



Wisconsin
CHAMBER CHOIR

Robert Gehrenbeck, Artistic Director

Hope Springs Eternal

Including music in honor of Rosa Parks and John Lewis

Mark Brampton Smith, Collaborative Piano & Organ
Sinfonia Sacra Chamber Orchestra
Friday, May 13, 2022 - 7:30 PM CT
First Unitarian Society | Atrium Auditorium
Madison, Wisconsin

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Laetatus sum, ZWV 88

Jan Dismas Zelenka (1679 – 1745)

Text: Psalm 122

Rachel Wood, mezzo soprano

Emily Bilhorn, soprano

*Laetatus sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi:
In domum Domini ibimus.*

I rejoiced at the things that were said to me:
We shall go into the house of the Lord.

*Stantes erant pedes nostri,
in atriis tuis, Jerusalem.*

Our feet were standing
in thy courts, O Jerusalem.

*Jerusalem, quae aedificatur ut civitas
cujus participatio ejus in idipsum.*

Jerusalem, which is built as a city
that is at unity in itself.

*Illuc enim ascenderunt tribus,
tribus Domini: testimonium Israë!,
ad confitendum nomini Domini.*

For thither did the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord: the testimony of Israel,
to praise the name of the Lord.

*Quia illic sederunt sedes in iudicio,
sedes super domum David.*

For there is the seat of judgment,
the seat of the house of David.

*Rogate quae ad pacem sunt Jerusalem,
et abundantia diligentibus te.*

O pray for the for the peace of Jerusalem,
and abundance for them that love thee.

*Fiat pax in virtute tua,
et abundantia in turribus tuis.*

Let peace be in thy strength,
and abundance in thy towers.

*Propter fratres meos
et proximos meos,
loquebar pacem de te.*

For the sake of my brethren,
and of my neighbors,
I spoke peace to thee.

*Propter domum Domini Dei nostri,
quaesivi bona tibi.*

Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I have sought good things for thee.

*Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.*

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and always shall be,
throughout generations of generations.
Amen.

Diligam te Domine *(I Will Love You, O Lord)*

Raffaella Aleotti (1570 - 1646)

Text: Psalm 17

*Diligam te Domine,
fortitudo mea.*

*Dominus firmamentum meum,
et refugium meum,
et liberator meus,*

*Deus meus adjutor meus,
et sperabo in eum,
protector meus,*

*et cornu salutis meae,
et susceptor meus.*

*Laudans invocabo Dominum
et ab inimicis salvus ero.*

I will love you,

O Lord my strength.

The Lord is my firmament,
and my refuge,
and my deliverer.

My God is my helper,
and I will hope in him,
my protector,

and the horn of my salvation,
and my support.

With praise I will call upon the Lord:
and I shall be saved from my enemies.

Hear My Prayer, O Lord

Henry Purcell (1659 -1696)

Text: Psalm 102, v. 1

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my crying come unto thee.

As pants the Hart, HWV 251e

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Text: Psalm 42

I. Sinfonia

II. As Pants The Hart

Anne Thurber, mezzo soprano; James Lynch, tenor;

Greg Schmidt, baritone; Aaron Rapp, bass;

Annie Stravinski, soprano;

Ann Baltes, soprano; Sarah Hallas, mezzo soprano

III. Tears Are My Daily Food

Katherine Fortney, mezzo soprano

IV. Now, When I Think Thereupon

Mark Anderson, baritone

V. In the Voice of Praise

VI. Why So Full of Grief, My Soul?

Katherine Fortney, mezzo soprano; James Lynch, tenor

VII. Put Thy Trust in God / Alleluia

Nathaniel Lutes, bass

Intermission





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MASKS REQUIRED

Prairie Spring

Christian Ellenwood (b. 1970)
Text: Willa Cather (1873-1947)

*Evening and the flat land,
Rich and somber and always silent;
The miles of fresh-plowed soil,
Heavy and black, full of strength and harshness;
The growing wheat, the growing weeds,
The toiling horses, the tired men;
The long empty roads,
Sullen fires of sunset, fading,
The eternal, unresponsive sky.
Against all this, Youth,
Flaming like the wild roses,
Singing like the larks over the plowed fields,
Flashing like a star out of the twilight;
Youth with its insupportable sweetness,
Its fierce necessity,
Its sharp desire,
Singing and singing,
Out of the lips of silence,
Out of the earthy dusk.*

*Reading from writings of
Rosa Parks*

Read by Tamera Stanley

Freedom

To Be Free and Sky Bound

Augusta Read Thomas (b. 1964)
Text: Rosa Parks & Jalāl ad-Dīn Mohammad Rūmī
In memoriam Rosa Parks
World premiere performance

*I would like to be remembered
as a person who wanted to be free...
so other people would be also free.*

*Only from the heart can you touch the sky.
Love calls – everywhere and always.
We're sky bound.*

Hope

Ysaÿe Barnwell (b. 1946)
Soloists: Ann Baltés and Megan Wiemann, sopranos

*If we want hope to survive in this world today,
Then every day we've got to pray on , pray on
(teach on, work on, march on, sing on)
If we want hope to survive in this world today,
Then every day we've got to pray on
Teach on, work on, march on, sing on!*

Plyva Kacha

(A duck floats down the river Tisa)

Arranged: Pikkardijska Tercija /Volodymyr Yakymets'

Text: Ukrainian folksong

Soloists: Aaron Rapp, Mark Anderson, Scott McBride,
Greg Schmidt, Bob Brod, baritones;
Sarah Hallas, mezzo soprano

Гей, плине кача по Тисині.

A duck floats down the river Tisa.

Мамко ж моя, не лай мені.

My dear mother, don't scold me.

Гей, залаєш ми в злу годину.

For if you scold me in an ill hour,

Сам не знаю де погину.

I know not where I will perish.

Гей, погину я в чужім краю.

I will perish in some foreign land,

Хто ж ми буде брати яму?

And who then will dig a grave for me?

Гей, виберут ми чужі люди.

Foreigners will dig a grave for me,

Ци не жаль ти, мамко, буде?

Will you not be sorry for me, mother?

Гей, якби ж мені, синку,

How could I not feel sorry for you,

не жаль?

my son?

Ти ж на моїм серцю лежав.

You have lain on my dear heart.

Гей, плине кача по Тисині.

A duck floats down the river Tisa.

Den' bez vystrela

(A Day Without a Shot on Earth)

David Tukhmanov (b. 1940)

Arranged: Alena Holmes

Soloist: Zoya Nevinskaya, mezzo soprano

Обращаюсь ко всем живущим
Разных стран и
наречий разных:
Ради жизни веков грядущих
Объявить повсеместный праздник

I appeal to everyone living
in different countries,
and speaking different languages:
For the life of our future generations
Let's announce a global holiday:

День без выстрела на Земле
День без выстрела на Земле

A day without a gunshot on earth,
A day without a gunshot on earth.

Если праздник удачным будет
Можно силы свои утроить
Сговориться надежно людям
И на радость людей устроить

If the holiday is successful
We can triple our strength and our efforts.
We can talk to all the people,
And for the joy of everyone we will coordinate:

Год без выстрела на Земле
Год без выстрела на Земле

A year without a gunshot on Earth,
A year without a gunshot on Earth.

Год без выстрела дней спокойных
Год без пыток
ночей осторожных
Вот тогда позабыв о войнах
Начинать уже будет можно:

A year of calm days without a gunshot,
A year without torture,
without fretful nights.
Then we will forget about war
And we will start:

Век без выстрела на Земле
Век без выстрела на Земле.

A century without a gunshot on Earth,
A century without a gunshot on Earth.

И земля зацветет отменно
Из кровавого выйдет круга
Мы разучимся постепенно
На Земле убивать друг друга

And the earth will start blooming,
We will emerge from the bloody cycle,
We will gradually forget
how to kill each other, on the earth.

Жизнь без выстрела на Земле
Жизнь без выстрела на Земле

Life without a gunshot on earth,
Life without a gunshot on earth.

Люди, люди
Дело только за вами!

People, people
The future is up to you!

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

Carol Barnett (b. 1949)

Text: Traditional African American song

Soloist: James Lynch, tenor

My Soul's been anchored in the Lord.

Before I'd stay in hell one day

I'd sing and pray myself away

I'm gonna pray and never stop

until I reach the mountain top.

Reading from writings of John Lewis

Read by Leotha Stanley

Make Some Noise, Get in Trouble Good Trouble, Necessary Trouble

Roland M. Carter (b. 1942)

Soloist: Andi Becerra, Joana Huibregtse, and Annie Stravinski, sopranos

Commissioned by a consortium of choruses to benefit the programs and services of Chorus America.

Trouble, oh trouble! Good trouble, necessary trouble!

Make some noise, get in trouble, Good trouble necessary trouble.

Defend the soul of our nation. Use your power to make a difference.

Demand respect for Human Dignity. Discover what takes Root in our hearts

Answer the highest calling... (of your hearts)

Stand up for what you believe.

Let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide:

Make some noise, Get in trouble; Good trouble necessary trouble.

See something, say something, do something, make some noise!

Silence no more! Make some noise! Get in trouble

MAKE SOME NOISE!

Program Notes

Prairie Spring

Note by Christian Ellenwood

My composition, *Prairie Spring*, is a setting for choir and string orchestra of a poem by the celebrated American author Willa Cather. Cather's poem is also entitled *Prairie Spring*; it was inspired by the prairie landscape of Nebraska, where Cather spent her formative years. The poem serves as the prelude to her beautiful novel *O Pioneers!*

I am a proud native Nebraskan, and I grew up with a deep love of the prairie landscape that Cather experienced in her youth—a vast sweep of land and sky, stretching towards infinity, with an ever-present wind blowing across an undulating ocean of grass. Cather's poem describes eternal cycles of growth, toil, yearning, and regeneration—cycles and stories as infinite and eternal as the landscape, and perfectly joined with it. Cather also describes these eternal cycles in *O Pioneers!*:

“There are only two or three human stories, and they go on repeating themselves as fiercely as if they had never happened before; like the larks in this country, that have been singing the same five notes over for thousands of years.”

In my composition, I have attempted to translate the vast cycles and landscapes Cather describes into melodies and harmonies that reach and yearn and stretch and sing across endless horizons and into infinite skies. I have tried to give expression to an eternity that we carry quietly within us, even though we may be singing it outwardly as fiercely as if it had never happened before.

Freedom
To Be Free and Sky Bound

Composer, Augusta Read-Thomas, said, “Music is akin to an infinite alphabet.” Weaving together two texts, originally written in two different alphabets (about 800 years apart,) *FREEDOM: To be Free and Sky Bound* unfolds and develops an elegant, resonant, graceful dialogue between Parks’ “Freedom” and Rumi’s “Love”. Textual and musical braids embody Thomas’ notion of “infinite alphabet.”

On the process of composition, Thomas remarks that “it's like living inside of a poem . . . I think of myself, and have been described as, a poet-composer. I sculpt my music akin to how poets create, refine, and polish their poems." Such a statement might be seen as the key to entering the sound-world of a work such as *FREEDOM* (indeed, it is a key to all of her music).

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was an African-American activist in the civil rights movement, best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott. The United States Congress has honored her as "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement." Parks received countless recognitions, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Rumi was a 13th-century Persian poet, Hana! faqih, Islamic scholar, Maturidi theologian, and Sufi mystic. Like other mystic and Sufi poets of Persian literature, Rumi's poetry speaks of love which infuses the world. This is made explicit in Rumi's verse (not included in this composition) that describes love as "that flame which, when it blazes up, burns away everything except the Everlasting Beloved."

In Memoriam Rosa Parks

Den Bez Vystrela notes

The song *Den bez vystrela* (*A Day Without a Gunshot*) was written by Russian composer David Tukhmanov and poet Mihael Dudkin in 1972 as an anti-war song during the period of the cold war. The song was released as a part of Tukhamonov's first album, *Kak prekrasen mir* (*How Beautiful the World Is*), the first conceptual rock album in the USSR. The first performer of the song was Galina Nenasheva, a revered singer during the Soviet era and later. Her son, Lonya Nenashev, is a Wisconsin-based sound engineer and long-time Madison resident. *Den bez vystrela* became popular in the USSR as a peace song and has been performed and recorded by many popular artists and bands.

Zoya Nevinskaya (soloist) is a singer, pianist, ukulele player, figure skater, and a middle-school student in Madison. She is active in the community around LGBTQ+ issues, and enjoys spending time with her family and her two pet parrots.

Alena Holmes (arranger) is a former resident of Madison and current Professor of Music Education at UW-Whitewater. A talented vocalist, dancer, and multi-instrumentalist, she performed for many years as a singer in her native Belarus before moving to the US.



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Alto

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Charlotte Bahnfleth
Clare Boulanger
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Elissa Waller

Tenor

Andrew Bent
Carl Carlson
Brien Carney
Christopher Eggers
Jared Greenberg
James Lynch
Zachary Mark
Paul Schick
Jay Suthers
Matthew Walch

Bass

Mark Anderson
Steve Boshers
Robert Brod
Daniel Cary
Jeffrey Harkins
Nathaniel Lutes
Scott McBride
John Millholland
Roger Pettersen
Aaron Rapp
Bill Rosholt
Joshua Schmidt
Gregory Schmidt
William White

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Lindsay Flowers

Bassoon

Cynthia Cameron

Organ

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Leanne Kelso, concert master
Clayton Tillotson
Wes Luke

Violin 2

Xavier Pleindoux
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Artistic Director, Robert Gehrenbeck

Dr. Gehrenbeck is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, where he conducts the UWW Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, Singing Sirens, and opera and musical theatre productions. He has served as the WCC's Artistic Director since 2008, leading the ensemble in critically acclaimed performances of choral-orchestral masterworks as well as innovative programs featuring familiar and rarely heard a cappella works.

Gehrenbeck's choirs have been invited to perform at state and regional conferences and in Europe, and he has guest conducted honor choir festivals throughout Wisconsin. As a singer, he has appeared with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers, Boston's Cantata Singers, New York State Baroque, and the Bloomington Early Music Festival. He is recognized as an authority on eighteenth-century performance practice, German Romantic choral music, and contemporary music. A committed advocate on behalf of living composers, he has conducted world premieres by Peter Bloesch, Stephen Chatman, Brent Michael Davids, Christian Ellenwood, Wayne Oquin, Judith Shatin, Giles Swayne, and Yehuda Yanay.

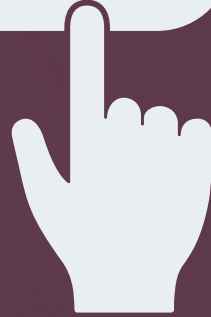
Dr. Gehrenbeck earned degrees from Macalester College, Boston University, and Indiana University, with additional studies at the Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Conservatory in Leipzig, Germany. He is a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from UW-Whitewater's College of Arts and Communication, and the Julius Herford dissertation prize from the American Choral Directors Association.



Organist and Collaborative Pianist Mark Brampton Smith
Mark holds degrees in Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Michigan. Currently the organist at Grace Episcopal Church, Madison, Mark has served on the music staff of churches in seven states. A prize winner in several national organ competitions, he has given solo concerts in numerous churches and auditoriums, including Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. As a collaborative pianist, Mark has worked with singers, instrumentalists, and ensembles, including the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, University of Michigan choirs, Colgate University Chorus, and, since 2012, the Wisconsin Chamber Choir.

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