

Compact disc

C435

2017

3-3



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

THE UNIVERSITY CHORALE

Giselle Wyers, conductor

Serena Chin, pianist

Gerrit Scheepers / Jennifer Rodgers / Miriam Anderson, assistant conductors

THE UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS

Geoffrey Boers, conductor

Serena Chin, pianist

Jeremy Morada, assistant conductor

7:30 PM, March 3, 2017

Meany Theater

UW MUSIC

2016-17 SEASON

CD # 17,690

UNIVERSITY CHORALE

1 BREATHS (1988)..... 3:31..... Sweet Honey in the Rock (formed in 1973)

2 THE GALLANT WEAVER (1997)..... 5:34..... James MacMillan (b. 1959)
 Poetry by Scottish poet Robert Burns (1759-1796)

*Where Cart rins rowin [runs rolling] to the sea
 By monie [many] a flower and spreading tree,
 There lives a lad, the lad for me
 He is a gallant weaver
 O, I had woers aught [eight] or nine,
 They gied [gave] me rings and ribbons fine,
 And I was fear'd my heart wad tine [afraid my heart would be lost],
 And I gied [gave] it to the weaver*

*My daddie sign'd my tocher-band [My daddy signed my dowry deed]
 To gie [give] the lad that has the land;
 But to my heart I'll add my hand
 And give it to the weaver.
 While birds rejoice in leafy bowers,
 While bees delight in opening flowers
 While corn grows green in summer showers,
 I love my gallant weaver.*

3 AVE MARIA..... 2:17..... Javier Busto (b. 1949)
 Serena Chin, Piano

4 REINCARNATIONS: THE COOLIN (1942)..... 3:31..... Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
 Poetry by Irish poet James Stephens (1882-1950)

5 remarks, Wyers

6 VINDO (2009)..... 3:20..... Reinis Sējāns (b. 1984) / Jānis Šipkēvics (b. 1982)
 Gerrit Scheepers, conductor
 Miriam Anderson, percussion
 Byron Walker, Jew's harp

7 RIVER (2014) 4:54 Joan Szymko (b. 1957)
Text adapted and inspired by Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909) and Hopi Nation Elders
Julia Joo, soprano soloist

PROGRAM NOTES

Welcome to the UW Chorale and Chamber Singers' winter concert.

The University Chorale's first piece is by the American Grammy Award-winning a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock. Formed in 1973, this all-woman, African-American ensemble express powerful messages addressing topics including race, civil rights, spirituality, and women's issues through song, dance, and sign language. In *BREATHS*, the listener is invited to hear the things and people who have come before, that resonate in our lives like ancient "breaths" inhaled and exhaled.

THE GALLANT WEAVER is set to text by the renowned Scottish poet Robert Burns, and speaks of the love of a young maiden for her "gallant weaver", and alludes to weaving on both literal and symbolic planes, suggesting that love and marriage are an act of weaving two lives together.

AVE MARIA takes the listener to the Basque region of Spain, with a modern rendition of this ancient text by Javier Busto, a composer as noted for his music as for the fact that he also has pursued a career in the medical profession.

REINCARNATIONS is a collection of poems written by Irish poet James Stephens inspired by the thoughts and styles of traditional Gaelic poets. *THE COOLIN* is one of the three choruses of *Reincarnations* composed by Barber. A "coolin" is a curl of hair at the nape of a young woman's neck, which later became a term for one's sweetheart.

Written by the modern Latvian composer Reinis Sējāns, *VINDO* uses an imagined (non-sense) language to create a vital series of musical layerings, accompanied by the Jew's Harp.

In *RIVER*, Szymko uses a quote from E. E. Hale and words from the Native American Hopi elders to express the message of a call to action in the uncertain future. It is a message of urgency that a river of inevitable change is coming, and it is our destiny to let it take us rather than resist the change or hold onto the banks of indifference. This urgency is present in the repeated, layered melodic lines of the piece.

Program Notes written by UW Chorale member Magnolia Pattison

UNIVERSITY CHORALE
Giselle Wyers, conductor
Serena Chin, pianist

Gerrit Scheepers / Jennifer Rodgers / Miriam Anderson, assistant conductors

SOPRANO 1

Allison Berhow
Magnolia Pattison,
Secretary
Daina Goldenberg
Stella Hagen
Julia Joo
Anna Mikkelborg,
Section Leader

SOPRANO 2

Allison Arnold
Sadie Quinsaat,
Section Leader
Sydney Balmelli
Madeline Woolever
Lina Bishop
Kate Kugler
Elizabeth Moore
Gabriela Tedeschi
Ally Witeck

ALTO 1

Emily Callan,
Concert Chair
Maddy Greenfield
Natalie Modlin,
Social Chair
Cannon Roe
Emma Switzer
Stephanie Hobart,
Concert Chair
Sam Fredman,
Social Chair
Sarah Cooper
Jenna Bellavia
Brittany Walker,
Section Leader

ALTO 2

Anna Vara,
Section Leader
Carmen Hom
Anya Hsu,
Section Leader
Marcy Landes,
Publicity Chair
Emily Sawan
Lillian Karout,
Historian
Gargi Sivaram
Tata Tangthanakul

TENOR 1

Andrew Briggs
Zach Buker,
Head Section Leader
Nick Reynolds,
President
Bradyn Rookard,
Treasurer
Kyle Ueland,
Section Leader
Michael Kao

TENOR 2

Wilson Charles
Wesley Cox
Tiema Qian,
Section Leader
Ryan Wong
Woohong Lee
Luke Wanitthananon

BASS 1

Andrew Chiu
Christopher Steckler
Shawn Swanson
Andrew Tang
Joseph To,
Section Leader
Curtis Nilsen
Davis Ferrero
Bryan Hanner

BASS 2

Lucas Ekstrom
Fredrik Mansfield
Aidan O'Hara
Evan Shelton,
Vice President
Byron Walker
Ian Houghton
Marijn Burger

O HOW BEAUTIFUL, THIS FINELY WOVEN EARTH

THE UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS

8 remarks, Boers

9 THE WAKING (2009).....3:32.....Giselle Wyers (b. 1969)

10 A FIELD OF HOSANNAS.....8:12.....Giselle Wyers
Premiere Performance

11 remarks

12 HYMN TO ST. CECILIA (1942).....9:37.....Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

13 remarks

14 COME TO THE WOODS (2015).....12:04.....Jake Runestad (b. 1986)

15 remarks

16 LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH (1998).....3:42.....Jeffery L. Ames (b. 1950)

PROGRAM NOTES

The UW Chamber Singers are in the midst of a year-long musical journey, titled, *O HOW BEAUTIFUL, THIS FINELY WOVEN EARTH*. Through this three concert journey we explore the "fabric" of the world, and how increasingly beautiful it becomes as we recognize deeper connections to and within it. In our first program we sang of the interwoven nature of the world. Tonight's music describes various ways we intersect with the world around us. We begin with two works by UW Choral faculty, Dr. Giselle Wyers. *THE WAKING*, set to a poem of Theodore Roethke, describes the awakening of attention, emotion, and spirit, inspired by nature. We are on a solitary walk, and as each stone, flower, bird "calls to us" along the way, we realize we are not alone. We premier tonight Wyers' *A FIELD OF HOSANNAS*, set to a poem by Sam Hamill. Once again we sing of walking through nature, yet this time we begin to dream of the one we love. The images of love and bliss spill out one after another, then, as the memory of the dream begins to fragment, we break into an expansive love song, describing each fleeting fragment. We long to paint a picture of this beautiful dream and passionately and incessantly sing of the colors. We awake, the fragments gone, and we are alone—yet together—in a field of hosannas. Benjamin Britten's epic ode, *HYMN TO ST. CECILIA*, was penned while on board ship as Britten was traveling back to England from the United States. W. H. Auden, the poet for this work, had affected Britten deeply, both personally and poetically. His lyrics were imbued with issues of innocence and corruption, individual

and society, and acceptance or denial of desire. Both were avowed conscientious objectors to the war, and the poetic-musical match created a most powerful statement. In fact, the first movement was confiscated by New York Customs agents for fear that the text contained secret code! The rocking of the ship, the HMS Axel Johnson, is evident throughout, from the gentle images of pushing off until the final mooring in safety. The refrain, "Blessed Cecilia," appear in visions to all musicians, appear and inspire. Translated daughters come down and startle composing mortals with immortal fire," returns throughout, and punctuates three major sections describing and at once praising Cecilia, speaking to Britten about his struggles, and speaking to each of us about choices made in life. Jake Runestad's COME TO THE WOODS is an epic musical journey on the texts of John Muir penned after a transformational visit to Yosemite Valley. His text fragments create a stream of conscious conversation with self, deeply connected to the nature around him. Once again we sing of a poet on a walk in nature, as Muir wrote "I only went out for a walk...for going out, I found, was really going in." "Another glorious day" he exclaims, and off he goes. Through curiosity and wonder he is drawn deeper into the woods. He witnesses a storm and decides to climb a tree to get even closer. He reflects at the silent wonder of the woods, how the wind "blesses ever tree, not one is forgotten" and how the trees seem to say, "come to the woods, for here is rest." We close with Jeffrey Ames' LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH. The opening verses of Psalm 96 are set as a joyful gospel praise song, as we proclaim the wonders of "all the earth."

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON CHAMBER SINGERS

Geoffrey Boers, conductor

Serena Chin, pianist

Jeremy Morada, assistant conductor

SOPRANO 1

Suzana Mizell
Leann Conley-Holcom
Arriane Noland
Christine Oshiki
Elisabeth Cherland

SOPRANO 2

Sadie Quinsaas
Elizabeth Nice
Gemma Balinbin
Miriam Anderson
Sarah Riskind
Katie Kelley

ALTO 1

Edie Myers-Power
Abbie Naze
Jennifer Rodgers
Monica Berndt
Erica Weisman
Eleanor Kahn

ALTO 2

Alice Carli
Jocelyn Beausire
Meg Stohlmann
Anyu Hsu

TENOR 1

Luke Wanitthananon
Jeffrey Larkin
Joel Bevington
Kyle Ueland

TENOR 2

Joseph To
Gerrit Scheepers
Jacob Caspe
Joshua Lutman
Nicholas Varela

BASS 1

Steve Danielson
Tom Almlil
Ryan Mullaney
James Wilcox
Jonah Melchert

BASS 2

Jeremy Morada
Leif Layman
David Wimett
Eric Mullen
Shane Wilson