

The Spirit of Home: Many Homes – One Voice

Artistic Director Lorrene Adams and Associate Director Ross Mizrahi

4:00 pm December 9, 2017

Program

Sing for Peace words and music by Jim Papoulis and Farciso J. Nunez
Lisa Baclawski, soloist

I'll Be Home for Christmas words by Kim Gannon, music by Walter Kent, arr. Steve Zegree
Cynthia Howell, soloist

Yal Asmar Ellon traditional, arr. Edward Torikian

All Works of Love music by Joan Szymko, text by Mother Teresa

Barso Remusic by A.R. Rahman, arr. Ethan Sperry
Kyler Davis, soloist

Intermission

Halleluyaw music by Louis Lewandowski, edited by Joshua R. Jacobson

Baba Yetumusic by Christopher Tin
Swahili adaptation of "The Lord's Prayer" by Chris Kiagiri
Kelly Doolittle, soloist

Cuando Tú No Estás music and words by Carlos Gardel, arr. Liliana Cangiano

Imaginewords and music by John Lennon, arr. Mac Huff

Let Everything That Hath Breathmusic and words by Jeffery L. Ames

Adam Beckwith, percussionist

Program Notes

Sing for Peace words and music by Jim Papoulis and Farciso J. Nunez

James Papoulis's work focuses on combining the music of his roots – classical and jazz – with the rhythms and influence of world beat, folk, and multi-ethnic sounds. In describing *Sing for Peace*, the composers say: “No matter where we travel, we find in all cultures that peace is hoped for, prayed for, rallied for, and desired. Peace, not only in the sense of eliminating war and conflicts, but peace within oneself. Peace of heart. Peace of mind. Peace of thinking. Peace seems best achieved from the inside out, through one's heart and soul. It is not only a state, but a feeling; music attempts to bring this feeling and understanding to life.”

Translation – Peace – *Canta Paz* (Spanish); *Shalom* (Hebrew); *Amani* (Swahili); *Pacem* (Latin), *Dohiyi* (Native American); *Heiwa* (Japanese); *Chante Paiz* (French)

I'll Be Home for Christmas words by Kim Gannon, music by Walter Kent, arr. Steve Zegree

The song is sung from the point of view of a soldier stationed overseas during World War II, writing a letter to his family. In the message, he tells the family he will be coming home and to prepare the holiday for him, and requests snow, mistletoe, and presents on the tree. The song ends on a melancholy note, with the soldier saying, "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams." When Gannon pitched the song to people in the music business, they turned it down because the final line was too sad for all those separated from their loved ones in the military. Fortunately, Gannon sang the song for Bing Crosby while playing golf. Crosby decided to record it and it was released in 1943 soon to become a Christmas standard.

Yal Asmar Ellon arr. Edward Torikian

Yal Asmar Ellon is a popular traditional song from Aleppo in northern Syria. It is part of the repertoire of songs called *al qudūd*. This kind of art is connected to the *muwashshahat*, a song form developed in Andalusia. This song originated in the nineteenth century, the era of the famous singer-songwriters of Aleppo. It has been transmitted orally, which accounts for its melodic and textual variations. As in other Arab song traditions, the singer addresses his beloved discreetly using the male pronoun.

Hey, beautiful dark one!
My heart is tired, my brother. My unrequited love for you gets me down.
Hey you, who have beautiful big eyes! You break my heart.
Seven coins I offer for your hand in marriage, o brother, from my own money.
Hey you, with a silver heart! Why do you make me endure your loathing?
In order to make you happy, o brother, I give you the best of my fortune.

All Works of Love music by Joan Szymko, text by Mother Teresa

Composer Szymko chose two Mother Teresa quotes for her text being drawn to the profound simplicity and truth of her words. Her words are both discomfiting and hopeful especially in these times of “us and them” in politics, media and in religion.

“If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”
“All works of love are works of peace.” Mother Teresa

Barso Re music by A.R. Rahman, arr. Ethan Sperry

Often referred to as “The Indian Mozart,” A. R. Rahman writes at least as fast, having completed over 100 film scores since 1992. His soundtracks have sold more than 300 million copies worldwide. *Barso Re* originally appeared in the soundtrack to the 2007 film “Guru” and is an Indian take on how beautiful it can be to sing in the rain.

*Rain, O clouds. Please rain! It's sweet, It's the kiss of the rain, It's sweet and warm.
O water
Flow
Continue to flow
I am swimming going ashore.*

Halleluyaw music by Louis Lewandowski, edited by Joshua R. Jacobson

Lewandowski (1821-1894) was born in the Polish town of Wreschen. He was the first Jewish student of the Berlin Academy of Arts. He showed great promise but succumbed to a serious nervous disorder and was forced to relinquish his scholarship and abandon his studies. He then devoted himself fully to music of the synagogue. *Halleluyaw* is taken from the “musaf” liturgy of Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year. The text, based on Psalm 150 is suitable for any joyous occasion.

Baba Yetu music by Christopher Tin, Swahili adaptation of “The Lord’s Prayer” by Chris Kiagiri

Baba Yetu was composed in 2005 when video game designer Soren Johnson, Tin's former roommate at Stanford, asked him to compose the theme song for the video game Civilization IV. It was sung by Ron Ragin and the Stanford Talisman. For its re-release in Tin's debut album “Calling All Dawns,” it was sung by Ron Ragin and the Soweto Gospel Choir.

Cuando Tú No Estás music and words by Carlos Gardel, arr. Liliana Cangiano

Carlos Gardel (1890-1935) stands as the most renowned representative of the tango and milongas during the first half of the 20th century. Gardel became a legend when he died tragically in a plane crash at the age of 45. *Cuando Tú No Estás* is based on poetry of Alfredo La Pera. Liliana Cangiano (1950-1997), one of the most talented arrangers of popular songs in Argentina, made this arrangement for mixed choir in 1990.

*Alone on my destined path
without the protection of your care,
I am like the traveling bird
that breaks the strings of its song.

When you're not there the flower has no
perfume;
if you go away, haze envelops me;
the thrush, the mountain and the stars
lose their allure.*

*When you're not there my hope dies;
if you depart, my dream vanishes.
Listen to my lament that I confide to the
wind:
All is grief when you're not there.

The dawn rises radiantly;
clear morning, beautiful rose bush;
the star shines, the fountain sings, life
smiles when you are there.*

Imagine words and music by John Lennon, arr. Mac Huff

The best-selling single of Lennon's solo career, *Imagine*'s lyrics encourage the listener to imagine a world at peace without the barriers of borders or the divisions of religion and nationality, and to consider the possibility that the whole of humanity would live unattached to material possessions. Since released in the United States in 1971, it has become one of the most performed songs of the 20th century.

Let Everything That Hath Breath music and words by Jeffery L. Ames

Let Everything That Hath Breath is an exuberant celebration set within the traditional gospel style. For many decades traditional gospel music has been a vital component of praise and worship for African-Americans. Whether being performed in a neighborhood church or in a concert hall, gospel music fulfills its purpose to uplift the spirit and hearts of all who hear. The text within this piece is taken from several Psalms and seeks to "Magnify the Lord and exalt His name" through the traditional gospel style.

VOICES Multicultural Chorus Singers & Members

Sopranos

Jessica Ames
Lisa Baclawski
Mary Centrella
Amy Davis
Stacey Hern
Brittany Jaromin
Melody Johnson
Susie Kossack
Bronwyn Mohlke
Kelly Moore
Ellie Rosenberg
Christine Sparfel

Altos

Silvia Amigo-Silvestre
Mariellen Brown
Kelly Doolittle
Linda Duttweiler
Valentina Fulginiti
Cynthia Howell
Joo Hyun Im
Andrea Kabcenell
Noemi Kraut
Julie Lauren
Lexa Leipe
Linda Loomis
Sabine Mann
Sherrie Norman
Carol Ornstein
Pamela Paine
Barbara Schwartz
Alison Taren
Lena Trancik
Carol Whitlow
Cora Yao

Tenors

Cync Brantley
Gary Buono
Joana Chan
Kyler Davis
Michael Duttweiler
Vicki Gayle
Elaine Gries
Ron Liso
Lee McDuffee
Elizabeth Moon
Helen Saunders
Amy Schram

Basses

David Gries
Louis Hicks
Ross Mizrahi
Ed Olmstead
Rich Recchia
James Skaley



Artistic Director

Lorrene Adams, Artistic Director for VOICES Multicultural Chorus, is a member of the music faculty at Lansing High School. In addition to teaching introductory and advanced placement music theory, she gives voice lessons, directs the school's Mixed Chorus, Varsity Chorale, and Show Choir, and is music director and conductor for the annual school musical. Prior to coming to Lansing, she held a similar position in Corning, New York.

As an advocate for the proliferation of high-quality choral music for high school students, Adams has commissioned and premiered choral works from composers Jonathan Santore, Rick Bartlett, and Peter Rothbart. She also performed the New York State premiere of Dominic Argento's *Walden Pond*. She founded the Ithaca Opera Chorus Ensemble, has directed numerous community and church choirs, and currently serves on the Ithaca College Unit Education Advisory Board.

A *summa cum laude* graduate of Ithaca College with an M.M. in conducting, Adams encourages collaborations between high school and community groups and believes that choral singing strengthens communities and enhances personal, mental, emotional, and physical health. She also strongly believes that we live in a world community; one of the best ways to learn about a culture, other than one's own, is through music. Music from other cultures plays a major role in the literature Adams selects for her choirs. VOICES Multicultural Chorus gives testimony to her beliefs and inspires her each time she steps in front of the group.

Associate Director

Ross Mizrahi holds Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in music education from Ithaca College. With 14 years of directing and teaching experience, he currently is general music teacher for Belle Sherman elementary school in Ithaca. An accomplished singer in his own right, he for three years was singer and educational coordinator with "Sons of Pitches" performing in hundreds of venues all over the Northeast.



Accompanist

Rachel Hidlay began piano lessons at six years old and has since come to love making and sharing music with others. At sixteen she was hired by Bloomsburg University as a piano instructor in the Piano Preparatory Department. Shortly after this she opened a private studio in her home. She holds a Bachelor's degree in piano performance with extra credits in music education from Liberty University, as well as a Master's degree in piano performance from Ithaca College where she studied with Dr. Jennifer Hayghe. She is currently completing an advanced certification in piano pedagogy.

Rachel teaches students of all ages and skill levels. She held teaching positions at Nazareth College, Ithaca College, Community School of Music and Arts in Ithaca, NY and the St. Peters Community Arts Academy in Geneva, NY. She currently maintains a private studio of 40 students in her home. Rachel also is on staff as an accompanist for Lansing School District. Rachel loves all facets of music. She strongly believes music making/learning is a wonderfully unique journey, one that can enlighten and enrich a person's life. She greatly enjoys helping others navigate their personal musical experiences.

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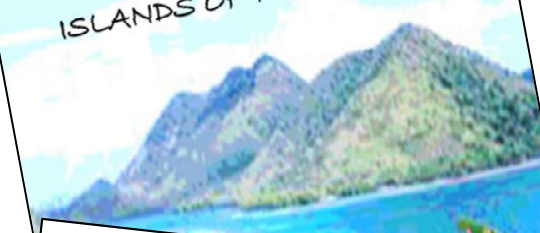


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VOICES Multicultural Chorus

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ISLANDS OF THE WORLD



Artistic Director

voices multicultural chorus presents

RIVERS OF LIFE

Lorrene Adams, Artistic Director
Ross Mizrahi, Associate Director

VOICES

Multicultural Chorus

Presents:

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Artistic Director: Lorrene Adams
Associate Director: Ross Mizrahi

Venissa Santos

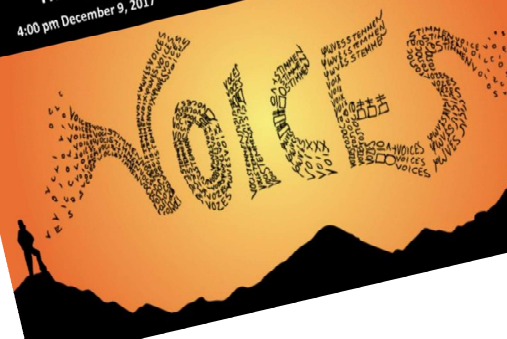
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