

Ensemble Concert:

2023-05-05 – University Choir



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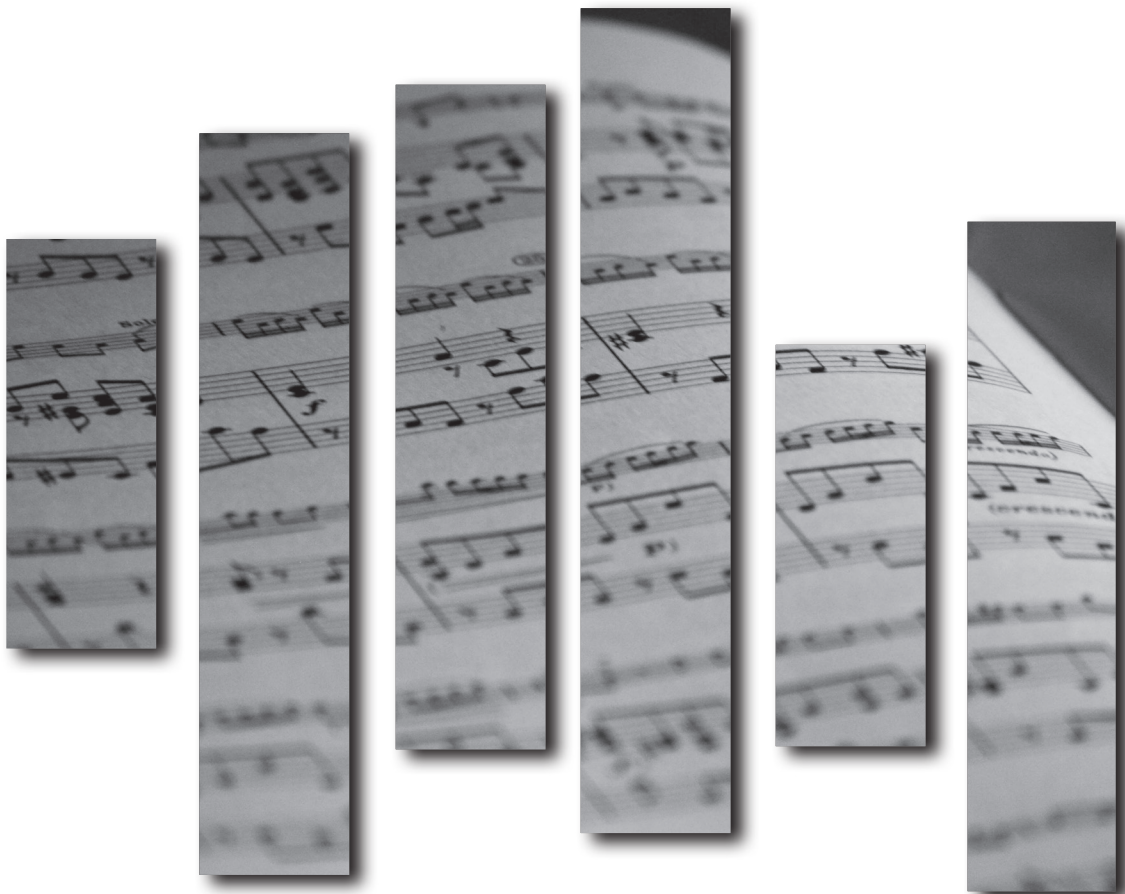


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IOWA

School of Music



ENSEMBLE CONCERT

University Choir

Andrew Robinson, *graduate conductor*

Dr. David Puderbaugh, *conductor & assistant director of choral activities*

Michael Sauer, *assistant conductor*

Mariya Akhadjanova, *piano*

Dr. Timothy Stalter, *director of choral activities*

Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7:30pm

Voxman Music Building Concert Hall

University Choir

Andrew Robinson, *graduate conductor*

Dr. David Puderbaugh, *conductor & assistant director of choral activities*

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Mariya Akhadjanova, *piano*

PROGRAM

I. An Array from the World

Salmo 150 (1993)

Ernani AGUIAR
(b. 1950)

Duh tvoy blagiy (from *Communion Hymns*, Op. 25, 1912)

Pavel CHESNOKOV
(1877-1944)

The Challenge of Thor (from *Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf*, Op. 30, 1896)

Edward ELGAR
(1857-1934)

O Salutaris, Op. 131 (1930)

Mel BONIS
(1858-1937)

O schöne Nacht (from *Vier Quartette*, Op. 92, 1877)

Johannes BRAHMS
(1833-1897)

Geographical Fugue (1930)

Ernst TOCH
(1887-1964)

II. The Here and Hereafter

Cloudsong (from *Riverdance*, 1994)

Bill WHELAN
(b. 1950)

Alix Bushard, *soprano*

Elijah Rock (1994)

Traditional Spiritual/Arr. Moses HOGAN
(1957-2003)

Gabby Peterson, *soprano*

Kittery (1786)

William BILLINGS
(1746-1800)

Ye Followers of the Lamb (1968)

Shaker Song/Arr. Edwin FERGUSON
(1910-1999)

TRANSLATIONS

Salmo 150

Praise the Lord in his sacred places.
Praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts.
Praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the sound of trumpet.
Praise him with psaltery and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance.
Praise him with strings and pipes.
Praise him with high-sounding cymbals.
Praise him with cymbals of joy.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Alleluia!

Duh Tvoy blagiý

Let Thy good Spirit lead me on a level path. Alleluia.
[Psalm 143:10]

O Salutaris Hostia

O saving Victim,
Who expanded the door of heaven,
Hostile armies press;
Give strength, bear aid.

To the One and Triune Lord,
May there be everlasting glory;
who life without end
gives us in the homeland.
Amen.

[from *Verbum supernum prodiens* (1264) by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)]

O schöne Nacht

Oh lovely night!
In the sky, magically,
the moon shines in all splendor;
around it is the pleasant company of little stars.

The dew glistens brightly on the green stems;
in the lilac bush, the nightingale sings with power.
The youth steals away quietly to his love.
Oh lovely night!

[from *Polydora* (1855) by Georg Friedrich Daumer (1800-1875); Johannes Brahms, editor;
translation by Gordon Paine and Ron Jeffers]

PROGRAM NOTES

It is often remarked that the world is “getting smaller.” In today’s technologically saturated age, it is easy to agree, since we are more connected than ever, with information instantly at our fingertips and many ways with which to communicate with others from around the world. Yet, this same technology, can cause us to drift apart—from our neighbors, nature, the divine, and even ourselves. Tonight’s program will explore music that (re)connects us to the world and beyond.

The first set is entitled “An Array from the World.” Featuring six songs from six different countries outside the United States, we connect with a variety of languages (Church Slavonic, English, German, and Latin), texts, and musical styles. *Salmo 150* is an energetic setting of Psalm 150 by Brazilian Ernani Aguiar. A pulsating rhythmic motive introduced immediately by half of the choir, drives the entire work, creating a dancelike energy as the voice parts trade off singing the melody. Following this is the final movement from Russian Pavel Chesnokov’s ten *Communion Hymns*, written in 1912. This entire set, including *Duh tvoy blagiy*, are some of the last sacred works Chesnokov wrote before the Russian Revolution of 1917 silenced religion. Full of lush, block chords, you will also hear low basses typically found in Russian choral music. From Russia we travel to England to hear a selection from Sir Edward Elgar’s cantata, *Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf*. *The Challenge of Thor* is a bombastic, heroic work featuring a text by the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The words speak to the power of Thor, the Norse pagan god of war and thunder and a prominent deity in Norway before King Olaf Tryggvason—the real-life, central character in the cantata—converted the country to Christianity in the mid-thirteenth century. Due to the nature of this Norse god, Elgar includes sweeping melodies, militaristic rhythms, frequent heavy accents, and a very active piano part.

The remaining songs in this set feature composers from France (Mel Bonis), Germany (Johannes Brahms), and Austria (Ernst Toch). Mel Bonis, pseudonym for Mélanie Bonis, was a prolific late nineteenth and early twentieth-century composer, mostly known for her vocal solo and instrumental works. She composed *O Salutaris Hostia* in 1930, her third setting of this Vespers service text written by theologian St. Thomas Aquinas. Johannes Brahms’ *O schöne Nacht* (O Lovely Night) speaks of beauty in nature and a youth in search of love. The set concludes with *Geographical Fugue*, a work for spoken chorus. Written as a fugue, which came to prominence in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Toch turns this form on its head by removing any pitches.

In the second set of our program, “The Here and Hereafter,” the four musical selections explore both earthly and divinely connected topics. *Cloudsong*, a movement from the Irish step dance sensation Riverdance, serves as a segue between the two sets. The song is by Irish composer Bill Whelan, and the text is written from the perspective of a river, flowing and beautifying the earth. The last three pieces on the program are by American composers. The late Moses Hogan, a preeminent spiritual arranger in the 1990s and early 2000s, produced his first published arrangement, *Elijah Rock*, in 1994. The work is full of divisi in all parts, copious articulations, large dynamic shifts, and driving rhythms. William Billings, the first American to have a book of all his own music published, penned *Kittery* in 1786. The song, named after Kittery, Maine—which has nothing to do with the song, a common practice by early American composers—incorporates a metric setting of the first portion of “The Lord’s Prayer,” crafted by two seventeenth-century writers. With a simpler, four-part vocal structure, the song was taught in singing schools, at which Billings was a master teacher, where people would go and learn to read and sing multipart choral music. We conclude our journey with *Ye Followers of the Lamb*, an 1847 Shaker tune arranged by composer and lawyer Edwin Ferguson. With a dancelike piano part and vocal line, the composition gradually increases in musical complexity until the end when the song becomes frenzied, marked “Delirio” on the printed page, before a loud, majestic final cadence. (Notes by Andrew Robinson)

PERSONNEL

Andrew Robinson, *graduate conductor*
Dr. David Puderbaugh, *conductor*
Michael Sauer, *assistant conductor*
Mariya Akhadjanova, *piano*

Soprano

Madi Bruck
Alix Bushard
Tatum Calderwood
Maninoa Courtright
Erin Foye
Sophie Good
Sage Johnson
Lauren Kundel
Maggie Lennon
Samantha Martin
Kate O'Connell
Gabby Peterson
Presley Prichett Peterson
Cara Sullivan
Kristina Vesta

Tenor

Tanner Dales
Kade Ferchen
Foo Chen Gui
Grant Lenz
John Mendelin
Joe Miyazaki
Matt Peterson
Michael Rambousek
Michael Sauer
Dylan Schutjer

Alto

Amanda Baker
Berkley Barnett
Gina Bawek
Saylor Botsford
Emma Engler
Eva Fisk
Jenna Herting
Grace Johnson
Leah Kaminsky
Ashlyn Martin
Maggie Meehan
Molly Owen
Amber Pierce
Naomi Sennett
Maya St. Clair
Yaxin Sun
Andelyn Sunderman

Bass

Joshua Feldt
Jack Hinman
Freya Hofferber
Josh Horne
Benjamin Humpal-Pash
Nathan Kern
John Loos
Ryan Marten
Joshua Nieman
Jake Roth
Aaron Van Roosendaal
Jarrett West
John Wombacher
Travis Zhang

UPCOMING EVENTS

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All events are FREE unless otherwise indicated 

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MAY 2023

6	5:30pm	Clarinet Studio Recital	Choral Room
6	7:30pm	UI String Quartet Residency Program 10th Anniversary Concert	Concert Hall
6	7:30pm	Faculty Recital: John Manning, <i>tuba</i>	Stark Opera Studio
7	12:00pm	Guest Artist Recital: Thai Music & Literature: Wannapha Yannavut, <i>percussion</i> & Korak Lertpibulchai, <i>piano</i>	Stark Opera Studio
7	3:30pm	Guest Artist Recital: Carlos Betancur, <i>piano</i>	Concert Hall

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