Season Program 2019-2020 Seeking Grace

Grace Episcopal Church, Elmira 15 March, 2020

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Cantata

Choral Music Since 1964



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Welcome to the second concert of the Cantata Singers' 2019-2020 season! We are delighted to have you here to enjoy our concert in this beautiful church. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our supporters. Without your donations and advertising support, we would be unable to provide these classical music experiences for the residents of the Twin Tiers.

You can support us in many ways, with the most critical being your participation in this concert. You can spread the word to others... we welcome and seek new audience members. You are the backbone of our organization. As you read through the program, please support those who advertise with us. We also encourage your support in funding the Cantata Singers so we can continue to provide this region with outstanding music. Please go to our website, www.cantatasingers.com for more information about the group. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please send us an e-mail at cantatasingers@ymail.com and we will add your name. Lastly, be sure to "like" us on Facebook.

We look forward to having you as part of our many concerts in the future. We are certain you will not be disappointed!

Joy S. Perry President, The Cantata Singers



an afternoon of love for mother earth

MEDITATIONS

Wings of Eagles Discovery Center 339 Daniel Zenker Dr., Horseheads, NY

Desserts and beverages available from Sweet 'n Saucy Cafe

Displays and information from

Friends of Chemung River

Tanglewood Nature Center

Climate Justice Group with Park Church Elmira Garden Club, Chemung Valley Audubon CCC Science Club, Finger Lakes Land Trust

Haskins Garden Center

Sunday, June 7, 2020 Displays open at 3:30 Music begins at 4:00

The singers

soprano - Ruth Bruning, Jessica Fierro, Elli Haber, Joy McFarland Jessica Malone, Susan Nagle, Joy Perry, Desireé Rogers, Mary Wynings

alto - Loueda Bleiler, D. Joan Cunnings, Sally Davis, Martha Horton, Frances McLaren, Nancy Pangia, Jean Papandrea Patricia Peters Irene Peterson, Katie Vrabel

tenor - Bill Brodginski, Melody Chilson, Tom McCloskey, Gary Tucker, Ron Tunison, Barry Winters

bass - Raymond Bulkley, Tony Ciccariello, Jim Cook, Josh Hochman Stephen Nagle, Joe Ponzi, David Rappleye, David Rosplock, Chris Vrabel



instrumental accompaniment

violin Augusto Diemecke & Margaret Matthews

viola Cynthia Matheisen

cello Christine Lowe-Diemecke

organ Michael Plagerman

piano Frances McLaren

The Cantata Singers offer special thanks to Grace Episcopal Church, Mother Jenny Scott, Barbara Brownrigg, St.Matthew's Church of Horseheads, Wanda Copeland, Sides Family Music Center, Dr. William Cowdery, Chris & Katie Vrabel, Doug Davis, Tony Papandrea and our grant writers Jean Papandrea and Bill Brodginski

SEEKING GRACE Music to Soothe the Soul

To soothe the soul of those who grieve...

Requiem ----- Maurice Duruflé (1902 - 1986) organ - Michale Plagerman, cello - Christine Lowe-Diemecke

1) Introit

2) Kyrie

3) Offeratory (Domine Jesu Christe)

4) Sanctus & Benedictus

5) Pie Jesu mezzo soprano soli - Lou Bleiler, Joy McFarland, Susan Nagle, Irene Peterson, Desireé Rogers

6) Agnus Dei

7) Communion (Lux Aeterna)

8) Libera Me

9) In Paradisum

--- Intermission ---

Having passed they are with us always...

Wanting Memories ----- Ysaye M. Barnwell (b. 1946)

soli group - Melody Chilson, Sally Davis, Jean Papandrea, Pat Peters, Irene Peterson

Bringing peace to the troubled soul...

Agnus Dei (Adagio for Strings) - Samuel Barber (1910-1981) soli Jessica Fierro & Joy Perry

Amazing Grace - - - - arr. Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1946) soli Desireé Rogers, Lou Bleiler, Irene Peterson & Katie Vrable

The human soul seeks God...

Dark Night of the Soul - - - - Ola Gjeilo (b. 1946) soli Ruth Bruning & Jessica Fierro

Program Notes:

"Where words fail, music speaks." Hans Christian Anderson

As Anderson knew, music is the universal language, one that reaches all people, conveying meaning and affecting every one of us. Beyond the thumping bass of contemporary "pop" music, beyond the cannons of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," we feel music physically and emotionally at the deepest levels of awareness.

Research into the effect of music on our bodies show that simply listening to music can influence heart rate, blood pressure, the rate at which we breath, and even body temperature. Recent studies have also shown music to influence immune system functioning, perception of pain, and levels of anxiety, nausea, fatigue and depression.

Most of us, maybe even all of us, have used music to alter our moods at some point in our lives. When faced with the breakup of a relationship or loss of a loved one people often choose to listen to sad songs, a practice which has been clinically shown to make us feel better. Serious exercisers frequently listen to up-tempo music with driving rhythm to improve all aspects of athletic activity. The effects of music in sports include reduction in the perception of exertion and a faster pace in running as the body naturally syncronizes to a musical beat. Additionally, music can, and often does, enhance a positive mood which inspires us to better performance in athletics as well as other areas of life.

Because music reaches all people in these ways, it is not surprising that music is often used in meditation. In our fast-paced, polarized, highpressure modern life, who couldn't use a bit more of that? We are pleased to offer a couple hours of meditative peace and mindfulness in the form of some beautiful and inspirational music. From post-war 1940's France comes Duruflé's beautifully consoling "Requiem." Samuel Barber's incredible "Adagio for Strings" was the result of Arturo Toscanini's request for an orchestral version of a guartet movement penned by the young composer in 1937. The immensley popular work that resulted became part of the choral repertoire with Barber's setting of the Agnus Dei text in 1967. Ysaye Barnwell wrote "Wanting Memories" not as response to personal loss, but rather as part of a set of pieces commissioned for a dance program called "Crossings." Her uncomplicated, repetitive music offers a mantra-like soundscape that easily draws us into mindfulness. Today's setting of "Amazing Grace," by Latvian composer Ēriks Ešenvalds offers peaceful and iconic sonic visions to power soaring meditative thoughts. "Dark Night of the Soul" is the haunting and glorious music of Norwegian born, New York based Ola Gjeilo. His setting of the words of 16th century Spanish mystic John of the Cross is a powerful meditation on the human soul's search for God.

Music is a powerful, emotionally evocative language; a mind-altering force who's only substance is sound. Please use it often, and always use it mindfully!

Soli Deo Gloria - - will wickham

REQUIEM (traditional texts) I Introit

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem; exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

II. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

III. Domine Jesu Christe

Domine Jesu Christe, rex gloriae, libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu. Libera eas de ore leonis, ne absorbeat eas tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum.

Sed signifer sanctus Michael repraesentet eas

in lucem sanctam,

quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus.

Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus.

Tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie

memoriam facimus,

fac eas, Domine,

de morte transire ad vitam quam olim Abrahae promisisti

et semini ejus.

IV. Sanctus

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth, pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis! Benedictus, qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis!

Texts and translations

I. Introit Eternal rest grant them, O Lord, and let eternal light shine upon them. A hymn to you is fitting, O God in Zion, and a vow made to you in Jerusalem; hear my prayer, all flesh comes to you. Eternal rest grant them, O Lord, and let eternal light shine upon them.

II. Kyrie

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

III. Domine Jesu Christe

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, free the souls of all the faithful departed from the punishments of hell and from the deep abyss.

Deliver them from the lion's mouth so that Tartarus does not swallow them, and that they do not fall into darkness.

But holy Michael,

describes them

as being in the holy light,

which long ago to Abraham

and his offspring you promised.

Offerings and prayers to you, Lord, praise we offer.

Hear them for the sake of those souls which today

we remember,

grant, Lord,

that they may pass from death to life, which long ago to Abraham and his offspring you promised.

IV. Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosannah in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosannah in the highest.

V. Pie Jesu

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem sempiternam.

VI. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem sempiternam.

VII. Lux aeterna

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

VIII. Libera me

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna. in die illa tremenda, quando coeli movendi sunt et terra. dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem. Tremens factus sum ego et timeo dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira. quando coeli movendi sunt et terra. Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae, dies magna et amara valde. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

IX. In Paradisum

In Paradisum deducant Angeli, in tuo adventu suscipiant te Martyres et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.

Chorus Angelorum te suscipit et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam habeas requiem.

V. Pie Jesu

Gracious Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest.

VI. Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant them eternal rest.

VII. Lux aeterna

May eternal light shine on them, Lord, with your saints forever, because you are gracious. Eternal rest grant them, O Lord, and let eternal light shine upon them.

VIII. Libera me

Deliver me, Lord, from eternal death on that tremendous day when the heavens and the earth are disturbed. when you will come to judge the world through fire. I am forced to tremble and I fear, when the distruction comes and the impending wrath, when the heavens and the earth are disturbed. That day, the day of wrath, of calamity, of misery, day immense and most bitter. Eternal rest grant them, O Lord, and let eternal light shine upon them.

IX. In Paradisum

Into Paradise may the angels lead you, may the martyrs welcome you and guide you into the holy city Jerusalem.

A chorus of angels will greet you, and with Lazarus, once a beggar, may you have eternal rest.

WANTING MEMORIES (words by Ysaye M. Barnwell)

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me, To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes. I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me, To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

You used to rock me in the cradle of your arms, You said you'd hold me till the pains of life were gone. You said you'd comfort me in times like these and now I need you, Now I need you, and you are gone.

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me, To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes. Since you've gone and left me, there's been so little beauty, But I know I saw it clearly through your eyes.

Now the world outside is such a cold and bitter place,

Here inside I have few things that will console.

And when I try to hear your voice above the storms of life, Then I remember all the things that I was told.

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me,

To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me,

To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

I think on the things that made me feel so wonderful when i was young. I think on the things that made me laugh, made me dance, made me sing. I think on the things that made me grow into a being full of pride. I think on these things, for they are true.

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me,

To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

I thought that you were gone, but now I know you're with me,

You are the voice that whispers all I need to hear.

I know a please, a thank you, and a smile will take me far,

I know that I am you and you are me and we are one,

I know that who I am is numbered in each grain of sand,

I know that I've been blessed again, and over again.

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me,

To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me,

To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

AGNUS DEI (traditional)

mundi, miserere nobis. H Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata L mundi, G	Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.
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AMAZING GRACE (words by John Newton)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!	
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.	'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
Through many dangers, toils, and snares,	How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.
I have already come;	
'Tis grace hath brought me safe	
thus far, And grace will lead me home.	The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
When we've been there ten thousand years,	He will my Shield and Portion be, As long as life endures.
Bright shining as the sun,	
We've no less days to sing God's praise	Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
Than when we'd first begun.	That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.

DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL (words by St. John of the Cross)

One dark night, fired with love's urgent longings - ah, the sheer grace! -I went out unseen, my house being now all stilled. In darkness, and secure, by the secret ladder, disguised, - ah, the sheer grace! -In darkness and concealment, my house being now all stilled.

On that glad night, in secret, for no one saw me, nor did I look at anything, with no other light or guide than the one that burned in my heart.



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Cantata Contributors 2019-2020 Season

Grantors - The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes, The Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Southern Finger Lakes

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Benefactors (\$250-499) Anthony Ciccariello, Patrick & Robin Fitzgerald, Harry & Jennifer Hillman, Dorothy Hoos

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Cantata Singers programs are made possible, in part, with funds from The New York State Council on the Arts' Decentralization Program, administered locally by The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes; The Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Southern Finger Lakes