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Women's Chorale

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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WOMEN'S CHORALE

Mr. David Pedersen, conductor
Dr. Mary Beth Bennett, accompanist

CAMP CONCERT HALL
BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC
Sunday, March 3, 2019 • 3:00 p.m.



Department of Music
music.richmond.edu

PROGRAM

Scherzano sul tuo volto

G. F. Handel
(1685-1759)
arr: Jeb Mueller

*Scherzano sul tuo volto le grazie vezzosette.
Ridano sul tuo labbro i pargoletti amori a mille.
Nel bel fuoco di quell guardo
Amore giunge al forte dardo care faville.*

The charming graces play on your face.
The little Cupids laugh on your lips in the thousands.
In the lovely fire of your eyes,
Love adds dear sparks to his powerful darts.

This joyful duet is taken from Act 1 of Handel's opera *Rinaldo*, which was first performed in 1711. The work was the first Italian language opera composed for the London stage. Critics were hostile towards the introduction of Italian entertainment in England, but the public loved the opera. Of all Handel's operas, *Rinaldo* was performed most frequently during the composer's lifetime; however, after Handel's death, the work would not be staged again for two hundred years.

The opera takes place during the Crusades, in 1099. In this duet, the war hero Rinaldo (sung by a countertenor or contralto) sings with his beloved Almirena (soprano) about their mutual love and their plans to marry after the war is over.

You Are the New Day

John David
(b. 1946)
arr. Philip Lawson

You are the new day

I will love you more than me
And more than yesterday
If you can but prove to me
You are the new day.

Send the sun in time for dawn
Let the birds all hail the morning
Love of life will urge me say
You are the new day.

When I lay me down at night
Knowing we must pay
Thoughts occur that this night might
Stay yesterday.

Thoughts that we as humans small
Could slow worlds and end it all
Lie around me where they fall
Before the new day.

One more day when time is running out
For everyone,
Like a breath I knew would come I reach for
The new day.

Hope is my philosophy
Just needs days in which to be
Love of life means hope for me
Borne on a new day.

You are the new day.

John David wrote music for his rock band Airwaves in the 1970s. He penned this piece during a personal crisis in 1978, which he discussed in an interview years later:

The inspiration for New Day was quite simple; I had just had a major blow in my personal life, and was sitting alone late at night on the settee feeling very low, and watching an ominous story on the news about the very real possibility of nuclear war. I started singing to the (hopefully) soon-to arrive New Day like it was an entity, that would rescue me from the depths. If the sun came up and the birds started singing as usual then I could believe that it really was the new day in which life would go on, and in which hope would survive.

The King's Singers arranged this piece and it has been widely performed for many years. The treble version sung today was arranged by Philip Lawson, who wrote many of the King's Singers arrangements and sang baritone in the choir for 18 years.

And Sure Stars Shining

Z. Randall Stroope
(b. 1953)

There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,
The music of stillness holy and low.

I will make this world of my devising
Out of a dream in my lonely mind.
I shall find the crystal of peace, – above me
Stars I shall find.

Sara Teasdale

Serenity and hope pervade this sensitive setting of Sara Teasdale's famous poem. Despite the difficulties of life, a hopeful future awaits, offering a respite from present turmoil. Teasdale's poetry was well-regarded and critically acclaimed during her lifetime. She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1918 for her collection *Love Songs*. Today, her poetry is very popular among choral composers. In recent years, noteworthy composers who have written settings of her texts include Ēriks Ešņvalds, Ivo Antognini, Frank Ticheli, Daniel Elder and Z. Randall Stroope, who arranged this setting for women's voices.

This Little Light of Mine

Harry Dixon Loes
(1892-1965)
arr. Robert Gibson

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine . . .
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine . . .
All day and all night, I'm gonna let it shine . . .
My God gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine . . .

Harry Dixon Loes was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. After studying at the Moody Bible Institute and the American Conservatory of Music, he worked as a church music director, teacher and composer for many years. He wrote this well-known traditional gospel song in 1920. His original text alludes to the words of Jesus in Mt. 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket . . ."

Robert Gibson conducts the Missouri State University Gospel Choir.

Psalm 100
René Clausen
(b. 1953)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord,
Serve the Lord with gladness,
Come into His presence with singing, Alleluia.

Know that the Lord is God,
It is He who made us, not we ourselves.
We are His people, the sheep of His pasture, and we are His.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, and praise His holy name.

For the Lord is good,
His mercy endures forever,
And his faithfulness endures from generation to generation,
From age to age, Amen.

Clausen's setting of the text of Psalm 100 is an invigorating song of praise for treble voices. The constantly changing time signatures and rhythms make the music festive, dancelike and bursting with joy. René Clausen has served as conductor of the Concordia Choir of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota since 1986 and his Concordia Christmas Concerts are frequently featured by PBS stations nationwide.

University of Richmond Women's Chorale

Mr. David Pedersen, conductor

Dr. Mary Beth Bennett, accompanist

Sopranos

Christy Chadwick
Layla Cobrinik
Ashley Frazier
Megan Geher
Marissa Goodall
Hyeryang Ju
Sarah Kwon
Nicole Liu
Emma Meade

Altos

Anna Creech (UR Staff)
Maggie Dong
Evelyn Jeong
Jingyao Li
Yanran Li
Lillie Mucha
Smaragda Spyrou
Emy Wang
Mengqi Zhang