



CHICAGO  
CHAMBER  
CHOIR

LIVE ART  
2017-2020

CHRISTOPHER WINDLE  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



THE MISSION OF THE CHICAGO CHAMBER CHOIR  
IS TO CREATE EXPERIENCES THAT ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY  
IN HIGH-QUALITY CHORAL ART.

OUR VISION IS TO BE CHICAGO'S PREEMINENT  
AVOCATIONAL CHORAL ENSEMBLE THROUGH DIVERSE AND  
INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING, EXCELLENCE IN ARTISTRY,  
AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT.

CHICAGO CHAMBER CHOIR

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LIVE ART: 2017-2020

In March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the City of Chicago and communities around the world. Shortly after, the decision was made to postpone our May 2020 concert. This concert—titled Shared Ground—was intended to reflect on how we live together in community and how we share the world, and ultimately strive to make it a better place.

That idea became more important than ever as we distanced ourselves from each other in a defiant act of love and solidarity aimed at improving the health of our community and helping our neighbors. This beautiful act of social distancing is a real-world action that embodies the concert program we intended to perform.

The music on this album—selected from live concert recordings made between 2017 and 2020—celebrates the Chicago Chamber Choir, now entering its 25th season. It celebrates the entire community that makes the Chicago Chamber Choir possible, especially our audience. The music looks back on the last three seasons of live performances, and the album as a whole celebrates our community, the spirit of beauty and joy it embodies, and the support we all provide to each other and those throughout our city.



**CHRISTOPHER WINDLE**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## TRACKS

- 01 **Come, Let Us Worship** — Sergei Rachmaninoff
- 02 **Warum ist das Licht gegeben** — Johannes Brahms
- 03 **Serenity (O Magnum Mysterium)** — Ola Gjeilo
- 04 **Rejoice, O Virgin** — Sergei Rachmaninoff
- Where Flames a Word** — Kile Smith
- 05 **I. Before your late face**
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- 07 **III. I know you, you are the deeply bowed**
- 08 **Praise the Name of the Lord** — Sergei Rachmaninoff
- 09 **Heyr þú oss himnum á** — Anna S. Thorvaldsdóttir
- 10 **Mary Hynes** — Samuel Barber
- 11 **Even When He Is Silent** — Kim André Arnesen
- 12 **Past Life Melodies** — Sarah Elisabeth Hopkins
- 13 **Water Night** — Eric Whitacre
- 14 **The Blue Bird** — Charles Villiers Stanford
- 15 **I'll Fly Away** — Albert E. Brumley, arr. Shawn Kirchner
- Bonus **Unclouded Day** — traditional, arr. Shawn Kirchner

## PROGRAMME NOTES

This album begins with the opening movement of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*. This is a profound composition and a masterpiece of the twentieth century. Composed in early 1915—two years before the Russian Revolution of 1917—it was completed in less than two weeks. Ten of the fifteen movements are based directly on Russian Orthodox chant, while the other five were called “conscious counterfeits” by the composer himself. These lend a timeless quality to the work and tie it directly to the religious tradition and culture from which it emanated. Rachmaninoff uses these chant melodies to create a work of profound beauty and drama. Two other movements from this concert are found on this album.

Performances from our Fall 2019 concert *Where Flames a Word* follow. First, we hear Brahms's *Warum ist das Licht gegeben*, inspiring grief, resolve, and hope. Contemporary composer Ola Gjelø's *Serenity (O Magnum Mysterium)* is next, holding us in its beautiful stillness, peace, and comfort.

...

The sixth movement of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* punctuates this moment. “Bogoroditse Devo”—or “Rejoice, O Virgin”—is a stunning burst of awe and joy.

Kile Smith's three-movement work *Where Flames a Word* was the inspiration for our Fall 2019 concert. Smith writes of the poet for this work:

*“Paul Celan (1920–1970) was one of the great 20th-century poets of the German language, even though he was a Romanian Jew whose parents died in Nazi camps. He spoke and translated many languages, including French and Hebrew, into German. He wrote often of the conflict in expressing himself in the language his mother, who loved German literature, had taught him. After winning the Bremen Prize in 1958, and referring to the Holocaust, he said, ‘Only one thing remained reachable, close and secure amid all losses: language. Yes, language. In spite of everything, it remained secure against loss. But it had to go through its own lack of answers, through terrifying silence, through the thousand darknesses of murderous speech.’”*

Celan's extraordinary poetry presents us with something deeply human. His words ring true, yet it is difficult to know exactly what they say. In his poetry, we hear something unknowable, but beautiful; something deeply human, yet inexpressible. Listen to the way Smith sets this text. His music brings expression to this text; the gestures at beginning call to mind an ethereal dream, in the second movement you can hear the conversation happen with changing keys and evocative counterpoint, and in the third movement you can hear the resolve and calm in his hymn-like setting of the text.

We hear the explosive joy of Rachmaninoff's eighth movement of his *All-Night Vigil*, “Hvalite imia Ghospodne”—or “Praise the Name of the Lord.”

...

We hear highlights from our Spring 2018 concert, *Seek*. The first work is Icelandic composer, Anna S. Thorvaldsdóttir's setting of a beautiful Icelandic poem. Her work, *Heyr þú oss himnum á*, reminds us that “We cannot make a joyful song unless we are moved by love,” as the singers plaintively ask for guidance.

...

“Mary Hynes” is from Samuel Barber's extraordinary *Reincarnations*. This movement begins with an exclamation, and the poem tumbles out in an ecstatic expression of love for Mary Hynes, as if at first sight.

...

Kim André Arnesen's *Even When he is Silent* asserts the resilience of love and hope. Arnesen writes, “The text was found on a wall at a concentration camp after World War II and was written by a prisoner. Even if your freedom and the people you love is [sic] taken away from you, no one can take your faith or hope away from you.”

Sarah Hopkins's *Past Life Melodies* has no text, but her music speaks to the listener in a real and visceral way. Her raw, chant-like melodies have a timeless quality, and out of them, silver threads of harmonic overtones emerge. It speaks directly to the soul.

...

Eric Whitacre's *Water Night* follows from our Fall 2019 concert and evokes an extraordinary sense of awe, as if we are momentarily still and fully aware.

...

*The Blue Bird*, by C.V. Stanford, floats above the room with its delicate harmony and gentle soprano melody. And finally, Sean Kirchner's arrangement of *I'll Fly Away* brings us to a rousing and joyous conclusion.

...

*Unclouded Day* is offered as a bonus track—an encore—celebrating the journey we are all on together.

# TEXTS

## 01

### **Come, Let Us Worship**

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

**Диакон:** Восстаните. Господи, благослови.  
**Иерей:** Слава Святей, Единосущней,  
Животворящей и Нераздельней Троице  
всегда,ныне и присно и во веки веков!

Аминь. Приидите, поклонимся  
Цареве нашему Богу.  
Приидите, поклонимся и припадем  
Христу Цареве нашему Богу.  
Приидите, поклонимся и припадем  
самому Христу Цареве и Богу нашему.  
Приидите, поклонимся и припадем Ему.

Deacon: Arise! Master, give the blessing.  
Priest: Glory to the Holy, consubstantial,  
life-creating, and undivided Trinity,  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Amen. Come, let us worship  
God, our King.  
Come, let us worship and fall down  
before Christ, our King and our God.  
Come, let us worship and fall down  
before the very Christ, our King and our God.  
Come, let us worship and fall down before Him.

## 02

### **Warum ist das Licht gegeben**

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

**Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen,  
Und das Leben den betrübten Herzen?  
Warum?  
Die des Todes warten und kommt nicht  
Und grüben ihn wohl aus dem verborgenen;  
Die sich fast freuen und sind fröhlich,  
daß sie das Grab bekommen. Warum?  
Und dem Manne des Weg verborgen ist,  
Und Gott vor ihm denselben  
bedeckt? Warum?**

**Lasset uns unser Herz samt den Händen  
aufheben zu Gott im Himmel.  
Siehe, wir preisen selig, die erduldet haben.  
Die Geduld Hiob habt ihr gehört,  
Und das Ende des Herrn habt ihr gesehen;  
Denn der Herr ist barmherzig und ein  
Erbarmer!**

**Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin,  
in Gottes Willen,  
getrost ist mir mein Herz und Sinn,  
sanft und stille.  
Wie Gott mir verheißen hat,  
der Tod ist mir Schlaf worden.**

Why has light been given to the weary of soul,  
And life to the troubled hearts?  
Why?  
They who wait for death, and it doesn't come;  
They who dig for it even out of secret places;  
Those who almost rejoice and are happy  
That they achieve the grave. Why?  
And to the man whose way is hidden,  
And from whom God himself has been  
concealed? Why?

Let us lift up our hearts, together with our  
hands, to God in heaven.  
Behold, we value them as blessed who have  
endured. You have heard of the patience of Job,  
And the Lord's conclusion you have seen:  
For the Lord is merciful and has  
compassion!

With peace and joy I depart  
in God's will,  
My heart and mind are comforted,  
calm, and quiet.  
As God had promised me:  
death has become my sleep.

*Job 3:20-23, Lamentations 3:41, James 5:11, and  
Martin Luther.*



# 03

## Serenity (O Magnum Mysterium)

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

featuring Andrew Hesse, Cello

O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,  
jacentem in praesepio!  
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera  
meruerunt portare  
Dominum Christum.  
Alleluia.

O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord,  
lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear  
Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia.

# 04

## Rejoice, O Virgin

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

Слава в вышних Богу,  
и на земли мир,  
в человецех благоволение.  
Господи, устне мои отверзеши,  
и уста моя возвестят хвалу Твою.

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
good will among men.  
O Lord, open Thou my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim Thy praise.

# 05-07

## Where Flames a Word

Kile Smith (b.1956)

### 05

#### Before your late face

Before your late face,  
a loner  
wandering between  
nights that change me too,  
something came to stand,  
which was with us once already, un-  
touched by thoughts.

### 06

#### Conversation in the Mountains

And it was quiet in the mountains  
where they walked, one and the other.  
“You’ve come a long way, have come  
all the way here...”  
“I have. I’ve come, like you.”  
“I know.”  
“You know. You know and see: The  
earth folded up here, folded once and  
twice and three times, and opened  
up in the middle, and in the middle  
there is water, and the water is green,  
and the green is white, and the white  
comes from even farther up, from the  
glaciers, and one could say, but one  
shouldn’t, that this is the language  
that counts here, the green with the  
white in it, a language not for you  
and not for me—because, I ask you,  
for whom is it meant, the earth, not  
for you, I say, is it meant, and not for  
me—a language, well, without I and  
without You nothing but He, nothing  
but It, you understand, and She,  
nothing but that.”  
“I understand, I do. After all, I’ve come  
a long way, I’ve come like you.”  
“I know.”

### 07

#### I know you, you are the deeply bowed

(I know you, you are the deeply  
bowed,  
I the transpierced, am subject to you.  
Where flames a word, would testify  
for us both?  
You—all, all real. I—all delusion.)

*“Before your late face” and “I know you” from Paul Celan (1920-1970), Breathturn, trans. by Pierre Joris, Sun and Moon Press, 1995.*

*“Conversation in the Mountains” from Paul Celan (1920-1970), Collected Prose, trans. by Rosmarie Waldrop, The Sheep Meadow Press, 1986.*

**Praise the Name of the Lord**

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

Хвалите имя Господне. Аллилуия.

Хвалите, раби, Господа.

Аллилуия, аллилуия.

Благословен Господь от Сиона,  
живый во Иерусалиме. Аллилуия.

Исповедайтесь Господеви, яко благ.

Аллилуия, аллилуия.

Яко в век милость Его. Аллилуия.

Исповедайтесь Богу небесному.

Аллилуия, аллилуия.

Яко в век милость Его. Аллилуия.

Praise the name of the Lord. Alleluia.

Praise the Lord, O you His servants.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed be the Lord from Zion,

He who dwells in Jerusalem. Alleluia.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is  
good. Alleluia, alleluia.

For His mercy endures forever. Alleluia.

O give thanks unto the God of Heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia.

For His mercy endures forever. Alleluia.

**Heyr þú oss himnum á**

Anna S. Thorvaldsdóttir (b. 1977)

Heyr þú oss himnum á,  
hýr vor faðir, börn þín smá,

lukku oss þar til ljá  
líf eilíft þér erfum hjá,  
og að þé r aldrei flæmumst frá.  
Þitt ríki þró ist hér,  
það þín stjórna og kristni er,  
svo að vé r sem flestir,  
Guð, til handa þér,  
fegin yfir því fögnum vér.  
Síst skarta sönglist má,  
sé þar ekki elskan hjá,  
syngjum þvíþýtt lof þá,  
þér, Guð drottinn, himnum á,  
Maður rétt kristinn mun þess gá.  
En þegar aumir vér,  
öndumst burt úr heimi hér,  
oss tak þá, Guð, að þér,  
í þá dýrð, sem aldrei þver.  
Amen, amen það eflaust sker

Hear us in heaven,  
loving Father, as we, your small

children,  
ask for the fortune  
to receive eternal life.  
We shall not stray from your path.  
May we help your kingdom  
to grow here on earth.  
Following your guidance,  
we gather around in your name,  
and gladly celebrate.  
We cannot make a joyful song  
unless we are moved by love.  
So let us sing our gentle praise  
to you, Lord God, in heaven,  
as the truly faithful have done.  
When our poor souls  
pass away from this world,  
take us God to you,  
into your everlasting glory.  
Amen, Amen, may this be done.

*Ancient Icelandic Poem***Mary Hynes**

Samuel Barber (1910–1981)

She is the sky of the sun,  
She is the dart  
Of love,  
She is the love of my heart,  
She is a rune,  
She is above  
The women of the race of Eve  
As the sun is above the moon.

Lovely and airy the view from the hill  
That looks down Ballylea;  
But no good sight is good until  
By great good luck you see  
The Blossom of the Branches walking towards  
you  
Airily.

*from Reincarnations by James Stephens (1882–1950)***Even When He Is Silent**

Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980)

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.  
I believe in love, even when I feel it not.  
I believe in God, even when He is silent.

*Anonymous 20th century, Germany*

12

### Past Life Melodies

Sarah Elisabeth Hopkins (b. 1958)

13

### Water Night

Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

Night with the eyes of a horse that trembles in  
the night,  
night with eyes of water in the field asleep  
is in your eyes, a horse that trembles,  
is in your eyes of secret water.  
Eyes of shadow-water,  
eyes of well-water,  
eyes of dream-water.  
Silence and solitude,  
two little animals moon-led,  
drink in your eyes,  
drink in those waters.  
If you open your eyes,  
night opens doors of musk,  
the secret kingdom of the water opens  
flowing from the center of night.  
And if you close your eyes,  
a river, a silent and beautiful current,  
fills you from within,  
flows forward, darkens you,  
night brings its wetness to beaches  
in your soul.

*Octavio Paz, 1914-1998*  
*(Adapted by Eric Whitacre, Translation by*  
*Muriel Rukeyser)*

14

### The Blue Bird

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

The lake lay blue below the hill.  
O'er it, as I looked, there flew  
Across the waters, cold and still,  
A bird whose wings were palest blue.

The sky above was blue at last,  
The sky beneath me blue in blue.  
A moment, ere the bird had passed,  
It caught his image as he flew.

*Mary E. Coleridge (1861-1907)*

15

### I'll Fly Away

Albert E. Brumley (1905–1977)

arr. Shawn Kirchner (b.1970)

Some bright morning when this life is over  
I'll fly away  
To that home on God's celestial shore  
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory  
I'll fly away in the morning  
When I die, Hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone  
I'll fly away  
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly  
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory  
I'll fly away in the morning  
When I die, Hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joys will never end  
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory  
I'll fly away in the morning  
When I die, Hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away

I'll fly away

*Albert E. Brumley*

16

### Unclouded Day from Heavenly Home

arr. Shawn Kirchner (b.1970)

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,  
O they tell me of a home far away;  
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise;  
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

Refrain:

O the land of cloudless day,  
O the land of an unclouded day.  
O they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise,  
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,  
O they tell me of that land far away,  
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom  
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day. [Refrain]

O they tell me of a King in His beauty there,  
And they tell me that mine eyes shall behold  
Where He sits on the throne that is bright as the sun,  
In the city that is made of gold. [Refrain]

*Rev. J.K. Alwood (1828-1909)*



## ARTISTS

### Spring 2018: *Love*

09 **Heyr þú oss himnum á – Anna S. Thorvaldsdóttir**

10 **Mary Hynes – Samuel Barber**

11 **Even When He Is Silent – Kim André Arnesen**

12 **Past Life Melodies – Sarah Elisabeth Hopkins**

14 **The Blue Bird – Charles Villiers Stanford**

**SOPRANO:** Marion Amling, Paula Castaños, Jamie Christian, Nikki Gamble, Lauren Haines, Amy Keipert\*, Genevieve Klein, Cate Schmittle, Erin Setchell, Erika Brown Thomas, Erin Thor

**ALTO:** Monica Blacconeri, Amy Butterer, Megan Drueck, Alicia Fuller\*, Margaret Jungels, Katie Koll, Dominique Martin, Maureen McPherson, Rachel Murray, Liz Powers, Kelsey Schauer, Andrea Shoffstall

**TENOR:** Frank Blackman, Cameron Carrara, Lee Cravens, Eddie Cuevas Jr., Robert Duggan, Caleb Faille\*, Tim Koll, Brian Lee, William Meek, Jack Rutter  
**BASS:** Conor Broaders, James Cahill, Bill Fortune\*, Daniel Hammond, John Jung, John Ley, Jeremy Murray, Ryan Paroline, Ben Roth, Trent Stewart, Justin Tuffy

...

### Spring 2019: *All-Night Vigil*

01 **Come, Let Us Worship – Sergei Rachmaninoff**

04 **Rejoice, O Virgin – Sergei Rachmaninoff**

06 **Praise the Name of the Lord – Sergei Rachmaninoff**

...

**SOPRANO:** Marion Amling, Erica Beall, Paula Castaños, Jamie Christian, Nikki Gamble, Amy Keipert\*, Genevieve Klein, Kari Nelson, Kathleen Schiffer, Cate Schmittle, Erin Thor

**ALTO:** Monica Blacconeri, Amy Butterer, Megan Drueck, Alicia Fuller, Robyn Lustbader, Dominique Martin, Cate Mascari\*, Maureen McPherson, Danielle Pacelli, Liz Powers, Veronica Raufer, Kelsey Schauer+

**TENOR:** Frank Blackman, Cameron Carrara\*\*+, Alex Concordia, Lee Cravens+, Eddie Cuevas Jr.+, Robert Duggan, William Meek, William Pearse, Jordan Rudman, Jack Rutter, Casey Williams+

**BASS:** Dan Acheson, Zach Bird, James Cahill, Bill Fortune\*, Joshua Green+, Mark Haddad^, Daniel Hammond, Nathaniel Hendrix, John Jung, Ryan Paroline, Ben Roth, Trent Stewart, Justin Tuffy

...

### Fall 2019: *Where Flames a Word*

02 **Warum ist das Licht gegeben – Johannes Brahms**

03 **Serenity (O Magnum Mysterium) – Ola Gjeilo**

05-07 **Where Flames a Word – Kile Smith**

11 **Water Night – Eric Whitacre**

13 **I'll Fly Away – Albert E. Brumley, arr. Shawn Kirchner**

**Featuring:** Andrew Hesse, Cello, a member of CHAI Collaborative Ensemble

**SOPRANO:** Marion Amling, Erica Beall, Paula Castaños, Jamie Christian, Nikki Gamble, Amy Keipert\*, Genevieve Klein, Kari Nelson, Caroline Prescott, Kathleen Schiffer, Cate Schmittle, Erin Thor

**ALTO:** Monica Blacconeri, Amy Butterer, Megan Drueck, Cindy Hodakoski, Robyn Lustbader, Dominique Martin, Cate Mascari\*, Maureen McPherson, Danielle Pacelli, Liz Powers, Laurel Proctor, Arleigh Truesdale

**TENOR:** Cameron Carrara\*, Lee Cravens, Eddie Cuevas Jr., Robert Duggan, Jim McGuire, William Meek, Nathan Metzger, William Pearse, Jordan Rudman, Jack Rutter, Casey Williams

**BASS:** Dan Acheson, Zach Bird, James Cahill, Bill Fortune, Daniel Hammond, Nathaniel Hendrix\*, Kingsley Householder, John Jung, Ryan Paroline, Ben Roth, Trent Stewart, Justin Tuffy

### Fall 2017: *Sing*

Bonus **Unclouded Day – arr. Shawn Kirchner**

**SOPRANO:** Marion Amling, Paula Castaños, Jamie Christian, Nikki Gamble, Lauren Haines, Amy Keipert\*, Genevieve Klein, Cate Schmittle, Erin Setchell, Erika Brown Thomas, Erin Thor

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...

\*Section Leader / +Soloist / ^Guest Artist



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*Thank you to those whose generosity has supported the production of this album:*

Zachary Bird / Andrew Hesse / William Meek / Kile Smith

## OUR TEAM

### ARTISTIC + ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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**Amy Keipert** / *Associate Conductor*

**Talar Khosdeghian** / *Principal Accompanist*

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