

A Grateful Gathering

Presented by

Singers in Accord

with Guest Director, Jerry Rubino



7:30 pm Saturday, November 21, 2009
MacPhail Center for Music - Minneapolis, MN

3:30 pm Sunday, November 22, 2009
Faith Life Center - Forest Lake, MN

Singers in Accord

Exploring our humanity through culturally diverse choral music



Singers in Accord is uniquely structured as a singer-led organization, dedicated to exploring our humanity through performances of culturally diverse choral music. The group 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 an auditioned chorale, largely made up of singers from the former World Voices ensemble which celebrated its 13th and final concert season in the spring of 2009. It is a 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation that does not employ any paid staff. Because of this, all financial support given is fully tax deductible and goes directly to supporting its artistic mission and community out-

reach efforts. To that end, our goal is to make our concerts free whenever possible, or extremely affordable so that all that desire to experience a high quality musical performance have the opportunity to do so without an economic barrier. **For more information please visit:** www.singersinaccord.org.

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Patti Arntz	Jan Ackley Malecha	Mark Countryman	**Mike Borg
Rachel Christensen	**Linda Burk	Ken Denzer	+ Terry Burk
Gloria Fredkove	Noreen Carlson	+ Dean Miller	Phil Davis
June Griffin	Jessie Clausen	Paul Skavnak	**Dan Digre
+ Jan LeClair	Monica Degeneffe	Tad Thompson	Paul Karlson
** Penny Meier	Leanne Hansen	** Ken Williams	Sheldon Klukas
Kris Potter	Jodi Kyllonen		Kevin Larsen
Kim Senne	+ Jody McCormick		**Dana Skoglund
Schele Smith	Katie Wareham		
	Sheri Williams		+ Section Leader
	Stephanie Young-Teske		** Leadership Team

Message from the Chairman of the Board

I am pleased and excited to welcome you to the inaugural concert of "Singers in Accord."

We are uniquely structured as a singer-led, team based choral ensemble with singers participating both as choral artists and organizational volunteers. In fact, the singers themselves have organized and prepared nearly every element of this concert from music research to creating the printed program; from creating all the marketing materials to creating the in-concert visual presentation. A team of singers even auditions new singers. It is truly a team effort of singers in accord with one another.

Likewise, rather than having a single artistic director, our artistic direction for each concert is determined by a team of singers and by a new collaborative conductor.

Choosing our first collaborative conductor to establish this model was an important decision. We couldn't be more excited about our choice of Jerry Rubino. Jerry has an outstanding blend of musical skills as a composer, pianist, and conductor. In addition, he has a wonderful ability to create high musical standards and yet interact with all singers as collaborative partners. Thank you Jerry for your passion, guidance, and inspiration to each of us as "Singers in Accord" embarks on its first musical journey.

Like all artistic endeavors, we rely on you, our audience, to support us financially. Because Singers in Accord does not employ a paid staff, any financial support you give goes directly to funding our artistic mission and our community outreach. Since we are a 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation, your donation is tax deductible. Over 90% of the singers are voluntary financial contributors to this organization. We would be grateful if you would be one as well.

Thank you for being here today and thank you for supporting Singers in Accord!

Dan Digre

About Jerry Rubino



Jerry Rubino holds degrees in piano, music education, and conducting from Temple University and the University of Minnesota, and began his teaching career at Northwestern College in St. Paul in 1974. A native of Philadelphia, he was a charter member of the Philadelphia Singers and attended Curtis Institute as a cellist. He currently serves as Minister of Music at Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church in Golden Valley, Minnesota, is the artistic director of Jerry Rubino Plus and in winter of 2005, was named Visiting Studio Artist at Augsburg College.

Rubino worked for twenty-three seasons with the Dale Warland Singers, as associate conductor, director of special projects and music education, pianist, singer and arranger. In 1983, at the request of the Minnesota Orchestra and Minnesota Public Radio, Rubino formed what is now known as Jerry Rubino

Plus. Under his direction, they developed their own sound and style and became known for their crossover programming and performance practice based educational outreach. They toured extensively and have recorded a CD of gospel music.

Rubino's conducting and teaching credits include honors choirs in Australia, Taiwan, Hawaii, and Europe, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the California State Summer Arts Workshops, the Wesley Balk Institute for the Singer/Actor process, and the University of Minnesota Jazz Festival.

He was named Distinguished Visiting Professor of Music at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1999, 2003 and 2004. He was named an editor for the Voices of Distinction series with Hal Leonard in 2005 and edited a new Christmas choral collection for Oxford University Press titled *A Merry Little Christmas* in spring, 2006. He serves as repertoire and standards chair for vocal jazz for the North Central Division of the American Choral Directors Association, is a member of ASCAP and is requested nationally as a choral clinician, music director, pianist and adjudicator.

For more information, please visit www.JerryRubino.com.

Message from Jerry

*I am delighted and honored to be the first artistic collaborator with Singers in **Accord**. The process to create a concept, choose repertoire and develop the music has all been shared responsibility. Ultimately, this has increased ownership on everyone's part and I'm been pleased to be a part of a passionate and committed group of singers and administrators. My personal focus is to encourage singers to practice and perform with combined skills of the singer/actor.....some today call it "connecting with the mind, body and spirit!"*

*This concert theme of *A Grateful Gathering* is an opportunity to journey through or reflect on life experiences that we all share. The repertoire represents many compositional and stylistic periods and we have enjoyed the process of working through musical choices that help to define and express the energy contained in the text, music and emotion.*

We hope that you will value and enjoy the journey of today's concert. Thank you for your support!

Jerry Rubino

Special welcome & thanks to our guest musicians:

Linda Berger—Accompanist

Linda Berger is an Associate Professor of Music at St. Olaf College in Music Education. She received a bachelor's degree Phi Beta Kappa from St. Olaf College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in music from the University of Minnesota. Berger is especially interested in contemporary music methods and the child voice. She studied Dalcroze eurhythmics under Robert Abramson of the Julliard School of Music in New York City. Berger was named Minnesota Classroom Music Educator of the Year in 1990 and taught in public schools for more than twenty years before joining the St. Olaf College faculty. She is an active keyboard performer and music education presenter.

Bjorn Grina—Percussionist

Bjorn Grina is a percussionist with the Minnesota Youth Symphonies and a student of Bob Adney and Kevin Watkins. He is a senior at Centennial High School and plans to major in percussion at a conservatory next year.

A Grateful Gathering

I. We Gather with MUSIC

Star Spangled Banner
Cantando La Musica
If Music be the Food of Love

II. We Gather with LOVE

Te Quiero
Lebenslust
My Spirit Sang All Day
Make Our Garden Grow

III. We Gather to REMEMBER

Requiem
Even When God is Silent
Choose Something Like a Star

IV. We Gather in FAITH

An American Thanksgiving (#2 McKay)
Pilgrims' Hymn
Exultate Deo
My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

V. We Gather in JOY

Caritas et Amor
The Gift to be Simple
I Got Rhythm

I. We Gather with MUSIC

The opening section takes us on a journey with texts and music reflecting a belief that music is the essence of what it means to be human. To begin with our National Anthem honors the orchestral tradition in the United States to open each concert season by playing "The Star Spangled Banner." Jerry Rubino's arrangement is a stunning beginning for our inaugural concert as Singers in Accord. Michael Mendoza's "Cantando La Musica" expresses the purpose of our singing together---to become the melody, the harmony, the magic and the dream that is breathing the music. And the text which follows in "If Music be the Food of Love" describes the powerful role that music can assume when allowed to speak through all our senses.

The Star Spangled Banner

Arr. Jerry Rubino

Tune: "Anacreon in Hear'n" by John Stafford Smith (mid-1760s)

Poem: Francis Scott Key (1814)

Oh say, can you see,
By the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed,
At the twilight's last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there.

O say does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free,
And the home of the brave!

Cantando La Musica *(Singing the Music)*

Michael Mendoza (1999)

Canto,	I sing
Esto cantando la musica	I am singing the music
Lai lai lai .	
Yo soy el canto	I am the song,
La melodia,	The melody,
La harmonia,	The harmony
Encantadora	Enchantress.

Yo soy el sueno	I am the dream
Que esta sonando	That is dreaming
Y respirando	And breathing
La Musica.	The Music.
La la la . .	

If Music be the Food of Love

David C. Dickau (1997)

If music be the food of love,
Sing on till I am filled with joy;
For then my list'ning soul you move
With pleasures that can never cloy.
Your eyes, your mien, your tongue declare
That you are music ev'rywhere
Pleasures invade both eye and ear
So fierce the transports are, they wound,
And all my senses feasted are;
Tho' yet the treat is only sound,
Sure I must perish by your charms,
Unless you save me in your arms.

----Henry Heveningham (1651-1700)

II. We Gather with LOVE

The texts for this set of pieces express the basic belief that our lives have deeper meaning and joy when we open up ourselves to others—be it family, friends, a love, or a political cause. We experience true living when we join our hearts with one another to experience the struggles and joys of everyday life which, in the end, binds us together with a history that is rarely perfect but always rich. “Te Quiero,” one of the most well known poems of Uruguayan poet and political activist, Mario Benedetti, expresses on one level the love between a couple and their commitment to each other; on another level the words have a specific reference to their shared commitment to work for social justice and equality.

Te Quiero (I Adore you)

Alberto Favero (1995)

Arr. Liliana Cangiano

Si te quiero es porque sos
Mi amor, mi complice y todo
Y en la calle codo a codo
Somos mucho mas que dos.

Tus manos son mi caricia
Mis acordes cotidianos
Te amo porque tus manos
Trabajan por la justicia.

Tus ojos son mi conjuro
Contra la mala jornada
Te quiero portu Mirada
Que mira y siembra futuro

Tu boca que es tuya y mia,
Tu boca no se equivocál
Te quiero porque to boca
Sabe gritar rebeldia.

Y por tu rostro sincero
Y tu paso vagabundo
Y tu llanto por el mundo
Porque sos pueblo te quiero.

Y porque amor no es
Aureola ni candida moraleja
Y porque somos pareja
Que sabe que no esta sola.

Te quiero en mi paraíso,
Es decir que en mi país
La gente viva feliz
Aunque no tega permiso.

--Mario Benedetti (1920-2009)

If I adore you it is because you are
my love, my intimate friend, my all;
and in the street, arm in arm,
we are so much more than two.

Your hands are my caress,
my daily affirmations.
I love you because your hands
work for justice.

Your eyes are my lucky charm
against misfortune.
I adore you for your gaze
that looks to and creates the future.

Your mouth is yours and mine,
your mouth is never mistaken:
I love you because your mouth
knows how to cry out for rebellion.

and for your sincere face
and wandering spirit
and your weeping for the world—
because you are the people, I love you.

And because our love is
neither famous nor naïve,
and because we are a couple
that know we are not alone.

I want you in my paradise,
which is to say, in my country;
I want the people to live happily
even though they aren't allowed to!

Lebenslust (Life's Joy)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Wer Lebenslust *fuhlet, der bleibt nicht allein
Allein sein ist *ode, wer kann sich da freu'n
Im traulichen Kreise, beim herzlichen Kuss
Beisammen zu leben, ist Seelengenuss

--Johann Karl Unger (1771-1836)

He who feels life's joy does not remain alone
To be alone is empty, who can delight in that?
In intimate circles over a sincere kiss
To live together is pleasure for the soul

My Spirit Sang All Day

Gerald Finzi (1901—1956)

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 hast 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 (1844-1930)

Make Our Garden Grow

Leonard Bernstein from *Candide* (1956)

Arr. Robert Page

Lyrics by Richard Wilbur

You've been a fool and so have I,
But let's be man and wife
And let us try before we die
To make some sense of Life.
For we know we're neither pure nor wise nor good;
We'll do the best we know;
We'll build our house, and chop our wood,
And make our garden grow.

I thought the world was sugarcake
For so our Master said;
But now I'll teach my hands to bake our loaf of bread

Let dreamers dream what worlds they please;
We know those Edens never can be found
The sweetest flow'rs,
The fairest trees are grown in solid ground.

We're neither pure nor wise, nor good
We'll do the best we know.
We'll build our house, and chop our wood,
And make our garden grow.

III. We Gather to REMEMBER

The texts for the music in this set are centered in an expression of comfort and hope. In an interview on Minnesota Public Radio, Eliza Gilkyson shared that she composed "Requiem" as a vehicle for grief following the Asian tsunami in 2004. She composed it from the perspective of a female deity with which she was most familiar—Mother Mary---yet it is intended to invoke worldly compassion and provide comfort in times of need. The text for "Even When God is Silent" comes from words found scrawled on a cellar wall where Jews had hidden in World War II in Cologne, Germany. The setting of the text was written for the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass) which was an anti-Jewish riot in Nazi Germany and Austria on November 9 and 10, 1938. The Robert Frost poem "Choose Something Like a Star" focuses on the human need for reassurance from a higher power. While some people use religion as a path to reassurance, others look to science as a comfort. This piece is one of seven choral art songs composed by Randall Thompson for the townspeople of Amherst, Massachusetts commemorating its bicentennial in 1959. The town was known for its association with Robert Frost, who had lived there for some years.

Requiem

Eliza Gilkyson (2004)

Arr. Craig Hella Johnson

mother mary, full of grace, awaken
all our homes are gone, our loved ones taken
taken by the sea

mother mary, calm our fears, have mercy
drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy
hear our mournful plea

our world has been shaken,
we wander our homelands forsaken
in the dark night of the soul
bring some comfort to us all,
o mother mary come and carry us in your embrace
that our sorrows may be faced

mary, fill the glass to overflowing
illuminate the path where we are going
have mercy on us all

in funeral fires burning
each flame to your mystery returning

in the dark night of the soul your shattered dreamers,
make them whole
o mother mary find us where we've
fallen out of grace,
lead us to a higher place

in the dark night of the soul our broken hearts
you can make whole,
o mother mary come and carry us in your embrace,
let us see your gentle face, mary

Even When God is Silent

Michael Horvit (1993)

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when feeling it not,
I believe in God even when God is silent.

Choose Something Like a Star

Randall Thompson (1959)

O Star (the fairest one in sight),
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud---
It will not do to say of night,
Since dark is what brings out your light.
Some mystery becomes the proud.
But to be wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed.

Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says, 'I burn.'
But say with what degree of heat.
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
Use language we can comprehend.
Tell us what elements you blend.
It gives us strangely little aid,
But does tell something in the end.
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,
Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.

---Robert Frost (1874-1963)

IV. We Gather in FAITH

Expressing faith in a personal way is the focus of this set of pieces. "McKay" is Carol Barnett's arrangement of a tune from The Sacred Harp—a tradition born from colonial "singing schools" whose purpose was to teach beginners to sing. Though Sacred Harp is not affiliated with any denomination, it is a deeply spiritual experience for all involved, and functions as a religious observance for many singers. In "Pilgrims' Hymn" (from the one-act opera, "The Three Hermits") Stephen Paulus sets Michael Dennis Browne's adaptation of a prayer from the Russian Orthodox church with deep and personal devotion. The motet "Exultate Deo" was composed when Scarlatti was choirmaster of San Maria Maggiore in Rome in 1707-1708. The text, adapted from Psalm 80, is taken from the Mass Proper for the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord" is a traditional spiritual arranged by the late Moses Hogan and speaks of the deep faith of the African American slaves. While the majority of spirituals are songs of lament and struggle, this spiritual is a song of praise and thanksgiving.

An American Thanksgiving

#2 McKay

S.M. Denton (1908)

Arr. Carol Barnett (2003)

O the transporting, rapturous scene
That rises to my sight!
Sweet fields arrayed in living green,
And rivers of delight

There gen'rous fruits that never fail
On trees immortal grow,
There rocks and hills and brooks and vales
With milk and honey flow.

---Samuel Stennett, 1727-1797)

Pilgrims' Hymn

Stephen Paulus (2003)

Even before we call on Your name
To ask You, O God,
When we week for the words to glorify You,
You hear our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
Surpassing all we know.

Glory to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with the darkness sealing us in,
We breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast,
We trust in You;
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,
Beyond all mortal dream.

Both now and for ever,
And unto ages and ages,
Amen.

---Michael Dennis Browne (1941-)

---Adapted from Psalm 80

Exultate Deo

Alessandro Scarlatti (1708)

Praise the Lord, our Helper
Alleluia
Rejoice for the God of Jacob
---adapted from Psalm 80

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Moses Hogan (1998)

My soul's been anchored in the Lord.
Before I'd stay in hell one day,
I'd sing and pray my self away
Goin' shout and pray and never stop
Until I reach the mountain top.
My soul's been anchored in the Lord
Do you love Him? God almighty
Will you serve Him? God almighty
Will you praise Him? God almighty
Are you anchored? Yes, I'm anchored
My soul's been anchored in the Lord.

V. We Gather in JOY

Our final set is an expression of love and the joy that is derived from extending your heart and hand to one another. This is reflected in the text of Stroope's "Caritas et Amor" in a setting that highlights the text, "Joy is immense!" as a recurring refrain around a text that speaks of charity and love. The familiar tune "Simple Gifts," written by Elder Joseph Brackett, is a religious dance song that reflects the Shakers' emotional and demonstrative worship practices. Their belief was that everybody could find God within him or herself. Our program closes with Jerry Rubino's uplifting arrangement of "I Got Rhythm" which is a pure expression of the joy of love.

Caritas et Amor (*Charity and Love*)

Z. Randall Stroope (2003)

Where there is charity and love, God is there.
Alleluia to God.
Joy that is Immense!
Through unending ages of ages.
Alleluia!
Where charity and love are. Amen.
---attributed to 10th century anonymous author

The Gift to be Simple

Traditional Shaker Tune by Joseph Brackett
Arr. Bob Chilcott

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in a place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

I Got Rhythm

George Gershwin (1930)
Arr. Jerry Rubino

I got rhythm, I got music,
I got my love who could ask for anything more?
I got daisies in green pastures,
I got my love who could ask for anything more?

Old man trouble, I don't mind him,
You won't find him 'round door.
I got starlight and I got sweet dreams,
I got my love who could ask for anything more?
Who could ask for anything more?
---Ira Gershwin

Singers in Accord Upcoming Concert Schedule:

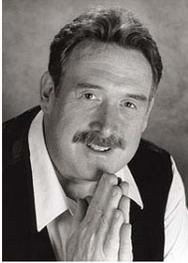
“Our World in Six Songs” with Nick Page

7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 18, 2010 at Park Center Senior High School, Brooklyn Park, MN

Tickets will be available at the door: \$5 per person—\$10 family maximum

7:30 p.m., Friday, February 19, 2010 at Rockford Area High School Auditorium, Rockford, MN

No ticket required—free-will donations will be gathered at this performance



*Boston based composer, conductor and author, Nick Page, brings his passion for world music and his gifted ability as a song leader to Minnesota in an exciting collaboration with Singers in Accord and the choirs from **Park Center High School, Rockford High School and the North View International Baccalaureate World School** in Brooklyn Park. The theme for this concert series was inspired by a book of the same title by Daniel Levitin that explores how music shaped humanity across cultures and throughout history. In his book, Dr. Levitin identifies six fundamental song types—friendship, joy, comfort, religion, knowledge, and love—then shows how each in its own way has enabled the social bonding necessary for human culture and society to evolve. You won't want to miss this inspirational performance that will capture the essence of community through this stirring musical collaboration.*

Mahler's Symphony No. 2

*with Manny Laureano & the MYS Symphony Orchestra
and Kathy Romey & the Minnesota Chorale*

3:00 p.m. Sunday, April 25, 2010 at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN

*Tickets may be purchased through the Orchestra Hall Box Office by calling 612.371.5656
or via the Orchestra hall Box Office website at www.minnesotaorchestra.org/boxoffice*



Singers in Accord will join the Minnesota Youth Symphonies and the Minnesota Chorale in an exhilarating collaborative performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 2 at Orchestra Hall. Lead by MYS conductor, Manny Laureano, this performance promises to thrill the audience with goose bump moments that this masterpiece evokes. Come and experience the sounds of all four MYS orchestras and celebrate the conclusion of their 2009-10 concert season.

Would you like to be a “Singer in Accord?”

In the upcoming weeks we will audition new singers for all voice parts to participate in our concert season. The ensemble rehearses Tuesday evenings through May from 7:00—9:30 at Mayflower Community Congregational Church in Minneapolis. Rehearsals focus on singer development and concert preparation. Singers in Accord will perform three more concert weekends during the 2009—2010 season. Since SIA has no paid administrative staff, singers are requested to participate in both musical and organizational activities.

To schedule an audition, please call 612-597-5483 or email auditions@singersinaccord.org

Support Singers in Accord!

Donations are now accepted online at www.singersinaccord.org

Or you can mail a contribution to:

Singers in Accord
2637 32nd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

If you would like to volunteer with *Singers in Accord*, please call us at: **612.597.5483**
or email the Leadership Team at **leadership@singersinaccord.org**