
School of **MUSIC**

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

THE FIVE 'Ms'

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CONCERT CHOIR

Dr. Will Kesling, Conductor
Tané Dekrey, Accompanist

October 27, 2022
University Auditorium
7:20 p.m.

Program

Meditations on the Storms of Life

Adomai Yimloch (from *Liberation*)

Meir Finkelstein
(b. 1951)

from the Hebrew: *God will reign forever.*

Alleluia

Johanny Navarro
(b. 1992)

U.S. Premiere

The Gift to Sing

Jane K

Melancholia

Dreamscape

Will Kesling
(b. 1948)

1. Come to Me
2. Sweet Dreams
3. Come to Me Again

World Premiere

Perhaps They Are Not Stars (an Inuit Proverb)

Robert Schlidt
(b. 1976)

Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven
where the love of our lost ones pours through
and shines down upon us to let us know that they are happy.

Musical Musings

August Moonrise (Sarah Teasdale)

Blake R. Henson
(b. 1983)

Dr. Steven Thomas, Cello

Musical Muscle

Ho Boys Can't Line 'Em

Anthony Trecek-King

Moving On

Baba Yetu (Swahili "The Lord's Prayer")

Christopher Tin
(b. 1976)

Axel Castro, Solo

Hallelujah (from *Handel's Messiah: A Soulful Celebration*)

conceived by Quincy Delight
Jones
(b. 1933)

Let peace then still the strife

Mack Wilberg
(b. 1955)

Program Notes

Cantor **Meir Finkelstein**, born in Israel in 1951, is a composer of contemporary Jewish liturgical music. He has composed more than 200 settings for the liturgy and scored numerous television programs, made-for-TV movies, and documentary films. In 1995, he premiered his symphonic/choral work *Liberation* at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles. The work was composed to commemorate the liberation of the concentration camps after the Holocaust.

Puerto Rican composer Johanny Navarro created this **Alleluia** in memory of the 2,975 deaths caused by Category 5 Hurricane Maria in 2017. We sing it tonight for this cause and in the memory of those lost in Florida's 2022 Hurricane Ian.

The Gift to Sing by UF composition graduate student Jane K (Evgenia Kozhebkova) is a setting of a poem by James Weldon Johnson (1876-1938). The beautiful and uplifting text reflects on how singing can help "turn gloom to cheerful day." Jane's purpose in creating this work during the 2020 global pandemic was 'to encourage singers around the world to keep making music by any means possible.'

Will Kesling's **Dreamscapes** is a suite in three short movements for women's choir and piano. It was written during a period of profound personal loss and joyful personal gain. The text of the two outside movements are the first and last verse from Christina Rossetti's (1830-1894) little poem "Echo." It is clear that the speaker's loved one has passed away, thus giving meaning to the title of this little poem. An echo is a remnant, and nothing more— a sound that is not unique, but simply lasting. In dreams, the speaker yearns for the for a most special loved one to appear so that in those dreams, life is restored. In truth, these dreams are only dim reflections of the past, an echo. The very brief ten measure lullaby in the middle is taken from a Czech lullaby and implies that the dreamer may have found a new place for the gift of his heart.

Sarah Teasdale's poem **August Moonrise** is in an ode to beauty. The poem describes a moonlit walk she took through the countryside, overcome by the beauty of the landscape, she resolves that she could die having witnessed it.

Like Spirituals, Work Songs like **Ho Boys Can't Line 'Em** portray the conditions in which African Americans found themselves living and working. They revealed everyday experiences that reflected life during the post-Civil War Reconstruction in the South that was often times not much better than slavery.

The hip contemporary approach to the Messiah created by Quincy Jones in the early '90s remains popular today. Yes, Handel never heard his beloved "Hallelujah" performed this way. You will hear that it is still Handel.

University of Florida Concert Choir

Director, Dr. Will Kesling

Tané Dekrey, Accompanist

Soprano

Joelie Campana
Lilly Critchett
Gina DiGiovanni
Vanessa Esposito
Rachel Evans
Nigist Feleke
Laura Garzon
Julia Haley
Natalie Hamel
Leigh Ives
Lily Mancini
Ainsley Marshall
Olivia Miller
Ava Neary
Gabriella Pizzi
Carly Russ
Isabella Stolarczyk
Leela Sundaram
Shanna Thompson
Logan Wax

Alto

Claire Chiong
Marbella Deininger
Katie Delk
Erin Fuzer
Emma Hatala
Roxane Van Horn
Ivana Jordan
Codi Linafelter
Zerrin Martin
Brianna Meissner
Camden O'Donnell
Gabrielle Pagano
Samantha Pruitt
Ella Romaine
Megan Sabella
Hannah Schenkel
Sarah Smith
Annakah Smolensky
Sophia Derias
Tawadrous
Katherine Terlizze

Tenor

Cade Ferguson
John-Peter Ford
Owen Fucile
Gavin Gallagher
Raul Giovannetti
Campbell Graze
Maxwell Griffin
Carson Jones
Zane Menendez
Juan E Perez
Mosquera
Ron Earl Nicolas
Kingsley Okyere
Gavin Oreste
Alek N. Concepción
Rivera
Garrett Rosenbloom
Michael Varilla
Daniel Wu

Bass

Lafe Arens
Axel Castro
Matthias Dinkelbach
David Eaton Jr.
Samuel Garner
Gabriel Gilvary
Michael Gonzalez
Colin Hall
Jackson Haynes
Mitchell Johnson
Aston Lowe
Carter Mays
Brock Nofsinger
Nathan Pappachen
Matthew Prakash
William Ross
Dylan Tuccitto
Tyler Walsh
Kenrick Watkins
Matthew Van Wert
Shichu Xie
Joshua Ziesig



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Program 020 in the School of Music Events Series of the 2022-2023 academic year.

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