



presents

# We Will Listen

A concert about hope and the joy of listening.

Saturday, April 27th 2024

4:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church

15 Randolph Ave, Hagerstown, MD

*Free with a goodwill offering*

*Special Guest Conductors*

&

*Mary Remsburg*

*Accompanist & Rehearsal Assistant*

*Hagerstown Choral Arts is sponsored in part by:*



# Program

Conductor: John Sabine

**Let Me Listen** Music by Dan Forrest,  
poetry by Charles Anthony Silvestri

**Ubi Caritas** Music and lyrics by Ola Gjeilo

**O Vos Omnes** Music by Pablo Casals  
Text from Lamentations 1:12  
English Version by Kenneth Sterne



Conductor: Edward Schaefer

**The Road Not Taken** Music by Randall Thompson  
Text by Robert Frost

Men's Select Ensemble

**Stopping by woods on a Snowy Evening**  
Music by Randall Thompson  
Text by Robert Frost



**I Will Be a Child of Peace**

Traditional Shaker Hymn  
Arranged by Elaine Hagenberg

\*\*\*\*\*Intermission\*\*\*\*\*

Conductor: Janet Palmer

Women's Select Ensemble

**Listen** Words and music by Reena Esmail

**A Girl's Garden** Music by Randall Thompson  
Text by Robert Frost



# Program

## Hagerstown Choral Arts full ensemble

**Dirait-On** Music by Morten Lauridsen  
French lyric by Ranier Maria Rilke  
English Translation by Barbara and Erica Muhl

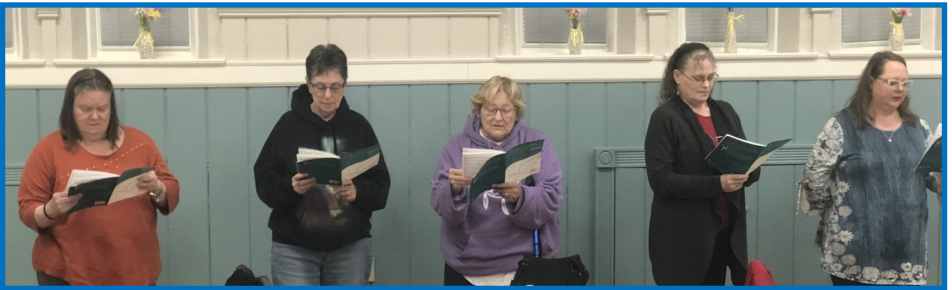
**Conductor: Caleb Wescott**

**Set Me as a Seal** Music by Richard Nance  
Text from Song of Solomon  
French horn Stephen Pastena

**Sing Me to Heaven** Music by Daniel Gawthrop  
Text by Jane Griner



**Make a Joyful Sound** Words and music by Noble Cain



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to comply with copyright laws.

# President's Message



Thank you for attending our concert!

In a world where we have little time to be present in the moment, listening to beautiful music gives us an opportunity to focus on the wonder of life and the world around us. This concert is a composition of many complex elements. There are four guest conductors who bring their individual talents and experiences. We have Men's and Women's Select Ensembles, the poetry of Robert Frost, the French Horn played by Stephen Pastena, Mary Remsburg on the piano, and songs in French and Latin. Our concert theme is *listen*. We invite you to listen with an open heart, as this concert is about hope and joy.

Our mission is to bring the best choral music to Hagerstown and the Tri-State area. Our concerts are free of charge. As with many arts organizations, we rely on grants and your donations. You make it possible for us to pay our musical leaders, to purchase music, and to publicize our events. Thank you!

HCA Board of Directors is very busy. We are working on a fitting tribute for Greg Shook's founding and 31 years of leadership of HCA. We are hiring an Interim Artistic Director for our 2024-25 season. Watch our Facebook page and Instagram space for updates.

HCA is honored to sing for the Antietam National Cemetery's Memorial Day program on May 27, 2024 at 11:00 am. We hope you will join us.

Enjoy the concert!

Carolyn Ritchey Mentzer

President and Second Soprano

# Hagerstown Choral Arts

## Soprano I

Karen Sue Johnston  
Tabitha Johnston  
Beverly Kotchenreuther  
Mary Licht  
Kathy Robinson  
Sallie Sterling  
Rachel Smola  
Erin Stuller

## Soprano II

Elyssa Doub  
Heather Hughes  
Kimberly McMurtrie  
Carolyn Mentzer  
Janet Palmer  
Robin Spickler  
Kim Stockslager

## Alto I

Elizabeth Cuthbert  
Marcia Goodrich  
Shannon Lang  
Caroline Lewis  
Kendra Perry  
Elizabeth Phillipson  
Brenda Plummer

## Alto II

Leslie LeBlanc  
Therese Ramey  
Daria Riegler  
Allison Todd

## Tenor

Michael Buhrman  
Brian McClinton  
Rich Owens  
John Sabine  
Caleb Wescott

## Baritone/Bass

Torben Aarsand  
Dale Auen  
Tim Doyle  
Matthew Hinz  
Mark Holmes  
Dennis Holvach  
Stephen Pastena  
Jay Perry  
Daniel Ritchey  
Edward Schaefer



## Guest Conductors



**John Sabine**, a career church musician, has served churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Maryland. Mr. Sabine has been continuously employed in some form of church music leadership since the age of eleven years. He currently serves as Minister of Music at St. John's Episcopal Church, Hagerstown, MD, where he oversees a very busy music ministry program with four choirs and a concert series.

Prior to coming to St. John's, and he sings Tenor as a member of HCA. Mr. Sabine served as organist and choirmaster at Christ Our Hope Lutheran Church in Riverdale, GA, February 2010 to February 2023. Mr. Sabine earned the Bachelor of Music Degree in Church Music from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, and the Master of Sacred Music Degree from Emory University. He is also a licensed Kindermusik Educator, a piano and voice instructor at Music & Arts Center on Garland Groh Blvd. and a very enthusiastic Uber driver.

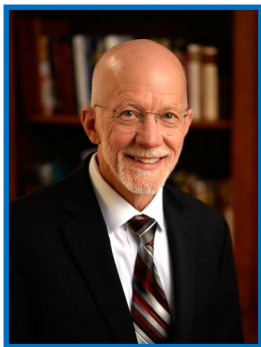


**Caleb Wescott**, a native of Boonsboro, Maryland, currently teaches music in Washington County Public Schools. Graduating with his bachelor's degree in 2022, he formally studied music education and classical saxophone at the University of Tennessee with a focus on instrumental music. Caleb directs his musical passions toward voice, singing with various ensembles, and performing

as a church musician. Caleb sings Tenor as a member of HCA and is on the HCA Board of Directors. Self-taught, he plays the piano by ear, and enjoys performing periodically for smaller venues. In his free time, Caleb enjoys working outdoors and tinkering with automobiles.

## Guest Conductors, Continued

**Edward**

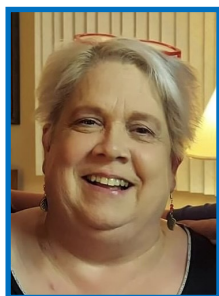


**Schaefer** holds four degrees in music, including the DMA in Liturgical Music from The Catholic University of America. His post-doctoral studies included work with chant scholars around the world, studies at *Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique* in Paris, and singing for six months with *Le Choeur Grégorien de Paris*. He is an expert in the musical notation of Carolingian chant, the

oldest musical notation in the Western world.

During his four decades as a choral director, Dr. Schaefer's choirs have been recognized with invitations to sing in the U.S. at state, regional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and The Music Educators Association, and in Europe at an international chant conference honoring the twenty-fifth anniversary of *Le Choeur Grégorien de Paris*.

Dr. Schaefer sings Baritone as a member of HCA.



**Janet Palmer** After graduating from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, with a degree in Choral Music Education, Janet taught K-12 choir and vocal and general music in public schools in Illinois, Wyoming, and Wisconsin for 38 years, retiring in 2019. While in Wyoming, she was named Teacher of the Year in Big Horn County School District 1, and co-founded the Big Horn County Elementary Music Festival. Janet worked

for nearly 40 years as a choir director and church musician in multiple denominations, and as director, music director, accompanist, choreographer, or costumer in well over 100 school and community theatre productions. Janet sings Soprano II and is a board member with HCA, she is also involved with Potomac Playmakers and Authentic Community Theatre in Hagerstown. Janet and her husband, Larry, relocated to Maryland in April of 2023, and are enjoying getting to know and become involved in the area, and spending more time with granddaughter Coraline.

# Our Leaders



**Mary Remsburg, Accompanist and Rehearsal Assistant**, was raised in the small town of Franklin, West Virginia, and graduated from Shepherd University in 2016 with a Music Education degree.

As a child, she was part of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir for 9 years, which gave her the opportunity to be selected to perform at

numerous venues, including Carnegie Hall and The White House.

While at Shepherd University, Mary played in the Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble, earning the honor of performing with award winning composer Maria Schneider. Mary also performed at several Honors Recitals at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, as a classical soloist and in the Jazz Combo. She accompanied for Women's Camerata for, Performance Forums and senior recitals.

Currently, Mary teaches private studio lessons at Shepherd University, teaches at Saint James School, and is the accompanist for Hagerstown Choral Arts. Mary also frequently plays for musical productions, recitals, recordings, private events, and concerts.

Mary recently released her first folk album *Sounds Like Home*, under the stage name Mister Mae, and her music has been featured on multiple radio programs both in the United States and the United Kingdom. She is married to Chase Remsburg, a fellow graduate of Shepherd University.



**Gregory Paul Shook, Artistic Director**, is a native of Hagerstown, Maryland, where he received his early musical training. In 1993, he and Ned Wetherald co-founded Hagerstown Choral Arts, now in its 31<sup>st</sup> season. Greg is Minister of Music Emeritus from Trinity Lutheran Church in Hagerstown and serves as adjunct faculty at Shepherd University, Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, and Hagerstown Community College.

As a free-lance oboist, Greg performed with the Harrisburg Symphony, York Symphony, Washington National Symphony, and six seasons with the Washington Bach Consort. He is often called upon as clinician and adjudicator for choral and instrumental programs in the Tri-State area.

Greg is an alumnus of Shepherd University and holds graduate degrees and certifications from the University of Maryland at College Park, United Theological Seminary, and a Master of Church Music from Shenandoah Conservatory.



# Song Translations

## **Ubi Caritas** Words and music by Ola Gjeilo

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Latin	English
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.	Where charity and love are. God is there.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.	The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Exsultemus et in ipso juncundemur.	Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.	Let us revere and love the living God.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.	And from a sincere heart let us love one another. Amen.

---

## **O Vos Omnes** Music by Pablo Casals

Text from Lamentations 1:12 English Version by Kenneth Sterne

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Latin	English
O vos omnes, o vos omnes, qui transitis per viam.	Oh ye people, oh ye people that are passing, are passing by me and see me.
Attendite, attendite	Behold and see, behold and see,
Si est dolor, si est dolor sicut dolor me us	If there can be any sorrow, any sorrow like unto my sorrow?

---

## **Dirait-On**

French lyric by Ranier Maria Rilke from *Les Roses*

English Translation by Barbara and Erica Muhl

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French	English
Abandon entouré d'abandon	Abandon surrounding abandon
Tendresse touchant aux tendresses...	Tenderness touching tenderness...
C'est ton intérieur qui sans cesse	Your oneness endlessly
Se caresse, dirait-on;	Caresses itself, so they say:
Se caresse en soi-même	Self-caressing
Par son propre reflet éclairé.	Through its own clear reflection
Ainsi tu inventes le thème	Thus you invent the theme
Du Narcisse exaucé	Of Narcissus fulfilled

---

# Poetry

## The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted  
wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to  
way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

Text from *You Come Too* by Robert  
Frost



## Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

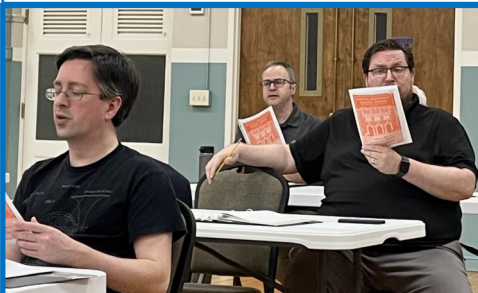
Whose woods these are I think I  
know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and  
deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

Text from *You Come Too* by Robert  
Frost



# Poetry

## A Girl's Garden

A neighbor of mine in  
the village  
Likes to tell how one  
spring  
When she was a girl on  
the farm, she did  
A childlike thing.

One day she asked her  
father to give her a  
garden plot  
To plant and tend and  
reap herself,  
And he said, 'Why not?'

In casting about for a  
corner

He thought of an idle bit  
Of walled-off ground  
where a shop had stood,  
And he said, 'Just it.'

And he said, 'That ought  
to make you  
An ideal one-girl farm,  
And give you a chance to  
put some strength  
On your slim-jim arm.'

It was not enough of a  
garden,  
Her father said, to plow;  
So she had to work it all  
by hand,  
But she don't mind now.

She wheeled the  
dung in the wheel-  
barrow  
Along a stretch of  
road;  
But she always ran  
away and left  
Her not-nice load.

And hid from anyone  
passing.  
And then she begged the  
seed.  
She says she thinks she  
planted one  
Of all things but weed.

A hill each of potatoes,  
Radishes, lettuce, peas,  
Tomatoes, beets, beans,  
pumpkins, corn  
And even fruit trees.

And yes, she has long  
mistrusted  
That a cider apple tree  
In bearing there today is  
hers.

Or at least may be.

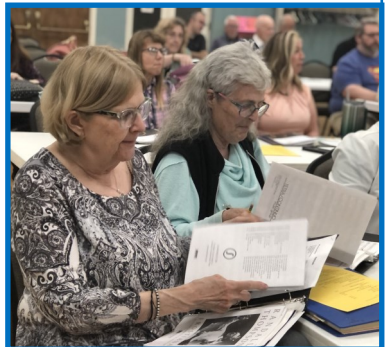
Her crop was a  
miscellany  
When all was said  
and done,  
A little bit of every-  
thing,



A great deal of none.

Now when she sees in  
the village  
How village things go,  
Just when it seems to  
come in right,  
She says, 'I know!

'It's as when I was a  
farmer —'  
Oh, never by way of ad-  
vice!  
And she never sins by  
telling the tale  
To the same person  
twice



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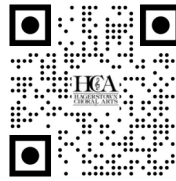


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7:30 pm @ The Maryland Theatre

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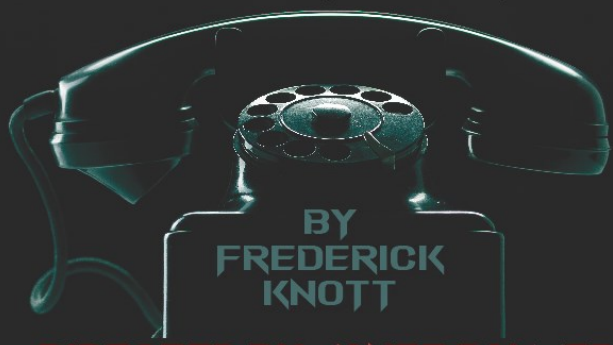
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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

***Hagerstown Choral Arts, Inc. gives thanks to these members and friends for contributions:***

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren and staff for serving as home base for the chorus and our music library.

Dan Ritchey for his expert IT support, helping us modernize our business processes and in our launch and use of Microsoft 365.

Robin Spickler for tirelessly keeping our music library and folders in order.

Shannon Lang for the wonderful job as secretary of the board.

Chris Stockslager for keeping us financially straight with his accounting expertise.

The Washington County Arts Council, The Maryland State Arts Council and Nora Roberts Foundation for sponsoring us.

Microsoft Corporation for their grant of MS365, providing tech to modernize the functions and communications of our business.

Trinity Lutheran Church for the use of their beautiful space for our concerts.

Elizabeth Cuthbert and publicity team for their dedicated and tireless work in publicizing our organization.

The many singers, their families, other volunteers, and audience members who have been a part of Hagerstown Choral Arts over the years.

CopyQuik for beautiful and timely print production of our programs and posters.

Meg Ritchey for expertly editing our program.

Heather Hughes for photography.

Stephen Pastena for playing the French Horn in *Set me as a Seal*.

Thanks to our advertisers and patrons!



Join us for our next performance.

### Memorial Day Commemoration

Antietam National Battlefield will present a free Memorial Day program on Monday, May 27, 2024, starting at 11:00 am at Antietam National Cemetery featuring musical selections by Hagerstown Choral Arts.



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