

Choral Artists of Carmel

2021 Kindness Concert



Sunday
February 14, 2021
at 3 o'clock

Sacred Heart Ola Gjeilo
Thirð Sonata in C Major J.S. Bach
Jorge Avila, violinist & Julie Fotheringham, dancer
America the Beautiful Shawn Kirchner
Herr, unser Herrscher J.S. Bach from St. John Passion

Robin McKee Williams, Director

Thank you for your donation

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Choral Artists of Carmel [Virtual Concert](#)

“Kindness & Gentleness.”

Sunday, February 14 at 3:00 pm pst

Robin McKee Williams, director

[Join Us and Enjoy the Premiere](#)

Please join us immediately after the Premiere for our [Zoom Gala](#) to meet the artists, musicians, singers, dancers and the director.

Premiere: [CAOC.US/Premiere](#)

Gala: [CAOC.US/Gala](#)

**Donations for the concert will go to the
Food Bank of Monterey County: [CAOC.US/FoodBank](#)
and to the Choral Artists of Carmel: [CAOC.US/Donation](#).**

*) Directed by [Robin McKee Williams](#), the choir enriches the community with beautiful music, while showcasing local talent and world-class musicians. Their repertoire spans five centuries from early baroque to contemporary classical composers with an emphasis on classical choral works.

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Program

Introduction

Robin McKee Williams

Sacred Heart

Choral Artists of Carmel

Ola Gjeilo

Bogomater v gorode (Mother of God in the City)

Kiril Havezov, baritone

Krassen Karajiozov, accompanist

G. Sviridov

“Ich grolle nicht” *from Dichterliebe*

Arthur Wu, tenor

Robert Schumann

America the Beautiful

Choral Artists of Carmel

Shawn Kirchner

Katherine Lee Bates, lyrics

Dawn

Leberta Loral, soprano

Richard Thompson, accompanist

Richard Thompson

Paul Lawrence Dunbar, lyrics

Interview

Richard Thompson, composer

Violin Sonata No. 3, third movement

Jorge Avila, violin

Julie Fotheringham, dancer

JS Bach

“Herr, unser Herrscher” *from St. John Passion*

Aimee Puentes, soprano

Patrick Lord-Remmert, baritone

Tony Burdette, tenor

Anna Yelizarova, mezzo-soprano

JS Bach

Choral Artists of Carmel

Soloists

Anna Yelizarova, mezzo-soprano

Aimee Puentes, soprano

Leberta Loral , soprano

Kiril Havezov, baritone

Richard Thompson, composer

Arthur Wu, tenor

Tony Burdette, tenor

Patrick Lord-Remmert, baritone

David Dally, violin

Margie Dally, cello

Plamen Veilkov, double bass

Lars Johannesson, flute

Peter Lemberg, oboe

Jorge Avila, violin

Julie Fotheringham, dancer

Cindy Shen, piano and organ

Dr. Sara Longworthy of [Developlay](#), music editor

[Holger Hubbs](#), digital artist & productivity coach

Singers

Oliver Chiang
Jody Lee
Anna Yelizarova
Jackie Frey
Mary Pommerich
Heather Green
Aimee Puentes
Tony Burdette
Leberta Loral

Susan Segal
Arthur Wu
Cora Frantz
Claire Parrish
Karin Forno
Joy Burdette
Kiril Havezov
Patrick Lord-Remmert

I wish to thank my singers and musicians for their time and effort in their preparation for our concert today. I wish to thank Chris Wood and Mary Wiltse for our lovely online poster. Thank you to Matthew Curtis of Choral Tracks. Thank you for Dr. Sara Langworthy of Developlay for her video editing and Holger Hubbs for his computer expertise. I would also like to thank Michael Adelson of New York City for his encouragement and help. And a special thank you to Distinguished Concerts International for their continued inspiration and education.

[Robin McKee Williams](#)

Director of Choral Artists of Carmel



Program Notes

“Kindness and Gentleness”

Choral Artists of Carmel online concert February 14, 2021 at 3 pm

ChoralArtistsOfCarmel.org

The Choral Artists of Carmel will premiere their online concert “Kindness and Gentleness” which will benefit the Monterey County Food Bank. Our concert includes choral pieces “Sacred Heart” by Ola Gjeilo, “America the Beautiful” by Shawn Kirchner and “Herr, unser Herrscher from JS Bach’s St. John’s Passion. Soloists Kiril Havezov, baritone, Leberta Loral, soprano and Arthur Wu, tenor, will sing solo arias. Jorge Avila, one of New York City’s leading violinists, will play an unaccompanied Bach sonata. Julie Fotheringham, dancer from New York City will also dance. Richard Thompson, composer of “Dawn” from “The Shadow of Dawn,” sung by Leberta Loral, will share his vision of composing in an interview.

“Sacred Heart” by Ola Gjeilo is a choral piece reflecting the theme of “Kindness and Gentleness.” Composer Ola Gjeilo repeats only a few lovely phrases in Latin reminding us that wherever there is charity there is love. It is a great honor to repeat these lovely and encouraging words as we face a worldwide pandemic and struggles to find unity in our national healing. David Dally’s Monterey Strings accompanies the Choral Artists of Carmel.

“America the Beautiful” written by Shawn Kirchner is an exquisitely beautiful choral piece reflecting the bounteous grace we all share in our country. Mr. Kirchner combines the text of Katherine Lee Bates with his own reflection of American history with our flaws and many gifts. The combined texts describe a readiness to admit our national failures and a hope of healing as we try to see our many shared blessings of our country. There is a sense of healing and moving forward together with our common gifts.

Kiril Havezov, baritone a leading opera singer in Bulgaria’s leading opera houses, will sing a haunting art song by G. Sviridov “Bogomater v gorode” (Mother of God in the City.)

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Leberta Loral, soprano and winner of the prestigious Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions will sing “Dawn” from “The Shadow of Dawn” accompanied and composed by the composer Richard Thompson from the University of Edinburgh, The text, accompaniment and Leberta’s voice are gorgeous. Poet, Paul Lawrence Dunbar was the first black American poet to receive international acclaim. Multi-talented tenor Arthur Wu of Carmel will accompany himself while he sings ever so expressly Schuman’s “Ich grolle nicht” from “Dichterliebe.”

“Herr, unser Herrscher” by JS Bach from St. John Passion is dramatic in every note, word and chord. The text is a pleading to God reminding us that just when life’s circumstances are ever so difficult and discouraging that we can rise and move forward in strength and love. There is a wonderful orchestra accompanying soloists, Aimee Puentes soprano from San Francisco Opera, mezzo-soprano Anna Yelizarova, international opera singer, Tony Burdette from Cincinnati Opera, and Patrick Lord-Remmert from New York City.

I present this concert in the hope of a kinder and more generous life for all who listen. The beauty of music can reach a heart and mind as we struggle to survive the COVID 19 pandemic and look for national unity. Beauty in music has a great power to inspire and heal.

Thank you for your presence and your love of music.

[Robin McKee Williams](#)

Director of Choral Artists of Carmel

Lyrics / Translations

Sacred Heart by Ola Gjeilo

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. *Where charity and love are, God is there.*

Simul ergo cum in unum congregamur: *As we are gathered into one body,*

Ne nos mente dividamur, caveamus. *Beware, lest we be divided in mind.*

Cessent iurgia maligna, cessent lites. *Let evil impulses stop, let controversy cease,*

Et in medio nostri sit Christus Deus. *And may Christ our God be in our midst.*

Bogomater v gorode

Aleksandr Blok

Ty prokhodish' bez ulybki,
Opustivshaja resnicy,
I vo mrake nad soborom
Zolotjatsja kupola.
Kak lico tvoje pokhozhe
Na vechernikh bogorodic,
Opuskajushchikh resnicy,
Propadajushchikh vo mgle...
No s toboj idet kudrjavyj
Krotkij mal'chik v beloju shapke,
Ty vedesh' jego za ruchku,
Ne dajesh' jemu upast'.
Ja stoju v teni portala,
Tam, gde dujet rezkij veter,
Zastilajushchij slezami
Naprijazhennye glaza.
Ja khochu vnezapno vyjti
I voskliknut': "Bogomater'!
Dlja chego v moj chernyj gorod
Ty Mladenca privela?"
No jazyk bessilen kriknut'.
Ty prokhodish'. Za toboju
Nad svjashchennymi sledami
Pochivajet sinij mrak.
I smotrju ja, vspominaja,
Kak opushcheny resnicy,
Kak tvoju mal'chik v beloju shapke
Ulybnulsja na tebjja.

'Virgin in the city'

English Translation

© Philip Ross Bullock

*You pass by without a smile,
Your eyelashes cast down,
And in the darkness above the cathedral
Radiantly shine the golden domes.
How your face resembles
Those eventide Virgins
With downcast eyelashes,
Who vanish into the darkness...
But a curly-haired boy walks with you,
Meek and dressed in a white cap,
You lead him by the hand,
You do not let him fall.
I stand in the shadow of the doorway,
Where a sharp wind blows,
Clouding my strained eyes
With tears.
I would like to step forward suddenly
And cry out: 'Mother of God!
Why have You brought
This Infant to my black city?'
But my tongue is powerless to shout out.
You pass by. Behind you
Above your sacred footprints
The blue darkness slumbers.
And I gaze, remembering
Your downcast eyelashes,
And the little boy in his white cap,
Smiling at you.*

“Ich grolle nicht” by Robert Schumann

Ich grolle nicht, und	<i>I don't blame, even</i>
wenn das Herz auch bricht,	<i>if the heart seems to break,</i>

Ewig verlор'nes Lieb,	<i>Forever lost lover,</i>
ich grolle nicht.	<i>I don't blame.</i>

Wie du auch strahlst	<i>However you try to shine,</i>
in Diamanten Pracht,	<i>glamorous like a diamond,</i>

Es fällt kein Strahl	<i>No ray reaches into the</i>
in deines Herzens Nacht.	<i>darkness of your ignorance.</i>

Das weiß ich längst.	<i>This I know since long.</i>
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Ich grolle nicht,	<i>I don't blame, even</i>
und wenn das Herz auch bricht,	<i>if the heart seems to break.</i>

Ich sah dich ja im [Traum],	<i>I saw you in the dream,</i>
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Und sah die Nacht	<i>and saw the darkness</i>
in deines Herzens [Raum],	<i>in your heart,</i>

Und sah die Schlang',	<i>I saw the serpent [faulty thinking]</i>
die dir am Herzen frißt,	<i>that consumes your heart,</i>

Ich sah, mein Lieb,	<i>I saw, my lover,</i>
wie sehr du elend bist.	<i>how you suffer.</i>

German translation by [Holger Hubbs](#)

America the Beautiful by Shawn Kirchner

<https://www.shawnkirchner.com/composition/satb-folk-american/america-the-beautiful/>

O beautiful that ancient feet
Beneath the countless stars,
Ten thousand years in Beauty walked,
Through wilderness unmarred.

And fateful then, that sailing fleets
A new world sought, and found,
And whose bright promise wrought a doom
Whose echoes yet resound.

America! America!
May God forgive thy vying strains.
Thy pride yet tame with rightful shame,
That others' loss bought selfish gain.

Bates' original verse three praises the "heroes proved in liberating strife" – Revolutionary War heroes. But I felt it was more important to focus on the third founding "strand" of Americans: African-Americans – present well before the founding of the country in 1776. Their story is followed from enslavement through the "liberating strife" of the Civil Rights movement – in which Bates' original words ring more true, actually, since nonviolence was the chief technique utilized in that movement:

O sorrowful for captive feet
In chains against their will,
Who toiled through centuries of wrong
To triumph still:

Whose heroes proved so beautiful
In claims of lawful rights,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life.

America! America!
May God yet mend thine every flaw,
Redeem thy soul and be made whole,
Thy liberty in law.

*For the final verse, I wanted to return to Bates' original words, inspired by the ideal America of the future (she had attended the World's Fair before traveling to Colorado and up to Pikes Peak). I added a few lines to her closing section, to more fully name the breadth of origination that our country of immigrants truly has:
"America! America! from farthest shores thy people stream."*

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed human tears.

America! America!
From farthest shores thy people stream,
The multitude that seek thy good,
And share a common dream.

America! America!
God shed His bounteous grace on thee,
Thy beauty crown with unity,
From sea to shining sea!

Tonality, the LA-based choir dedicated to promoting unity, peace, and social justice through choral music, gave the premiere of America the Beautiful in their “Democracy in Action” concert on October 7, 2018, led by Alex Blake.

Dawn by Richard Thompson

An angel, robed in spotless white,
Bent down and kissed the sleeping Night.
Night woke to blush; the sprite was gone.
Men saw the blush and called it Dawn.

*Text by Paul Laurence Dunbar [1872-1906], the first African-American poet
to garner national critical acclaim. Born in Dayton, Ohio.*

Herr, unser Herrscher by Bach from St. John Passion

Herr, unser Herrscher, dessen Ruhm	<i>Awareness, our Reality, whose Presence</i>
In allen Landen herrlich ist!	<i>shines in all experience!</i>
Zeig uns durch deine Passion,	<i>Show us through your Effortlessness,</i>
Dass du, der wahre Gottessohn,	<i>That you, the true child of Life,</i>
Zu aller Zeit,	<i>Eternally</i>
Auch in der größten Niedrigkeit,	<i>Even in the most suffering,</i>
Verherrlicht worden bist!	<i>are Peace and Fulfillment.</i>

German translation by [Holger Hubbs](#)

Roster 2021

Singers

Aimee Puentes, Soprano	CAOC.US/Aimee
Anna Yelizarova, mezzo-soprano	CAOC.US/Anna
Arthur Woo, tenor	CAOC.US/Arthur
Chantel Grybass, mezzo-soprano	CAOC.US/Chantal
Claire Parrish, mezzo-soprano	CAOC.US/Claire
Cora Frantz, soprano	CAOC.US/Cora
Ellen Siminoff, mezzo-soprano	CAOC.US/Ellen
Heather Green, soprano	CAOC.US/Heather
Jackie Frey, soprano	CAOC.US/Jackie
Jody Lee, soprano	CAOC.US/Jody
Joy Burdette, soprano	CAOC.US/Joy
Karin Forno, soprano	CAOC.US/Karin
Kiril Havezov, baritone	CAOC.US/Kiril
Krassen Karigiozov, baritone	CAOC.US/Krassen
Leberta Loral, soprano	CAOC.US/Leberta

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Mary Pommerich, mezzo-soprano CAOC.US/Mary

Oliver Chiang, baritone CAOC.US/Oliver

Patrick Lord-Remmert, baritone CAOC.US/Patrick

Susan Segal, soprano CAOC.US/Susan

Tony Burdette, tenor CAOC.US/Tony

Veronica Jensen, mezzo-soprano CAOC.US/Veronica

Dancer

Julie Fotheringham, dancer CAOC.US/Julie

Musicians

Richard Thompson, composer CAOC.US/Richard

Lars Johannesson, flute CAOC.US/Lars

Peter Lemberg, oboe CAOC.US/Peter

David Dally, violin CAOC.US/David

Margie Dally, cello CAOC.US/Margie

Plamen Veikov, double bass CAOC.US/Plamen

Gabe Slesinger, trumpet CAOC.US/Gabe

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Jorge Avila, violinist

CAOC.US/Jorge

Greg Bullock, percussion

CAOC.US/Greg

Cindy Shen, pianist

CAOC.US/Cindy

Composer in Residence for 2021

Thomas Lavoy, composer

CAOC.US/Thomas

In Honor

George Peterson, pianist

CAOC.US/George

