educator, and youth advocate throughout the Twin Cities. He currently serves as Founding Music Director of ComMUSICation—an El Sistema-inspired choral youth-development program in St. Paul (www.cmcmmn.org)—and as Director of Youth Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Additionally, he sings with VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, MPLS (imPulse), and Boarder CrosSing. Ryan holds degrees in Choral Conducting and Music Education from the University of Minnesota and Westminster Choir College.

Patricia Brown (see page 16)

Karla Nweje (see page 16)

Roxane Wallace (see page 16)



Ta-coumba Aiken is a Twin Cities artist, arts administrator, educator, and community activist who focuses on public art and collaborative projects. He has participated in the creation of over 300 murals and public art sculptures with themes ranging from local history to his own style of rhythmic pattern and spirit writing. His works can be found in public and private collections including those of the Walker Art Center, Taj Mahal, and Maya Angelou. ta-coumba.com

Named one of the top 25 trailblazers in the Twin Cities by Growler Magazine, **Niles** is a renaissance man within the world of the arts. He is a hip-hop artist, director, producer, actor, host, motivational speaker, and teacher, and is a founding artistic educator for the VocalEssence Youth Choir. CEO/Founder of The Avant Garde, LLC, Niles will be releasing his debut album entitled “To Remain” in 2018. theavantgardeis.com/about

ORCHESTRA

Peter Whitman, *winds*
Jonathan Brandt, *trumpet*
Rick Gaynor, *trombone*
Eric Barsness, *percussion*
Josh Carlson, *percussion*
Mary Jo Gothmann, *piano*
Renata Steve, *violin*
Laura Sewell, *cello*
Chris Brown, *bass*

SEASON CELEBRATIONS: HARLEM RENAISSANCE AT 100



What did it mean to be Black in America 100 years ago? What did it mean to be American? The cultural and artistic earthquake that occurred between 1918 and the mid-1930s—with the neighborhood of Harlem in New York as its epicenter—answered those questions in unexpected ways. What came to be called the Harlem Renaissance challenged the established stereotypes of African Americans that Whites had held for centuries and produced some of the nation’s first uniquely “American” artistic traditions (distinct from European influence).

The authors, artists, and scholars of the Harlem Renaissance—through their revealing of the African American experience—in realistic, fanciful, mournful, celebratory, angered, patient, agonizing, ecstatic ways—provided the shoulders on which later generations of African American authors, artists, and scholars could climb and strive to obtain their dreams.

In 1926, Alain Locke, an African American educator and critic, summed up the significance of what the artists of the Harlem Renaissance were achieving. He said, through art, “Negro life is seizing its first chances for group expression and self-determination.”

The artists and scholars of the Harlem Renaissance were also linked with the progressive political and social movements of the time. Thus, the movement also laid the foundation for the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s.

LANGSTON HUGHES



Hughes in the 1920s

Langston Hughes, American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, columnist, and notable figure of the Harlem Renaissance, was born in Joplin, Missouri, February 1, 1902. His family identified with the black community, though Native American and French cultures were also part of his family history.

Langston Hughes was a lonely boy, but he loved books and the stories his grandmother told him as he sat upon her lap. Her stories planted the seeds of Langston Hughes’s pride of his African American heritage and activist spirit.

In 1921, Langston enrolled in Columbia University in New York City. He dropped out at the end of freshman year, unhappy with the attitude of teachers and students towards a young man of color. But something quite amazing did happen while he was in New York City. He found Harlem.

Langston made an important decision in 1923, during his first trip to Africa. He would write about and live within the traditions of oral and musical communication of black culture. He sealed this life altering decision by throwing almost all his books overboard into the ocean. Now he would find inspiration and ideas in the people around him, and write in a language that everyday folks spoke and understood.

All the while he traveled across the world, Harlem was his anchor. Many of the writers, musicians, and artists were his friends—and their energy and vibrant personalities inspired his own work. He could hear the jazz music he loved any time of day. And the magazines and journals that published many of his poems were based in Harlem.

Langston Hughes died in 1967 of cancer. His ashes were laid to rest in Harlem, of course, at the Arthur Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

*Excerpted from the 2017-18 VocalEssence WITNESS Teacher Resource Guide
Prepared by Joanna Cortright and Dwight Scott
Robert Graham and G. Phillip Shoultz, III, editors*

THANK YOU TO OUR VOCALESSANCE WITNESS YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT SPONSOR A SEAT DONORS

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Linda Aronson	Janet Colliton <i>in memory of Miriam L. Parsons</i>	John Haugen and Alicia Reeves	Jan Mattox	Carol Rosenbaum	Susan Stuart
Nancy Azzam	John and Joan Colwell	William Heier	Dick and Joyce McFarland	Lisa Rovick	Thomas H. Swain
Kay and Ron Bach	Thomas Crampton	John and Robin Helgen <i>in honor of Dave and Bev Heggen</i>	Bernard McGarrigle	<i>in honor of Anika Kildegaard</i>	Dale Talley
Ann Barkelew and James O'Hagan <i>in honor of Dianne Thompson and Bill Hutchins</i>	Charles and Kathy Cunningham	H. Thomas and Mary Heller	Kimberly D. Meisten	Brian D. and Barbara Ruhl	Lynn and Carol Truesdell
Carol Barnett and John Tartaglia	Carol Diemert	Sandra K. Hirsch	Maria Mitchell <i>in memory of Kathy Gagnon</i>	Kay and Peter Sammond <i>in memory of David Buran</i>	Helen Ver Hoeven <i>in memory of Tony Ver Hoeven</i>
Gavin Berg	Darlene A. Diesch <i>in memory of Dr. Stan Diesch</i>	Susan Holt	Judy and Peter Mitchelson	Coral Sampson	Andy and Katrina Wallmeyer
Roy and Nadine Berg <i>in memory of Alan Berg</i>	Ernest and Mary Dorn	Doug and Kerry Hoverson	Bob and Mary Moncur <i>in honor of Lisa Moncur</i>	Jeanne Schleh	Clifton and Bettye Ware
Linda Bergherr	Dominick and Nancy Driano <i>in honor of Ann Barkelew O'Hagan</i>	Jean Howell	Judy Morgan	Hal and Judy Schneebeck	David and Ruth Waterbury
Madeline Betsch	Richard Duncan	Robert S. and Patricia A. Hoyt	Nick Nash and Karen Lundholm	Anne Seltz	Dr. Preston and Sharon Williams
Steven and Pam Bjoraker <i>in honor of Mari Scott</i>	Richard and Carol Eick	Draper and Molly Jaffray	Jerry and Andrea Nelson	Gale Sharpe	Richard Willits
Brian and Claudia Boysen <i>in honor of G. Phillip Shoultz, III, Michelle and Malachi Shoultz</i>	Sandy Ferguson <i>in honor of Matt Ferguson</i>	Lisa Jamieson	Laurits and Mary Ellen Nielsen <i>in honor of Noah and Christian Nielsen</i>	Sue Shepard and Don Helgeson <i>in memory of Shirley Campbell</i>	Joyce Windsperger Rubio
Will and Margee Bracken	Charlotte Forsythe	Lauren Johnson	James and Judy Olson	Jennifer Skinner	Debra Winge
Carol Brandenburg <i>in memory of Marion Etwiler</i>	Roger Foster	Suzanne Joyce <i>in memory of Bill Joyce</i>	Alan Onberg	Sharon Smith-Akinsanya <i>in honor of Jennie and Richard Carlson</i>	Ray and Jean Witter
Traci V. Bransford	Rick and Katie Fournier	Julia Kaemmer Fund of HRK Foundation <i>in honor of Dr. Art and Martha Kaemmer</i>	Nicholas Peter	Kristina Sorum	M. Wycoff
Joe and Martha Brown	Sam Fouts	Jean Kennedy	Douglas and Mary Platt	Carol Christine Southward	Wilson and Gayle Graham Yates
	Gloria Freeman	Athena Kildegaard	Jonathan Posthuma	Carol Stahlhut Carter <i>in memory of Linda Schaefer</i>	
	Ward Green and Sandra Swami	Joy Klemp	Lois Rand		
		Chuck and Jill Koosmann	William and Barbara Read <i>in memory of Joyce Reed, Choral Director</i>		
		John Kulstad and Elizabeth Mayotte	Barbara Reale <i>in honor of Nancy Gifford-Humphreys</i>		
		Diana J. Leland			
		Allan and Jackie Lotsberg			

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VOCALESSENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

VOCALESSENCE  WITNESS

A BRIEF HISTORY



In 1991, VocalEssence WITNESS was created to celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the fine arts and to our common cultural heritage. By commissioning and

programming rarely heard works by African American composers, and featuring African American guest artists, we help broaden ideas about African American musical expression and introduce new voices to our audiences through concerts, recordings, and broadcasts. Past VocalEssence WITNESS concert guest artists and composers have included James Earl Jones, Bobby McFerrin, Billy Taylor, Moore by Four, Sounds of Blackness, Morehouse College Glee Club, Sweet Honey In The Rock®, and many more.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

Consisting of three components—Artist Workshops, Teacher Resources, and a Young People's Concert—the **VocalEssence WITNESS School Program** is geared toward students in grades 4-12, and has reached more than 150,000 students since its inception.

- **Young People's Concert (YPC):** An abbreviated version of the VocalEssence WITNESS public concert, the YPCs reach more than 5,000 students through performances at Orchestra Hall.
- **Artist Workshops:** VocalEssence WITNESS partner schools receive two free days of workshops that allow students to work with a VocalEssence teaching artist who explores the annual program theme through his/her artistic discipline. The artist creates an integrative academic experience that combines the study of African American culture with art, music, social studies, literature, theater, character building, and other areas of school curriculum.
- **Teacher Resources:** Teachers at participating schools attend a half-day orientation seminar that engages them with professionally-written, culturally-relevant lesson plans that fulfill Minnesota Academic Standards and introduces them to the VocalEssence teaching artists.

VocalEssence WITNESS is critical for many students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a professional event at a major concert hall. We believe that an education and performance experience like VocalEssence WITNESS gives students an opportunity to learn from exceptional role models, increasing their self-esteem, and creating a desire to continue exploring ways to express themselves through the arts.

For more information or to sign up for the 2018-2019 VocalEssence WITNESS School Program, contact Rob Graham at robert@vocalessence.org or 612-547-1458.

VOCALESSENCE WITNESS SCHOOLS

Alice Smith Elementary School
Anoka Middle School for the Arts
Arcadia Charter School
Ascension Catholic School
Breck School
Brooklyn Center Secondary Arts and IB World School
Brooklyn Middle STEAM School
Burnside Elementary School
Central Elementary School
Como Park Senior High School
Creative Arts Secondary School
East Lake Elementary School
Evergreen Park World Cultures Community School
Field Community School
Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science
Harambee Elementary School
Hazel Park Preparatory Academy
Highland Catholic School
Highland Elementary School
Humboldt High School
Jefferson Community School
Kenwood Elementary School
Lake Nokomis Community School - Keewaydin
Lincoln Elementary School for the Arts
Little Canada Elementary School
Minnehaha Academy Lower School
Minnesota Waldorf School
Nativity of Our Lord School
North Park Elementary School
Oak Ridge Elementary School
Osseo Senior High School
Parkview Elementary School
Parkway Montessori Middle School
Pilgrim Lutheran School
Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School
Rosemount High School
Sanford Middle School
Shannon Park Elementary School
Sheridan Arts Spanish Dual Immersion
Southside Family Charter School
St. Peter Catholic School
Valley View Elementary School
Westview Elementary School
Woodland Elementary School

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Sisterhood

Sister Spokesman is a monthly gathering of African American women of all ages and walks of life, with the goal of providing an informative and fun environment for learning and networking.



From pertinent health and fitness to finance, relationship, and beauty and fashion advice — you name it, Sister Spokesman covers it!

For more info go to MSRNewsOnline and click on the Sister Spokesman tab



**VOCALESSENCE
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**10TH ANNIVERSARY
CONCERT**

5•22•18

**TICKETS:
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vocalessence.org • 612-371-5656**

**TUES, MAY 22, 2018 AT 7 PM
Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul**

Burroughs Community School, Minneapolis
Como Park Senior High School, Saint Paul
Osseo Senior High, Osseo
Park Spanish Immersion School, St. Louis Park
Prairie Seeds Academy, Brooklyn Park
Rosemount High School, Rosemount
VocalEssence Youth Choir
G. Phillip Shoultz, III, *conductor*



TEACHING ARTISTS 2017-2018

Timothy Berry: Vocalist, Composer, and Percussionist

- Eclectic performance appearances: Afro-Latin band, Grammy Award Winner Larnelle Harris, and Robert Robinson
- Composing awards: Live Music for Dance, Cultural Community Partnership grant, and winner in the Essentially Choral Competition for emerging American composers sponsored by VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum
- Assistant Professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato



Patricia Brown: Dance Instructor, Choreographer, and Performer

- African-based movement styles
- Primary and secondary schools, detention facilities, organizations, and theaters including: Stepping Stone, Penumbra, Pillsbury House, Children's and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theaters
- Teaches at Macalester College and the University of Minnesota, where she was awarded the College of Continuing Education Distinguished Teaching Award, and the Century Council Diverse Community Award



Brandon Commodore: Drummer, Musician, and Producer

- Touring drummer with Mint Condition and the Grammy Award-winning Sounds of Blackness
- Founder of the band #MPLS
- Songwriter and producer, doing music production for television, radio, and artists
- Attended McNally Smith College of Music
- Has taught drum and percussion at Walker West Music Academy and served as a mentor to many students



Ginger Commodore: Singer, Songwriter, and Actress

- Performs jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, contemporary, and gospel
- Acts and sings with Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Hey City, Chanhassen Dinner Theater
- Sharing the stage with Rachelle Ferrell is her career highlight



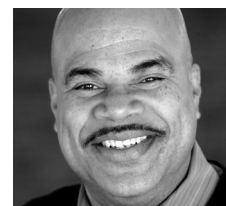
Karla Nweje: Arts Educator, Performer, Choreographer, and Literary Artist

- BFA in Dance Performance from Brooklyn College/CUNY
- Performed and toured with several dance and theater companies
- Former academic school teacher
- Creates work and performs with her group, The Samimejon Movement
- 2013 recipient of Ordway's Excellence in Educational Service Award
- Regular presenter at arts and education conferences and summits



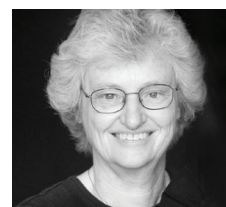
T. Mychael Rambo: Actor and Vocalist

- Performer with Penumbra Theatre, the Guthrie, Ordway, Illusion Theatre, Mixed Blood, Park Square, Children's Theatre, and Minnesota Opera
- Affiliate professor in the College of Theatre Arts and Dance at the University of Minnesota
- Honors and awards: singing national anthem for President Obama, 2008 Regional Emmy Award, 2009 Sally Award, 2010 Minnesota Black Music Award, Young Audience Artist of the Year, McKnight Theatre Artist Fellowship, Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Fellowship, Bush Finalist, the University of Minnesota Century Council Community Award, Outstanding Community Service Award, and Reatha Clark King Award
- Co-presents with Anita Ruth



Anita Ruth: Musician

- Works with over 300 students yearly in theatrical productions sponsored by Project SUCCESS
- Music Director/Conductor for four mainstage productions at Bloomington Civic Theater each year
- Music director for over 200 shows in the Twin Cities area
- Co-presents with T. Mychael Rambo



Roxane Wallace: Performer, Dancer, Instructor, and Choreographer

- McKnight Artist Fellow in Dance
- Minnesota Sage Award for Outstanding Performer
- Principal artist with Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater for the past 15 years
- Teaching artist for the Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts and instructor at Zenon Dance Studio





THE VOCALESSENCE 2018-2019 CONCERT SEASON

Be there when our 50th season lineup is unveiled at the
Rutter Returns Concert
on Saturday, April 21, 2018
at The Cathedral of Saint Paul.



VOCALESSENCE

TOGETHER WE SING

vocalessence.org

VOCAL ESSENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

VOCAL ESSENCE Youth Choir



VocalEssence is excited to launch a **Youth Choral Arts Initiative** to further expand the work we have done for nearly three decades to provide access to choral music to underserved students. Through advocacy work and partnerships with local schools, the initiative ultimately seeks to expand the concept of choral music by integrating a roster of teaching artists from multiple artistic disciplines into the learning process.

One exciting component of the initiative is the establishment of a new **VocalEssence Youth Choir** seeking to reflect the diversity of our community in its membership. The VocalEssence Youth Choir serves more than 50 high school students in the Minneapolis and St. Paul Public School systems.

DIVERSE, GROUNDBREAKING ARTISTS

G. Phillip Shoultz, III—conductor, educator, and singer—will lead this project. He serves as VocalEssence Associate Conductor and provides leadership for our education programs. He heads an impressive team of diverse, groundbreaking guest artists, including (but not limited to):

- Filipina-American rapper and hip-hop artist **Dessa**
- Emmy award-winning actor and VocalEssence WITNESS artist **T. Mychael Rambo**
- Verve-winning spoken-word artist/arts educator **Niles**
- Sage Award winning dancer/choreographer **Roxane Wallace**



G. Phillip Shoultz, III, conductor

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE VENUES

In partnership with Augsburg University, Orchestra Hall, and The Ordway, students get the opportunity to rehearse and perform in the most prestigious venues. Rehearsals run from September to June.

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

The VocalEssence Youth Choir is open to all students in the Minneapolis and Saint Paul School systems at no cost. Singers receive free transportation, performance uniforms, dinner on a weekly basis, and complimentary concert tickets for two guests.



Help support the inaugural year of the VocalEssence Youth Choir through our GoFundMe page. <https://www.gofundme.com/vocalessence>



SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE VOCALESSENCE YOUTH CHOIR

Andrew Alness
Laura Alpizar
Mary Ann Aufderheide
Jeff and Lindsey Bina
Brandenburg Reetz Family Fund of
The Minneapolis Foundation
Philip Bratnober
Sarah Brookner
Philip and Carolyn Brunelle
Tim and Haley Brunelle
Joanna Cortright
Ecolab Foundation
Emily Feld
Google Inc.
David and Yvonne Grover
Donald Hall
Bill Halverson
Phil and Laura Holst
Susan Holt

Lora Aadalen Joshi
Kapke Family
Jan and Tom Kilton
Ann Ladd
Jeene Lee
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The Mauriel Family Foundation
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Kimberly D. Meisten
Hillary Oppmann
Katherine Panciera
Bert Pinsonneault
Sky Portal
Jonathan Posthuma
Jackie Prince
Jessica Raines
Roxanne Ramirez
Rachel Ratner
Michael Rowan

Sue Shepard and Don Helgeson
G. Phillip and Michelle Shoultz, III
Jennifer Skinner
Frank Stubbs and Tom Lee
Timothy C. Takach and Jocelyn Hagen
Eileen M. Troseth
Uptop Films
Margaret Vainio
Ben and Deb Vander Kooi
Andy and Katrina Wallmeyer
David and Ruth Waterbury
Joe and Jennifer Weismann



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

VOCALLESSENCE IN THE COMMUNITY



REATHA CLARK KING AWARD WINNER

The Reatha Clark King Award for Excellence and Youth Motivation through the Cultural Arts was established by VocalEssence in 2007 to celebrate and recognize leaders and organizations that provide the resources to empower youth through direct contact, making a way for them to be as successful as they can be.



The twelfth recipient of this award is **Dr. Jacob A. Gayle, Jr.** and the **Medtronic Foundation**. Medtronic, headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, is among the world's largest medical technology, services, and solutions companies—alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for millions of people around the world. Medtronic employs more than 91,000 people worldwide, serving physicians, hospitals, and patients in more than 160 countries. The company is focused on collaborating with stakeholders around the world to take healthcare “Further, Together.”

Jacob has led the Medtronic Foundation as its Vice President since 2011. From a young age, Jacob was encouraged by his parents to be a global citizen and embrace all cultures as his own. He was charged

to live life with vision and mission, and to not only remember those who came before him, but also to be responsible for those who come after him and need help in order to fulfill their destiny.

Jacob has spent his career living these values through his work at Kent State University and Emory University, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Agency for International Development, The United Nations, World Bank, the Ford Foundation, and now the Medtronic Foundation. At a Ray Murphy Lecture in Dublin, Ireland promoting philanthropy, Jacob reiterated his commitment: “One person, one vision, one organization can, in fact, change the world.”

The Medtronic Foundation focuses on supporting health and health access initiatives in communities where Medtronic employees live and give. In 2016 alone, the Foundation gave more than \$48.2 million back to communities world-wide, and employees volunteered more than 64,000 hours to nonprofits in their communities.

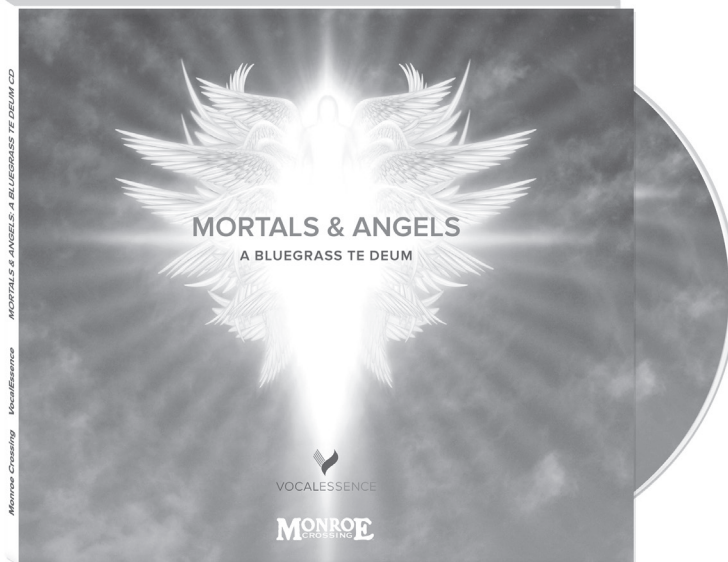
“Jacob is a global visionary and a maverick,” said Jacob’s wife, Joyce Lee Gayle. “He is frustrated and disappointed when goals and accomplishments are too small, or culturally restrictive. He considers it part of his Christian duty to willingly pursue and encourage those around him to use their God-given talents and abilities to uplift and benefit all people.”

Congratulations, Dr. Jacob A. Gayle, Jr. and the Medtronic Foundation, on all of the work that you do to empower the next generation and make our community stronger.

PAST REATHA CLARK KING AWARD WINNERS

2017:	T. Mychael Rambo	2011:	Sharon Sayles Belton
2016:	Dr. Josie Robinson Johnson	2010:	Laysha Ward
2015:	Sanford Moore	2009:	Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan C. Page and Diane Sims Page
2014:	General Mills	2008:	Patricia A. Harvey
2013:	Phyllis Wheatley Community Center	2007:	Ms. Ossie Brooks James
2012:	Theresa Neal		

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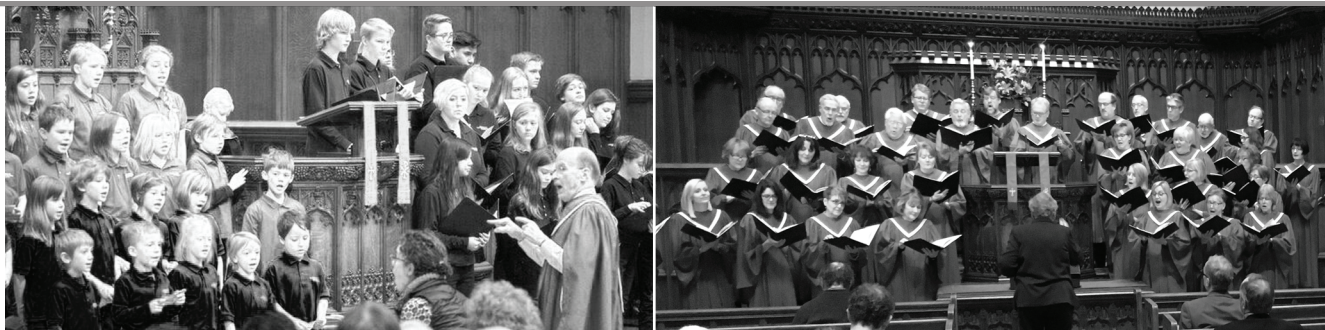
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- Jeffrey Williams,
New York Concert Review, Inc.,
New York, NY



We welcome you!
**Sundays—9:45 First Service especially for families &
10:30 Sanctuary Service**

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2017-2018 49TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



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*In memory of her daughter
Ellen, who loved the work of
John Rutter*
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*In celebration of Don's
90th birthday and the
VocalEssence 50th*
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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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Cay Shea Hellervik
Lawrence Lawyer
Malcolm McDonald
Fernando Meza
Mary Schaffner
The Very Rev. John L. Ubel
Bernat Vivancos

**In remembrance*

RUTTER RETURNS

Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 8 PM
The Cathedral of Saint Paul
239 Selby Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Concert Conversation with John Rutter at 7 PM

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers
Marietta Simpson, *soloist*
John Rutter, *conductor*
Philip Brunelle, *conductor*
G. Phillip Shoultz, III, *conductor*
Orchestra

2017-2018 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.



WELCOME

I cannot think of a happier way to conclude our 49th season (and look forward to our golden anniversary) than to be back at the Cathedral of Saint Paul and welcome the return of dear friend and Honorary Board Member – John Rutter! Since 1981 VocalEssence has enjoyed a friendship with our friends here at the Cathedral, returning many times in the past 37 years to sing music of Rautavaara, Kodály, Saint-Saëns, Bruckner, Boulanger and many more – and not forgetting Berlioz *Te Deum* and an orchestra with 13 harps!! Tonight we will celebrate several of those past moments and also present works of our own time, including an American premiere by a Catalan composer.

Choral music of many centuries is a hallmark of VocalEssence, especially with composers of our own time, so it is a delight to have John Rutter return to VocalEssence and the Twin Cities for this concert and a Community Sing on Sunday. When I consider the impact that John has had on choral music it gives me great delight to count him as a dear friend and as someone who believes passionately in the way voices in song communicate to the world. He knows the importance of words and how their depth is heightened by the addition of music; John constantly strives to make each piece of music he composes capture a special moment that will reach the heart and soul of each performer and listener.

I cannot imagine our world without the music of John Rutter...can you? I am very grateful for his outpouring of melody and harmony, his encouragement of singers, and his desire not to let choral music of the past be forgotten. John, we thank you for returning to us; we are so pleased to have this opportunity to once again make music together – as singers, instrumentalists, and listeners.

—Philip Brunelle,
Artistic Director & Founder

THE PROGRAM

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

The Peaceable Kingdom

Randall Thompson
(1936)

VII. Have Ye Not Known?

VIII. Ye Shall Have a Song

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers – Audience Sing

Let All the World

Dominick Argento
(1980)

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Lux Perpetua from *Requiem*

Bernat Vivancos
(2015)

American Premiere

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Visions

Stephen Paulus
(2010)

VocalEssence Chorus

Alleluia

Jake Runestad
(2013)

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Coplas from *Ultimos Ritos*

John Tavener
(1970)

INTERMISSION

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Musica Dei donum

Michele Frisch, *flute*

John Rutter
(1999)

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Hymn to the Creator of Light

John Rutter
(1993)

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Music

Mary Jo Gothmann, *piano*
World Premiere

John Rutter
(2018)

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Feel the Spirit

Marietta Simpson, *soloist*

John Rutter
(2001)

1. Joshua fit the battle of Jericho
2. Steal away
3. I got a robe
4. Sometimes I feel like a motherless child
5. Ev'ry time I feel the spirit
6. Deep river
7. When the saints go marching in

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM

Randall Davidson

VII. HAVE YE NOT KNOWN?

Have ye not known? Have ye not heard? Hath it
not been told you from the beginning?
Have ye not understood from the
foundations of the earth?

—*Isaiah 40:21*

VIII. YE SHALL HAVE A SONG

Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy
solemnity is kept;
and gladness of heart, as when one
goeth with a pipe to come into
the mountain of the Lord.

—*Isaiah 40:21*

VISIONS

Stephen Paulus

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great ruler and I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

—*8th century Irish poem translated by Mary E. Byrne
and versified by Eleanor H. Hull*

LUX PERPETUA (PARADISE) FROM REQUIEM

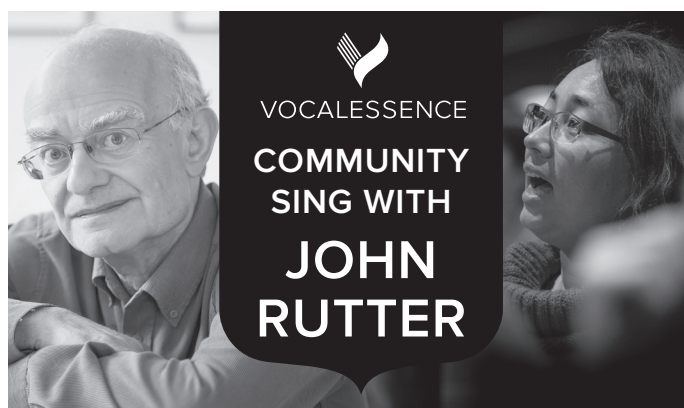
Bernat Vivancos

<i>Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine,</i>	Eternal rest, grant
	unto them, O Lord,
<i>Et lux perpetua luceat eis.</i>	And let perpetual light
	shine upon them.

—*Missa Defunctorum*

What God has planned for people who love him is more than eyes
have seen or ears have heard. It has never even entered our minds.

—*1 Corinthians 2:9*



SUN, APR 22, 2018 AT 3 PM
Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis
John Rutter, guest conductor

Britain's John Rutter invites you to join him for an
afternoon of "sweeter music" as he leads you through
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LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING

DOMINICK ARGENTO

Andante nobile 14 2 Poco meno mosso
f cantabile assai e legato

Let all the world in ev - 'ry cor - ner

più f 3 8

sing, My God and King.

f 4

Let all the world in ev - 'ry cor - ner sing,

più f 5 8 *allargandosi ff*

My God and King. Let

7 Poco più largo, maestoso *allargandosi*

all the world in ev - 'ry cor - ner sing, My

Largo assai 8 *più f* *sub. f poss.*

God and King. A - - - - men.

COPLAS FROM *ULTIMOS RITOS*

John Tavener

*I entered in, not knowing where,
And there remained uncomprehending,
All knowledge transcending.*

I entered – where – I did not know,
Yet when I found that I was there,
Though where I was I did not know,
Profound and subtle things I learned;

And if you wish to hear,
This highest knowledge is conceived
In a sense, sublime and clear
Of the essence of the Deity;
It is an act of great Clemency
That keeps us there uncomprehending,
All knowledge transcending.
—*St. John of the Cross*

MUSICA DEI DONUM

John Rutter

PROGRAM NOTE:

The first work of John Rutter to be heard is his setting of an anonymous text first published in 1594 and set to music by Orlando di Lasso. Rutter's setting of these exquisite words begins with a solo flute which then comments on the phrases sung by the choir. The piece is dedicated to Tim Brown and the choir of Clare College, Cambridge – a college John Rutter attended and for which he served as Director of Music in the 1970s.

—*Philip Brunelle*

<i>Musica Dei donum optimi trahit homines, trahit deos;</i>	Music, the gift of the supreme God, draws men, draws gods;
<i>Musica truces mollit animos tristesque mentes erigit.</i>	Music makes savage souls gentle and uplifts sad minds.
<i>Musica vel ipsas arbores et horridas movet feras.</i>	Music moves the very trees and wild beasts.

—*Author Unknown*

HYMN TO THE CREATOR OF LIGHT

John Rutter

PROGRAM NOTE:

The Three Choirs Festival is an English tradition celebrating its 303rd anniversary this year. The cathedral choirs of Hereford, Gloucester, and Worcester join together every summer for a week of grand music-making. John Rutter was asked to compose an a cappella work for the Festival and wrote this anthem for the dedication of the Herbert Howells memorial window in Gloucester Cathedral. He chose words of the 15th century poet, Lancelot Andrewes, and concluded with Johannes Crüger's melody from the same time. The first section is full of mystical intensity, and, with its iridescent chromatic harmonies is reminiscent of Howells's own music. After a more lively central section, the finale is ingeniously written and incorporates both the chorale melody and the opening motif.

—*Philip Brunelle*

Glory be to thee, O Lord,
Creator of the visible light,
the sun's ray, the flame of fire;
Creator also of the light invisible and intellectual:
that which is known of God.
Glory be to thee, O Lord,
Creator of the light,
for writings of the law, glory be to thee:
for oracles of prophets, glory be to thee:
for melody of psalms, glory be to thee:
for wisdom of proverbs, glory be to thee:
experience of histories, glory be to thee:
a light which never sets.

God is the Lord, who hath shewed us light.

—*Lancelot Andrewes, translated by Alexander Whyte*

Light, who dost my soul enlighten;
Sun, who all my life dost brighten;
Joy, the sweetest man e'er knoweth;
Fount, whence all my being floweth.
From thy banquet let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;
Through the gifts thou here dost give us,
As thy guest in heav'n receive us.

—*J. Franck, translated by Catherine Winkworth*

MUSIC

John Rutter

PROGRAM NOTE:

I am overjoyed to present this new piece by John Rutter to you. The moment I received it, I just had to share it with anyone that I saw. Thank you to Sue Shepard who is supporting this work in honor of two anniversaries: Don Helgeson's 90th birthday and the VocalEssence 50th. May music continue to bring joy and meaning to your lives.

—*Philip Brunelle*

When music sounds, gone is the earth I know,
And all her lovely things even lovelier grow;
Her flowers in vision flame, her forest trees
Lift burdened branches, stilled with ecstasies.

When music sounds, out of the water rise
Naiads whose beauty dims my waking eyes,
Rapt in strange dreams burns each enchanted face,
With solemn echoing stirs their dwelling-place.

When music sounds, all that I was I am
Ere to this haunt of brooding dust I came;
While from Time's woods break into distant song
The swift-winged hours, as I hasten along.

—*Walter de la Mare*

FEEL THE SPIRIT

John Rutter

PROGRAM NOTE:

Feel the Spirit is a set of seven beloved African American spirituals in a range of styles from big-band and the blues to Caribbean and close harmony that encompass the rich heritage of spirituals, known and loved worldwide. The work was premiered in 2001 in Carnegie Hall.

—*Philip Brunelle*

1. Joshua fit the battle of Jericho

*Joshua fit the battle of Jericho,
And the walls come tumblin' down.*

You may talk about your king of Gideon,
You may talk about your man of Saul;
But, there's none like good old Joshua
At the battle of Jericho.

Well, up to the walls of Jericho
He marched with spear in hand:
'Go blow those ram horns' Joshua cried,
'Cos the battle is in my hand.'

Then the lam' ram sheep horns begin to blow,
Trumpets begin to sound.
Joshua commanded the children to shout,
And the walls come tumblin' down.

2. Steal away

*Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus.
Steal away, steal away home,
I ain't got long to stay here.*

My Lord, he calls me,
He calls me by the thunder:
The trumpet sounds within my soul,
I ain't got long to stay here. *Refrain:*

Green trees are bending,
Poor sinner stands a-trembling:
The trumpet sounds within my soul,
I ain't got long to stay here. *Refrain:*

3. I got a robe

I got a robe, you got a robe,
All of God's children got a robe;
When I get to heaven gonna put on my robe,
Gonna shout all over God's heaven.
Everybody talking 'bout heaven ain't going there,
Heaven, heaven, gonna shout all over God's heaven.

I got shoes, you got shoes,
All of God's children got shoes;
When I get to heaven gonna put on my shoes,
Gonna walk all over God's heaven.

I got a harp, you got a harp,
All of God's children got a harp;
When I get to heaven gonna play on my harp,
Gonna play all over God's heaven.

I got a crown, you got a crown,
All of God's children got a crown;
When I get to heaven gonna put on my crown,
Gonna shine all over God's heaven.

4. Sometimes I feel like a motherless child

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
A long ways from home.
*True believer, true believer,
A long ways from home.*

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone,
A long ways from home.
*True believer, true believer,
A long ways from home.*

5. Ev'ry time I feel the spirit

*Ev'ry time I feel the spirit
Moving in my heart, I pray.*

Up on the mountain my Lord spoke;
Out of his mouth came fire and smoke.

Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh do remember me,
Way beyond the blue.

I got a home in glory land that outshines the sun,
Way beyond the blue.

The River Jordan is chilly and cold,
Chills the body but not the soul.
And all around me looks so shine,
I ask my Lord if it all was mine.

I'm on the road to heaven now, you must take it too;
Take it way beyond the blue in glory.

6. Deep river

Deep river, my home is over Jordan;
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into camp ground.
Oh don't you want to go to that Gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace.

7. When the saints go marching in

*Glory, glory hallelujah!
The saints go marching in.*

Oh, when the saints go marching in:
Lord, I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in.

And when the revelation comes, *etc.*

Oh, when the new world is revealed, *etc.*

Oh, when they gather round the throne, *etc.*

And when they crown him King of Kings, *etc.*

And when the sun no more will shine, *etc.*

And when the moon has turned to blood, *etc.*

And on that hallelujah day, *etc.*

BIOGRAPHIES

John Rutter was born in London and studied music at Clare College, Cambridge. His compositions embrace choral, orchestral, and instrumental music, and he has co-edited various choral anthologies including four *Carols for Choirs* volumes with Sir David Willcocks. From 1975-79 he was Director of Music at Clare College, and in 1981 formed his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, a professional chamber choir primarily dedicated to recording. He now divides his time between composition and conducting. John last performed with VocalEssence in 2002. www.johnrutter.com

Marietta Simpson, known for her deeply expressive, richly beautiful mezzo-soprano voice, has sung with every major orchestra in the United States, many of the critically acclaimed international orchestras and a long list of the world's greatest conductors, including the late Robert Shaw and Kurt Masur. A recipient of many awards throughout her long career including Grammy recognition and an Emmy, Marietta serves as the Rudy Professor of Music at Indiana University's prestigious Jacobs School of Music. She last performed with VocalEssence in 1997.

Michele Frisch is a graduate of Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. She is currently principal flute of the Minnesota Opera. She has played principal for performances by VocalEssence, Luciano Pavarotti; New York City Ballet; American Ballet Theater; the Royal Winnipeg Ballet; the San Francisco, Houston, and Joffrey Ballet companies; The Three Tenors; The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Minnesota Orchestra; as well as subbing with The Metropolitan Opera.

ORCHESTRA

Allison Ostrander and Julia Persitz, *violin I*
Natalia Moiseeva and Elise Parker, *violin II*
Emily Hagen and Susan Janda, *viola*
Teresa Richardson, *cello*
Christopher Brown, *bass*
Michele Frisch, *flute*
Sarah Carmack, *oboe and English horn*
Karrin Meffert Nelson, *clarinet and bass clarinet*
Laurie Merz, *bassoon*
Shari Rothman, *harp*
Kory Andry, *percussion*
William Kemperman, *percussion*

SEASON CELEBRATIONS

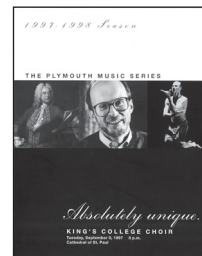
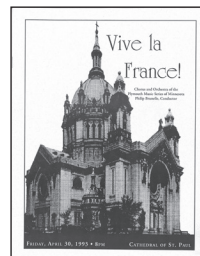
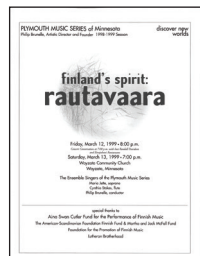
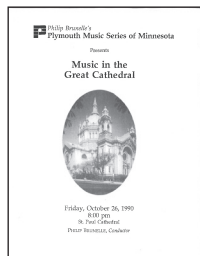
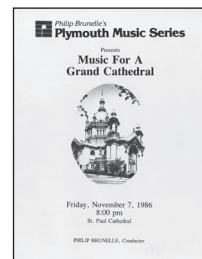
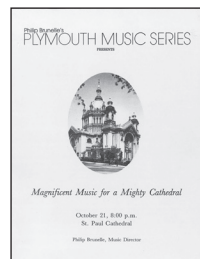
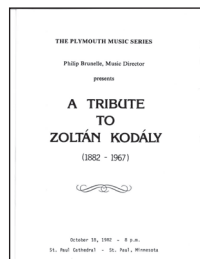
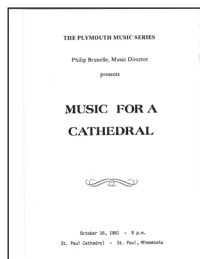
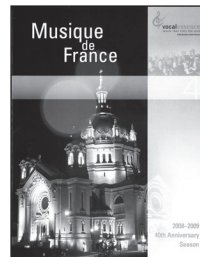
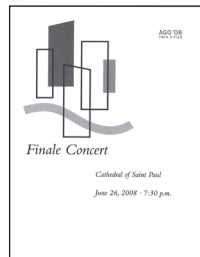
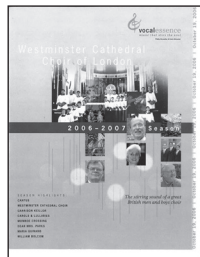
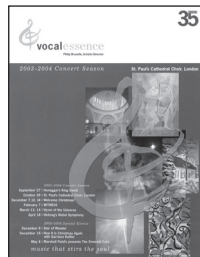
VOCAL ESSENCE AT THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL



For almost 30 years VocalEssence has had the privilege of offering special performances in the Cathedral of Saint Paul – the first being a performance of Berlioz's glorious *Te Deum* with over 300 voices and orchestra as well as the first local performance of *The Deluge* (the story of Noah's flood) by Saint-Saëns. And the Cathedral was full! Since then we have returned to present music that is perfect for this resonant space – music of Zoltán Kodály (with the Hungarian Ambassador attending), John Tavener (with the composer present), Anton Bruckner, Libby Larsen (with special guest narrator Jehan Sadat, first lady of Egypt), and Einojuhani Rautavaara (also with the composer present).

So many glorious occasions (including 13 harps for Berlioz and 20 marimbas for Paulus!)—as well as VocalEssence as the presenter of guest ensembles: the Choir of King's College, Cambridge—the St. Paul's Cathedral Choir of London—the Westminster Cathedral Choir of London—the Chapel Choir of St. Olaf College—and guest conductor Helmuth Rilling. Performing in this sacred space is an honor and a thrill for us all, singers and audience alike, and we look forward to many more occasions in the years ahead. And what a delight it is tonight to welcome our friend John Rutter as conductor and composer!

—Philip Brunelle



INTERVIEW WITH PHILIP BRUNELLE ABOUT JOHN RUTTER

In preparation for the Rutter Returns concert, VocalEssence Artistic Director and Founder Philip Brunelle answered a few questions about John Rutter.



Philip Brunelle and John Rutter during the VocalEssence tour to England in 2009. Photo credit: Jennifer Bauer.

When did you first learn about John Rutter (and his music)? I have always been curious about discovering composers new to me from all over the world. It was early in the 1970s that I found John's cantata "The Falcon" which was premiered in 1969 when he was in his early 20s.

What made you perk up and pay attention? I immediately sensed that this composer had a real understanding of vocal writing, and the ability to create memorable melodies.

What are two favorite memories that you have of John? 1. Being with him and his wife Joanna in their home outside Cambridge and seeing how he

'works' – a private cottage for composing and editing his Cambridge Singers recordings. 2. When the Ensemble Singers performed in England (2009), John volunteered to bring his recording equipment and record our concert in the Lady Chapel at Ely Cathedral. When he walked in with all the equipment and the Ensemble Singers realized who it was they were astonished: "Is that REALLY John Rutter who has come to record our concert?"

Is there an element of your personality (musical or otherwise) that you and John share? Both of us are curious about the wide world of music and share a love for music of the Renaissance and Baroque and the mastery of choral composers of those era.

Why is it important to share John's music today? John is the 'ne plus ultra' of choral composers with his amazing gift for finding just the right tone to set a text. Singing is about many things, melody being a prominent one, and John has an unending supply of melodies to share – and for singers and listeners to remember!

What is one of your favorite pieces written by John and why? Among all the charming settings of Christmas carols, I am very fond of his "Past Three A Clock" – an old English carol. Since the text begins by speaking of 3AM when it is quiet outside, John begins with a solo voice, unaccompanied, and gradually other voices and instruments are added, each of the 7 verses having a different color, coming to a grand fortissimo conclusion!

What are you most looking forward to at the Rutter Returns concert? Having John Rutter with us putting his unique stamp on his music – we are so fortunate to have this outstanding man not only conduct us, but also be the person responsible for the music itself!

VOCAL ESSENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

VOCAL ESSENCE  ¡Cantaré!



Celebrating its 10th anniversary, VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! has engaged singers of all ages in the celebration of Mexican culture by connecting composers from Mexico with school choirs and community choruses. Each year, two visiting composers work directly with Minnesota students and community members for four weeks, becoming familiar with the ensembles and writing a new song specifically for each.

In May of each year, all singers come together to present world premieres of the new music in concert at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. More than 5,000 singers have participated in VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! since its inception. Nearly 150 new Mexican songs have been created, and many are published by VocalEssence Music Press making them accessible to choirs around the world.

This season, Mexican composers Jimena Contreras and Bernardo Feldman are working with the following Twin Cities schools: Burroughs Community School, Minneapolis, Park Spanish Immersion School, St. Louis Park, Prairie Seeds Academy, Brooklyn Park, Como Park Senior High School, Saint Paul, Osseo Senior High, Osseo, and Rosemount High School, Rosemount. The culminating concert will be at the Ordway Music Theater on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 7 pm. Tickets are available at vocalessence.org.

In addition, for the second year VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! is extending to Chicago, IL. VocalEssence is supporting Chicago a capella as they implement ¡Cantaré! with Novelli Jurado in the Chicago metro area, premiering choral works at the ¡Cantaré! Chicago Community Concert in May 2018.

"I have found VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! to be the perfect way to bring families and students of different backgrounds together, as I believe that is the key in the development of any community."

—Ana Luisa Fajer Flores, former Consul of Mexico, St. Paul, MN

For more information, please contact VocalEssence at info@vocalessence.org or 612-547-1451.



Come together...



VOCALESSENCE  Gala 2018

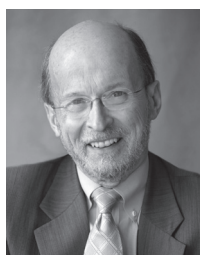
SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018
4:30 P.M.

Hilton Minneapolis
1001 Marquette Avenue | Minneapolis

Register by March 30 online at vocalessence.org/gala2018

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 Director of Learning, Engagement, and Community Programs

Known for innovative pedagogy and the ability to inspire singers, **G. Phillip Shultz, III**, serves as the Associate Conductor | Director of Learning, Engagement, and Community Programs for VocalEssence. Phillip completed doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota and earned degrees from the University of Georgia and Georgia State University.

His work in public schools garnered multiple Teacher of the Year honors. Phillip won the 2015 ACDA Graduate Conducting Competition and represents the organization in the 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.



AUDITION FOR THE VOCALESSENCE CHORUS AND ENSEMBLE SINGERS 50TH SEASON CONCERTS

Please visit vocalessence.org/audition to schedule your audition online.

VOCAL ESSENCE CHORUS



The **VocalEssence Chorus** is an exceptional group of talented, committed singers from many walks of life. A staple on the VocalEssence season, the Chorus also performs at community events including the VocalEssence WITNESS Young People's Concerts at Orchestra Hall and the VocalEssence iCantaré! Concert at the Ordway. In the 49th season, VocalEssence is honored that the Chorus was selected to perform at the 2017 Fall Convention for the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. vocalessence.org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-chorus

SOPRANO

Amanda Allen
Libby Anderson
Barbara Anderson
AnnaLisa Anderson
Jessica Belt
Whitney Al
Bembenek
Ali Biatek
Julia Braaten
Jennica Date
Regan Debban
Judy Drobeck
Kristina M. Guiffre
Jeanne Kenney
Gillian Koch
Kartra Kohl
Sarah Kurtz
Joy MacArthur
Lisa Moncur
Sophia Pechaty
Christina Pederson
Shira Rabkin
Leah Refuerzo
Elizabeth Robbins
Alexa Rosenbaum
Cheryl Roberts
Saunders
Cassandra Schwartz
Susan Scofield
LeAnn Stein
Amanda Troolin
Jennifer S.
Vickerman*
Laura Walklet
Dannika Wright

ALTO

Akosua Obuo Addo
Jo M. Beld
Becca Bellman
Alyse Carbonell
Constance Chen
Judy Gaunt
Becky 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 Tran
Mishy Wang
Cassandra Warn
Emma Wheeler

TENOR

Steve Aggergaard**
Andrew Alness
Thom Baker
David Andrew
Beccue
Larry Brandts
Ben Demaree
Blake Downing
Samuel Fouts*
Flynn Franzen
Jason Kaiser
Reagan Lee
James LeVair
David Paese
Jonathan Posthuma
Zeph Tambornino
Rabindra Tambyraja

BASS

Robert Atendido
Haskel Black
James Bowen
Phil Bratnober
Ryan Coopergard
David Erickson
Matt Ferguson
Tim Graham
Alex Halverson
Ward Jacobson
Robert J. Kringle
Ben Kucera
Philip Lowry
Walker MacSwain
Nicholas Mroczek*
Milo Oien-Rochat
David Olson

Thomas Paulson
Jonathan Pinkerton
Brian Ruhl
Joseph Scheller
Richard L.
Shallbetter
David Skodje
William B Smale
Connor Smith
Trent Stenoien
Matthew Terhaar
David Toht
Brady Toone
Liam Vance
Christopher John
Wallace

*Section leader
**Board liaison

VOCAL ESSENCE 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

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: NOVELLI JURADO AND MICHELLE ENG

Two VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! Council members find purpose and lifelong love thanks to VocalEssence



Minneapolis, Minnesota—thousands of miles north of his native Mexico City. Luckily, VocalEssence brought the two together.

Remembers Michelle, “A close family friend who was on the VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! Community Advisory Council invited my mom and me to attend the Noche Salón, which ¡Cantaré! hosted as a big fundraising event. She told us about this great organization that brings Mexican composers to work with choirs in schools in Minnesota and that got me interested, as my mom is Mexican and I grew up spending 3-4 months a year there and have always been very connected with my Mexican heritage. At the Noche Salón, I was introduced to Novelli, who was finishing up one of his residency visits. I offered to show him around the Twin Cities the next time he came to town, just like my family and I had done with so many of our visiting Mexican friends and relatives over the years.”

On Novelli’s next visit, a connection blossomed, and after his week in Minneapolis, the two nourished it through Skype conversations and visits, with each making trips to the other’s country. As their connection to each other deepened, their connection to VocalEssence did, too. Novelli and Michelle both eventually joined the VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! Community Advisory Council, and Novelli began another VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! residency, this time in the Rochester schools. By then, he felt it was time for the couple to take their relationship to the next level—and he had an amazing idea for asking Michelle to be his wife.

When Mexican composer, musician, sound engineer, and producer Novelli Jurado was chosen as a composer-in-residence for VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! in 2012, he had no idea that the course of his life would be forever altered. But it turned out that the love of his life, Michelle Eng, was waiting for him in

A surprise proposal—by an entire choir!

“I called Philip Brunelle and said, ‘Will you let me use your choir to propose to Michelle?’ recalls Novelli. “Philip loves surprises, and he said, ‘Let’s do it!’”

Michelle didn’t suspect a thing. “Novelli would attend rehearsals of the VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers to learn from one of the greatest choral conductors in the world, Philip Brunelle, and every once in awhile I would join him,” she said “It was fascinating to get a behind-the-scenes sneak preview of the incredible music and learn how choral directing works. So when, in April of 2015, Novelli invited me to tag along to a rehearsal, I didn’t think anything of it—I just said ‘Sure!’ I noticed he had set up some microphones and cameras, but he’s a professional audio engineer as well as a composer, so it didn’t strike me as unusual. The choir started rehearsing the songs Novelli composed for the students in Rochester, and all of the sudden they said, ‘Michelle, can you come up front?’”

“I was standing there with Novelli with the music score in front of us, and the choir began singing, *“Oh Michelle, lovely Michelle,”* and I just thought, ‘Wow, he wrote a song about me, isn’t that nice?’ but when they got to the end, the lyric was, *‘Would you marry me?’* I was completely surprised. And ecstatic! I said ‘Yes!’ and then they sang the song one more time. It was one of the best days of my life, and it was so special because it involved the way we met, which was through VocalEssence.” Thanks to the recording equipment Novelli set up, a video of the proposal song is now online for all to enjoy.

A bridge between cultures—and hearts

The couple settled permanently in Minneapolis after large weddings in both Mexico and the U.S. In fact, Philip Brunelle presided over their civil ceremony precisely at the place where they had met two years prior during the Noche Salón, which is a historic Pillsbury mansion in Minneapolis. “I call him ‘Padre’ now,” jokes Novelli, “because he married us.” And they are both deeply committed to the program that brought them together. As VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! expands to reach students in Chicago schools, Novelli will once again serve as a composer-in-residence. “When you think about it,” says Michelle, “our relationship is symbolic of what VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! is about, which is bridging two countries and bringing two cultures together. Our marriage is the epitome of that!”

THANK YOU, VOCALESSANCE DONORS

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.

Mrs. Fred C. Andersen*
Athwin Foundation
Carol A. Barnett
Alice Baver*
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Edward and Sharon Krumme</i> <i>Paul Laederach</i> <i>Mark and Susan Larson</i> <i>Ron and Nikki Lewis</i> <i>Allan and Jackie Lotsberg</i> <i>Judy Lund</i> <i>Vernon and Elaine Lund</i> <i>Suzanne Mahmoodi</i> <i>Sharon Marquardt</i> <i>Jan Mattox</i> <i>Mary Moe</i> <i>Kristine Mortensen</i> <i>Jane Ann Goltz and Robert Nash</i> <i>Don and Gerda Nightingale</i> <i>Nancy Norling</i> <i>Beverly Norris</i> <i>James and Judy Olson</i> <i>Sheila Rafert</i> <i>Gale Sharpe</i> <i>Vivian Stuck</i> <i>Judy Takkunen</i> <i>Jean Thomson</i> <i>Tom and Dawn Wanous</i></p>	<p>In remembrance of Mandal Gruesner <i>John and Sheila Bjorklund</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Jane Dayton Hall <i>Rick and Kristi Alberts</i> <i>Lucille Amis</i> <i>Nancy Azzam</i> <i>Don and Anne Bice</i> <i>Mike and Susan Burnett</i> <i>Norm and Janet Carpenter</i> <i>John and Joan Colwell</i> <i>Douglas and Sarah Crowther</i> <i>Yvonne Fox</i> <i>Eric and Andrea Fulcomer</i> <i>James and Kathryn Haymaker</i> <i>Louise Huff</i> <i>Janet Jones</i> <i>Don and Joann Leavenworth</i> <i>Mary Lou Mathison</i> <i>Wendy McCulley</i> <i>Bob and Mary Mersky</i> <i>Brian and Julia Palmer</i> <i>Tryg and Dee Pederson</i> <i>Lorri Otto</i> <i>Sally Polk</i> <i>Jack and Ede Rice</i> <i>Joyce Schnobrich</i> <i>Don and Judy Smith</i> <i>Emily Anne Tuttle*</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Louise Heffelfinger <i>Russ Bursch and Lee Mauk</i> <i>John and Robin Helgen</i></p> <p>In honor of Dave and Bev Heggen <i>John and Robin Helgen</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Dr. Gordon P. Howell <i>John and Robin Helgen</i></p> <p>In honor of Patricia Hoyt's 80th Birthday <i>Philip and Carolyn Brunelle</i> <i>Susan and Herb Nyhammer</i></p> <p>In honor of Grace Huenemann <i>Richard and Carol Eick</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Martha Hughes <i>Deb Winge</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Lee Johnston <i>Ann Buran</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Vivian Jones <i>Doug and Mary Jones</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Bill Joyce <i>Suzanne Joyce</i></p> <p>In honor of Dr. Art and Martha Kaemmer <i>Julia Kaemmer and Olivier Vrambout</i></p> <p>In honor of Anika Kildegard <i>Lisa Rovick</i></p> <p>In remembrance of N. Judge King <i>Reatha Clark King</i></p> <p>In honor of Joy Knoppel <i>Anonymous</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Audrey MacArthur <i>Joy Thompson MacArthur</i></p> <p>In honor of Mary Rose and Dennis Manning <i>William and Ruth Manning</i></p>	<p>In remembrance of Mary and Doug <i>Lauren Johnson</i></p> <p>In honor of Michael J. Mauriel <i>John and Mary Anne Mauriel</i></p> <p>In honor of Mary Anne and John Mauriel <i>Joyce Jensen</i></p> <p>In honor of Lisa Moncur <i>Bob and Mary Moncur</i></p> <p>In honor of Ross Mumford <i>Joseph Nabity</i></p> <p>In honor of Music, and what it brings to people's lives <i>Mary Bowman</i></p> <p>In honor of Dr. Glen Nelson's friendship with Philip Brunelle <i>Marilyn Carlson Nelson</i></p> <p>In honor of Noah and Christian Nielsen <i>Laurits and Mary Ellen Nielsen</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Miriam Lindeman Parsons <i>Janet Colliton</i></p> <p>In honor of Bill Pederson <i>Anonymous</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Mary Peterson <i>Shirley Reider and Dennis Lienke</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Eddris Pridgen and John Twiggs <i>Jacqueline Fleming</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Joyce Reed, Choral Director <i>William and Barbara Read</i></p> <p>In remembrance of George Reid <i>Ronald and Judy Libertus</i></p> <p>In honor of Sydney Rice <i>Jonathan Pinkerton and Julia Rice</i></p> <p>In remembrance of John Sandbo <i>Philip and Carolyn Brunelle</i> <i>Ann Buran</i> <i>Mary Lou Judd Carpenter</i> <i>John and Joan Colwell</i> <i>Connie Keller</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Roy and Shirley Sather <i>Ann Sather and Jeff Stone</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Linda Schaefer <i>Carol Stahlhut Carter</i></p> <p>In honor of Mari Scott <i>Steven and Pam Bjoraker</i></p> <p>In honor of G. Phillip Shoultz, III, Michelle and Malachi Shoultz <i>Brian and Claudia Boysen</i></p> <p>In honor of Luca Raffo Simoes <i>Patricia Lindsley</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Debra Ann Sit <i>Peter Berge</i></p> <p>In honor of LeAnn M. Stein <i>Jack Stamp</i></p>	<p>In remembrance of Barbara Strong <i>Mary Wise</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Vivian Stuck <i>Katie Anderson</i> <i>Woody and Cynthia Andrews</i> <i>Elaine Arndt</i> <i>Mary Ann Aufderheide</i> <i>Ann Buran</i> <i>John and Joan Colwell</i> <i>Ronald and Vonda D'Errico</i> <i>Ken and Suanne Hallberg</i> <i>Connie Keller</i> <i>Irene Lovejoy</i> <i>Judy Lund</i> <i>Beverly Norris</i> <i>Lizabeth Ralles and Al Aukee</i> <i>Lisa Reed</i> <i>Bill and Sara Stout</i> <i>Charles and Marilyn Stuck</i> <i>Jean Thomson</i> <i>Emily Anne Tuttle</i></p> <p>In honor of Jim and Colette Thesing <i>Monica Thesing</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Barbara Tiede <i>David and Ruth Waterbury</i></p> <p>In honor of Dianne Thompson and Bill Hutchins <i>Ann Barkelew and Jim O'Hagan</i></p> <p>In honor of Ken and Diane Tonn <i>Katie Tonn</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Tony Ver Hoeven <i>Helen Ver Hoeven</i></p> <p>In honor of Jennifer Wade <i>Phil and Jane Wade</i></p> <p>In honor of Dorene Wernke's 60th birthday <i>Mary Ann Aufderheide</i></p> <p>In remembrance of Jane Elizabeth Whitmore <i>Sebastian Hart</i></p> <p>In honor of Danielle Willis's wedding <i>Ray and Marcia Giske</i></p> <p>In honor of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. <i>Fannie Harrell</i></p>
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VOCAL ESSENCE
**RIVER SONGS
 & TALES**
 NORTHERN
 MINNESOTA TOUR

season

49

2017 - 2018

**Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Detroit Lakes, Brainerd,
 & Alexandria, Minnesota**

Members of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers
Don Shelby, *Mark Twain* | Sara Pajunen, *Fiddle*

Supported by an Arts Tour grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, members of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, folk fiddler Sara Pajunen and Don Shelby as Mark Twain go on the road to Northern Minnesota to celebrate life on the Mississippi River. Through choral music and the spoken word, VocalEssence takes listeners on a musical journey of the past and present—choral masterpieces, favorite folksongs, traditional spirituals, and Americana—all paired with the words of Mark Twain.

MORE INFORMATION:
vocalessence.org

Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Wilcox Theatre in the Reif Performing Arts Center, Grand Rapids, MN

Thurs, Apr 5, 2018 at 7 PM

Hibbing High School,
 Mesaba Concert Association, Hibbing, MN

Fri, Apr 6, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Historic Holmes Theatre, Detroit Lakes, MN

Sat, Apr 7, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Tornstrom Auditorium, Brainerd, MN

Sun, Apr 8, 2018 at 4 PM

Alexandria High School
 Performing Arts Center, Alexandria, MN



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



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