



# PROGRAM NOTES

On my phone's Photos App, I have a folder called 'Poems & Thoughts.' Whenever I come across something that moves me or makes me think, I take a screenshot and pop it into that folder:

*"I'm a believer in the power of knowledge and the ferocity of beauty, so from my point of view, your life is already artful – waiting, just waiting, for you to make it art." -Toni Morrison*

*"Our hearts synchronize when we sing."  
– from 'A list of things to remember' by Alix Klingenberg*

Recently I came across another quote I want to add to it, from an excerpt of The New York Times Modern Love Podcast:

*"I don't know. It's mysterious. This is why art is so important. It can get us to places we can't otherwise get to." – Andrew Garfield*

This last one really spoke to me: this is why art is so important. It resonates with me, because art – music – is so important to me. It's how I make my living, it's how I express myself. I would imagine it also resonates with every member of Penn Chorale. These folks carve out two and a half hours every week just to come and be together and sing. All of them have full time work – whether being a student, or already out in the 'real world'. They have families, friends, health issues, homework, too-full email inboxes, existential dread about the world, money troubles... and yet, they choose to come and sing.

Today's program attempts to reflect this idea. Through our music we ask some questions, including the one posed by our first piece on the program, what was I made for? We acknowledge that it can be hard to answer big picture questions like this when we're struggling with just getting through. We'll sing about having trouble sleeping, about searching for meaning, about knowing this may be where we belong, even when metaphorical and real shadows lengthen. We'll even use some humor to help us get through – in a piece called *A Gritty Resolution* by Philadelphia composer and Penn Alumna Melissa Dunphy. In this wonderful new piece, the story of Gritty is told, and perhaps there is a message for us: if Philadelphians can accept and love this crazy monster, perhaps we too can find acceptance no matter what obstacles we may face. And because we are a choir, a tool that can help us along is singing, and we'll round out the concert with several pieces about music and singing. We'll consider how singing can help us find our way through to a better day, find acceptance, find community, and even find the road home. Here's some lyrics I'll be adding to my "Poems & Thoughts" folder:

*"May we sing together, always." – from 'Sing Gently' by Eric Whitacre*

*"If we want hope to survive... we've got to sing on"  
– from 'Hope' by Ysaÿe Barnwell*

# PROGRAM

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## PROLOGUE: WHAT ARE WE EVEN DOING HERE?

What Was I Made For? Billie Eilish/Cook

## ACT 1: I CAN'T SLEEP - THE STRUGGLE OF MODERN LIFE IN A TIME OF SOCIETAL UPHEAVAL

Sleep Eric Whitacre

Calling From Afar James Eakin III

Autumn Ola Gjeilo

Sure On This Shining Night Morten Lauridsen

Both Sides Now Joni Mitchell/Emerson

*Shiqiu Liu and Ana-Carina Schmidt, soloists*

Dhire-Dhire Reena Esmail

*Alex McKay and Katie Pedersen, soloists*

## ACT 1 CLIFF HANGER: IT'S ALL ABOUT GRITTY????

A Gritty Resolution Melissa Dunphy

*Jessica Moreno, soloist*

## ACT 2: MAY WE SING TOGETHER ALWAYS - A SOURCE OF JOY AND OUR STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE

The Gift to Sing Marques L. A. Garrett

Look to the Day John Rutter

All Seems Beautiful to Me Eric Whitacre

The Road Home Stephen Paulus

*Veronica Munn and Zhuoxuan Sun, soloists*

Sing Gently Eric Whitacre

## EPILOGUE: WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Hope Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

*Alex McKay, soloist*

**Penn Chorale**  
**Elizabeth Braden, Conductor**  
**Michael Lewis, Piano**

Soprano

Johanna Hong  
Yuhong Kang  
Allison Lastra  
Shirley Lin  
Jessica Moreno\*  
Veronica Munn  
Katie Pedersen  
Sangeeta  
Quddus  
Zhuoxuan Sun  
Niran Thomas  
Jocelyn Yee

Alto

Eva Agostino  
Kusala Anupindi  
Maggie Brown  
Kara Curtis  
Sonali Chandy  
Caroline George  
Leanne Griffiths  
Diane Imboden  
Kristen Lau  
Katya  
Mazurenko  
Toni Ogidan  
Ana-Carina  
Schmidt  
Ella Vance

Tenor

Skikhar Gupta  
Rohan  
Kuetemeyer  
Alex McKay  
Carter Pason  
Quincy Rhoades  
Ethan Zhang

Bass

Matthew Fisher\*  
William Jones  
Ethan Lewis  
Theodore Linde-Stamos  
Shiqiu Liu  
Avumile Mgunu  
Cameron Moy  
Steve Yang

\*Guest singers

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## TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

### What Was I Made For?

**Music and Text by Billie Eilish O'Connell & Finneas O'Connell**

I used to float, now I just fall down.  
I used to know but I'm not sure now.  
What was I made for?

Takin' a drive, I was an ideal.  
Looked so alive, turns out I'm not real.  
Just something you paid for  
What was I made for?

'Cause I don't know how to feel  
But I wanna try.  
But someday, I might.

When did it end, all the enjoyment?  
I'm sad again, don't tell my boyfriend.  
It's not what he's made for.

Think I forgot how to be happy.  
Something I'm not, but something I can be.  
Something I wait for.  
Something I'm made for.

### Sleep

**Music: Eric Whitacre**

**Text: Anthony Silvestri**

The evening hangs beneath the moon,  
A silver thread on darkened dune.

With closing eyes and resting head  
I know that sleep is coming soon.

Upon my pillow, safe in bed,  
A thousand pictures fill my head.  
I cannot sleep, my mind's a-flight;  
And yet my limbs seem made of lead.

If there are noises in the night,  
A frightening shadow, flickering light,  
Then I surrender unto sleep,  
Where clouds of dream give second sight,

What dreams may come, both dark and deep,  
Of flying wings and soaring leap  
As I surrender unto sleep,  
As I surrender unto sleep.

### Calling From Afar

**Music and Text by James Eakins III**

Falling, falling, falling stars.  
Calling, calling, from afar.

Kaleidoscopic eyes; watching.  
The yearning of mankind; searching  
For truth among the iridescent cosmic seas.  
We turn our gaze to you.

Drifting, soaring, sails unfurled.

Reaching, longing, as dreamlands swirl.

Will wonders never cease upon this night?  
Our destiny revealed as we take flight!  
Infinite cradle of ancient spheres,  
Our future unfolding, our past appears.

Falling, falling,  
Embrace the falling stars.  
Falling, falling,  
We join the falling stars...  
Calling from afar.

### **Autumn**

**Music by Ola Gjeilo**

**Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri**

Feel the falling air,  
The light becoming golden;  
Trees their colors wear,  
Deep and all enfolding.

The autumn leaves embracing;  
But soon they all must fall,  
The summer green erasing,  
To answer winter's call.

And here once again  
Familiar paths I wander;  
Through the westmark wend,  
Living earth I ponder.

Though fading days are colder,  
And soon the darkness long,  
My spirit-fire grows bolder,  
And in my heart a song.

Even when shadows lengthen,  
I'm here where I belong.

### **Sure On This Shining Night**

**Music by Morten Lauridsen**

**Text by James Agee (from "Description of Elysium")**

Sure on this shining night  
Of star made 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.

### **Both Sides Now**

**Music and Text by Joni Mitchell**

Bows and flows of angel hair,  
And ice cream castles in the air,  
And feather canyons everywhere:  
I've looked at clouds that way.

But now they only block the sun;  
They rain and they snow on everyone.  
So many things I would have done;  
But clouds got in my way.

I've looked at clouds from both sides now,  
From up and down, and still somehow  
It's cloud illusions I recall.  
I really don't know clouds at all.

Moons and Junes and ferris wheels,  
The dizzy dancing way that you feel  
As every fairy tale comes real:  
I've looked at love that way.

But now it's just another show;  
And you leave 'em laughing when you go.  
And if you care, don't let them know;  
Don't give yourself away.

I've looked at love from both sides now,  
From give and take, and still somehow  
It's love's illusions that I recall.  
I really don't know love at all.

Tears and fears and feeling proud,  
To say, "I love you," right out loud,  
Dreams and schemes and circus crowds:  
I've looked at life that way.

But now old friends, they're acting strange,  
They shake their heads, they say I've  
changed.

Well, something's lost, but something's  
gained  
In living every day.

I've looked at life from both sides now,  
From win and lose and still somehow  
It's life's illusions I recall.  
I really don't know life at all.

### **Dhire-Dhire**

**Music by Reena Esmail**

**Text by Kabir**

Little by little, dear mind  
Gradually, everything comes to be  
The gardener can water a hundred times  
But the fruit only comes in the spring.

## **A Gritty Resolution**

**Music by Melissa Dunphy**

**Text adapted by the composer from “A Resolution” by Helen Gym**

At first, I was disgusted.

I was like, what the hell is this?

Why did you do this?

Why is this a thing?

It was like an hour after that

I fell in love with him.

A deranged orange lunatic,  
a fuzzy eldritch horror,  
a ghastly empty-eyed Muppet with a Delco  
beard,

a shaggy grotesquerie,  
a non-binary leftist icon,  
a raging id,  
and an antihero.

Gritty floated from the rafters into our hearts  
and minds,

weaving his googly-eyed stare, maniacal  
smile,  
and passion for hockey and hot dogs  
into our deep subconscious.

We rose to his defense and claimed him as  
our own.

Gritty conveys the struggle of modern life  
under capitalism.

Gritty is a source of joy in a time of societal  
upheaval.

Like our steadfast commitment to justice in  
the face of adversity,

Gritty will not be mocked or stopped.

An acid trip of a mascot,  
ridiculous, horrifying, unsettling, and absurd.  
Sleep with one eye open tonight, bird.

Gritty may be a hideous monster,  
but he is our own.

## **The Gift to Sing**

**Music by Marques L.A. Garrett**

**Text by James Weldon Johnson**

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,

And blackening clouds about me cling;

But, oh, I have a magic way

To turn the gloom to cheerful day—

I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still,  
Shadowed by Sorrow’s somber wing,  
With glad defiance in my throat,

I pierce the darkness with a note,  
And sing, and sing.

I brood not over the broken past,  
Nor dread whatever time may bring;  
No nights are dark, no days are long,  
While in my heart there swells a song,  
And I can sing.

## **Look to the Day**

**Music and Text: John Rutter**

Look to the day when the world seems new  
again:

Morning so fresh you could touch the sky;  
The earth smells sweet and every flower  
looks bright,  
Shining in a dewy light as you wander by.  
Taking the time to enjoy each moment;  
Tasting the fruits spread along your way,  
Knowing there’s time to spare,  
Dreams you can dream and share:  
Look to the day.

Look to the day when the earth is green  
again:

Promise of spring after winter’s sleep.  
The sounds of life returning fill the air,  
Music that’s forever there for your heart to  
keep.  
Deep in the earth lay the seed of life  
renewed,  
Quiet and strong till the time of spring:  
Life in each bud and shoot,  
Life in each flower and fruit,  
Look to that day when earth shall sing.

Look to the light that will drive out darkness;  
Look to the hope that will conquer fear.  
God’s strength uphold us till the fight is  
won,  
Till we see our task is done when the day  
is here.

Look for that day when there shall be no  
more pain;  
Sorrow and sighing shall pass away.  
Pray for the day to come,  
Trust that the day will come,  
Look to that day, look to the day

Lord, we give thanks for the gifts of life and  
health;

Plant a new seed in our hearts, we pray:  
Help us to see, O Lord,  
How it could be, O Lord;  
Look to the day, look to the day.

## **All Seems Beautiful to Me**

**Music by Eric Whitacre**

**Text by Walt Whitman**

From this hour I ordain myself loos'd of  
limits and imaginary lines,  
Going where I list, my own master total and  
absolute,  
Listening to others, considering well what  
they say,  
Pausing, searching, receiving,  
contemplating,  
Gently, but with undeniable will,  
Divesting myself of the holds that would  
hold me.  
I inhale grate draughts of space,  
The east and the west are mine, and the  
north and the south are mine.

I am larger, better than I thought,  
I did now know I held so much goodness.

All seems beautiful to me,  
I can repeat over to men and women  
You have done such good to me I would do  
the same to you,  
I will recruit for myself and you as I go,  
I will scatter myself among men and women  
as I go,  
I will toss a new gladness and roughness  
among them,  
Whoever denies me it shall not trouble me,  
Whoever accepts me he or she shall be  
blessed and shall bless me.

## **The Road Home**

**Music Adapted by Stephen Paulus**  
**("Prospect" from *Southern Harmony 1835*)**

**Text by Michael Dennis Browne**

Tell me, where is the road  
I can call my own  
That I left, that I lost  
So long ago  
All these years I have wandered  
Oh, when will I know  
There's a way, there's a road  
That will lead me home  
  
After wind, after rain  
When the dark is done  
As I wake from a dream  
In the gold of day  
Through the air there's a calling  
From far away  
There's a voice I can hear  
That will lead me home

Rise up, follow me  
Come away, is the call  
With the love in your heart  
As the only song  
There is no such beauty  
As where you belong  
Rise up, follow me  
I will lead you home.

## **Sing Gently**

**Music and Text by Eric Whitacre**

May we sing together, always,  
May our voice be soft,  
May our singing be music for others,  
And may it keep others aloft.

Sing gently, always.  
Sing gently as one.

May we stand together, always,  
May our voice be strong,  
May we hear the singing, always  
And may we always sing along.

## **Hope**

**Music and Text by Yasÿe M. Barnwell**

If we want hope to survive in this world  
today  
Then every day we've got to pray on.  
If we want hope to survive in this world  
today  
Then every day we've got to walk on.  
If we want hope to survive in this world  
today  
Then every day we've got to work on.  
If we want peace in the world, we've got to  
work on.  
If we want peace in the world, we've got to  
move on.  
If we want peace in this world, we've got to  
march on.  
If we want hope to survive in this world  
today,  
Then every day we've got to teach on.  
If we want hope to survive in this world  
today,  
Then every day we've got to sing on.



# PennMusic

## Upcoming Performances

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**Penn Wind Ensemble**  
November 23, 2024 at 8:00 PM  
*Irvine Auditorium - Main Hall*

**Penn Chamber (Set 1)**  
December 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
*Fisher-Bennett Hall - Rose Recital Hall*

**Penn Chamber (Set 2)**  
December 4, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
*Fisher-Bennett Hall - Rose Recital Hall*

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