

The Call of Humanity

The Genesee Chorale

Ric Jones, Music Director

Doug Hanson, Accompanist

May 4, 2018

7:00 PM

St. James Episcopal Church

405 East Main Street

Batavia, NY 14020

May 6, 2018

4:00 PM

Pavilion High School Auditorium

7014 Big Tree Road

Pavilion, NY 14525

The Genesee Chorale is proud to call St. James Episcopal Church their home. St. James is located at 405 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020-2395. For more information about St. James, please visit their website at stjamesbatavia.org.



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Together We Are Brian Tate
Janine Fagnan, soloist
Ira Fair, drum set

Prayer René Clausen

The Road Home Stephen Paulus
Amanda Konopa, soloist

Song of the Universal Ola Gjeilo
Lisa Toth & Andrea Peters, violin
Paul-Joseph Struckmann, viola
Brian Donat, cello
Robert Webster, bass

INTERMISSION

There Will Come Soft Rains (of War) Kevin A. Memley
Kelsey Stewart, oboe
Rachel Chrostowski, Kim Cox, Heather Lovelace, Joan Ellison,
Merry Lou Holley, Peggy Thomas, Janine Fagnan, Pat Fussell,
Caryn Wood, Karen Jones, Amanda Konopa, Kathy Meloon

Across the Bridge of Hope Jan Sandström
Rachel Chrostowski, soloist

MLK arr. Bob Chilcott
Fran Thomas, soloist

Harriet Tubman arr. Kathleen McGuire
Ira Fair, cabaça

We Shall Overcome arr. Tom Trenney
Ira Fair, drum

The Waking (World Premiere) Daniel Baldwin
Eric Wood, soloist

Unity Keith Hampton
Ira Fair, drum set

Together We Are

This song is a call for unity written in gospel-style.

Prayer

This text comes from a prayer that was a personal favorite of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, written by Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-1890). Mother Teresa loved this prayer so much that she recited it every day after Communion.

Help me spread Your fragrance wherever I go.

Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.

*Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly
that my life may be only a radiance of Yours.*

*Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I know
will feel Your presence in my soul.*

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only You. Amen.

The Road Home

While commissioned to write a piece for the Dale Warland Singers, Stephen Paulus discovered a tune in a folk song book called "The Lone Wild Bird." He fell in love with it and asked his good friend and colleague, Michael Dennis Browne to write new words for this tune. The tune is taken from "The Southern Harmony Songbook" of 1835. It is pentatonic and that is part of its attraction. Pentatonic scales have been extant for centuries and are prevalent in almost all musical cultures throughout the world. They are universal. Michael crafted three verses and gave it the title "The Road Home." He writes eloquently about "returning" and "coming home" after being lost or wandering. This work is evidence that often the most powerful and beautiful message is often a simple one.

Tell me, where is the road

I can call my own,

That I left, that I lost

So long ago?

All these years I have wandered,

Oh when will I know

There's a way, there's a road

That will lead me home?

*After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream*

*In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.*

*Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong;
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.*

Song of the Universal

Walt Whitman's poems have always been filled with unabashed optimism, exuberance and his unwavering confidence in our deeper humanity – all through the prism of a big, warm, beating heart. These are all qualities found in his Song of the Universal poem.

*Come, said the Muse,
Sing me a song no poet yet has chanted,
Sing me the Universal.
In this broad Earth of ours,
Amid the measureless grossness and the slag,
Enclosed and safe within its central heart,
Nestles the seed Perfection.
By every life a share, or more or less,
None born but it is born—concealed or unconcealed, the seed is waiting.*

*Give me, O God, to sing that thought!
Give me—give him or her I love, this quenchless faith
In Thy ensemble. Whatever else withheld, withhold not from us,
Belief in plan of Thee enclosed in Time and Space;
Health, peace, salvation universal.*

*All, all for Immortality!
 Love, like the light, silently wrapping all!
 Nature's amelioration blessing all!
 The blossoms, fruits of ages—orchards divine and certain;
 Forms, objects, growths, humanities, to spiritual Images ripening.*

There Will Come Soft Rains (of War)

Sara Teasdale's "There Will Come Soft Rains (of War)" explores the notion of human extinction and the natural world's reaction to the absence of humans.

*There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
 And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;
 And frogs in the pools singing at night,
 And wild plum-trees in tremulous white;
 Robins will wear their feathery fire
 Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;*

*And not one will know of the war, not one
 Will care at last when it is done.
 Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree
 If mankind perished utterly;*

*And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn,
 Would scarcely know that we were gone.*

Across the Bridge of Hope

This work had its beginning in Northern Ireland with a boy's dream of peace. 12-year old Shaun McLaughlin wrote a poem together with five friends and won a national contest. Shortly thereafter, Shaun died tragically in the Omagh bombing in 1998. The poem expresses the universal hope for peace in the world.

*Orange and green, it does not matter,
 United now, don't shatter our dream,
 Scatter the seeds of peace over our land,
 So we can travel, hand in hand,
 Across the bridge of hope.*

MLK

In 1984, the Irish rock group U2 included two songs in homage to Martin Luther King on their album, *The Unforgettable Fire*.

“MLK,” which closes the album, is a brief lullaby; a pensive piece with simple lyrics. It was written as an elegy to King. The song has a dreamy, lullaby quality to it which seems to be suggesting, as if speaking to a generation of children and saying, “though the road ahead may have thunderclouds and rain, this too will pass, and your dreams can still be realized. But sleep now, my child, sleep.”

*Sleep, sleep tonight
And may your dreams be realized
If the thunder cloud passes rain
So let it rain, rain down on him
So let it be*

*Sleep, sleep tonight
And may your dreams be realized
If the thunder cloud passes rain
So let it rain, let it rain
Rain on him*

Harriet Tubman

This a cappella arrangement is an inspiring tribute to the heroism of Harriet Tubman. Listen for the vocal percussion effects, rich harmonies, train sounds, and call-and-response singing.

We Shall Overcome

Word for word, the short, simple lyrics of "We Shall Overcome" might be some of the most influential words in the English language.

"We Shall Overcome" has its roots in African American hymns from the early 20th century and was first used as a protest song in 1945, when striking tobacco workers in Charleston, S.C., sang it on their picket line. By the 1950s, the song had been discovered by the young activists of the African American civil rights movement, and it quickly became the movement's unofficial anthem. Its verses were sung on protest marches and in sit-ins, through clouds of tear gas and under rows of police batons, and it brought courage and comfort to bruised, frightened activists as

they waited in jail cells, wondering if they would survive the night. When the long years of struggle ended, and President Lyndon Johnson vowed to fight for voting rights for all Americans, he included a final promise: "We shall overcome."

In the decades since, the song has circled the globe and has been embraced by civil rights and pro-democracy movements in dozens of nations worldwide. From Northern Ireland to Eastern Europe, from Berlin to Beijing, and from South Africa to South America, its message of solidarity and hope has been sung in dozens of languages, in presidential palaces and in dark prisons, and it continues to lend its strength to all people struggling to be free.

As you listen to "We Shall Overcome," think about the reasons it has brought strength and support to so many people for so many years. And remember that someone, somewhere, is singing it right now.

The Waking

The Waking, by Thomas Roethke, is an enigmatic villanelle written in 1953, a year after he got married. In it the poet puts forward various ideas about life and how to live it. A villanelle is based on repeated lines (a refrain) that connects each stanza as the poem progresses.

Theodore Roethke's poetry is known for its exploration of the self through reflection on family and nature; there is plenty of depth and technical skill. His mental illness also caused him to look into the darkness from time to time, recording his inner life in personal poems.

Growing up, he spent lots of time in his father's garden and greenhouses and soil and plants and roots and things often turn up in his work. In fact the greenhouse, for Roethke, was a symbol 'for the whole of life, a womb, a heaven-on-earth.'

The Waking doesn't contain a greenhouse but it does have symbolism and takes the reader into unexpected places. It is both introspective and positive in its outlook.

This composition was the first ever commission by The Genesee Chorale. It is composed by American composer Daniel Baldwin.

*I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.
I feel my fate in what I cannot fear.
I learn by going where I have to go.*

*We think by feeling. What is there to know?
I hear my being dance from ear to ear.
I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.*

*Of those so close beside me, which are you?
God bless the Ground! I shall walk softly there,
And learn by going where I have to go.*

*Light takes the Tree; but who can tell us how?
The lowly worm climbs up a winding stair;
I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.*

*Great Nature has another thing to do
To you and me; so take the lively air,
And, lovely, learn by going where to go.*

*This shaking keeps me steady. I should know.
What falls away is always. And is near.
I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.
I learn by going where I have to go.*

Unity

Unity is a response to all the violence in our cities and around the world. Adapted from Psalm 133, the verses state that unity is like the love of a mother or father holding their child who has been killed because of violence in the street.

Born in 1978 in Blackwell, Oklahoma, Daniel Baldwin is quickly becoming one of the most highly sought after and widely performed composers in the world today. His music has been described as "epic", "refreshingly beautiful", "gorgeous and moving", and "beautifully inspired" by critics around the country. He is an award winning composer who has been commissioned by performers from the top orchestras in the world to include the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, and National Symphony Orchestra, among others as well as prestigious ensembles to



include the Lincoln Symphony, Tulsa Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the West Point Band. His music has been presented on National Public Radio, in prestigious venues around the world such as Carnegie Hall, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, on hundreds of University stages around the world, and at National and International conventions around the world to include the Masterworks Festival, Midwest Clinic, MENC National Convention, Kansas Bandmasters Convention, and at the International Festivals of the associations of Clarinet, Horn, Trombone, and Double Reeds, among others.

An international composer, his music has been performed around the globe in Canada, Italy, Germany, Japan, China, Belgium, and Australia, just to name a few. His music is published exclusively by Imagine Music Publishing, through which he is the editor of a band/orchestra/choir series titled "The Pathways Series".

A frequent guest conductor, he has conducted honor bands across the Midwest and double reed festivals across the country. He has conducted ensemble recitals at the Society of Composers Region VI conference (Rice University), the International Double Reed Convention (New York University and the University of Arizona), and the International Horn Symposium (the Colburn School).

He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Music in Education from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, OK, Master of Music in Composition with an emphasis in Wind Band Conducting from Kansas State University, and a DMA in Composition with an emphasis in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. His primary composition teachers include Eric Richards and Craig Weston as well as additional studies with Max Ridgway and Eric Ewazen. His primary conducting teachers include Michael Knedler at NWOSU, Frank Tracz at Kansas State University, and Tyler Goodrich White at UNL.

Soprano

Rachel Chrostowski
 Kim Cox
 Marsha Coy*
 Phyllis Draycott
 Syd Dziewa
 Joan Ellison
 Wilma Hively
 Merry Lou Holley+
 Maki Ishikawa
 Janus Mary Jones
 Sharon Larsen*
 Heather Lovelace*
 Nanami Nakoyama
 Lois Nicholson
 Diane Ohlson
 Barbara Pierce
 Pamm Seifert
 Sharon Stanley
 Monica Stocum
 Peggy Thomas*
 Kana Tsutsui
 Laura Walthew
 Maya Wakatusu

Bass

Mark Christensen+*
 Ronald DeFazio
 James Diabo
 Jim Ellison*
 Charles Gould
 George Graham
 Richard Heye
 Robert Holley
 Harry Long
 Darrel Oakes
 Francis Thomas
 Dan Warner

Alto

Mary Adamson
 Marie Barcomb
 Patti Bartz
 Jessica Beal
 Holly Castleman
 Jane Christensen
 Deborah Davis
 Patty Drew+
 Janine Fagnan*
 Linda Fry
 Cindy Furman*
 Pat Fussell
 Marianne Garigen
 Julie Graham
 Nancy Hoag*
 Brenda Houk
 Karen Jones
 Elizabeth Kerwin
 Amanda Konopa
 Vicki Long
 Jackie McDaniel
 Kathy Meloon
 Amy Perl*
 Kara Richenberg
 Anne Stevens
 Lilo Townsend
 Caryn Wood

Tenor

Alan Barcomb+*
 Beth Boyce
 Tom Cox
 Anne Ortwein
 Mark Ross
 Norm Woodworth
 Eric Wood
 Eric Zwieg

+ Section leader

* Genesee Chorale Board member

GO ART!

For your continual support of The Genesee Chorale and all culture in Genesee and Orleans counties. Without your support, our 46 years of bringing choral music to Batavia and surrounding communities would not be possible.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are proud to call St. James Episcopal Church our home. Thank you for your generosity, patience, and hospitality.

PAVILION CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

For opening your doors and allowing us to use your beautiful auditorium.

BARB KING

For your patience and kindness in helping with all of our logistics at St. James Episcopal Church.

OUR GUEST INSTRUMENTALISTS

Ira Fair
Lisa Toth
Andrea Peters
Paul-Joseph Struckmann
Brian Donat
Robert Webster

JANINE FAGNAN & HEATHER LOVELACE

Thank you for giving your time and talents in leading extra sectionals and rehearsals. Your dedication is sincerely appreciated.

OUR RISER CREW

Joe Nugent
Noah Pencille

THE GENESEE CHORALE BOARD MEMBERS

For their time commitments and incredible dedication to our organization.