

IN HARMONY:

WHAT LIES AHEAD

Saturday,
April 13, 2024
7:00pm



2023-2024
Season

Christ Church Denver
2950 South University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80210

Purchase tickets online:
elusvocalensemble.com

Alleluia

Music by Jake Runestad



When the Music Sounds

Music by Stephen Paulus; Words by Walter de la Mare

Bass soloist: Phil Hatton

When music sounds, gone is the earth I know,
And all her lovely things even lovelier grow;
Her flowers in vision flame, her forest trees,
Lift burdened branches, stilled with ecstasies.

When music sounds, out of the water rise.
Naiads whose beauty dims my waking eyes,
Rapt in strange dream burns each
enchanted face,
With solemn echoing stirs their dwelling place.

When music sounds, all that I was I am.
Ere to this haunt of brooding dust I came;
While from Time's woods break into
distant song.



My Spirit Sang All Day

Music by Gerald Finzi; Words by Robert Bridges

My spirit sang all day
O my joy.
Nothing my tongue could say,
Only my joy!
My heart an echo caught
O my joy.

And spake, tell me thy thought,
Hide not thy joy.
My eyes can peer around
O my joy
What beauty has thou found?
Shew us thy joy.

My jealous ears grew whist;
O my joy
Music from heaven is't,
sent for our joy?
She also came and heard;
O my joy,

What, said she, is this word?
What is thy joy?
And I replied, O see,
O my joy, 'tis thee.
I cried, 'tis thee:
Thou art my joy.



The Lee Shore

Music by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor; Words by Thomas Hood

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!



Come to the Woods

Music by Jake Runestad; Words by John Muir

Another glorious day, the air as delicious
to the lungs as nectar to the tongue.
The day was full of sparkling sunshine,
and at the same time enlivened with one of
the most bracing wind storms.
The mountain winds bless the forests with love.
They touch every tree, not one is forgotten.
When the storm began to sound,
I pushed out into the woods to enjoy it.
I should climb one of the trees for a wider look.

The sounds of the storm were glorious with
wild exuberance of light and motion.
Bending and swirling backward and forward, round and round,
in this wild sea of pines.
The storm-tones died away, and turning toward the east,
I beheld the trees, hushed and tranquil.
The setting sun filled them with amber light, and seemed to
say,
"Come to the woods, for here is rest."

The Runner

Music by Joshua Rist; Words by Roger Weaver; Soprano soloist: Kim Cowan

The ground fits his foot
perfectly as he runs,
each breath fits his lungs.

The earth pushes back
with its slow spin.

While he crosses the golden
field of barley, it seems
to him his body will burst into song.



Sacred Place

Music by Alex Berko; Words by Wendell Berry, John Muir, William Stafford, Rabindranath Tagore

I. Opening Prayer

Soloist: Nick Hamlyn – bass

In the dusk of the river, the wind
gone, the leaves grow still ----
The beautiful poise of lightness,
The heavy world pushing toward it.

– Wendell Berry

Excerpt from “The Porch Over the River”

II. Amidah

“How softly these mountain rocks are
adorned, and how fine and reassuring
the company they keep – their brows
in the sky, their feet set in groves and
gay emerald meadows, a thousand
flowers leaning confidently against their
adamantine bosses, while birds bees
butterflies help the river and waterfalls
to stir all the air into music – things frail
and fleeting and types of permanence
meeting here and blending as if into this
glorious mountain temple Nature had
gathered her choicest treasures, whether
great or small to draw her lovers into close
confiding communion with her.”

– John Muir to Teddy Roosevelt
on preserving Yosemite National Park

III. Shema

Soloists: Emma Tebbe – alto;
James Jensen – tenor

The earth says have a place, be what that
place requires; hear the sound the birds
imply and see as deep as ridges go behind
each other.

The earth says every summer have a
ranch that’s minimum: one tree, one well,
a landscape that proclaims a universe –
sermon of the hills, hallelujah mountain,
highway guided by the way the world
is tilted, reduplication of mirage, flat
evening: a kind of ritual for the wavering.

The earth says where you live wear the
kind of color that your life is (grey shirt for
me) and by listening with the same bowed
head that sings draw all things into one
song, join the sparrow on the lawn, and row
that easy way, the rage without met by the
wings within that guide you anywhere the
wind blows.

Listening, I think that’s what the earth
says.

– William Stafford

IV. Mi Shebeirach

May the source of strength
Who blessed the ones before us
Help us find the courage
to make our lives a blessing
And let us say Amen

Bless those in need of healing
with *r’fuah sh’leimah*
The renewal of body,
the renewal of spirit
And let us say Amen

– Traditional Jewish Prayer

V. Kaddish

Soloists: Anna Friedman – alto;
James Jensen – tenor; Taylor Nelson – bass

“Let my thoughts come to you, when I am
gone, like the afterglow of sunset at the
margin of starry silence.”

– Rabindranath Tagore

VI. Closing Prayer

Soloists: Nick Hamlyn – bass;
Kaylin Downour – soprano

In the dusk of the river, the wind gone,
the leaves grow still – The beautiful poise of
lightness, The heavy world pushing toward it.

– Wendell Berry

Excerpt from “The Porch Over the River”



Crowded Table

Words and Music by Natalie Hemby, Lori McKenna and Brandi Carlile. Arranged by Adam Waite

World Premiere, commissioned by Elus Vocal Ensemble 2023 – adamwaitemusic.com

Solos: Soprano – Eleanor Todd; Alto – Katie Kenkel

...and bring us back together...

You can hold my hand when you need to let go,
I can be a mountain when you’re feeling valley low,
I can be a street light showing you the way home,
If you can hold my hand when you need to let go.
I want a house with a crowded table,
and a place by the fire for everyone.

Let us take on the world while we’re young and able
and bring us back together when the day is done.

If we want a garden we’re gonna have to sow the seeds,
Plant a little happiness, let the roots run deep.

If it’s love that we give, then it’s love that we reap

If we want a garden we’re gonna have to sow the seeds.
And I want a house with a crowded table,
and a place by the fire for everyone.

Let us take on the world while we’re young and able,
and we’ll bring us back together when the day is done.

The door is always open, your picture’s on my wall.
Everyone’s a little broken, and everyone belongs.

I want a house with a crowded table,
and a place by the fire for everyone.

Let us take on the world while we’re young and able,
and bring us back together when the day is done.

Elus Vocal Ensemble

Soprano:

Manda Baker
Monica Berzins
Stephanie Carpenter
Kim Cowan
Kaylin Downour
Margaret Flint
Anne Lopez

Alto:

Carrie Buechner
Grace Dougherty
Anna Friedman
Katie Kenkel
Abigail Muller
Amber Parrish
Jessica Sweet
Emma Tebbe
Eleanor Todd

Tenor:

Kyle Bradley
Simon Daum
Brian Hartman
James Jensen
Sean McCarty
Jack McHugh
Jesse Vanlandingham

Bass:

Jonathan Bradshaw
Nev Foley
Bryan Grosbach
Nicholas Hamlyn
Mike Hardey
Phill Hatton
Taylor Nelson
Camden McPhee

The Director: Josh Jackson

Josh Jackson directs all vocal ensembles and teaches AP Music Theory at Chatfield Senior High School. Josh is also the Producer/Music Director of Chatfield's annual spring musical. Josh is currently the Assistant Director/Rehearsal Accompanist and one of the co-founders of Elus Vocal Ensemble.

Josh received his Bachelor of Music Education (BME) degree from Metropolitan State University of Denver, specializing in Choral studies, piano accompanying, and voice. Josh completed his Master of Educational Leadership (MED.EDL) degree from Regis University. He has worked with students at all levels from around the Denver Metro Area and has worked with musicals in the Douglas County School District, Adams 12 School District, and Jefferson County School District. Josh is active in the music education field; serving on the board for the Colorado American Choral Director's Association (COACDA) for the past sixteen years, and the Colorado All State Choir Governing Board for the past eleven years. Josh is an active accompanist around the state – working with public schools, choir concerts, All-State auditions, and Solo & Ensemble contests.

In addition to teaching, Josh is also active in the field of Information Technology. For the past eighteen years, he has been the Director of Information Technology (IT) for RJH Consultants, Inc., a geotechnical engineering firm in Englewood, Colorado. He currently resides in cozy Castle Rock, Colorado with his husband and their adorable orange tabby, Sasha.



The Pianist: Adam Waite

Composer/Pianist/Conductor Adam Waite's commissioned works have been performed by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, The Metropolis Symphony, the folk super-group, *I'm With Her*, and dozens of choirs across the United States. He has written for over forty different Broadway casts as Music Supervisor and Director for *Broadway Cares: Carols for a Cure*.

Additionally, Adam also serves as Minister of Music at Denver Colorado's historic Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, where he conducts Montview's Westminster Choir: an 80-voice mixed chorus that is the cornerstone of weekly worship. While at Montview, Adam has strived to present musical works more aligned with the whole of America's musical heritage. His work also strives to lift up the Spirituals, through the Reparations Royalty Pilot Program he created, in conjunction with the Center for Congregational Song.



The Violinist: Leena Waite

Since arriving in Colorado in the fall of 2015, violinist Leena Waite has become a regular substitute with the Colorado Symphony, Opera Colorado, and Colorado Ballet. She performs chamber music with local musicians through Front Range Chamber Players, Friends of Chamber Music's museum and school concerts, and Highlands Ranch Mansion Chamber Series. Along with vocalist Kali Pagurigan, she is the co-founder of ReSound, a Denver based voice and string quartet project presenting accessible yet profound music in a variety of genres from mostly 20th century to present day composers. She plays frequently at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, as a soloist and in ensembles in a variety of styles – classical, folk, and jazz – and as a guest with the Westminster choir. She also appears frequently with Boulder Chorale, Denver Choir League, Elus Vocal Ensemble, and the Ghost Ranch Chorale.

Leena received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Violin Performance (with a jazz minor) from Carnegie Mellon University, studying with Andres Cardenes. She then went on to earn a Masters of Music and Masters in Improvisation from the University of Michigan and studied with violinist Andrew Berofsky and jazz musicians Geri Allen, Ed Sarath, and Ellen Rowe. She also holds a Masters of Arts in Ministry from Drew Theological School Madison, NJ.



The Cellist: Sabrina Towne

Sabrina Towne has been playing cello since 2013 at age 12, and instantly fell in love with the instrument. Music has been a core part of her life ever since. She earned a Bachelors of Music in Cello Performance in November 2023 from University of Denver where she studied under Dr. Matthew Zalkind. She has a successful music studio, teaching private lessons in cello and continues to do freelance projects in all genres of music.

Towne's past playing experience consists of solo and chamber performances, participation in several community orchestras including the University of Denver Lamont Symphony Orchestra and Arapahoe Philharmonic. Her contract work includes private events and weddings throughout the Denver Metro Area. Sabrina's professional pursuits also include being a software engineer in Denver.



About Elus Vocal Ensemble

Founded in 2012, Elus Vocal Ensemble is comprised of musicians based in the Denver Metropolitan area. Under the direction of Taylor Martin, Elus specializes in singing diverse a cappella choral repertoire including contemporary works from around the world.

In their twelfth season, Elus has collaborated previously with The Colorado Symphony, The Colorado Chorale, El Sistema, Church of the Ascension, St. Martin's Chamber Choir, and the Choirs of Metropolitan State University.

Visit us at www.elusvocalensemble.com for more information or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



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