

The Genesee Chorale presents

ECLIPSE A CHORAL EXPERIENCE

Friday, May 3

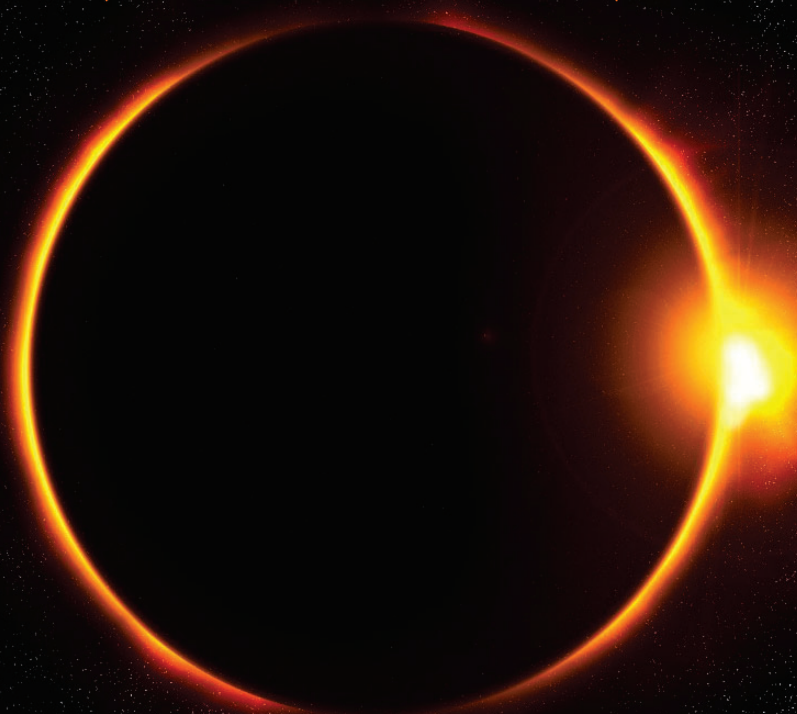
7:00 pm

Pavilion MS/HS Auditorium
7014 Big Tree Road
Pavilion, NY 14525

Sunday, May 5

2:00 pm

St. James Episcopal Church
405 East Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020



goArt!

This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council.

PROGRAM

Please silence your cell phones prior to the performance

The Genesee Chorale

Ric Jones, Music Director

Janine Fagnan, Associate Conductor

Doug Hanson, Accompanist

Philip Nash, Flute

Hannah Schuetz, Oboe

Katrya Cichanowicz, Violoncello

Robert Holley, Percussion

Measure Me, Sky!	Elaine Hagenberg
Where the Light Begins	Susan LaBarr
Canticle of the Sun <i>Charlene Schoenenberger, Karen Jones, Eric Wood, Jim Ellison</i>	David N. Childs
Song to the Moon	Kvapil/Stroope
The Body of the Moon <i>Lindsay Edwards & Caryn Wood, soloists</i>	Desmond Earley
Nox (from "Illuminare")	Elaine Hagenberg
I Believe <i>Kathy Meloon, soloist</i>	Mark Miller
Light Beyond Shadow	Dan Forest
Light of a Clear Blue Morning <i>Sarah Hill, soloist</i>	Craig Hella Johnson
Day of Fire and Sun	Kate Crellin
Capture the Sun <i>Jennifer Neroni-Trupo, soloist</i>	Eric Tsavdar
You Are the New Day	Peter Knight

WELCOME & PROGRAM NARRATIVE

It is with great pleasure that we welcome to our concert, “**Eclipse: A Choral Experience.**” As you join us on this musical journey, we invite you to immerse yourself in the beauty of the melodies, the power of the lyrics, and the emotions that resonate throughout the performance. This performance honors and illustrates the total solar eclipse that occurred this past April 8th. Our music has been carefully selected to create that experience in musical form. Our selections play not only with the theme of the total solar eclipse, but with themes of the moon, sun, and the concept of light versus dark.

We begin with **Measure Me, Sky!** which encourages us to take hold of our limitless potential. This impassioned piece builds through key changes and several returns of the opening material before arriving at its brilliant final chord, reflecting "Loveliness, wings for my flight"!

Measure me, sky!
Tell me I reach by a song
Nearer the stars;
I have been little so long.
Horizon, reach out!
Catch at my hands, stretch me taut,
Rim of the world: Widen my eyes by a thought.
Sky, be my depth,
Wind, be my width and my height,
World, my heart' s span;
Loveliness, wings for my flight.

As the lights around us dim, we sing **Where the Light Begins.** The composer writes, "...within each of us is the ability to work towards peace. It doesn't take a monumental action, just many little kindnesses that we can show to others every day which radiate out to bring light to the whole of humanity. When we love, accept, and care for all of our neighbors—despite our differences—we find that the light that the dark world so desperately needs begins in us."

Perhaps it does not begin. Perhaps it is always.
Perhaps it takes a lifetime to open our eyes,
to learn to see what has forever shimmered in front of us;
the luminous line of the map in the dark,
the vigil flame in the house of the heart;
the love so searing we cannot keep from singing,
from crying out in testimony and praise.
Perhaps this day will be the mountain over which the dawn breaks.
Perhaps we will turn our face toward it, toward what has been always.
Perhaps our eyes will finally open in ancient recognition,
willingly dazzled, illuminated at last.
Perhaps this day the light begins in us.

As the light begins to fade, the Chorale celebrates the sun by singing **Canticle of the Sun**, with text written by St. Francis of Assisi in 1225. Dramatic from the very outset, this piece is a colorful realization of the profound text that glorifies the beauty and significance of the sun.

You arise!
Beauteous in the horizon of the heavens.
Oh brightest star.
The beginning of life.

Laudato te sie, mi Signore cum tucte le Tue creature,
(Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures.)
speti almente messor lo frate Sole,
(And particularly, for brother Sun.)
Io qual `e iorno, et allumini, noi per lui.
(which it is the day, and you send us light through him.)

Et allu `e bellu e radiante cum grande splendore.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
De Te, Altissimo, porta significatione.
Of you, most high, he bears the likeness.
La la...Gloria!
(La, la...all glory!)

Beauteous, your majesty fills the world with radiance.
Oh brightest star.
And set upon the souls of its people,
La gloria!

Close to total eclipse now, we portray the haunting, mysterious wonder of the moon. **Song to the Moon** is a classic story written by the poet, Jaroslav Kvapil, where a magical figure who lives in water has extraordinary powers, including immortality. This water nymph falls in love with a prince, who frequently comes to the lake to drink and hunt. The water nymph, willing to give up immortality for love, asks the moon ("la luna") to find the prince, tell him to return, and tell him that the nymph loves him.

La Luna, your light sees through endless time,
Tell me where my love lies.
O moon e' er you pass, wake my dreaming lover,
I am waiting, I am calling,
Tell him come, tell him, O moon.
Light his place, moon help him remember and dream of me,
Tell him who is waiting, who is longing!
I am waiting, Longing!
Tell him come, tell him, O moon.

Help to remember our laughter and tears,
Memories of summer nights.
Help him remember our triumphs and fears,
May this remembrance waken him!
Tell that I am holding firm for at least a while.
Moon, O moon, don't disappear, O moon, silver moon.

O moon, silver moon in the deep, dark sky,
Your light sees through endless time.
Tell me where my love lies.
Tell him come!
Tell him, O moon.

We now arrive at the total solar eclipse, where we will perform the next three pieces in total darkness. The first of these is **Body of the Moon**. Commissioned by All Classical Portland radio network to mark the occasion of the total solar eclipse in 2017, Desmond Earley's piece—based on the texts of Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)—captures the sense of awe fostered by witnessing such a galactic occurrence. "Body of the Moon" was broadcast across the Pacific Northwest of the United States as millions experienced the totality of the solar eclipse. The phenomenon of the eclipse is represented by the lyrical cello line as the choir gives voice to the words of Galileo: 'Vedere il corpo della luna' ('Behold the body of the moon!'). The bass drum represents the vastness of our solar system, and a lone vocal improvisation speaks to the personal experience of this magical moment.

Vedere, il corpo della Luna. (See the body of the moon.)
Siamo unite de legami invisibili. (We are united by invisible bonds.)
We had perpetual twilight and never darkness,
Perpetuo crepuscolo; (Perpetual twilight;)
Sunlight fading, night comes, surrounding;
Sunlight waning, feel these questions inside of me.
Change this moment; I needed once upon in a lifetime;
To feel it change, to open:
Lord!, inside of me, free this light.
Let it go! Let it be! Live in this moment;
Feel this power inside me!
Take a chance, to wonder, to ponder,
To understand feelings,
this life of beauty, around me.

Following this powerful piece, we continue with **Nox**. Sensing an ominous shadow on the horizon, the choir sings the traditional Kyrie text. Then, a percussive blast of fury disrupts the world as the text turns to "Nox et tenebrae" (night and darkness). Accented rhythms

and mixed meter further create chaos, confusion, and despair.

Kyrie eleison. (Lord have mercy.)
Christe eleison. (Christ have mercy.)
Nox et tenebrae et nubila, (Night and darkness and fog,
confusa mundi et turbida, (confused world and turmoil.)
Caligo terrae scinditur, (dark gloom tears the earth.)
percussa solis spiculo. (beats and stabs the sun.)

Following the furiousness of “Nox,” the choir sings one more piece in total darkness. However, this one is full of hope and longs for the light. The anonymous words of **I Believe** were scrawled on a cellar wall where Jews had hidden in Cologne, Germany during World War II. They have come to symbolize hope in the face of despair.

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

As we move beyond the eclipse and the sun begins to reappear, the Chorale sings **Light Beyond Shadow** by Dan Forrest. This exquisite setting of Paul Wigmore's text invokes light, joy, peace, and hope.

Light beyond shadow, Joy beyond tears,
Love that is greater when darkest our fears;
deeper the Peace when the storm is around,
nearer the Hope to the lost who is found.

Light of the world, ever shining, shining!
Hope in our pain and our dying.
in our darkness, there is Light,
in our crying, there is Love,
in the noise of life imparting
Peace that passes understanding.

Light beyond shadow, Joy beyond tears,
Love that is greater when darkest our fears;
deeper the Peace when the storm is around,
nearer the Hope to the lost who is found.

As the sun appears, our hearts lift with the text of the beloved 1977 song by Dolly Parton, **Light of a Clear Blue Morning**.

It's been a long dark night,
and I've been waiting for the morning.
It's been a long hard fight,
But I see a brand new day a-dawning.

I've been looking for the sunshine,
'cause I ain't seen it in so long.
Everything's gonna work out fine.
Everything's gonna be alright, It's gonna be okay.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
I can see the light of a brand new day.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
Everything's gonna be alright, It's gonna be okay.

As our spirits continue to rise, the choir breaks out into an upbeat, spirited tune. **Day of Fire and Sun**, uses text written by Sara Teasdale.

Oh day of fire and sun,
Pure as a naked flame,
Blue sea, blue sky and dun
Sands where he spoke my name;
Laughter and hearts so high
That the spirit flew off free,
Lifting into the sky
Diving into the sea;
Oh day of fire and sun
Like a crystal burning,
Slow days go one by one,
But you have no returning.

Returning once again to full sunlight, we share **Capture the Sun** by Eric Tsavdar. The text and the music are equally expressive and dramatic. The song's powerful message motivates us to reach for the sun ... and capture it.

I got up to see the sunrise today.
They said, "Don't bother; there'll be too many clouds in the way."
My day has only begun, I'll show them all, wait and see;
I'm gonna capture the sun.
From the edge of the light,
I will wait for the sun.
At the end of the night,
I'm gonna get it, gotta try or I'll regret it.
Will you follow me, in a life on the run?
Will you still be here when I capture the sun?
At the end of the day, what will everyone say,
When they see that we found our way?
Through the motions, I go day after day,
Working hard, but never fading away.
So keep an eye on me now;
I'll show you all,
Wait and see; I'm gonna capture the sun.
And the world spins round.
I will wait for the sun.

What a light I' ve found.
I' m gonna get it, gotta try or I' ll regret it.
They won' t stand a chance when they see
That the sun' s in the palm of my hand!
I lay down, it was quarter to one.
"Rest your head," you said.
"The work day is done."
This is the way it will be,
Only for now, wait and see;
We' re gonna capture the sun.

As we complete this performance, we end with a message of light, joy, and hope. **You are the New Day** is a love song to each new dawn, with all its hope and opportunity.

You are the new day.
I will love you more than me
And more than yesterday
If you can but prove to me
You are the new day.
Send the sun in time for dawn,
Let the birds all hail the morning.
Love of life will urge me say,
You are the new day.
When I lay me down at night
Knowing we must pay,
Thoughts occur that this night might
Stay yesterday.
Thoughts that we as humans small
Could slow worlds and end it all
Lie around me where they fall
Before the new day.
One more day when time is running out
For everyone,
Like a breath I knew would come I reach for
The new day.
Hope is my philosophy,
Just needs days in which to be.
Love of life means hope for me,
Borne on a new day,
You are the new day.

We hope that this performance was both moving and memorable for you.

Thank you for your continued support of the Genesee
Chorale!


THE GENESEE CHORALE

Ric Jones, Music Director
Janine Fagnan, Associate Conductor
Doug Hanson, Accompanist

SOPRANO

Dorothy Carrigan*
Marsha Coy
Ruth Doyle
Joan Ellison
Sarah Hill
Merry Lou Holley  ^
Janus Mary Jones
Veronica Michels
Diane Ohlson
Jessie Pierce
Charlene Schoenenberger
Caryn Wood*


TENOR

Alan Barcomb 
Janine Fagnan
Lori Johnson
Mark Ross
Eric Wood*

ALTO

Marie Barcomb
Patti Bartz
Deborah Davis
Lindsay Edwards*
Marianne Garigen*
Julie Graham*
Nancy Hoag ^
Karen Jones
Kathy Meloon  *
Jennifer Neroni-Trupo
Amy Perl
Rene Pierce
Cathryn Preston
Denise Spadaccia

BASS

George Graham*
Keith Konopa 
Darrell Oakes*
Ron DeFazio
Jim Ellison
Chuck Herman
Dan Shonn

* Genesee Chorale Board of Directors

 Section Leader

^ Music librarian

OUR PATRONS

Our members volunteer their time to rehearse and perform because they love to sing. But, as with all fine arts, it is an expensive love! We are challenged by the costs of paper, printing, postage, performance hall rental, advertising, and new music. Ticket revenues cover only a portion of season expenses.

The following supporters are essential to ensuring that the Genesee Chorale is able to continue it's tradition of providing fine choral music to Batavia and the surrounding communities.

Virtuoso

Dr. Alan Barcomb
Dr. Lindsay Edwards
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Maestro

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Patti Bartz
The Family of W. Jerome Smith
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Composer

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Artist

The Coffee Press

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many people who assisted in the production of this program; too numerous to mention. However, we extend a special note of appreciation to:

GoArt! - Thank you for your continual support of The Genesee Chorale and all culture in Genesee and Orleans counties. Without your support, our 53 years of bringing choral music to Batavia and surrounding communities would not be possible.

St. James Episcopal Church - The Genesee Chorale is grateful and proud to call St. James Episcopal Church in Batavia, NY our home. For more information about St. James, please visit their website at stjamesbatavia.org. Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and assistance.

Pavilion Central School District - Thank you for opening your doors to us and allowing us to perform in your beautiful auditorium. In particular, thank you to Mary Jo Pahl for facilitating our use of this space and to Zach Eighmey for your assistance with the lighting.

Philip Nash, Hannah Schuetz, Katrya Cichanowicz, and Bob Holley - Thank you for graciously giving your time and talents to help bring our music to life.

Genesee Chorale Board of Directors - Thank you for your time commitments and incredible dedication to our organization.

Merry Lou Holley & Nancy Hoag - Thank you for keeping our music organized and our folders full!

Join the Genesee Chorale

New members are *ALWAYS* welcome!
Choir membership is open to anyone interested in singing and joining in the camaraderie that we share through music.

Join us for our Fall season starting
September 9, 2024 7:00PM to 9:00PM
St. James Episcopal Church
405 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020

Our performance repertoire consists of a variety of mediums, including major classical works, sacred, secular, Broadway, and contemporary choral works.

For more information:

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