

a world anew

celebrating the music of
Sydney Guillaume

**Vaccination verification
or negative COVID test
required for entry**

**Friday, October 29
5:30pm & 7:30pm**

HAPO Stage, John Dam Plaza, Richland

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The performance will last approximately 50 minutes with no intermission

PERSONNEL

Justin Raffa, Artistic Director
Reginald Unterseher, Associate Conductor
Ben Walley, Principal Accompanist

MIXED ENSEMBLE
Justin Raffa, conductor

Mickey Beary
Nitza Brooks
Clarissa Fraley
Terri Geluso
Kevin Green
Nelson Green
Lisa Hill
Molly Holleran
Derek Hughes
James Jones
Ellen Kathren
Kerry Lorenzo
Jeff Markillie
John Masulonis
Talitha McCall
Tim McCall
Jaqueline Medina
Elise Reel
Brandon Shobe
Reg Unterseher
Weston Walker

TREBLE ENSEMBLE
Reginald Unterseher, conductor

Laurel Adams
Stephanie Cohen
Mary Dann
Casie Davison
Samantha Erickson
Rebecca Francik
Jamie Goad
Sharon Isotalo
Amber Johnson
Paula Kimmel
Tanya Knickerbocker
Sarah Moody
Kathy Payne
Elizabeth Stutz

PROGRAM

Sydney Guillaume, Composer (b. 1982)

Ansanm Ansanm (2017)
Nou Se Limyè (2014) with Kevin Green, soloist
Blogodop (2014)
Mixed Ensemble

Men Nou (2006)
Akeem (2014)
Plakatap (2011)
Treble Ensemble

Kanaval (2015)
Ranpono (2016) with Derek Hughes, soloist
Mixed Ensemble

Peyi Mwen (2010)
Koudjay (2008)
Treble Ensemble

Yon Monn Nouvo (2014)
Combined Ensemble

GUEST ARTISTS

PERCUSSION
Taylor Edwards
Ryan Hubbs
Carri Rose

KEYBOARD
Ben Walley

FLUTE
Brenden Clapp

GUEST CONDUCTOR
Sydney Guillaume

SYDNEY GUILLAUME, GUEST COMPOSER



Praised by the Miami Herald for their “impressive maturity and striking melodic distinction”, Sydney Guillaume’s compositions are known to be intricate, challenging and yet highly spirited. They promote human values and are full of heart and passion. Many of his choral works, most with original poetry by his father Gabriel T. Guillaume, have fostered an awareness of the beautiful Haitian culture and continue to serve as an ambassador for his native country. In 2016, he was inducted into the 1804 List of Haitian-American Change Makers, a prestigious list named in honor of Haiti’s year of independence that “recognizes Haitian-Americans in the United States who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and success in their profession and proven themselves to be forces for change in their communities.” In 2017, he was honored by the top music school in Haiti for his “great contribution in the expansion and the promotion of the music and culture of Haiti around the world.”

Guillaume’s compositions continually enthrall choirs everywhere and have been performed around the world. They have been featured at numerous conferences and international festivals like the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the World

Choir Games and Ireland’s Cork International Choral Festival.

Nearly all of his choral compositions have been commissioned works. He’s written for renowned choirs such as the Grammy-award nominated Seraphic Fire, the Westminster Chorus, the University of Miami Frost Chorale, the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, the Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir, the Saint Louis Chamber Singers and the Miami Children’s Chorus.

Guillaume also writes film music, having written original film and documentary scores for the Los Angeles based company Loyola Productions.

He is an active member of the choral community as a composer, singer, clinician and conductor. In 2013, he conducted the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 12 Honor Choir and, more recently, the 2017 Connecticut Southern Region Honor Choir. He has also presented at several symposiums and conferences, both domestically and abroad. Most recently, he presented at the 2016 West Virginia ACDA Conference and the FORO CORAL AMERICANO in Argentina.

Since 2013 he has been the conductor of Imbroglia Sextet, a group of musicians from Haiti, Spain, Bolivia and the United States. The group met in Haiti at the École de Musique St. Trinité summer camp, where they all volunteer as music teachers. As the director of the sextet he has toured through Texas, Louisiana, Armenia, Great Britain and Spain.

His recent activities as conductor also include the 2019 Florida All-State Middle School Treble Chorus, the 34th annual Idaho State University Choral Invitational Festival, the 2018 Maine All-State High School Mixed Chorus, an all-Guillaume concert at New York City’s Lincoln Center, the 2018 Virginia District 12 High School Mixed Chorus, and concerts with the Imbroglia Sextet at Carnegie Hall and at the 2018 ISME World Conference in Azerbaijan.

Sydney Guillaume graduated from the University of Miami in 2004, where his works were performed by the Miami University Chorale conducted by Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe. Originally from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, he currently resides in Portland, Oregon, where he frequently workshops his music with university and high school choirs throughout North America.

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JUSTIN RAFFA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Justin Raffa serves as a megaphone for the arts in eastern Washington. He is a conductor, singer, educator, and above all, a passionate arts advocate.

He is the Artistic Director of the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers in Tri-Cities, WA, and also Chorusmaster for the Yakima Symphony Orchestra Chorus. He has served as chorusmaster or music director with many regional organizations, including Oregon East Symphony, Mid-Columbia Musical Theatre, Columbia Basin College, Washington-Idaho Symphony.

As a professional singer, he performs with the Oregon Bach Festival, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, Male Ensemble Northwest and Chor Anno. He has served as an adjudicator for festivals and competitions throughout the Northwest, and regularly visits local music classes and choirs as a visiting artist.

Throughout his career, Justin has received numerous awards and recognition for his efforts to give the arts a place of prominence in his community. He currently serves as an arts mouthpiece on the boards of Visit Tri-Cities and Leadership Tri-Cities, as a member of Richland Rotary, and as a frequent emcee for charitable events across the community.

Justin has been on the Washington State Arts Commission since 2016, and also serves on the Northwest ACDA board as Repertoire & Resources Chair for Community Choirs.

Originally from South Jersey, Justin is a proud graduate of Westminster Choir College. He started his choral career and arts advocacy work in the remote border town of Bisbee, AZ. He then received his master of music degree in choral conducting from the University of Arizona and headed off to Tri-Cities, WA, where he now lives with his partner, Molly, and their long-haired dachshund Coda.

REGINALD UNTERSEHER, ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR



Reginald Unterseher is Music Director and Composer-in-Residence at Shalom United Church of Christ, Richland, Washington. His works are published by Oxford University Press, Walton Music, and through Northwest Choral Publishers at NWChoral.com. He was the Washington State Music Teacher's Association's "Composer of the Year" for 2013.

Mr. Unterseher's compositions are regularly performed throughout the world and have been featured at regional and national ACDA and MENC conventions in the US as well as at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

His early career was as a performer, singing opera and musicals with companies including Opera Theater of St. Louis, Texas Opera Theater, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and Washington East Opera. He has been a voice teacher since the earliest part of his career, and his students have ranged from professional performers, music teachers, scientists and engineers and people in many other professions to a Tony award winning actor.

He has recently served as the Repertoire & Resources Chair for Composition for the Washington State American Choral Director's Association, has served as Repertoire & Standards Chair for Men's Choirs for the Northwest Division of ACDA, and appears frequently as a choral and vocal adjudicator and clinician around the northwest. Mr. Unterseher is a past Artistic Director of Consort Columbia (now Mid-Columbia Mastersingers), founder and past Chorus Master of Washington East Opera, and an active member of Male Ensemble Northwest as well as a founding member of Chor Anno. He is currently the Associate Conductor of the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers.

He was born in Walla Walla, Washington in 1956.

Welcome!



LORI FREGIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Our new Managing Director Lori Fregin joined Mid-Columbia Mastersingers in July 2021, bringing 35 years of nonprofit management experience. She began her career at Providence Medical Center's Foundation, managing their capital campaigns and charity medical care campaigns. She then worked as a Director at Interdev, a world mission organization creating strategic partnerships with relief agencies in third world countries. For the last 17 years, Lori was a Director for Residence XII, a women's rehab center. She brings a wealth of knowledge in the areas of finance, HR, donor systems, IT/IS and nonprofit administrative management.

Lori is new to the Tri-Cities area. Part of her family relocated to Kennewick, and while visiting she decided it looked like a wonderful community to live in. Her only son, Zach, moved to Portland so she decided to relocate to Tri-Cities with her two adopted kitties Brio and Santino. As a Sicilian she enjoys wine and looks forward to discovering the local wineries. She is also an avid fan of the arts, as a patron, and is looking forward to supporting the growing Tri-Cities arts industry.

TEXT TRANSLATIONS

ANSANM ANSANM

All Together

For peace and for justice, many of them died.
For their courage, for their vision,
For all they accomplished and for all they endured,
We sing for them. We sing their praises.
Hats off to them!
All together, with hearts settled, we sing for them.
In unity, without prejudice, we follow their legacy.
All together, hand in hand, let's work for peace.
They made our lives better, let us honor them.
Hats off to them!
In love and in peace, let's make life more beautiful.
With honor and respect,
All together, let's work for peace.
Without gates, without borders,
All together, let's make life more beautiful.
Who are we singing for?
For all those who fought to make our lives better.
For all those who fight so that love can prevail,
So that the flag of freedom can continue to float,
So that the banners of justice can spread around the world.
It's for them that we sing, let's keep on singing. Hats off!
It's our turn, let's make our lives more beautiful.
No, no, no!
Do not let hatred steal our hopes;
With perseverance we will gain victory...

NOU SE LIMYÈ

Children of light, do not stay in the dark;
Truth and Love are stronger than the law.
From the beginning of time the word was spoken:
Darkness and evil had invaded the earth;
Everything was functioning in reverse.
The Lord decided to put order in disorder.
"The Lord said, let there be light: and there was light"
Light in the universe, light in the depths of our hearts.
So many good things in the beautiful flame of this light:
Awareness, development,
Understanding and compassion,
Truth and dignity,
Wisdom and justice,
Liberty and hope,
Love and happiness...

BLOGODOP

Dancing Rara is freeing
Dancing Rara is unleashing
Take advantage of this moment
It will pass and won't come back
Whoever you may be
This Rara will make you move
The crowd's getting their groove on
The smell of love is rising
Come, come shake your body...

MEN NOU

Here we are, here we are,
We are children... yes, we are!
We are the children of the world.
We are hope... We come to put joy in all hearts.
Oh yes, we are love, we are joy,
We come to put joy in all hearts.
We want love to spread everywhere,
We've come to change the world...
Yes truly, we need to change the world!
Oh, here we are,
We are children of the world,
We are the seeds of life.
We are the children of today,
We are the adults of tomorrow.
Oh yes, we are today's youth,
The new generation
Born to shine in a new day;
A generation of love, hope and joy
That will shine everywhere...
Love and joy in all hearts! ...

AKEEM

I see the love flow in the eyes of the mother;
Tenderness and joy have overcome the father.
In the eyes of their very first born,
I discover hope, I contemplate the future.
He is beautiful, full of life and full of promise;
Akeem, Akeem... the voice of the future.
Akeem, Akeem... Akeem is his name.
Life on the wings of love
Once again burst out the sweet symphony.
This splendor explodes time
For us to discover the buds of spring.
He is beautiful, full of life and full of promise;
He is beautiful, full of life, and a carrier of hope.
Akeem, Akeem... the voice of the future.
Akeem, Akeem... Akeem is his name.
The birth of a child is an expression of love,
A carrier of joy, of hope and of peace.
The birth of a child renews the world
And the voices of the future will sing forever...

PLAKATAP

Children of all countries,
Youth from everywhere,
Sing, jump, dance!
On foot or by bike,
Our bags on our backs,
Plakatap – Plakatap,
Plakatap – Plakatap!
Let's party, let's sing!
Let's celebrate Humanity with one heart,
And let us all sing our Fraternity in chorus!
Regardless of what's happening,
In spite of the distance,
We are one family
Of young men and women.
Let us dwell in the Unity
Of one Humanity....

TEXT TRANSLATIONS

KANAVAL

Wake up, wake up, the day has come... today is Carnaval!
Let us gather and celebrate...
Shake that shaker, dance that Rara...
Wake up, wake up, the day has come... today is Carnaval!
The young ones are disguised, the grown ups are excited,
Madigra* and Chaloska* are parading,
What a beautiful season,
People on top and people below are united...
It's Carnaval! Carnaval time is here!
Move forward... no hitting! No pushing!
Jump up and down as you want,
Loosen up, dance however you want... it's Carnaval!...

RANPONO

[Yele maoulo!]
The conch shells are sounding,
The roosters haven't crowed yet,
The sun hasn't risen yet,
The workers are on their feet!
Ranpono has begun!
Laborers, let's put our hands together,
Let's join together,
The work has begun!
Little by little, the bird makes its nest.
My brothers, my sisters,
Join together, let's move forward!
Heads together, in harmony,
We will come to see the navel of an ant.
With perseverance, we will see the navel of an ant.
The load that you bear on your head falls on your shoulders...

PEYI MWEN

My Village / My Country

My village has many mountains,
Behind the mountains, there are always more mountains,
There are many little waterfalls,
And many little birds chirping.
If my village does not plant,
The city will not find food.
Everyone, love the farmers.
They are the source of our lives.
Behind the mountains, there are always more mountains,
Behind the mountains, the sun rises and sets,
Behind the mountains are hidden stories of my village.
Behind the mountains, wisdom abounds...

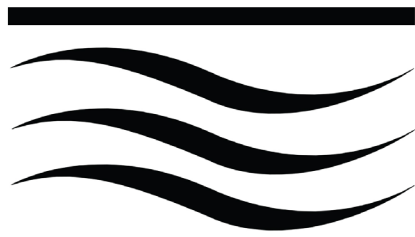
KOUDJAY

A time to plant
A time to harvest
A time to work
A time to party
Today we will rest
Today is party time
Color guards, lead on
Musicians, rock on
Beat the drums, blow the trumpet
Play the violin and clarinet
Musicians, singers, let's rock on
Let's sing, danse meringue and kalinda
Today is the big feast
We'll party like there's no tomorrow
Without danger, nor fear
We'll sing and dance
As life requires it...

YON MONN NOUVO

A World Anew

Open your ears and listen,
Hear and listen, my friends.
Open your hearts and hear,
Hear and listen, my brothers:
Both you and I are full of dreams;
You help me and I help you.
That is how we will come to build a world anew.
"With many hands, the load is light."
"One finger alone cannot eat okra."
Knowledge and wealth are goods of humanity
That we must share in true fellowship.
These are statements that bring happiness;
Words of wisdom that make life harvest.
We are, each one of us, seeds of eternity
That sprout and bloom in our humanity.
Let us all work together for a world anew,
A world more humane, a universe of love....



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- ACCOMPANIST Benjamin Walley
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