

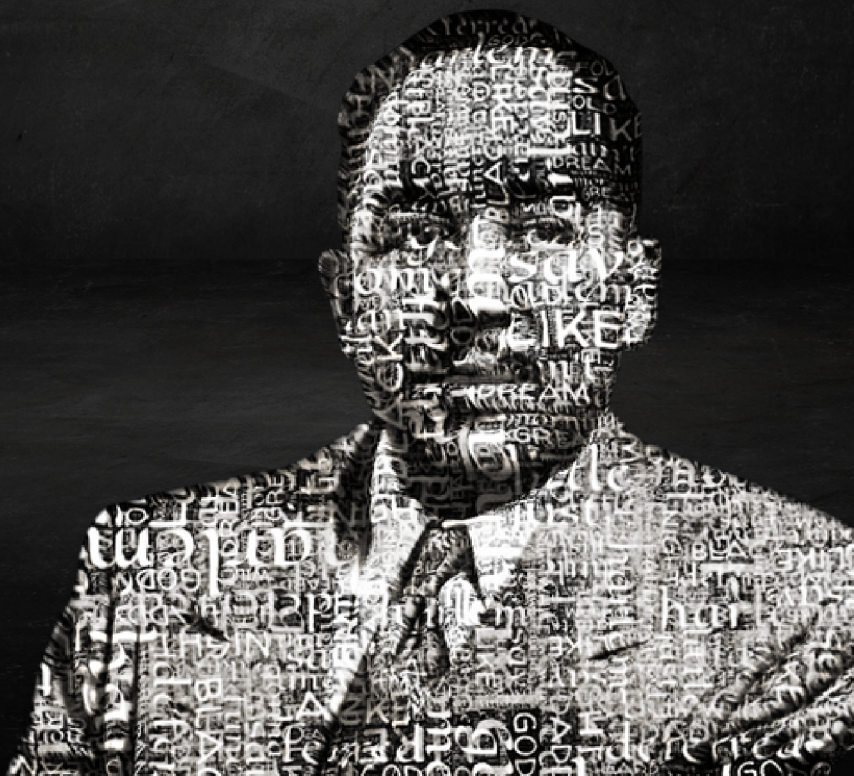
Wisconsin

CHAMBER CHOIR

Robert Gehrenbeck, Artistic Director

I Dream a World

Mark Brampton Smith, Collaborative Pianist
with special guests: Leotha & Tamera Stanley & Friends
Saturday, April 29, 2023 - 7:30 pm
First Unitarian Society Atrium Auditorium
900 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI



I Dream a World



I Dream a World

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

Poet: Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn.
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind—
Of such I dream, my world!



I've Known Rivers

John Wesley Work III (1901-1967)

Narrator: Aaron Rapp

Poet: Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

I've known rivers:

I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the
flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.

I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.

I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.

I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans,
and I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers:

Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.



On Imagination

Undine Smith Moore (1904 - 1989)

Poet: Phillis Wheatley (1753 - 1784)

Imagination! who can sing thy force?
Or who describe the swiftness of thy course?
Soaring through air to find the bright abode,
Th'empyrean palace of the thund'ring God,
We on thy pinions can surpass the wind,
And leave the rolling universe behind:
From star to star the mental optics rove,
Measure the skies and range the realms above.
There in one view we grasp the mighty whole,
Or with new worlds amaze th'unbounded soul.

Two Dunbar Lyrics

Ulysses Kay (1917–1995)

Poet: Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906)

Starry Night

A cloud fell down from the heavens,
And broke on the mountain's brow;
It scattered the dusky fragments
All over the vale below.

The moon and the stars were anxious
To know what its fate might be;
So they rushed to the azure op'ning,
And all peered down to see.

A Madrigal

Dream days of fond delight and hours
As rosy-hued as dawn, are mine.
Love's drowsy wine,
Brewed from the heart of Passion flowers,
Flows softly o'er my lips
And save thee, all the world is in eclipse.

Oh, love, if thou wert not my love,
And I perchance not thine—what then?
Could gift of men
Or favor of the God above,
Plant aught in this bare heart
Or teach this tongue the singer's soulful art?

There were no light if thou wert not;
The sun would be too sad to shine,
And all the line
Of hours from dawn would be a blot;
And Night would haunt the skies,
An unlaid ghost with staring dark-ringed eyes.

Ah, no! 'Tis love and love alone
That spurs my soul so surely on;
Turns night to dawn,
And thorns to roses fairest blown;
And winter drear to spring—
Oh, were it not for love I could not sing!



Scene from Troubled Island

William Grant Still (1895–1978)

Librettist: Langston Hughes

Dessalines is sung by Elijah Edwards

Martel is sung by Quanda Johnson

The setting of Still's 1939 opera is Haiti at the turn of the 19th-century, just prior to, and after the insurrection that overthrew French colonial rule. Act I begins in the days leading up to the revolt led by Jean Jacques Dessalines, an officer in the French army who had been born into slavery in the plantation colony. Dessalines is encouraged by his older friend, Martel. In Act II of Still's opera, Dessalines is now Emperor of Haiti, and Martel is his advisor. In the scene below, Dessalines is worried about the troubled state of the economy and the lack of education in his kingdom. Martel encourages him to take heart, and to embrace an expanded vision of freedom for all people.

Dessalines: Does no one care about this dream we dreamed, Martel,
this dream of Haiti, where each black man can raise his head in pride!
Let Haiti be a land where black men are free, a land for you and me.

Martel: In my old age, Jean Jacques, an even bigger world than that I dream.

Dessalines: What world, Martel?

Martel: A world where all men will live well. Listen, my son,
I dream a world...

From We Are One

Mary Watkins (b. 1939)

1. A Change Is Going to Come

As the seasons come and the seasons go, this hour too shall pass.

Watch – Listen – Wait for your change to come.

A change is going to come when the night is done.

When the cold wind blows and the night is long, this darkness too shall pass.

Watch – Listen – Wait for your change to come.

A change is going to come with the morning sun.

For there's time to laugh, and a time to cry, a time to mourn, and a time to rejoice.

You got to watch – Listen – and wait for your change to come.

The change is going to come with the morning sun.

So as seasons come and seasons go, this sadness too will pass.

So watch – Listen – Wait for your change to come.

The change is going to come when the night is done.

Your change is going to come with the morning sun.

6. We Are One

We are one, brother and sister, under the sun.

Living together, one with another, we are one.

We are one, brother and sister, we are one.

We are one, brother and sister, under the sun,

Living as one with the Creator. We are one.



Selections from Montage of a Dream Deferred

Langston Hughes

David N. Baker (1931–2016)

Dream Boogie

Good morning, daddy!

Ain't you heard

The boogie-woogie rumble

Of a dream deferred?

Listen closely:

You'll hear their feet

Beating out and beating out a—

Listen to it closely:

Ain't you heard

something underneath

like a—

What did I say?

Sure,

I'm happy!

Take it away!

You think

It's a happy beat?

Hey, pop!

Re-bop!

Mop!

Y-e-a-h!



Selected poems read by Quanda Johnson



Love Song

Juke Box Love Song

H. Leslie Adams (b.1932))

Emily Bilhorn, Jennifer Streit, Zachary Mark, and Aaron Rapp, soloists

I could take the Harlem night
And wrap it round you,
Take the neon lights and make a crown,
Take the Lenox Avenue busses,
Taxis, subways,
And for your love song tone their rumble down.

Take Harlem's heartbeat,
Make a drumbeat,
Put it on a record, let it whirl,
And while we listen to it play,
Dance with you till day –
Dance with you, my sweet brown Harlem girl.

Selected poems read by Elijah Edwards

Hold Fast to Dreams

Harlem and Dreams (from *The Dream Keeper*)

Joel Thompson (b.1988)

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams for when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

Intermission

Poem of Praise

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Poet: Elizabeth Coatsworth (1893-1986)

Swift things are beautiful:
swallows and deer,
and lightning that falls
bright-veined and clear,
rivers and meteors,
wind in the wheat,
the strong-withered horse,
the runner's sure feet.

And slow things are beautiful:
the closing of day,
the pause of the wave
that curves downward to spray,
the ember that crumbles,
the opening flower,
and the ox that moves on
in the quiet of power.

Summer is Gone

Bitter for Sweet

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

Poet: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Summer is gone with all its roses,
Its sun and perfumes and sweet flowers,
Its warm air and refreshing showers:
And even Autumn closes.

Yea, Autumn's chilly self is going,
And winter comes which is yet colder;
Each day the hoar-frost waxes bolder
And the last buds cease blowing.

The Lee Shore

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Poet: Thomas Hood (1799-1845)

Sleet! and hail! and thunder!
And ye winds that rave,
Till the sands there under
Tinge the sullen wave.

Winds, that like a demon
Howl with horrid note
Round the toiling seaman,
In his tossing boat.

From his humble dwelling
On the shingly shore,
Where the billows swelling
Keep such hollow roar.

From that weeping woman,
Seeking with her cries
Succor superhuman
From the frowning skies.

From the urchin pining
For his father's knee,
From the lattice shining,
Drive him out to sea!

Let broad leagues dis sever
Him from yonder foam;
O, God! to think man ever
Comes too near his home!

Gospel

Alvin Singleton (b.1940)

Poet: Rita Dove (b.1956)

*Swing low so
I can step inside -
a humming ship of voices
big with all*

the wrongs done
done them.
No sound this generous
could fail:

ride joy until
it cracks like an egg,
make sorrow
seethe and whisper.

From a fortress
of animal misery
soars the chill voice
of the tenor, enraptured

with sacrifice.
What do I see,
he complains, notes
brightly rising

towards a sky
blank with promise.
Yet how healthy
the single contralto

settling deeper
into her watery furs!
Carry me home,
she cajoles, bearing

down. Candelabras
brim. But he slips
through God's net and swims
heavenward, warbling.

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

African American Spiritual

arr. Alice Parker (b.1925)

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,
A band of angels coming after me.

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,
Sometimes I'm almost to the ground.

Worship the Lord

BLC Youth Choir
arr. Leotha Stanley

Praise the Lord, Everybody

O'Landa Draper (1963-1998)
arr. Leotha Stanley

Leotha and Tamera Stanley and Friends

Tamera Stanley, director
Leotha Stanley, director / keyboard
Angie Kier
Rene Robinson
Sarah Jordan
Terra Allen
Candace Patterson
David Smith Jr.
LaTanya Baldwin
Claire Olsen
Jalen McCullough, drums
Vanessa McDowell bass guitar

Trouble Don't Last Always

Thomas Whitfield (1954-1992)
arr. Leotha Stanley

I'm so glad
Trouble don't last always.

May not come when you want Him
But He's on time
In times of trouble, I found Him to be
A friend of mine

When storm clouds rise in your life
He'll be there,
All your burdens
I know the Lord will help you to bear.

Weeping may endure for a night
Keep the faith it will be alright.

Combined Choirs

Scan for Program Notes:

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Andi Becerra
Emily Bilhorn
Jeannie Campbell
Barbara Fischer
Joana Huibregtse
Kara Noah
Kristen Szaller
Anne Thurber
Megan Wiemann
Sarah Zutz

Alto

Clare Boulanger
Katie Fortney
Kim Giannini
Sarah Hallas
Sherri Hansen
Eva Müller
Danielle Murray
Linda Palmer
Katy Schweitz
Catherine Stephens
Jennifer Streit
Rebecca Tigges
Elissa Waller

Tenor

Andrew Bent
Brien Carney
Christopher Eggers
Jared Greenberg
Zachary Mark
Paul Schick
Jay Suthers

Bass

Mark Anderson
Steve Boschers
Jeffrey Harkins
Scott McBride
John Millholland
Luis Pesantez Tello
Aaron Rapp
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Bill Rosholt
Joshua Schmidt
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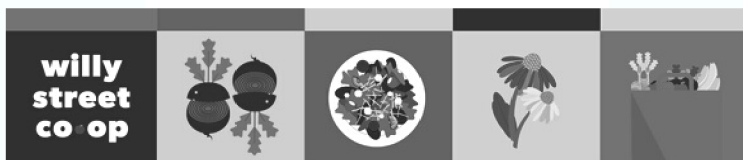
Andrea Becerra, Andrew Bent,
Anne Thurber, Bill White, Sarah Zutz

I STAND CORRECTED.

Literally,
I just got adjusted.



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BIOGRAPHIES



Robert Gehrenbeck, Artistic Director

Gehrenbeck is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, where he conducts the UWW Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, Harmonia, 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 Quin, Judith Shatin, Giles Swayne, and Augusta Read Thomas.

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.



Mark Brampton Smith, Organist and Collaborative Pianist

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. Recent seasons included appearances with Just Bach and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra.

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.

Leotha and Tamera Stanley and Friends

Leotha (Lee) is a retired firefighter / paramedic for the city of Madison and worked as an Employment Specialist for the Urban League of Greater Madison. He is currently the Director of Operations for UMOJA Magazine. Tamera currently serves as the Liaison for Family, Staff & Community Engagement at the Verona Area School District.

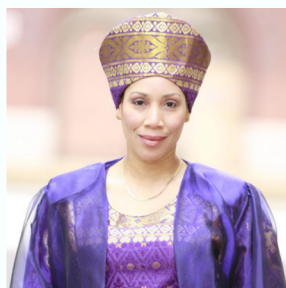
Lee & Tamera are very engaged in community activities where they may be seen conducting choirs or providing music as a dynamic duo. (he plays / she sings). The Stanleys have written or arranged music for the Madison Symphony Orchestra and performs their charts each year at the MSO Christmas Concert. They conduct an 80 voiced choir for the MLK Commemoration program each year. Since the pandemic, they have learned the art of video editing releasing a variety of music videos where concert goers could not attend. They also produce a Gospel Carols Concert each year giving traditional carols a Stanley twist. (www.gospelcarols.com) You can also find the Stanley's each Sunday evening at the Stanley Gospel Café, a live broadcast featuring guests from Madison and the surrounding communities.

Since 1990, Lee has worked with countless schools in Madison and throughout the Midwest as an artist in residence teaching many different genres of music to children. He has written two books of music for children, has composed scores of songs and has been the music director for the Mt. Zion Church in Madison for the last 47 years.

You will find another iteration of this group singing at the Concerts on the Square on July 12th!



Leatha and Tamera Stanley and Friends



Quanda Johnson, Guest Artist

Quanda Johnson is a Philadelphia native and Fulbright scholar. Currently a dissertator in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, her work has been honored by both the university's Division of the Arts' Creative Arts Award and the Mead Witter School of Music, University Opera's Opera Props Award. She has performed on and off Broadway, with the Houston Grand Opera and the New York City Opera, regional theater, and in national and international tours.

As a Dean's Graduate Scholar with New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study, she is a recipient of their Clyde Taylor Award for Distinguished Work in African American and Africana Studies. She created and curated LAUGHIN' TO KEEP FROM CRYIN': Oh! Those Blues of Langston Hughes (2021) for Fermat's Last Theater Company.

This and all performances are dedicated to the memory of the first artist in her life, her mother, Vernetta.



Elijah Edwards, Guest Artist

Elijah is a senior at Abel Phillips Memorial High School. He began acting at the age of 11 in his first production, Big Fish - The Musical, with Four Seasons Theatre. Since then he has performed at American Players Theatre, Middleton Players Theatre, Four Seasons Theatre, Theatre Lila, and more. Elijah is ecstatic to be making his operatic debut.

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