

Presents

THE UNIVERSITY CHORALE

GISELLE WYERS, *conductor*

Laurie Betts Hughes, *assistant conductor*

and

THE CHAMBER SINGERS

GEOFFREY BOERS, *conductor*

Eric Barnum, *assistant conductor*

7:30 PM

November 25, 2008

MEANY THEATER

CLASSICAL

KING FM 98.1

UNIVERSITY CHORALE

GISELLE WYERS, *conductor*

Laurie Betts Hughes, *assistant conductor* / Hyun-Ja Choi, *accompanist*

University Chorale's program fuses wildness with wonder, using nature and love texts to intersect with the expression of various spiritual faiths across the globe. *KYLA VUOTTI UUTTA KUUTA* uses text from the Kalevala, one of the richest epic tales from Finnish folk history, to describe the entrance of the bride into the bridegroom's house after their wedding, sung from the perspective of the younger sister of the groom. *COME, COME, WHOEVER YOU ARE*, written by faculty member Giselle Wyers, uses a text previously attributed to mystic poet Rumi, now seen by most scholars as the "call to worship" for the developing faith of Sufism in the ancient East. This poem's simple and direct language still speaks to a modern audience today. *A SPOTLESS ROSE* by Herbert Howells refers to the Virgin Mary as a rosebud eternally sprouting from "a tender root." Wyers' *AVE MARIA* is a neo-medieval setting of the ancient Antiphon in honor of Mary. *O VIRIDISSIMA VIRGA* is a setting of text written by 12th century visionary poet and theologian Hildegard von Bingen, widely viewed by historians as the first Western woman composer. This modern setting's composer is Janika Vandervelde, a Minnesotan noted for her exciting use of rhythm. The text is an antiphon in honor of the Virgin Mary, wherein Mary is likened to a "verdant branch." *LITTLE TREE* is a setting of a poem by e.e. cummings, where a young child speaks to his newly arrived Christmas tree, asking it "who found you in the deep forest, and were you very sorry to come away?" *EARTH SONG* by Frank Ticheli uses a text written by the composer himself to describe his personal concern about the earth's plight, in hopes of renewal and restoration.

—Giselle Wyers

KYLA VUOTTI UUTTA KUUTA JANIKA VANDERVELDE (b. 1955)

The village awaited the new moon, the young awaited the sunrise. I waited for my brother and his betrothed. Arise, fair one, from the sleigh, Arise proudly, without false humility. Enter our dwelling, be welcome and break bread with us. Hasten to us with a gosling's step, dance like a little teal. Arch gracefully your slender neck like the youngest branch of the cherry tree or the budding juniper. Who has brought the false report that the suitor returns alone? His wooing has not been in vain, nor has his steed run for nought.

COME, COME, WHOEVER YOU ARE GISELLE WYERS (b. 1969)

A SPOTLESS ROSE HERBERT HOWELLS (1892-1983)

Isaiah Lin, baritone

AVE MARIA GISELLE WYERS

Kevin Womac, baritone

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

O VIRIDISSIMA VIRGA JANIKA VANDERVELDE

*Cassi Kohl, soprano, Scott Shawcroft, tenor, Chris Raastad, bass,
Brittney Stout, soprano, and Greg Starr, tenor*

Kellen Reimers, tablas, Jenna Mangulabnan, woodblock, Kathryn Baker, castanets

Hail, o greenest branch, sprung forth in the airy breezes of the prayers and inquiries of the saints. For in you blossomed the beautiful flower which gave fragrance to all the spices which had been dry. And they have appeared to all in full verdure. Now let there be praise to the Highest.

LITTLE TREE STEPHEN HEITZIG (b. 1959)

Ashley Lian Wong, harp

EARTH SONG FRANK TICHELI (b. 1958)

INTERMISSION

CHAMBER SINGERS

GEOFFREY BOERS, *conductor*

Eric Barnum, *assistant conductor* / Tara Swanson, *accompanist*

Tonight's program was borne amidst watching the recent political races. I was overcome with the preponderance of fear amidst the politicians' rhetoric. Terrorists, economy, environment... we have plenty of reasons to fear, little opportunity to hope. Tonight we will sojourn into hope, ways of thinking about hope, remembering hope, looking for hope. The program begins with the forest speaking, the earth speaking. *KASAR MIE LA GAJI* is a depiction of the earth's reaction to deforestation and pollution, walking in the "footsteps" of the earth. Considering our world in a geomorphic way, as if the earth is alive, gives us pause to consider how we are treating the "other." *O VERA DIGNA HOSTIA* is a beautiful description of the triumph of good over evil. *SURGE, AQUILLO* is a rich and passionate setting for chorus in sixteen parts, describing the beauty of nature, which reminds us to see how nature works together, and the beauty of love, helping us to feel that the love we share is an important part of nature. *A NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH* is a pictorial setting of the end of time as illustrated in the Book of Revelation. The work begins in awe as the writer sees a "new heaven and earth" and that the old has passed away. Phrase after phrase of shifting tempi, dynamics, and textures paints a passing away of the familiar and a building up of the new. The composer takes familiar chords and piles them on one another in "new" ways, adding more and more tones until the climactic C major chord "behold I make all things new!" then disintegrates until nothing is left—until disembodied voices sing as low and soft as possible "I make all things new." The final two pieces of the program are about children. *A CHILD'S PRAYER* was composed after a tragic school shooting in Scotland. The composer sets a choir of saints "welcoming" the souls of the departed children, sung by the sopranos: Hope in the midst of grief. Finally, in the midst of busy, stressful lives, *JESUS CHRIST THE APPLE TREE*, a children's song, speaks of finding rest in the simplest places, under a tree, in the simplest of ways, like a child.

—Geoffrey Boers

hope. now.

hope. earth.

KASAR ME LA GAJI ALBERTO GRAU (b. 1938)

The earth is tired.

hope. goodness.

O VERA DIGNA HOSTIA TARIK O'REGAN (b. 1978)

Eric Barnum, conductor

O Thou, from who Hell's monarch flies, O great, O very Sacrifice, Thy captive people are set free,
and endless life restored in Thee! [*From the Sequence for St. Wulfstan*]

hope. love.

SURGE, AQUILLO JAN SANDSTRÖM (b. 1954)

Awake, o north wind: and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out.
Let thy beloved come into his garden and eat his pleasant fruits. [*From Song of Songs 4:16*]

hope. rebirth.

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH SVEN-DAVID SANDSTRÖM (b. 1942)

hope. children.

A CHILD'S PRAYER JAMES MACMILLAN (b. 1959)

hope. now.

JESUS CHRIST THE APPLE TREE ELIZABETH POSTON (1905-1987)

FINE

UNIVERSITY CHORALE

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Laurie Betts Hughes, *assistant conductor*

Hyun-Ja Choi, *accompanist*

SOPRANO

Kathryn Baker, Issaquah
(*Secretary*)
Tawnie Baker, Bothell
Christine Brauer, Great Falls,
MT (*Vice President*)
Kelsey Davisson, Walla Walla
Kimi Goto, Quincy
Brynn Harken, Bothell
Cassi Kohl, Vancouver
(*Historian*)
Lucy Liu, Shoreline
Miranda Maurmann, Redmond
Yuliya Orekhova, Moscow,
Russia
Richelle Scanlan, Spokane
Melinda Schlimmer, Redmond
Caroline Schwenz, Loveland,
CO
Hannah Smith, Ridgefield
Jennifer Smith, Smokey Pt
Brittney Stout, Puyallup
(*Historian*)

ALTO

Kim Alswager, Neenah, WI
Joyita Banerjee, Bellevue
Sarah Brown, Stanwood
Kate Carey, Palo Alto, CA
Andrea Dilley, Port Orchard
Lauren DiRe, Spokane
Elizabeth Gawne, Birmingham,
AL
Shaina Grujon, Portland, OR
Erin Herrick, Mercer Island
Barbara Holmquist, Merida,
Venezuela
Rebecca Jordan, Brier
Maria Khavin, Bothell
Jenna Marie Mangulabnan,
Lynnwood (*President*)
Chaitra Sriram, Portland, OR
Kelly Thoma, West Seattle
Ann Trigg, Issaquah

TENOR

Omid Bagheri, Tehran, Iran
David Bahr, Mount Vernon
(*Concert Chair*)
Tim Blok, Lynden (*Concert
Chair*)
Brian Culbertson, Oak Harbor
Branden Ellsworth, Kennwick
Jiwon Kang, Vancouver
Garrett MacCracken, Tualatin,
OR
Kellen Michael Paisley,
Orlando, FL
Kyle Ross, Gig Harbor (*Social
Chair*)
Scott Shawcroft, Hansville
Javin Smith, Seattle
Greg Starr, Seattle
Carter Yeh, Seattle

BASS

Spencer Bliven, Bellevue
Robert Carroll, Redmond,
Thomas Godshalk, Kennwick
Brad Gross, Bozeman, MT
Derron Hernandez, Port
Orchard
Ryan Hyde, Mukilteo,
Paul Ligman, Vancouver
Isaiah Lin, Redmond,
Jason Lin, Honolulu, HI
Chris Raastad, Tumwater
(*Publicist*)
Kellen Reimers, Snohomish
Casey Smith, Spokane
(*Treasurer*)
Daniel Suskin, Olympia
Kevin Womac, Olympia

CHAMBER SINGERS

GEOFFREY BOERS, *conductor*

Eric Barnum, *assistant conductor*

Tara Swanson, *accompanist*

SOPRANO

Tess Altiveros, Seattle
Julie Bannerman, Madison, WI
Katherine Chan, Brisbane,
Australia
Maren Haynes, Bozeman, MT
Karen Hendricksen, Oregon
City, OR
Megan Huckabay, Lethbridge,
Alberta
Deborah Kim, Seoul, South
Korea
Raevynn Leach, Puyallup
Núria Molins, Barcelona, Spain
Nataly Wickham, Graham

ALTO

Rachel Bernstein, Boulder, CO
Sandra W. Chiang, Hong Kong,
SAR
Jennifer Cole, Incline Village,
NV
AnnMarie Darrow Baines, El
Cerrito, CA
Laurie Betts Hughes, Ft.
Sedonobervallis, D.C.
Jean-Marie Kent, Regina,
Saskatchewan
Dora Ulhye Kim, Seoul, South
Korea
Jane Lin, Taipei, Taiwan
Laney McClain, Oakland, CA
Jocelyn McCurtain, Puyallup,
Julie Anne Parsons, Honolulu,
HI
Megan Perdue, Eugene, OR
Tara Swanson, Benton City

TENOR

Bret Amundson, Coon Rapids,
MN
Gregory Carroll, Des Moines
Jeremiah Cawley, Wheaton, IL
Pyoung Gang Kim, Seoul,
South Korea
Benjamin Larson, Chehalis,
Samuel D. McCoy, Mulvane,
KS
Michael Miller, Goose Creek,
SC
Ryan Osinski, Los Angeles, CA
Jordan Peterson, Longview
Arne Phillips, Olympia

BASS

Brennan Baglio, Port Orchard
Eric Barnum, Crookston, MN
Ethan Chessin, Chapel Hill, NC
Drew Dresdner, Sellersville, PA
Alex Gagliu, Seattle
Justin Hollister, Vancouver
Daehan Kim, Seoul, South
Korea
Dwayne LaForce, Lawrence,
KS
Isaiah Lin, Redmond
Andrew Schmidt, Shiloh, IL

