



*Speak to us of
Joy and Sorrow*

Music for These 'Unprecedented Times'

An Afternoon of Readings & Songs

The Department of Music and the Student Activities Council present

**Speak to us of Joy and Sorrow
Music for These ‘Unprecedented Times’**

**Penn Chorale
Elizabeth Braden, Conductor
Lisa Harer de Calvo, Piano**

Saturday, April 2, 2022

ST. MARY’S CHURCH
HAMILTON VILLAGE
3916 LOCUST WALK
University of Pennsylvania



PROGRAM NOTES

Reasons to Live Through the Apocalypse

*Sunrises. People you have still to meet and laugh with. Songs about love, peace, anger, and revolution.
Walks in the woods. The smile you exchange with a stranger when you experience beauty accidentally together.
Butterflies. Seeing your grandparents again. The moon in all her forms, whether half or full. Dogs. Birthdays
and half-birthdays. That feeling of floating in love. Watching birds eat from feeders. The waves of happiness that
follow the end of sadness. Brown eyes. Watching a boat cross an empty sea. Sunsets. Dipping your feet in the river.
Balconies. Cake. The wind in your face when you roll the car window down on an open highway.
Falling asleep to the sound of a steady heartbeat. Warm cups of tea on cold days. Hugs. Night skies.
Art museums. Books filled with everything you do not yet know. Long conversations.
Long-lost friends. Poetry. – Nikita Gill*

I came across this passage from Nikita Gill recently, and it felt so good to read through the list. Dogs. Cake. Art museums. Songs about love, peace, anger, and revolution. Poetry. The waves of happiness that follow the end of sadness.

The waves of happiness follow the end of sadness.

We aren't quite to the end of our sadness from these last two years – in fact I think sadness may never truly end. But there are waves of happiness to be found all around, and we hope that today's program is one such wave for you.

Our program today is loosely modeled on the annual 'Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols', performed and broadcast around the world every Christmas Eve from King's College, London. That program uses biblical passages, Christmas carols, and choral anthems to tell the Christmas Story. Our program uses poetry and choral music to tell stories – or perhaps we should say to tell snapshots of stories – from our lives in 'These Unprecedented Times.' We sing of love, of grief, of hope, of loss, of dreams – songs that 'speak to us of joy and sorrow', as Kahlil Gibran writes in *The Prophet*. We are so glad you've come today to listen to our poetry and our songs and to share in what we hope is a wave of happiness for us all.

PROGRAM



Excerpt from 'The Prophet', by Khalil Gibran
Read by William Jones

Invitation, by Shel Silverstein
Read by Rachel Zaff

The Pasture, by Michael Bussewitz-Quarm
Andreas Ghosh, Soloist

untitled, by Rupi Kaur
Read by Caz Gagne

Lumen, by Abbie Betinis

the lesson of the falling leaves, by Lucile Clifton
Read by Rachel Zaff

Beverlie, by David R. Last
World Premiere

The Angels, by Mary Oliver
Read by Kevin Zhao

Sing Me To Heaven, by Daniel E. Gawthrop

The Road Not Taken, by Robert Frost
Read by Katie Francis

the art will come, by Rupi Kaur
Read by Kevin Zhao

In My Life, by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, arr. Steve Zegree
Katie Francis, Yihan Xie, Clayton Greenberg, Sophia Leung and Rachel Zaff, soloists

i carry your heart, by E. E. Cummings
Read by Ayesha Sheth

Sure on this Shining Night, by Morten Lauridsen

Night Herons, by Amy Gestler
Read by Lauryn Reynolds

Hymn of Acxiom, by Vienna Teng, arr. Robin Salkeld

Dreams, by Langston Hughes
Read by William Jones

The Peace of Wild Things, by Wendell Berry
Read by Caz Gagne

I Dream a World, by Rosephanye Powell

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

The Pasture

Music by Michael Bussewitz-Quarm

Text by Robert Frost

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring;
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away
(And wait to watch the water clear, I may):
I sha'n't be gone long. — You come too.

I'm going out to fetch the little calf
That's standing by the mother. It's so young,
It totters when she licks it with her tongue.
I sha'n't be gone long. — You come too.

Lumen

Music by Abbie Betinis

Text Anonymous (traditional Latin aphorisms)

Receive the light and pass it on.
I give that you may give.

Beverlie

Music and text by David R. Last

Nevermore will she know my face.
I'm but a stranger when I meet her smile.
I know somewhere, she still loves me,
Which will warm my heart, once in a while.

Sing Me to Heaven

Music by Daniel E. Gawthrop

Text by Jane Griner

In my heart's sequestered chambers lie truths stripped of poet's gloss.
Words alone are vain and vacant, and my heart is mute.
In response to aching silence, memory summons half-heard voices,
and my soul finds primal eloquence and wraps me in song.
If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby.
If you would win my heart, sing me a love song.
If you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me a requiem.
Sing me to heaven.
Touch in me all love and passion, pain and pleasure,
Touch in me grief and comfort, love and passion, pain and pleasure.
Sing me a lullaby, a love song, a requiem.
Love me. Comfort me. Bring me to God.
Sing me a love song. Sing me to heaven.

In My Life

Music and Text by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Choral Arrangement by Steve Zegree

There are places I'll remember all my life,
though some have changed.
Some forever, not for better;
some have gone and some remain.
All these places had their moments
with lovers and friends I still can recall.
Some are dead and some are living,
In my life I loved them all.

But of all these friends and lovers
there is no one compares with you.
And these memories lose their meaning
when I think of love as something new.
Though I know I'll never lose affection
for people and things that went before,
I know I'll often stop and think about them,
In my life I love you more.

Sure On This Shining Night

Music by Morten Lauridsen

Text by James Agee

Sure on this shining night
Of starmade shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
Wandering far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

The Hymn of Axiom
Music and Text by Vienna Tang
Choral Arrangement by Robin Salkeld

Somebody hears you
You know that inside.
Someone is learning the colors of all your moods,
to (say just the right thing) and show that you're understood.

Here you're known.

Leave your life open
You don't have to hide.
Someone is gathering every crumb you drop, these
(Mindless decisions and) moments you long forgot.
Keep them all.

Let our formulas find your soul.
We'll divine your artesian source (in your mind),
Marshal feed and force (our machines will)
To design you a perfect love
Or (better still) a perfect lust.
O how glorious, glorious: a brand-new need is born.

Now we possess you
You'll own that in time.
Now we will build you an endlessly upward world,
(Reach in your pocket) embrace you for all you're worth.
Is that wrong?
Isn't this what you want? Amen.

I Dream a World
Music by Rosephanye Powell
Text by Langston Hughes

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!

PENN CHORALE
Spring 2022

Soprano

Gabrielle Caine
Katie Francis*
Melina Gyparaki
Inumidun Oyebode
Leila Pearlman
Asha Pereira
Aimee Pilgermayer+
Lauryn Reynolds
Weiying Wang
Victoria Xu

Alto

Caz Gagne
Sophia Leung
Ayesha Sheth
Allison Xiao
Rachel Zaff

Tenor

Luke Castellini
Clayton Greenberg
David Last
Ben Perri+
Yihan Xie


Bass

Lucas DeJesus+
Andreas Ghosh
William Jones
Joseph Park
Kevin Zhao

+Guest Singers

*Selected as Parberry Scholar, Spring 2022

A Parberry Scholar is a recipient of a grant award from the William Parberry Scholarship Fund, which was established in 2018 to commemorate the 45-year career of William Parberry as the Director of Choral Activities at Penn. The award covers the costs of private vocal instruction through the Blutt College House Music Program and is given annually to undergraduate students in one of Penn's choral ensembles who display a love of choral music and the potential to become leaders within these ensembles



Upcoming Concerts

Sunday, April 3 | 3:00 PM

Penn Wind Ensemble

Sunday, April 10 | 4:00 PM

Museum Crawl

Featuring Penn Flutes

Monday, April 11 | 7:30 PM

Music for Spirit and Soul

Featuring Penn Collegium Musicum

Wednesday, April 13 | 7:00 PM

I want Magic!

Featuring Penn Opera and Musical Theater Workshop

Wednesday, April 20 | 8:00 PM

Penn Baroque and Recorder Ensembles

Thursday, April 21 | 8:00 PM

Penn Arab Music Ensemble

Friday, April 22 | 6:00 PM

Penn Chamber

Saturday, April 23 | 8:00 PM

Penn Symphony Orchestra

For more information visit the Music Department Events Calendar

music.sas.upenn.edu/events