



PENN CHORALE

ELIZABETH BRADEN, DIRECTOR

April 14, 2024

3:00 PM

St. Mary's Church



PennMusic

PROGRAM

Processional

Resilience, by Abbie Betinis

I. Love, Despair, Peace

Love is Love is Love is Love, by Abbie Betinis

That Which Remains, by Andrea Ramsey

Good Night, Dear Heart, by Dan Forrest

The Peace of Wild Things, by Joan Szymko
Nick Bauman, soloist

II. Light, Nature, Comfort

Lumen, by Abbie Betinis

Selections from Frostiana, by Randall Thompson

I. The Road Not Taken

III. Come In

VI. Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

VII. Choose Something Like a Star

III. Sing, Read, Dream

Be Like the Bird, by Abbie Betinis

a survival plan of sorts, by Melissa Dunphy

Songs for the People, by Melissa Dunphy

I Dream a World, by Rosephanye Powell

PENN CHORALE

Elizabeth Braden, Conductor

Michael Lewis, Pianist

Soprano

Mia Castro-Diephouse
Michelle Eckert
Yuhong Kang
Hannah Jin
Allison Lastra
Shirley Lin
Veronica Munn
Emily Parrish
Sangeeta Quddus
Lauryn Reynolds
Zhuoxuan Sun
Emilia Wright

Alto

Eva Agostino
Maggie Brown
Sonali Chandu
Caroline George
Leanne Griffiths
Diane Imboden
Kristen Lau
Anissa Ly
Katya Mazurenko
Emily Monfort
McKenzie Motley
Chelsea Okeh
Aysha Sheth
Yolanda Simpson
Annaliese Tamke
Ella Vance

Tenor

Shikhar Gupta*
Kingsley Okyere
Quincy Rhoades
Carter Pason
Ethan Zhang

Bass

Nick Bauman
Andreas Ghosh
Shiqiu Liu
William Jones
Ethan Lewis
Steve Yang
Kevin Zhao

***Parberry Scholar:** 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.

PROGRAM NOTES

resilience *noun* [rɪˈzɪljəns]

the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties; the ability of a person to adjust to or recover readily from illness, adversity, or major life changes

“Resilience is a mindset born of the hardest days, when you’re scared or sad or tired, when progress towards your goal is slow, and the barriers seem impenetrable... and yet you keep going because somewhere deep down you know that what you’re fighting for will be so much better.”

-Abbie Betinis (composer)

These eloquent thoughts offer insight into the idea of resilience as well as provide a narrative that helps tell the story of today’s program. Our musical pieces are organized into three sections, each aligning with a descriptive thought as penned by this wonderful composer.

Love, Despair, Peace *(a mindset born of the hardest days, when you’re scared or sad or tired)*

These pieces were born of tragedy and death – family losses, remembering victims of hate crimes. But even in the face of almost unspeakable loss, beauty can bloom, as the music both gives space to grieve and helps to begin the healing process.

Light, Nature, Comfort *(when progress towards your goal is slow...and yet you keep going)*

The poetry of Robert Frost – set masterfully to music by Randall Thompson – provides a musical respite. Just as the writer pauses in the woods to observe the beauty and to contemplate what comes next, these pieces represent a pause in one’s journey, a moment to contemplate what has come before and also to dream of what may still come:

*Say something to us we can learn / By heart, and when alone repeat...
It asks a little of us here. / It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed / To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star / To stay our minds on and be staid.*

Sing, Read, Dream *(you know deep down what you’re fighting for will be so much better)*

To borrow the title of Amanda Lovelace poem, the final pieces provide *a survival plan of sorts*. Being a university chorus, of course the plan includes reading and singing. Being human beings, of course the plan also includes dreaming. Perhaps by persevering, by fighting through the hard days and the slow progress, through art and music and learning we can find what Langston Hughes dreams of:

*Where all will know sweet freedom’s way / Where wretchedness will hang
its head
And joy, like a pearl / Attends the needs of all mankind / Of such I dream,
my world!*

Thank you for joining us for today’s program. We hope the music speaks to you and leaves you ready to go out into the world a bit more resilience.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Processional — Resilience

Music and Text: Abbie Betinis

Resilience, we are strong;
Shoulder to shoulder keep movin' on,
Resilience, make a new plan;
Stand up again and say yes we can.

We are strong; Hold on!
I wanna make it and I know we will,
Yes, it's hard to keep goin' but it's worse
to stand still.
Resilience.

I. Love, Despair, Peace

Love is Love is Love is Love

Music Abbie Betinis

Text: compiled by the composer

Love is love is love is love.
Love is love is love is love.
Oh, love is love is love is love.
Oh, love is love is love is love. Oh...
Love, love, love. All we need is love, love
love.
Ubi caritas et amor, where there's love,
Love is love.

All That Remains

Music: Andrea Ramsey

Text: Helen Keller (from *We Bereaved*)

What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. A sunset, a mountain bathed in moonlight, the ocean in calm and in storm — we see these, love their beauty, hold the vision to our hearts. All that we love deeply becomes part of us. [Our beloved ones are no more lost to us when they die than if they were still laughing and loving and working and playing at our side.] Life is overlord of Death, life is stronger than death, and Love can never lose its own.

Good Night, Dear Heart

Music: Dan Forrest

Text: Attributed to Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), as appeared on his daughter's headstone, but based on the last stanza of a poem by Robert Richardson

Warm summer sun,
Shine kindly here,
Warm southern wind,
Blow softly here.
Green sod above,
Lie light, lie light.
Good night, dear heart,
Good night, good night.

Original Text: Robert Richardson (from 'Annette')

Warm summer sun, shine friendly here
Warm western wind, blow kindly here;
Green sod above, rest light, rest light,
Good-night, Annette!
Sweetheart, good-night!

The Peace of Wild Things

Music: Joan Szymko

Text: Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's

lives may be,

I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the
great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with
forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still
water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am
free.

II. Light, Nature, Comfort

Lumen

Music: Abbie Betinis

Text: Latin Aphorisms (Anonymous)

Lumen accipe et imperti.
Do ut des.

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

Frostiana

Music: Randall Thompson

Text: Robert Frost

I. The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

III. Come In

As I came to the edge of the woods,
Thrush music — hark!
Now if it was dusk outside,
Inside it was dark.

Too dark in the woods for a bird
By sleight of wing
To better its perch for the night,
Though it still could sing.

The last of the light of the sun
That had died in the west
Still lived for one song more
In a thrush's breast.

Far in the pillared dark
Thrush music went —
Almost like a call to come in
To the dark and lament.

But no, I was out for stars;
I would not come in.
I meant not even if asked;
And I hadn't been.

VI. Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.

VII. Choose Something Like a Star

O Star (the fairest one in sight),
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud—
It will not do to say of night,
Since dark is what brings out your light.
Some mystery becomes the proud.
But to the wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed.
Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says, 'I burn.'
But say with what degree of heat.
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
Use Language we can comprehend.
Tell us what elements you blend.
It gives us strangely little aid,
But does tell something in the end
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,
Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.

III. Sing, Read, Dream

Be Like the Bird

Music: Abbie Betinis

Text: Victor Hugo

Be like the bird that,
pausing in her flight awhile on boughs
too slight,
feels them give way beneath her -- and
sings --
knowing she hath wings.

a survival plan of sorts

Music: Melissa Dunphy

Text: Amanda Lovelace

raid your library.
read everything
you can get your

hands on
& then
some.
go on,
collect words
& polish them up
until they shine
like starlight
in your
palm.
make words
your finest weapons
a gold-hilted sword
to cut your
enemies
d
o
w
n.
- a survival plan of sorts.

Songs for the People

Music: Melissa Dunphy

Text: Ellen Watkins Harper

Let me make the songs for the people,
Songs for the old and young;
Songs to stir like a battle-cry
Wherever they are sung.

Not for the clashing of sabres,
For carnage nor for strife;
But songs to thrill the hearts of all
With more abundant life.

Let me make the songs for the weary,
Amid life's fever and fret,
Till hearts shall relax their tension,
And careworn brows forget.

Let me sing for little children,
Before their footsteps stray,
Sweet anthems of love and duty,
To float o'er life's highway.

I would sing for the poor and aged,

When shadows dim their sight;
Of the bright and restful mansions,
Where there shall be no night.

Our world, so worn and weary,
Needs music, pure and strong,
To hush the jangle and discords
Of sorrow, pain, and wrong.

Music to soothe all its sorrow,
Till war and crime shall cease;
And the hearts of all grown tender
Girdle the world with peace.

I Dream a World

Music: Rosephanye Powell

Text: 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!

Recessional

Resilience



PennMusic

Upcoming Performances

Penn Flutes

April 14, 2024 at 5:00 PM
Houston Hall - Bodek Loungue

Penn Baroque and Recorder Consort

April 17, 2024 at 8:00 PM
Fisher-Bennett Hall - Rose Recital Hall

Penn Flutes: Spring into Summer

Music in the Stacks Concert Series
April 19, 2024 at 1:30 PM
Penn Museum - Museum Library

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