



Anne Frank:

A Living Voice

Presented by Schola Cantorum



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Choral Activities

Program

Theme From “Schindler’s List”.....John Williams
Dr. Serena Scibelli, soloist & Willow Caldwell, violinist

Anne Frank: A Living Voice.....Linda Tutas Haugan
Gabriella Arbesfeld, narrator

- I. It is the Silence
- II. My Nerves
- III. Hanneli
- IV. Sunshine and Cloudless Sky
- V. My Work
- VI. Peter

Even When He Is Silent.....Kim André Arnesen

**This performance is dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust and to all
victims of antisemitism.**

Thursday, April 3rd, 2025

5pm - 9pm Viewing | 5pm - 7pm Funeral Service

The Life of Anne Frank

June 12th, 1929–March 31st, 1945



Anne Frank was a Jewish girl who was born on June 12, 1929, in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1933, her family fled the rising Nazi government and settled in Amsterdam, Netherlands. In 1942, when World War II took a downward turn, Anne and her family went into hiding in a secret annex above her father's business to escape Nazi persecution. During her time in hiding, Anne kept a diary, documenting her thoughts, ideas, fears, and experiences.

Her diary, which she affectionately called "Kitty," became a monumental account of her life under the constant threat of being discovered. Anne wrote about her personal struggles, the tensions between families in the annex, and her dreams for a better future. In 1944, the annex was betrayed, and Anne and her family were arrested by the Nazis. She passed away in 1945 in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp from typhus, just a few weeks before the camp was liberated.

After her death, Anne's father, Otto Frank, was the only member of the family to survive. He found Anne's diary and worked to have it published. It was first published in 1947 under the title *The Diary of a Young Girl* and has since become one of the most well-known and touching works of literature from the Holocaust. Anne Frank's diary has been translated into over 70 languages and remains a symbol of the enduring spirit of those who lived through the horrors of World War II.



A Living Voice

I. It is the Silence

July 11th, 1942. “It is the silence that frightens me so in the evenings and at night[...]I can’t tell you how oppressive it is [to] never go outdoors[...]I’m very afraid that we shall be discovered and shot[...]We have to whisper and tread lightly during the day, [or] the people in the warehouse might hear us. Someone is calling me.”

January 13th, 1943. “Terrible things are happening outside. At any time of[...]day,[...]helpless people are being dragged out of their homes[...]Families are torn apart; men, women, and children are separated[...]Everyone is scared,[...]the entire world is at war,[...]and [...]the end is nowhere in sight[...]All we can do is wait[...]for it to end. Jews and Christians alike are waiting, the whole world is waiting, and many are waiting for death.”

II. My Nerves

October 29th, 1943. “My nerves often get the better of me, especially on Sundays[...]The atmosphere is stifling, sluggish, [and heavy as lead]. Outside you don’t hear a single bird, and a deathly[...]silence hangs over the house and clings to me as if it were going to drag me into the deepest regions of the underworld[...]I wander from room to room, climb up and down the stairs and feel like a songbird whose wings have been ripped off and who keeps hurling itself against the bars of its dark cage. ‘Let me out, where there’s fresh air and laughter!’

A Living Voice

A voice within me cries. I don't bother[...]to reply anymore, but lie down[...]Sleep makes the silence and the terrible fear go by more quickly, helps pass the time since it's impossible to kill it."

November 8th, 1943. "I simply can't imagine the world will ever be normal for us again.

III. Hanneli

November 27th, 1943. "Last night just as I was falling asleep, Hanneli suddenly appeared before me. I saw her there dressed in rags, her face thin and worn. She looked at me with such sadness[...]in her enormous eyes[...]And I can't help her. I can only stand by and watch while other people suffer and die[...]Merciful God, comfort her, so that at least she won't be alone[...]if only You could tell her I'm thinking of her with compassion and love, it might help her go on."

IV. Sunshine and Cloudless Sky

February 23rd, 1944. "I go to the attic almost every morning[...]This morning[...]Peter was[...]cleaning up. He finished quickly and came over to where I was sitting[...]on the floor. The two of us [Peter and I] looked out at the blue sky, the bare chestnut tree glistening with dew, the seagulls and other birds glinting with silver as they swooped through the air, and we were so moved and entranced that we couldn't speak[...]We breathed in the air, looked outside, and both felt that the spell shouldn't be broken[...]As long as this exists,[...]this sunshine and this cloudless sky, and as long as I can enjoy it, how can I be sad?"

A Living Voice

March 7th, 1944. “I lie in bed at night, after ending my prayers with the words, ‘thank you God for all that is good and dear and beautiful,’ and I’m filled with joy[...]At such moments I don’t think about all the misery, but about the beauty that still remains[...]”

V. My Work

April 4th/5th, 1944. “For a long time now I didn’t know why I was bothering to do any[...]work. The end of the war[...]seemed so far away, so unreal, like a fairy tale[...]Until Saturday night[...]I slid to the floor[...]and began[...]saying my prayers[...]I drew my knees to my chest, lay my head on my arms and cried[...]I finally realized that I must do my[...]work[...]to get on in life, to become a journalist, because that’s what I want! I know I can write[...]I don’t want to have lived in vain[...]I want to go on living even after my death[...]I’m so grateful to God for [giving] me this gift which I can use[...]to express all that’s inside me! When I write I can shake off[...]my cares. My sorrow disappears, my spirits are revived!”

April 11th, 1944. “One day this terrible war will be over. The time will come when we’ll be people again and not just Jews!”

A Living Voice

VI. Peter

April 19th, 1944. “Is there anything more beautiful in the world than to sit before an open window and[...]listen to the birds singing, feel the sun on your cheeks and have a darling boy in your arms? It is so soothing and peaceful to feel his arms around me, to know that he is close by and yet to remain silent[...]this tranquility is good. Oh, never to be disturbed again[...]”

Even When He Is Silent

“I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining. I believe in love even when I feel it not. I believe in God even when He is silent.”

“I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart. It’s utterly impossible for me to build my life on a foundation of chaos, suffering and death. I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too will end, that peace and tranquility will return once more.”

- Anne Frank, July 15th, 1944, three weeks before her arrest

Program Notes

Anne Frank: A Living Voice was commissioned by the San Francisco Girls Chorus in celebration of its Silver Anniversary. The text is based on excerpts from *The Diary of Anne Frank*, taken from the 1952 and 1991 English translations of the book. The first section, "It Is The Silence," was premiered by Chorissima, the concert, recording, and touring ensemble of the San Francisco Girls Chorus, on November 1st, 2002, and the entire composition in seven movements premiered on May 6th, 2004.

Anne Frank was between 13 and 15 years old when she wrote her *Diary*, while living in a secret upstairs annex over a warehouse in Amsterdam with her family, the Van Pels family, and Fritz Pfeffer. Despite all the fears and frustrations she experienced in over two years of hiding from the Nazis, Anne learned how to survive, to find beauty in small things, and to hold on to her ideals.

Composer Linda Tutas Haugen is a prolific American composer, performer, and teaching artist whose impressive catalogue of over 48 works have been performed throughout the United States and in Europe. She finds inspiration for her works in a variety of historical, literary, and ethnic sources, and *Anne Frank: A Living Voice* is no different. Haugen writes, "My goals for this composition are to honor the life of Anne Frank, and to give a deeper understanding of what she, her family, and friends experienced during the Holocaust."

The text excerpts are chronologically arranged, and span more than two years. They portray a psychological progression from fear and despair to strength and hope. The first three movements explore the grim reality of the war and her situation. Anne's feelings of helplessness are expressed when she discovers that one of her best friends, Hanneli Goslar, has been captured and deported.

Program Notes

In the next three movements, she finds meaning and purpose in nature, her writing, and her first love with Peter Van Pels. She recognizes the chaos and destruction of society and faces the likelihood that she and her family will not survive. Amazingly, she is able to look beyond the present and herself, to a time when she believes that peace will return. The hope that one day she would be able to realize her ideals and dreams gives her strength and courage.

Through her words, Anne Frank portrays the triumph of the human spirit in the midst of suffering and cruelty. Otto Frank, Anne's father and only annex survivor, states: "I hope that Anne's book will have an effect on the rest of your life so that insofar as it is possible in your circumstances, you will work for unity and peace." Haugen adds: "It is my hope that *Anne Frank: A Living Voice*, sung by these young women, will also be an inspiration to this end."

The *Diary* has been published in over 70 languages, and over 31 million copies have been sold.



Kim André Arnesen is a Norwegian composer whose music career began at the ripe age of six. His music has sold in six-figure numbers and has been performed in over 50 countries. *Even When He Is Silent* was commissioned by the St. Olaf festival in Trondheim, Norway, the assignment being to write two separate versions—one for SATB choir and one for SSAA choir, both unaccompanied. The SSAA version was premiered only a few days after the terrorist attacks in Oslo and Utøya in 2011.

The text featured in the piece was found written on a wall at a concentration camp after World War II. Arnesen writes about the text, "As I read them, it was a Credo—when everything is dark and difficult in life you might wonder where God is, or if God is there at all. This is about keeping faith in God, love, and hope[...]Even if people take away your freedom, your friends, the people you love—they cannot take God away from you."

Schola Cantorum

Conductor: Dr. Phillip Stockton

Violin: Dr. Serena Scibelli

Violin: Sara Miranda

Viola: Jordan Wayne

Cello: Dr. Amy Catron

Piano: Rachel Wood

Heaven Alvarado
Gabriella Arbesfeld
Andrea Bailey
Claire Anne Boudreaux
La'Miyah Bounds
Kylie Bush
Asia Chambers
Sarah Elizabeth Chandlee
Kathryn Coghlan
Makenna Cooper
Lacey Crosslin
Jillian Dowdy
Angel Dupre
Kylie Evangelista
Ema Cait Freeman
Audrey Harper
Claire Hatfield
Sarah Beth Heard
Destiny Hill
Abigail Hoeniges
Naomi Hutchins
Angelina Jackson
Kate Jasper
Annika Jerge

Ava Grace Johnston
Kennedie Jordan
Sophia Grace Lindsey
Mary Anne
Megan Marie
Allie McCoy
Sara McCracken
Lola McElhaney
Aniyah Mckissic
Bella Oliff
Eva Claire Pettet
Lacie Pittsley
Sammi Platts
Cecily Rolfe
Janiya Rutherford
Aleeah Shuffield
Brianna Smith
Sarah Sullivan
Amelia Summy
Brianna Teer
Mabry Temple
Artiyuna Timmons
Bekah Vaughn
Jamison Veasey
Jasmine Williams

Upcoming Events

April 11

Lux featuring Cantaré, OPUS, & State Singers
First Baptist Church - Starkville, MS
7:00 PM

April 22 & 24

Operatic Fusion - State Opera Production
Music Building Recital Hall
7:30 PM

SPECIAL THANKS



Dr. Theresa Jayroe, College of Education

Dr. Daniel Stevens, Music Dept Chair

Danielle Gaudé - choral administrator

Music Department Faculty & Staff

Dr. Roza Tulyaganova, voice faculty

Dr. Sophie Wang, collaborative piano faculty

Anne Katherine Ragsdale, collaborative piano faculty

Rachel Wood, collaborative piano faculty

Dr. Jeanette Fontaine, applied music coordinator

Mr. Peter Infanger, voice faculty

Ms. Cori Reece, voice faculty

Mississippi State University Choral Council

Hillel at Mississippi State University

Gabriella Arbesfeld

Annika Jerge

Sarah Beth Heard



The Zachor Holocaust Remembrance Foundation is dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and educating future generations about its atrocities. Through various programs and initiatives, the foundation aims to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten, promoting tolerance, human rights, and the prevention of genocide. It seeks to honor survivors, raise awareness about antisemitism, and foster a more compassionate and just world by sharing the stories and history of those affected by the Holocaust. For more information, please visit: www.zachorfoundation.org

*"I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
And I believe in love,
even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God,
even when He is silent.
I believe through any trial,
there is always a way
But sometimes in this suffering
and hopeless despair
My heart cries for shelter,
to know someone's there
But a voice rises within me, saying hold on
my child, I'll give you strength,
I'll give you hope. Just stay a little while.
I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
And I believe in love
even when there's no one there
But I believe in God
even when he is silent
I believe through any trial
there is always a way.
May there someday be sunshine
May there someday be happiness
May there someday be love
May there someday be peace...."*