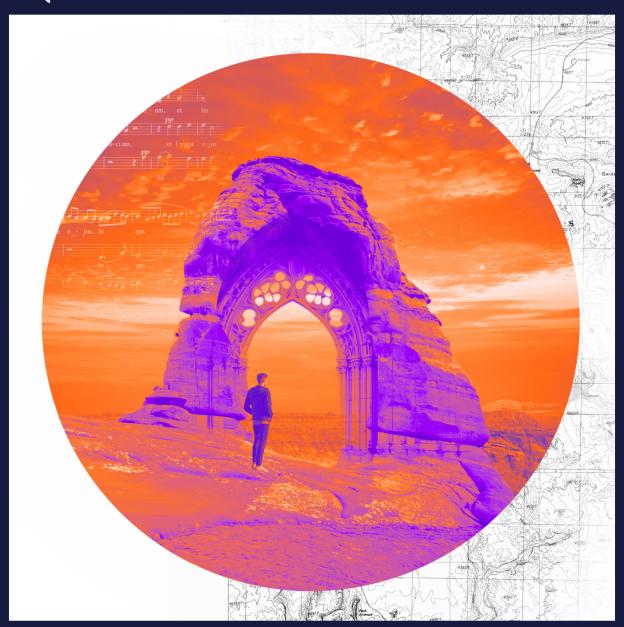
NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR



HEALING our legacy

With gratitude for the lives of our Saints, we recognize those who were memorialized with a gift to the National Lutheran Choir in the past year (10/01/2023 – 10/08/2024).

In memory of **Bror and Trudie Anderson** from Eldri and Michael Wittkamper

In memory of **Susan Palo Cherwien** from Patricia and William Freiert Ulla Thompson

In memory of **Myra DeNeui** from Diane Collins Amy Jensen

In memory of **Shirley Espeland** from Mari Espeland and Ken Dahlberg Cindy and David Folin

In memory of **John Folin** from Dillon Concert Association Mary Freng-Gunderson Paul and Nancy Olson

In memory of **Marilyn Elness Froiland** from Carolyn Bliss

In memory of **Judy Gilje** from Elizabeth M. Strom

In memory of **Rick Glasgow** from Linda Glasgow

In memory of **Marie Halda** from Elizabeth M. Strom

In memory of **Paul Janssen** from Mary Alice and Michael Long

In memory of **Pastor Zachary Johnson** from Kristin Johnson

In memory of **Pastor Naomi Lynum Mahler** from Todd Lynum

In memory of **Katie G. Miller** from Elizabeth M. Strom

In memory of Susanne Nelson from Julie Westby

In memory of **Reidun "Rae" Newquist** from Leif and Claudia Hartmark

In memory of The Rev. Paul E. Peterson from

Loren J. and Maryann W. Anderson

Vicki Brunsvold

Birgitte and John Christianson Carrie and Daniel Dauner

Ruth Halvorson

Peter Hesse

Rev. Charles W. and Karen A. Humphrey

Miriam and Steve Kagol

Elaine and Morris Larson

Diana J. Leland

Elizabeth and Thomas Pfeifer

Gregory Peterson and Ann Sponberg Peterson

Suzanne and John Stendahl Eldri and Michael Wittkamper

Lorna Wolthoff

In memory of **Roger Riley** from Storylink Creative

From the Director

Dear friends,

As I crafted the story of "Healing: Our Legacy," I kept in mind the important role the annual All Saints concert plays for our community members, particularly those who have lost loved ones. While searching for music, I came across Alex Berko's *Sacred Place*. The composition is structured around a Jewish prayer service and incorporates naturalist poetry to explore the human connection with the earth. As I delved into the lyrics, I found myself drawn to a passage from Genesis where God tells Adam, "From dust you are, and from dust you will return." This reminded me of our intrinsic connection to the earth and how our legacy of caring for the planet continues long after we are gone.

The central movement of the work "Mi Shebeirach" (Prayer for the Sick) starts with the traditional prayer: "May the source of strength that blessed the ones before us help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing." In the context of an All Saints concert, this is the moment where we focus on those who are left behind when a loved one dies. We commemorate them but focus on comfort and hope for those who remain. This is the only movement of the work that includes a small phrase in Hebrew: "r'fuah sh'leimah," meaning "complete healing" or "restoration of body and spirit." We draw strength from a faith that gives us hope and allows us to take courage from the legacy of those who have gone before us.

The use of natural imagery in Berko's work is both literal and symbolic. Interspersed between movements are pieces that connect nature imagery with God's work within us. The choir will convey the truth of righteousness, as taught through

ancient texts, stories, and the faith of our ancestors. These texts are used by Anton Bruckner in his motet "Os Justi" (the mouth of the righteous) and Brahms' motet "Unsere Väter hofften auf dich" (our fathers hoped in thee). These truths are carried within us as God invites us to allow his spirit to dwell within us. Caroline Shaw's setting of Psalm 84, "and the swallow," includes the text "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts." We are God's dwelling place on earth, and it is our legacy to demonstrate how God works in and through all of us. Finally, we contemplate creation and look toward heaven in two of Alice Parker's settings focusing on God and nature, "God Is Seen" and "Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal."

Today, we also honor the newly born saints. Ysaÿe M. Barnwell's piece, "We Are," invites us to reflect on hope and unity. Each of us is an integral part of the fabric of time and space and embody the spirit of God on earth. Our memory will live on through the work of those who come after us. We hope this concert provides a space for you to embrace the legacy that is uniquely yours because you are a part of it.

Soli Deo Gloria,

There is no intermission during *Healing: Our Legacy*. When possible, please only leave or enter the performance space during spoken reflections or transitional music to help preserve the concert experience of those around you.

The National Lutheran choir recognizes that God's existence cannot be limited to any one gender. Predominately masculine imagery and language for God has marginalized members of our community, especially women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. When possible, the NLC strives to use inclusive language when referring to God and humanity. There are times when musical and poetic material has not been changed in this program to preserve the intentions of the composer and poet or because copyright laws prohibit changes. The spirit in which we offer our musical gifts is one of inclusivity for all humanity.

HEALING our legacy

Please hold all applause until the end of the program.

God is Seen

arr. Alice Parker (1925-2023)

Through all the world below,
God is seen all around;
search hills and valleys through,
there he's found.
The growing of the corn,
the lily and the thorn,
the pleasant and forlorn,
all declare, God is there,
in meadows dressed in green,
God is seen.

See springing waters rise, fountains flow, rivers run; the mist that veils the sky hides the sun.
Then down the rain doth pour, the ocean, it doth roar,

the ocean, it doth roar, and beat upon the shore, and all praise, in their ways, the God who ne'er declines His designs. The sun with all his rays speaks of God as he flies: the comet in her blaze 'God', she cries; the shining of the stars, the moon, when she appears, His awful name declares; see them fly through sky, and join the solemn sound all around.

- Southern Harmony, 1835

Os Justi

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Sung in Latin

Os justi meditabitur sapientiam, et lingua ejus loquetur judicium. Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius, et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus. Alleluia. The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, and their tongues speak justice.
The teaching of their God is in their heart, and their footsteps do not falter.

Alleluia.

- Based on Psalm 37:30-31

Responsive Reading

Leader: Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;

come to the mercy-seat, fervently kneel.

Here bring your wounded hearts,

here tell your anguish;

Assembly: earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.

— Thomas Moore (1779-1852

Sacred Place

Alex Berko Soloist: Will Heller

I. Opening Prayer

In the dusk of the river, the wind gone, the leaves grow still—the beautiful poise of lightness, the heavy world pushing toward it.

—Wendell Berry Excerpt from "The Porch over the River"

II. Amidah

"How softly these mountain rocks are adorned, and how fine and reassuring the company they keep – their brows in the sky, their feet set in groves and gay emerald meadows, a thousand flowers leaning confidingly against their adamantine bosses, while birds bees butterflies help the river and waterfalls to stir all the air into music – things frail and fleeting and types of permanence meeting here and blending as if into this glorious mountain temple Nature had gathered her choicest treasures, whether great or small to draw her lovers into close confiding communion with her."

—John Muir to Teddy Roosevelt (on preserving Yosemite National Park)

and the swallow

Caroline Shaw

how beloved is your dwelling place, o lord of hosts my soul yearns; my heart and my flesh cry out the sparrow found a house, and the swallow, her nest where she may raise her young they pass through the valley of bakka they make it a place of springs the autumn rains also cover it with pools

-based on Psalm 84:1-3, 5-6

Psalm 95:1-7

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.



What Joyous Song Unfolding

Zebulon M. Highben

Stanza 1-3: Choir, Stanza 4: All sing

What joyous song unfolding has called us in the night; what loving voice imploring has drawn us into light; the voice of God is singing, the heartbeat of the spheres; it echoes in all being and calls us still to hear.

The mountains sing the story; the forests clap their hands; the stars sing forth God's glory; the seas, the hills, the lands. Shall we alone be silent? Shall we not sing God's praise, whose son is ever present, whose voice enchants our days?

Then let us breathe together to praise the God of Life, and so conspire to sunder disharmony and strife, that sighing cede to singing, and beauty life renew; that wisdom tune our being, and love all fear subdue.

Stand as you are able. All sing:



-Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021)

Fest- und Gedenksprüche (Opus 109) I. Unsere Väter

Johannes Brahms (1883-1897)

Sung in German

Unsere Väter hofften auf dich; Our ancestors put their trust in you, Und da sie hofften, halfst du ihnen aus. they trusted, and you rescued them.

Sie hofften auf dich und wurden nicht zu Schanden. they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

Zu dir schrieen sie und wurden errettet; They cried out to you and were delivered;

Der Herr wird seinem Volk Kraft geben; O Lord give strength to your people; Der Herr wird sein Volk segnen mit Frieden.

give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

-Psalm 22:5, 6 and Psalm 29:11

From Grief to Glory, II. Love in Grief

F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)

O love, so brief appearing within a summer day, as rapture in a temple whose colonnades are clay! O love and loved in sorrow lie fallow and forlorn while God prepares the morrow, the endless wedding morn.

-Oscar R. Overby (1892-1964)

Responsive Reading

Leader: Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,

hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure; here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,

Assembly: "earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot cure."

—Thomas Moore (1779-1852)

Sacred Place

III. Shema

*Parenthetical portions of the original poem are not included in the musical setting. Soloists: Logan Combs, Anna Streeper

The earth says have a place, be what that place requires; hear the sound the birds imply and see as deep as ridges go behind each other. (Some people call their scenery flat, their only pictures framed by what they know: I think around them rise a riches and a loss

too equal for their chart – but absolutely tall.)*

The earth says every summer have a ranch that's minimum: one tree, one well, a landscape that proclaims a universe–sermon of the hills, hallelujah mountain, highway guided by the way the world is tilted, reduplication of mirage, flat evening: a kind of ritual for the wavering.

> The earth says where you live wear the kind of color that your life is (grey shirt for me)* and by listening with the same bowed head that sings draw all things into one song, join the sparrow on the lawn, and row that easy way, the rage without met by the wings within that guide you anywhere the wind blows.

Listening, I think that's what the earth says.

-William Stafford (1914-1993)

When We Love

Elaine Hagenberg

The towering tree spreads his greening canopy

—A veil between the soil and sky—

Not in selfish vanity,

But the gentle thrush to shade and shelter.

So it is with love.

For when we love,
Simply love,
Even as we are loved,
Our weary world can be transformed.

The busy thrush builds her nest below

—A fortnight's work to weave and set—

Not for herself alone,

But her tender brood to shield and cherish.

And so it is with love.

For when we love,
Simply love,
Even as we are loved,
Our weary world can be transformed
Into the Kingdom of God.

- Charles Anthony Silvestri

Love III.

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back, Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack From my first entrance in,

Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning If I lacked anything.

"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here": Love said, "You shall be he."

"I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee."

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, "Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord; but I have marred them; let my shame Go where it doth deserve."

"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"
"My dear, then I will serve."

"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."

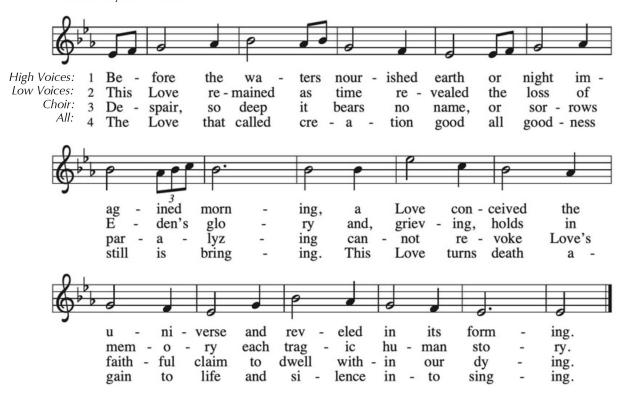
So I did sit and eat.

-George Herbert (1593-1633)

Before the Waters Nourished Earth

Irish Melody

Stand as you are able.



John 3:16

B.E. Boykin

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life

-John 3:16

Names displayed during this portion of the program are of those we are remembering today.



Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers

Timothy C. Takach

And I believe. So I believe.

I will lift my eyes to the hills.
There, dost thou well believe, no storm should come to mar the stillness of that angel-home; there should thy slumbers be weighed down with honey-dew, serenely blessed.

And I believe. So I believe.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, neither angels, nor demons, nor powers, neither things present nor things to come, neither height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God.

I do believe.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

—Psalm 121:1; Felicia Dorothea Hemans; Romans 8:38-39; Revelation 7:17

Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal

arr. Alice Parker (1925-2023)

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore, as I near those swollen waters, with their deep and solemn roar.

Refrain:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Glory to the great I AM.

And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day, passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away. [Refrain]

Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest; and I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest. [Refrain]

—Traditional

We Are

Ysaÿe M. Barnwell Soloist: Abs Trewin

For each child that's born, a morning star rises and sings to the universe who we are.

We are our grandmothers' prayers, and we are our grandfathers' dreamings, we are the breath of our ancestors, we are the spirit of God.

We are mothers of courage and fathers of time, we are daughters of dust and the sons of great visions, we're sisters of mercy and brothers of love, we are lovers of life and the builders of nations, we're seekers of truth and keepers of faith, we are makers of peace and the wisdom of ages.

-Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

Names displayed during this portion of the program are of those whose births we are celebrating today.

He's Got the Whole World in His Hand

arr. Keith Hampton Soloist: Janet Satern

He's got the whole world in his hand, he's got the whole world in his hand, He's got the whole world in his hand, he's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the woods and the water in his hand, he's got the woods and the water in his hand, He's got the sun and the moon right in his hand, he's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the birds and the bees right in his hand, he's got the birds and the bees right in his hand, He's got the beasts of the field right in his hand, he's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got you and me right in his hand, he's got you and me right in his hand, He's got ev'ry body in his hand, he's got the whole world in his hand.

-Traditional Negro Spiritual

Responsive Reading

Leader: Let us see God's goodness, shown in all the earth

from far and near appears, faithful and true

"I have loved you with an everlasting love."

Assembly: Earth has no sorrow heaven cannot console.

- Jeremiah 31:3, adapt. Jennaya Robison

Sacred Place

IV. Mi Shebeirach

May the source of strength
Who blessed the ones before us
Help us find the courage
to make our lives a blessing
And let us say Amen

Bless those in need of healing with r'fuah sh'leimah The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit And let us say Amen

-Old Testament

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Shall We Gather at the River

arr. Jennaya Robison

Choir:

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throned of God?

Refrain:

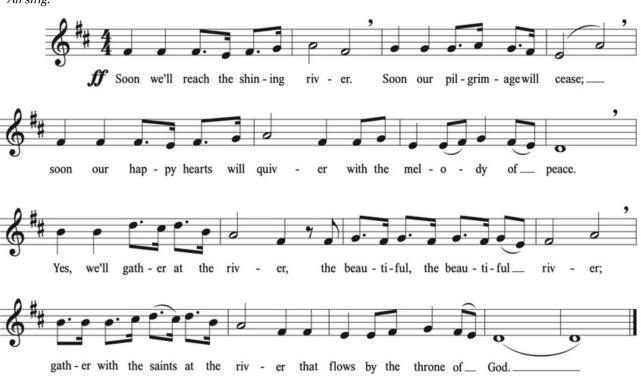
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throned of God

Choir:

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down; grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.

[Refrain]

Stand as you are able. All sing:



-Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Responsive Reading

Leader: Here, see the Bread of Life; see waters flowing

forth from the throne of God, pure from above. Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing

Assembly: earth has no sorrow but heaven can remove.

—Thomas Hastings (1784-1872)

Sacred Place

V. Kaddish

Soloists: Zack Carlson-Giving, Logan Combs, Maddie Smoot

"Let my thoughts come to you, when I am gone, like the afterglow of sunset at the margin of starry silence."

- Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

VI. Closing Prayer Soloist: Will Heller

In the dusk of the river, the wind gone, the leaves grow still— The beautiful poise of lightness, The heavy world pushing toward it.

> —Wendell Berry Excerpt from "The Porch over the River"



National Lutheran Choir

Jennaya Robison, Artistic Director Shaun Halland, Assistant Conductor

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Dan Streeper

Shane Streeper-Wilson

Riley Unzicker

Josh Vidervol

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Marc Levine, Violin Laura Sewell, Cello Anne Wilson, Collaborative Pianist Gethsemane Lutheran Church Chair David Lim, Organ

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The National Lutheran Choir

The National Lutheran Choir is rooted in its mission to celebrate, invigorate, and expand sacred choral music, bringing inspiration and meaning to people of diverse faiths and backgrounds. Founded in 1986 by the late Larry Fleming, grown under the direction of David Cherwien from 2002-2023, and now led by Jennaya Robison, the National Lutheran Choir sings a spiritual story through diverse repertoire including selections from early chant and simple folk anthems to complex choral masterworks and new compositions. Currently in its 39th year, the National Lutheran Choir features a roster of more than 70 volunteer singers from various backgrounds and faith traditions. In addition to concertizing in the Twin Cities and on annual tours, the choir serves a national audience through artfully produced digital content, concert livestreams, and other releases on YouTube, as well as through a Virtual Subscription program. A discography of 36 recordings showcases the ensemble's music making over the years and presents hymns, choral classics, contemporary works, spirituals, and major new works commissioned by the National Lutheran Choir. Much of this influential new work is featured in MorningStar Music Publishers' collection, the "National Lutheran Choir Series." The National Lutheran Choir has been honored with the Wittenberg Award from the Luther Institute, Chorus America's Margaret Hillis Award, and the Dale Warland Singers Commissioning Award.

Jennaya Robison, Artistic Director



Dr. Jennaya Robison is the Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir (Minneapolis, MN) and is a highly accomplished conductor, educator, and soprano. Her extensive work in the field of choral conducting includes serving as the Raymond R. Neevel/Missouri Associate Professor and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory until 2023, Associate Professor of Choral Music at Luther College from 2013 to 2020, and founding Scottsdale Musical Arts in 2009. Robison frequently appears at regional and national choral conferences and seminars; regularly leads All-State and honor choirs, workshops, and festivals; and has taught courses in choral singing and global connection in the United States, Namibia, South Africa, Germany, and Italy. She is the editor of the National Lutheran Choir Series with MorningStar Music Publishers and the Jennaya Robison Series with Pavane Publishing, and she is an active arranger and composer of choral music. She is the national chair of Music in Worship for the American Choral Directors Association. She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the University of Arizona, the Master of Music in conducting and voice from the University of New Mexico, and an undergraduate degree in music (education and voice) from Luther College.

Shaun Halland, Assistant Conductor

Shaun Halland is the Director of Music and Worship at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Shoreview, MN. There, he leads all facets of the music and worship life and curates a concert series that features a wide range of musical offerings. He has served many churches as a worship and music leader throughout the Twin Cities as well as taught high school vocal music for 18 years. He also works as a freelance collaborative pianist and choral clinician. Shaun has sung with The National Lutheran Choir since 2002 and assumed roles as Tenor Section Leader and Assistant Conductor in 2021. He has also sung with The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Chorale, Invocation, Pop-Up Choir and The Summer Singers. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for ACDA-MN and is a member of ALCM and AGO. He holds a Bachelor Degree from Luther College in Vocal Music Education and a Master of Sacred Music in Choral Conducting from Luther Seminary.

Anne Wilson, Collaborative Pianist

Anne Wilson serves as the Collaborative Pianist for the NLC. She graduated from Luther College in 2020 with a BA in Religion and Piano Performance. Anne has been active in music since a young age, learning piano from her mother. While at Luther, Anne studied under John Strauss, professor of music, Nicholas Shaneyfelt, associate professor of music, and Xiao Hu, associate professor of music. In addition to her private studies, Anne also collaborated with a variety of vocal and instrumental students, as well as serving as the pianist for the Nordic Choir, Collegiate Chorale and Aurora. In 2019, Anne received the Lucille Stansberry Rosholt Award for Distinction in Accompanying and Collaborative Keyboard Performance. Anne continues to do freelance collaborative piano work around the Twin Cities area, while also working as an Event Specialist at Chowgirls Catering in Northeast Minneapolis.

Marc Levine, Violin

Marc Levine enjoys a career as a chamber musician and orchestral leader with Early Music Minnesota, of which he is a cofounder, as well as with the Bach Society of Minnesota and the Lyra Baroque Orchestra, among others. A prizewinner in the 2008 American Bach Soloists International Competition for Baroque Violin, Marc has played with many excellent early music ensembles across the United States and has recorded for Early Music New York on the Ex Cathedra label and with the Lyra Baroque Orchestra on the Violetear label. As an educator, Marc has spoken, coached, and presented lecture recitals at universities and in various series on historical performance as well as entrepreneurship. He also was a preconcert lecturer for the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra from 2017–19. Marc has held residencies with Minnesota Youth Symphonies and Minnesota Public Radio, where his playing has been featured many times on-air.

Laura Sewell, Cello

Laura Sewell has performed as a cellist in Europe, Asia, Canada, and throughout the United States. Locally she has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, Guthrie Theatre, Minnesota Beethoven Festival, Dale Warland Singers, Cantus, and numerous chamber ensembles. Radio appearances have included "A Prairie Home Companion" and "Saint Paul Sunday." Laura was the founder of the award-winning Lark Quartet, which was the bronze medal winner in the Banff International String Quartet Competition. She has performance degrees from the Juilliard School and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Currently, Laura is a faculty member of the International Cello Institute and a member of the Isles Ensemble, a chamber music collective based in Minneapolis. She released a highly-acclaimed CD in 2022, called "Threescore," of works by Minnesota composers for cello and piano on the Innova label.

David Lim, Organ

David Lim holds degrees from Gustavus Adolphus College and the University of Iowa. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Oklahoma. Lim was the winner of the 2014 Immanuel Lutheran Church Organ Scholar Award, and in 2021 he was the recipient of the Provost's Certificate of Distinction in Teaching at the University of Oklahoma. An enthusiastic pedagogue and researcher, David has presented at the American Guild of Organists National Convention and the THEMUS Conference at Temple University in Philadelphia. His musicological research has been published by the Organ Historical Society and The Diapason. Having served Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Lutheran parishes in Minnesota, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Texas, he now serves at St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church in White Bear Lake and on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

The National Lutheran Choir gives great thanks for all of those who have made a charitable contribution between October 1, 2023 – October 8, 2024. Your support makes this concert - and so much more - possible.

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Friday, Feb. 28th | 7:00pm | Decorah, IA Saturday, Mar. 1st |7:30pm | St. Cloud, MN Sunday, Mar. 2nd | 4:00pm | St. Paul, MN



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Sunday, May 4th | 4:00pm | Minneapolis

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