

CHAMBER SINGERS

Geoffrey Boers, *conductor*
Jeremiah Cawley, *assistant conductor*

THIS SOIL'D WORLD: *SONGS OF WAR AND LOVE*

featuring

Michael Partington, *guitar*

"I am at war with myself..." wrote Petrarch of the tormented lover. Whitman wrote that while war rages there can be "no peace," or "no happiness" because of the urgency of the cause. "Would the singers attempt to sing?" He continued, is any normal life possible while there are clearly darker problems that need to be resolved.

Tonight's program considers closely those wars within, as well as wars without, written by renegade composers and poets born into times of struggle and change, who become visionaries and vehicles for change through their art. Battles of love and longing are depicted by Monteverdi as a choral "opera" of sorts, a madrigal struggling to break the bonds of compositional tradition, to express rapid-fire changing emotions of love.

Whitman penned *BEAT! BEAT! DRUMS!* a few months after the opening of the American Civil War. The imagery of war invading every aspect of life is a powerful call to action, challenging the "pursuit of happiness" in American life, that, when any are oppressed how can any be truly happy. Guitarist Jeffrey Van sets the marching bands of brothers, blowing of bugles, and beating of drums in an intimate, far off, and menacing manner.

Just as Whitman interweaves images of beauty in nature with images of battle, so too does Brahms' *O SCHÖNE NACHT*. Moon and stars, dew on grass, song in the brush depict intimate closeness as the lover steals away to his beloved.

!BLAC, an enigmatic poem by e.e. cummings, is the first of four poems set in Lars Johann Werle's *TREES*. cummings' poetry must be read and seen as much as heard. Spelling, word order, play with punctuation and layout on the page add significantly to the meaning. Werle sets the poetry brilliantly with special elements, allowing sound bytes to be heard around the ensemble just as cummings' words are splayed around the page. *!BLAC*, (pronounced "black") begins "black against white sky" a metaphor for racial uprising in a white nation. The tree drops its leaves and they are whirling. Quickly we are taken to a second poem that the tree is a place of love, yesno, givegive, are placed together depicting struggle in relationship, be it love or racial. The third poem is a joyful call and response, like children playing in a tree. The last poem returns from image of tree as metaphor back to a call to the culture, that we, a part of the same "tree" and a miracle, must love each other, especially in dark times.

Whitman's poignant indictment of our culture in *RECONCILIATION*, is both a call to reconciliation between warring parties, but also a personal reconciliation, that "again and again, this soil'd world" we reconcile ourselves to a world of conflict, and our responsibility to create peace within it.

We close with Alf Houkum's tender setting of an ancient Gaelic rune, tells the old story of entertaining angels unawares. During Whitman's time, President Lincoln appealed to the nation's "better angels" to see America through times of strife. Tonight through images of love, nature, and the better nature of the human spirit, we hear yet again to serve neighbor, the stranger, the lowly, and the enemy, as "oft goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

PROGRAM

BEAT! BEAT! DRUMS! JEFFREY VAN

Mvt. II from *A Procession Winding Around Me*

-Walt Whitman

BEAT! beat! drums!--Blow! bugles! blow!
Through the windows--through doors--burst like a ruthless force,
Into the solemn church, and scatter the congregation;
Into the school where the scholar is studying;
Leave not the bridegroom quiet—no happiness must he have now with his bride;
Nor the peaceful farmer any peace, plowing his field or gathering his grain;
So fierce you whirr and pound, you drums--so shrill you bugles blow.

Beat! beat! drums!--Blow! bugles! blow!
Over the traffic of cities--over the rumble of wheels in the streets:
Are beds prepared for sleepers at night in the houses?
No sleepers must sleep in those beds;
No bargainers' bargains by day--no brokers or speculators--Would they continue?
Would the talkers be talking? would the singer attempt to sing?
Would the lawyer rise in the court to state his case before the judge?
Then rattle quicker, heavier drums--you bugles wilder blow.

Beat! beat! drums!--Blow! bugles! blow!
Make no parley--stop for no expostulation;
Mind not the timid--mind not the weeper or prayer;
Mind not the old man beseeching the young man;
Let not the child's voice be heard, nor the mother's entreaties;
Make even the trestles to shake the dead, where they lie awaiting the hearses,
So strong you thump, O terrible drums--so loud you bugles blow.

HOR CH'EL CIEL E LA TERRA CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI (1567-1643)

Part I

Now, while the heavens, and the earth, and the winds are still,
And beasts and birds are locked in sleep, Night's starry chariot makes its circles,
and in its bed the ocean lies waveless;
I watch, I think, I burn, I weep, and she who caused my anguish is ever present,
and remains, to my sweet pain: Warfare is my state, full of anger and pain,
and only thoughts of her bring any peace.

Part II

Thus from one pure and living fount flows the sweetness
and the suffering on which I feed;
a single hand restores me and wounds; and, since my anguish knows no end,
a thousand times a day I die, and a thousand times I am born,
so great is the distance from my salvation.

O SCHÖNE NACHT/OH BEAUTIFUL NIGHT..... JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)

O lovely night!
In the heavens, the moon gleams magically in all its splendour;
about it, the sweet comradeship of tiny stars.
The dew glimmers brightly on the green blades of grass;
with great power, the nightingale sings out in the elder-bush;
the young man steals quietly to his sweetheart -
O lovely night!

TREES LARS JOHANN WERLE (1926-2001)

Four poems by e.e. cummings

I.

!blac
k
agains
t

(whi)
te sky
?t
rees whic
h fr

om droppe

d
,
le
af

a::go

e
s wh
IrlI
n

.g

II.

trees were in (give give) bud
when to me you made for by love
love said di d o
no yes
earth was in (live live) spring
with all beautiful things when to
me you gavegave (darling)
birds are in(trees are in)
song
when to me you leap and i'm born
we 're sunlight of oneness

III.

(sitting in a tree-)
o small you
sitting in a tree-

sitting in a treetop
riding on a greenest
riding on a greener
(o little i)
riding on a leaf

o least who
sing small thing
dance little joy
(shine most prayer)

IV.

now all the fingers of this tree(darling)have
hands, and all the hands have people;
and more each particular person is (my love)
alive than every world can understand

and now you are and i am now and we're
a mystery which will never happen again,
a miracle which has never happened before—
and shining this our now must come to then

our then shall be some darkness during which
fingers are without hands; and i have no
you: and all trees are(any more than each
leafless)its silent in forevering snow

—but never fear(my own, my beautiful
my blossoming)for also then's until...

when to me you leap and i'm born
we 're sunlight of oneness

RECONCILIATION.....JEFFREY VAN

Mvt. IV from *A Processional Winding Around Me*

-Walt Whitman

WORD over all, beautiful as the sky!
Beautiful that war, and all its deeds of carnage, must in time be utterly lost;
That the hands of the sisters Death and Night,
incessantly softly wash again, and ever again,

this soil'd world:

... For my enemy is dead--a man divine as myself is dead;
I look where he lies, white-faced and still, in the coffin--I draw near;
I bend down, and touch lightly with my lips the white face in the coffin.

-Gaelic Rune

I saw a stranger yestereen;
I put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place;
and in the sacred names of the Triune God
he blessed me and my house,
my cattle and my dear ones,
and the lark said in her song:
Often, Often, Often,
goes the Christ in a stranger's guise.

CHAMBER SINGERS

Geoffrey Boers, *conductor*

Jeremiah Cawley & Jeremiah Selvey, *assistant conductors*

SOPRANO

Yelena Bagdasarova
Ginger Ellingson
Jessica Gorski
Deyanira Gualdrón
Elizabeth Knopp
Wendy Moy
Sarah Patterson
Ellen Pepin
Richelle Scanlan
Sola Yun

ALTO

Nina Alden
Hyokyoung Byun
Jenni Cole
Cassandra Croft
Trina Elliott
Cara Evans
Maren Haynes
Amanda Huntleigh
Melissa Thorne

TENOR

Tim Blok
Jeremiah Cawley
Henry Chan
Deryl Harter
Todd Lien
Bryan Nichols
Brad Pierson
Brian Winnie

BASS

Daniel Berndt
Desmond Cheng
Michael Kibbe
Daehan Kim
Yuly Kopkin
Isaiah Lin
Jason Lin
Jeremiah Selvey
Greg Starr
Johann Van Niekerk

UNIVERSITY CHORALE

Giselle Wyers, *conductor*
Melissa Thorne, *assistant conductor*

PROGRAM

THREE SHAKESPEARE SONGS.....RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

AVE VERUM CORPUS..... WILLIAM BYRD (*ca.* 1540-1623)

Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary. Truly suffering, was sacrificed on the cross for all,
From whose pierced side flowed blood, Be for us a foretaste in the final judgment. O sweet, O
merciful, O Jesus, Son of Mary, Have mercy on me. Amen.

WHISPERSSTEPHEN STUCKY (b. 1949)

Solo Octet: Rebekah Herivel, Vivian Lyons, Michelle Bretl, Kimberly Gray,
Kenton Schlimmer, Ian Kim, Greg Starr, Dean Spencer

HENCE, STARS, YOU DAZZLE BUT THE SKIES.....MICHAEL EAST (1580-1648)

Melissa Thorne, conductor

CARMINA MEI CORDIS ABBIE BETINIS (b. 1980)

I. Aeterna Lux, Divinitas (Eternal Light, Divinity)

Eternal Light, Divinity: O Unity in Trinity, Thy holy name Thy servant bless, to Thee we
pray, and Thee confess. Alleluia!

O Father, Source of God the Word, O Word with Him co-equal Lord, O Spirit of like
majesty, O Triune God, all praise to Thee. Alleluia!

Thou First and Last, from whom there springs the Fount of all created things, Thou art
the Life which moves the whole, sure hope of each believing soul. Alleluia!

O Verity! O Charity! O Ending and Felicity! in Thee we hope, in Thee we believe,
Thyself we love, to Thee we cleave.

Thou who alone the world hast made, art still its one sufficing aid, the only Light for
gazing eyes, and, unto them that hope, the Prize. Alleluia!

Melanie West, *alto solo*

II. Angele Dei (Angel of God)

Angel of God, my guardian dear, To whom his love commits me here; Ever this night be
at my side, To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS STILLEDELIZABETH ALEXANDER

SHALOM RAVDANIEL FREELANDER and JEFFREY KLEPPER

Yuly Kopkin, *piano*

UNIVERSITY CHORALE

Giselle Wyers, *conductor*
Melissa Thorne, *assistant conductor*

<u>SOPRANO</u>	<u>ALTO</u>	<u>TENOR</u>	<u>BASS</u>
Jennifer Glusman	Jacqueline Betz	Omid Bagheri	Carson Baker
Denna Good-Mojab	Michelle Bretl	David Bahr	Adam Brown
Rebecca Herivel	Caitlin Budd	Josh Butchart	Daniel Hericks
Lucy Horton	Theresa Folkins	Henry Chan	Marc Horan-Spatz
Shira Isreal	Kimberly Gray	Eric Gintz	Loc Hua
Joan Kim	Katie Krupin	Ian Kim	Randy Jackson
Claire Koerner	Emily Leopold	Michael Lam	Paul Johns
Vivian Lyons	Tami McTaggart	Josh Langager	Michael Kibbe
Elizabeth Maroon	Shannon Murphy	Yechan Ryu	Yuly Kopkin
Katie Sander	Stephanie Robinson	Kenton Schlimmer	Chris Kouldukis
Richelle Scanlan	Becca Sherman	Nick Tagab	Isaiah Lin
Margo Schadt	Emily Strom	Sullivan Valaer	Samuel McMillin
Katherine Walton	Oana Tomai		Billy Ray
Melanie West	Shelbie Valley		Dean Spencer
	Erika VanHorn		
	Krysta Yousoufian		

Upcoming choral performances at the University of Washington:

December 5, Gospel Choir. 7:30 PM, Meany Theater.

December 7, CarolFest. 7:30 PM, Meany Theater.

March 9, Combined Choruses & Symphony: STRAVINSKY AND BACH: *SYMPHONY OF PSALMS, MAGNIFICAT, AND VON HIMMEL HOCH.* 7:30 PM, Meany Theater.

May 21, Gospel Choir. 7:30 PM, Meany Theater.

May 23, University Chorale. 7:30 PM, Meany Theater.

May 29, Chamber Singers: NEW AMERICAN MUSIC. 7:30 PM, Meany Theater.

May 31, University Choirs: UW SINGS. 7:30 PM, Meany Theater.

CLASSICAL

KING FM 98.1

www.king.org

presents

CHAMBER SINGERS
Geoffrey Boers, *conductor*

featuring faculty artist
Michael Partington, *guitar*

and

UNIVERSITY CHORALE
Giselle Wyers, *conductor*

7:30 PM
November 29, 2011
MEANY THEATER