



with guest conductor
Shekela Wanyama



Serenade to Music
Ralph Vaughan Williams

**SING OUT,
MY SOUL!**



Sacred Concert
Duke Ellington



featuring
Aja Parham



**Kevin Gamble
& jazz trio KG3**



May 6, 2023 - 7:30 pm

May 7, 2023 - 4:00 pm

First Lutheran Church

1555 40th Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN

www.singersinaccord.org





Singers in Accord is uniquely structured as a singer-led organization, dedicated to enriching lives and building community through the power of choral music. The auditioned chorale collaborates with a new conductor, performing artist, or artistic ensemble in each concert to create distinctive concert experiences for its singers and audience members. Singers in Accord strives to enrich the cultural life of Minnesota communities through outreach, education, and innovative performances. It is a 501(C) (3) nonprofit corporation. Financial support given is tax deductible and goes directly to supporting the chorale's artistic mission and community outreach efforts. For more information on Singers in Accord, please visit www.singersinaccord.org.

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Sopranos

Erin Appel
 Patti Arntz +
 Amy Christie
 Stephanie Eckhoff
 Gloria Fredkove
 Jan LeClair
 Penny Meier
 Laurie Meyers
 Becky Pansch
 Melani Schwartz
 Schele Smith
 Clare Tan
 Kim Wetteland
 Sarah Weyers

Altos

Linda Burk
 Jessie Clausen
 Monica Degeneffe +
 Rosalie Eldevik
 Meghan Gilpin
 Megan Pamperin
 Diane Hilscher
 Jennie Schut
 Madeline Smoot
 Saijen Weihe
 Sheri Williams
 Stephanie Young-Teske

Tenors

Jamie Anderson
 Michael Atherton
 Mike Devine
 Mark Eckhoff
 Ryan Ecklund
 Hunter Illsley
 Jay Johnson
 Jordan Kleist
 Jim Norquist
 Paul Theisen
 Ken Williams +

Basses

Dan Digre
 David Erickson
 Daniel Gebur
 Neil Goldsmith
 John Hatlestad
 Michael Karlsrud
 Paul Nevin
 Jordan McGowan
 Dana Skoglund +
 Jonah Snyder
 Scott Witebsky

+ Section Leader

Mary Duncan, Collaborative Pianist



With degrees in piano performance and musicology, pianist Mary Duncan has played collaborative piano, been an organist, has directed vocal and handbell choirs and has taught both piano and music history in the Twin Cities and northern Washington County for over 40 years. Collaborating with humorist Lori Powell Gordon of Scandia, she produced and performed in several theatrical productions commencing with "Songs I Want Played at My Funeral" in 2007. High points for her have been accompanying Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the Dale Warland Singers and the Macalester Festival Chorale and performing several concerts with violinist Margaret Humphrey, a free-lance musician formerly of the Twin Cities. She plays services regularly at White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church. For many years she taught Musikgarten classes to babies, toddlers and preschoolers, and adapted those classes for groups of developmentally delayed adults. The COVID lockdown put an end to several years of performances at Cerenity Senior Residence in St. Paul. Re-emerging from the imposed loss of venues has been both a challenge and a delight. Life is short—make more music!

Shekela Wanyama, Collaborating Conductor



Shekela Wanyama is a conductor, music educator, and singer living in Bde Óta Othúnwe (Minneapolis). She is dedicated to creating engaging and inclusive choral experiences that illuminate connections between identities, communities, and ideas. She is currently working toward her DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Minnesota. Shekela has conducted elementary, middle, and high school honor choirs and has sung with Border CrossSing, the Minnesota Chorale, and The Singers. Drawing on her decade teaching 6-12th grade choir and more recent experiences with university choirs, Shekela presents at choral and education conferences on repertoire for developing voices, building community, and equity in the choral ensemble. Her writing has appeared in *Choral Journal* and the *International Choral Bulletin*.

Program Notes ~ Shekela Wanyama

Welcome to "Sing Out, My Soul," an exuberant celebration of singing! This program features music and texts primarily from 20th century composers who lived in England and the United States. Robert Seymour Bridges wrote about the joy of being in love, and composer Gerald Finzi's ascending melody in "My spirit sang all day, O, my joy!" reflects this. William Shakespeare's text from *The Merchant of Venice* explores the depths of emotion in expressive music in Vaughan Williams' "Serenade to Music," likening the harmony to the "sweet stillness" of night. Undine Smith Moore and Duke Ellington, legends of American music, find the sacred in music. "Life is short, but God is long," wrote Langston Hughes in *Tambourines to Glory*. Duke Ellington wrote his own text for the "Sacred Concerts," and it is fascinating to hear his deep faith expressed in ways traditional ("Praise God with the sound of the trumpet"), reflective of the tumultuous times he was writing in ("Dear God above... please look down and see my people through."), and humorous ("Wash your face and hands and heart and soul 'cause you wash so well"). Thank you for joining us. We hope this concert leaves you lighter in spirit and ready to sing!



Guest Musicians



Kevin Gamble - Jazz Trio KG3

For as long as he can remember music has been a part of Kevin Gamble's life. One of his first experiences with music was playing the piano at his uncle's church as a kid. Gospel, along with listening to Jazz, Funk, Country, Soul, and HipHop growing up definitely shaped his musical style as an artist. After years of sharpening his skills on piano and finishing his music education in 2018, he decided in 2019 to form his fusion group KG3. While playing alongside some of Minnesota's most talented musicians, Kevin's band infuses soulful and funky melodies and grooves that will be sure to get a crowd moving. Rounding out the trio are drummer Jeremy Harvey and Kai Brewster on bass.



Aja Parham, Vocalist

As quoted in the article "Top Ten Women to Know on the Twin Cities Jazz Scene," by the Current, "Aja Parham is one of the Twin Cities' most well-versed singers, with a wide vocal range and a deep knowledge of music. You can find her singing anything from jazz standards to pop tunes, R&B, gospel, and Motown."

After graduating from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance, Aja went on to perform with the Minnesota Opera, Skylark Opera, Penumbra Theatre, and the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. After a time, Aja rekindled her love of Jazz, R&B, Funk, and Motown, and started performing as a freelance vocalist throughout the Twin Cities.

Aja has had a life long list of performance achievements, including the wonderful opportunity to sing the National Anthem for the Minnesota Twins, Lynx, Vixens, Thunder, Gophers teams, and many of the Naturalization Ceremonies that occur each year in Minnesota, for former dignitaries in Washington D. C. and most recently for Mayor Melvin Carter. Aja has performed alongside many well-known local and national musicians such as trombonist Delfaeyo Marsalis, saxophonists Wessell Anderson and James Carter, drummer Francisco Mela, local bassist, Kenneth "Akouo" Garnier, singers Ginger Commodore, Dennis Spears, and Kashimana Ahua, and at such venues and festivals as the Motown Museum in Detroit, MI, Dakota Jazz Club, Selby Jazz Festival, Freedom Jazz Festival and the Twin Cities Jazz Festival with her Sarah Vaughan Tribute.

In addition to performing, Aja has been a clinician for 3 years and co-conducted a Vocal Jazz workshop in 2014 and 2015 with the former Dakota Jazz Foundation for Education. Currently, Aja can often be found working as a freelance vocalist, singing with various artists and groups in the Twin Cities.

Zachary Saathoff, Violinist



Violinist Zachary Saathoff is an active performer and teacher in the Twin Cities area. After completing his studies with Sally O'Reilly at the University of Minnesota and Yair Kless as a Fulbright grantee to Austria, Zachary has held positions including concertmaster of the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, with whom he appeared as a featured soloist. He performs with numerous professional organizations and chamber series around the region each year, while also maintaining a full private studio along with wife and fellow violinist Emily. Since 2018 Zachary has worked as an instructor with the Totino-Grace Fine Arts Academy, for which he has created arrangements of standard classical repertoire for all levels as well as original pieces of music.

Concert Program

Sing Out My Soul

Marques L. A. Garrett

The opening line of the poem by William Henry Davies calls out to our souls to sing. While there are many things about which we can be happy, these days of heavy social media involvement and constant comparisons to other people require that we remind ourselves that it is not about the outside that matters. The inside -- our hearts, minds, and soul -- is who we are. Let joy come from deep within, from the assurance that who you are is enough. Because of that, you can sing your song of joy. -- Marques L.A. Garrett (via www.mlagmusic.com)

Sing out, my soul, your songs of joy;
Sing as a happy bird will sing
Beneath a rainbow's lovely arch,
In early Spring.

Think not of death,
Strive not for gold,

Train up your mind to feel content,
What matters then how low your store?
It matters not.
What we enjoy, and not possess,
Makes rich or poor.

-- William Henry Davies

My Spirit Sang All Day

Gerald Finzi

This piece is the third movement of Gerald Finzi's *Seven Poems of Robert Bridges*. Born in England in 1901, the reclusive and introspective composer lived only 55 years. During his brief life, he dedicated himself to music, composing, attending concerts, lecturing and befriending the likes of Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams. He shows brilliance in the way he sets words by finding the essence of the text without the need for over-embellishment. *My Spirit Sang All Day* is an ecstatic declaration of the joy wrought by love. -- Matthew D. Otlman (via www.laphil.com)

My spirit sang all day
O my joy.
Nothing my tongue could say,
Only My Joy!
My heart an echo caught
O my joy
And spake,
Tell me thy thought,
Hide not thy joy.
My eyes gan peer around,
O my joy
What beauty has thou found?
Shew us thy joy.

My jealous ears grew whist;
O my joy
Music from heaven is't,
Sent for our joy?
She also came and heard;
O my joy,
What, said she, is this word?
What is thy joy?
And I replied,
O see, O my joy,
'Tis thee, I cried, 'tis thee:
Thou art my joy.

-- Robert Bridges

Tambourines To Glory

Undine Smith Moore

Undine Smith Moore paved the way for many female composers, thanks to her prolific output of over 100 works. She studied at Fisk University and the Julliard School and received a graduate degree in teaching from Columbia University. While she was mostly known for her works based on spirituals and folk music, *Tambourines to Glory* branches out and uses onomatopoeia in setting this Langston Hughes poem.

-- G. Phillip Shoultz, III

Tambourines!
Tambourines!
Tambourines
To the glory of God!

A gospel shout
and a gospel song:
Life is short
But God is long!

Tambourines!
Tambourines!
Tambourines
To glory!

-- Langston Hughes

Serenade To Music

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Soloists: Clare Tan, Ryan Ecklund, Ken Williams, Becky Pansch,
Maddie Smoot, David Erickson, Paul Theisen, Jessie Clausen, Kim Wetteland*

Serenade to Music is one of Vaughan Williams' most beautiful and beloved works. It was written in 1938 as a tribute to Sir Henry Wood, and was first performed at the Royal Albert Hall with symphony orchestra and sixteen soloists, for whom the piece was specifically written, each one given a solo passage. The words..."How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank..." come from Act V of *The Merchant of Venice*--where Lorenzo and Jessica are at Belmont, and sit listening to music gazing at the stars and reveling in the magic of the night. The music is exquisitely sweet and tender -- at the premiere Rachmaninov, a guest of Sir Henry, listened to it and wept, declaring he had never been so moved by a piece of music.

-- Samir Savant, Pegasus

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here will we sit and let the sounds of music
Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony.
...Look how the floor of heaven
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold:
There's not the smallest orb that thou behold'st
But in his motion like an angel sings,
Still quiring to the young-ey'd cherubins;
Such harmony is in immortal souls;
But, whilst the muddy vesture of decay
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.
Come, ho! and wake Diana with a hymn:
With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear,
And draw her home with music.

I am never merry when I hear sweet music.
The reason is, your spirits are attentive:
...The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils;
The motions of his spirit are as dull as night,
And his affections dark as Erebus;
Let no such man be trusted.
Music! Hark!...It is your music of the house.
Methinks it sounds much sweeter than by day.
Silence bestows that virtue on it...
how many things by season season'd are
To their right praise and true perfection!
Peace, ho! The moon sleeps with Endymion,
And would not be awak'd!
...Soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony.

-- William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*

Sacred Concert

arr. John Høybye & Peder Pedersen

Soloist: Aja Parham

Jazz Band: KG3 -- Kevin Gamble, piano; Jeremy Harvey, drums; Kai Brewster, bass

Duke Ellington

At the age of 66, Ellington was asked to compose a series of concerts to be performed in churches across the United States. Ellington and his band toured the U.S. and Europe with the three Sacred Concerts between 1966-1974, utilizing local choirs. The pieces were often revised for the occasion with different pieces being played from concert to concert, which is likely why no complete score of the Sacred Concerts exists and big band leaders and choirs had to make their own arrangements. In 1993, John Høybye was asked to lead a workshop on Ellington's Sacred Concert. With no score available, he asked Peder Pedersen to assist in arranging the music into a complete score with orchestral and choral arrangements to be published. The new arrangement is known simply as Sacred Concert.

Movement 1. Praise God

Praise God with the sound of the trumpet
Praise God with the psalt'ry and harp
Praise God with the sound of the timbrel
and dance.

Movement 2. Heaven

Heaven, my dream
Heaven divine
Heaven, supreme
Heaven combines ev'ry sweet and pretty thing life would love to bring
Heavenly Heaven to be is just the ultimate degree to be

Movement 5. The Majesty of God

The beauty of God is indescribable.
The power of God is unapraisable.
The sight of God is unimaginable and we should know that the light of
God is truth and does not a shadow throw
The wonder of God
The future of futures
The splendor of God
The Heaven of Heavens
The domain of God is universal beyond end.
The beginning is love and only God knows when.

Movement 6. Come Sunday

Lord, dear Lord above: God Almighty God of love
Oh please look down and see my people through
I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky
I don't mind the grey skies,
'cause they're just clouds passing by

Movement 8. Almighty God

Almighty God has those angels away up there above
up there a weaving, sparkling fabrics
just for you and me to love
Almighty God, has those angels up in the proper place
waiting to receive and to welcome us and remake us in grace.
Wash your face and hands and hearts and soul
'cause you wash so well,
God will keep you safely where there's no sulphur smell.
Almighty God has those angels as ready as can be
waiting to dress, caress and bless us all in perpetuity.

Movement 10. Praise God And Dance (finale)

Praise God with the sound of the trumpet
Praise God with the psalt'ry and harp.
Praise God with the sound of the timbrel and dance
Praise God with the sound of the stringed instruments
the organ, the cymbals, the loud high sounding cymbals,
let ev'ry thing that has breath praise God, Praise the Lord,
praise ye the Lord, praise God and dance.



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