



**Western Reserve Chorale**

30th Anniversary Season

*With Strings  
Attached*

Sunday, May 8

3:30 pm

Church of the Gesu

**Choral Works from  
Classical to Contemporary  
with string accompaniment**

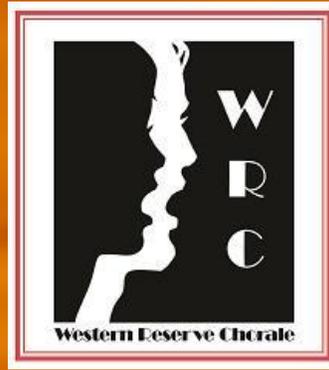
# WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE

Celebrating

*30 Years*

Of Community Choral Singing  
In Northeast Ohio

2021-2022 SEASON



The Western Reserve Chorale, based in Northeast Ohio, uses the power of a diverse range of choral music, often with orchestral accompaniment, to enrich the lives of its audience with free public performances. WRC also provides an engaging opportunity for members to experience the camaraderie and joy of high quality ensemble singing.

Stacy Newman – Executive Director

David Gilson – Artistic Director

Sara Smith – Accompanist

THE WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE David Gilson, Artistic Director. Founded in 1992, the Western Reserve Chorale has been following its mission to enhance the quality of life for residents of Cleveland and its suburbs by providing free, high quality performances of choral music. With a membership of over 100 singers of varying musical backgrounds, the Chorale sings music from many periods and styles (Palestrina to Forrest and Schubert to Shearing), including newly commissioned works. WRC's repertoire focuses on primarily on traditional choral standards and works for chorus and orchestra which include in our most recent years works by Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, Dan Forrest, Karl Jenkins, Ola Gielio, John Rutter and more.

While the pandemic curtailed our scheduled performances in 2019, we regrouped and learned to rehearse online for our 2020-21 season. The chorale presented its first virtual choir piece during our three-part holiday concert. We recorded new music and created a virtual concert in June 2021. After a season of virtual rehearsals and performances and missing our ability to sing together in person, the members of Western Reserve Chorale have been excited to return to in-person rehearsals (even with masks) and are delighted to invite our audience to join us for a live, in-person and streaming, performance.

*Thank you for celebrating 30 years of community choral music with us!*



## **DAVID GILSON**

David Gilson has served as Artistic Director for the Western Reserve Chorale since 2012. He also serves as Director of Music for Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights. Additionally, David serves on the faculty of Case Western Reserve University and holds degrees in music from Allegheny College and the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) with major studies in the fields of vocal performance, choral conducting and Dalcroze eurhythmics. David recently stepped down from the Cleveland Institute of Music following a 30-year career of administration and teaching (choral conducting and eurhythmics).

David has served as a choral coach and clinician to numerous school choirs across the country. David has also conducted North-East Ohio ensembles including Choral Arts Cleveland, the Singers' Club of Cleveland, the University Circle Chorale and Chamber Choirs, and the CIM Singers. David appeared as the guest conductor/clinician for the Fireland's District Music Festival. Additionally, he has also served as choral director for Chagrin Falls UMC, Park Synagogue, Pathfinder Music Camp, Bethany Covenant Church, and the Allegheny College Chapel Choir.

As a vocalist, David has appeared numerous times as a recitalist in Northeast Ohio, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania and as soloist with various choral ensembles. He has appeared in musicals and operas including productions with the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, CIM Opera and Lyric Opera Cleveland.

## STACY NEWMAN

Stacy is honored to serve as the Executive Director of Western Reserve Chorale. She has been a member since 2000 and has served on the Board of Directors and was the Soprano section leader.



With the completion of the Chorus Management Institute, Stacy feels confident in helping to grow the Chorale in Access, Diversity, and Equity; engage and grow the Board and general membership, and plan for the future with a strong Mission and Vision.

Stacy has her BA in Linguistics from Miami University, and is currently a professional healer offering private sessions and group workshops in the greater Cleveland area as well as remote work and mentoring worldwide.

## SARA SMITH

With Bachelor & Masters degrees from The Eastman School of Music, Sara works as an educator, arranger, coach and accompanist in the Cleveland area. Regional venues have included Great Lakes Theatre, Cleveland PlayHouse, PlayHouse Square Foundation, Shaker Ensemble Theatre, Opera Per Tutti, Cleveland Opera on Tour, Blossom Festival Opera, Access to the Arts, and assorted other theatre, dance and choral organizations.

Currently a staff accompanist at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory, she was previously collaborative staff for 10 years at The Cleveland Institute of Music. She also served as Head of the Accompanying Dept at the Cleveland Music School Settlement, where she was on the piano, accompanying and theory faculties for 18 years.

Sara is a proud member of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 4.





# *With Strings Attached*

## Notes from the Artistic Director

I have long wished to bring together two of the preeminent forms of chamber ensembles which exist, that of a choir of voices and the string quartet. It has been my long-held belief that there is a high degree of imitation of the voice in the playing of stringed instruments. This imitation works in both directions: we explore the ways in which the voice is used simply as an instrument and imitates an instrument; and we experience the ways in which instruments imitate the singing voice in the approach to vibrato and use of phrasing.

I have selected works from across a broad span of history as a means of demonstrating the ways in which instruments may:

1. serve as only a continuo accompaniment/doubling of the voices.
2. create an atmosphere and timbre of sound to which the voices sing either in tandem or in contract.
3. add their own melodic/harmonic 'voice' to that of the choirs.

Part of the pleasure of this project has been the variety of texts and music that this type of collaboration has produced. Upon finally joining forces, it has been a joy to explore not only the various timbres of the singing voice but to explore the increased resonances to be found by the chorus 'with strings attached'.



*With Strings Attached* is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

# *With Strings Attached*

*Aria (de la Suite No 3)* by Johann Sebastian Bach  
Arr. Miguel Astor.

*Sicut locutus est (from Magnificat BWV 243)*  
by Johann Sebastian Bach  
Lydia Rhea, Cello

*Vier Quartettes, Op. 92* by Johannes Brahms  
O schöne Nacht! Spatherbst Abendlied Warum?  
Sara Smith, piano

*Elegischer Gesang* by Ludwig van Beethoven  
Haig Hovsepian & Megan Lin, violins  
Joseph Skerik, viola  
Lydia Rhea, cello

*String Quartet in F Major, Third Movement - Très Lent*  
by Joseph Maurice Ravel  
Promethean Quartet

*The Lake Isle* by Ola Gjeilo

Text from *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* by W.B. Yeats

Haig Hovsepian & Megan Lin, violins; Joseph Skerik, viola;  
Lydia Rhea, cello; Andrew Poxon, guitar; Sara Smith, piano

*Hard Times* by Stephen Foster, Arr. Nick Johnson

Bryan McGucken, tenor

Haig Hovsepian, violin; Lydia Rhea, cello; Andrew Poxon, guitar

*Across the Vast, Eternal Sky* by Ola Gjeilo

Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Haig Hovsepian & Megan Lin, violins; Joseph Skerik, viola;  
Lydia Rhea, cello; Sara Smith, piano

*At the Hour of Closing* by Katie Kring

Text by Moshe ibn Ezra, Translated by Peter Cole

Joanne Uniatowski, mezzo-soprano

Haig Hovsepian & Megan Lin, violins; Joseph Skerik, viola;  
Lydia Rhea, cello

*Since the choir is singing with masks,  
the lyrics are available in the following pages to enhance your enjoyment.*

# *With Strings Attached*

## Guest Musicians

**Joanne Uniatowski, mezzo-soprano:** Associate Professor at Baldwin Wallace University, holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Cleveland Institute of Music where she studied with George Vassos. She received a Master of Music degree from the University of Alabama and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Akron. She also holds a language diploma from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. Dr. Uniatowski has performed operatic roles with Lyric Opera Cleveland, Cleveland Concert Opera and Opera Circle. Equally at home as a soloist, Dr. Uniatowski has performed with The Cleveland Orchestra Educational Programs, Mansfield Symphony, PAND (Cleveland), Suburban Symphony, MasterSingers, Inc, Summit Choral Society, The Singer's Club of Cleveland, Choral Arts Society, Heights Chamber Orchestra, Western Reserve Choral and various local choral organizations including Chagrin Valley Choral Union, Western Reserve Chorale and Medina County Chorus. She is the principal cantor for the Diocese of Cleveland at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Dr. Uniatowski also taught at Ashland University and The Cleveland Institute of Music. She was the Executive Director of the Art Song Festival (Cleveland Institute of Music/Baldwin Wallace University) for 15 years. Dr. Uniatowski has become a sought after clinician for master classes in "Cantoring for Roman Catholic Liturgies". Her voice students have been heard on Broadway, network television, national tours, and in major graduate programs. In addition to teaching voice, Dr. Uniatowski has also taught Phonetics (for all voice primaries), English Diction and Literature (for vocal performance majors), Italian Diction and Literature (for vocal performance majors) and Vocal Pedagogy.

**Andrew Poxon, guitar:** As a guitarist, Andy has won numerous competitions and awards across the United States, and has played at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Sacramento Music Festival, and Festival D'été, both as a soloist and with various bands. He has recorded three albums of original music released on Ellersoul Records, which have received extensive airplay on Sirius/XM radio and have been nominated for numerous awards. As an arranger, Andy has been commissioned by Grammy-award winning artists such as Jason Vieaux and Anne Akiko Meyers. Andy holds degrees from Towson University and the Cleveland Institute of Music. He currently teaches full time for the Cleveland Classical Guitar Society, and is a faculty member of the CIM Preparatory Department. [www.andypoxonguitar.com](http://www.andypoxonguitar.com)

**Bryan McGucken, tenor:** Bryan, a member of the WRC since 2019 lives in Lakewood, OH with his wonderful wife, Elisabeth and two beautiful children, Kerry (eight) and Susan (five). Bryan works for the U.S. Treasury by day, but avidly pursues his musical passions for singing, playing piano and guitar, and he is an aspiring composer and Christian songwriter. Bryan has appeared as soloist with area ensembles including the title role in the West Shore Chorale's 2013 performance of Handel's *Samson*. Bryan is very active in his church, singing in the choir and volunteering with its food justice ministry. The funniest thing to know about him is that his favorite color is pink.



# *With Strings Attached*

Featuring The Promethean Quartet



The Promethean Quartet is comprised of musicians from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Its members have been a part of CIM's Advanced String Quartet Program for several years, which is coached by Si-Yan Darren Li, Philip Setzer, and Todd Phillips. They have participated in and been awarded top prizes at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, the Coltman Chamber Music Competition, the Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition, and the M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition. They have also been accepted to study at the prestigious McGill International String Quartet Academy in Montréal, and have participated in masterclasses given by members of the Emerson, Orion, Dover, and Miami String Quartets.

# *With Strings Attached*

## Guest Musicians

**Haig Hovsepien:** Armenian-American violinist, Haig Hovsepien "belongs to a select group of the most gifted musicians of his generation" (violinist, Ilya Kaler).

Hovsepien began his musical journey at a very young age. At four, he was already playing violin, at eight - the Sh'vi (Armenian fipple flute), and at eleven - the saxophone. Those instruments became the means of his musical expression reflecting his upbringing - deeply rooted in traditional classical training, his Armenian heritage, and American jazz. This unique blend shaped him into the versatile musician that he is today.

Despite his young age, Hovsepien is already enjoying a multifaceted career that has taken him from the US and Canada to Norway and Iceland, and to the stages of Carnegie Hall, Koussevitzky Music Shed, Jordan Hall, Slosberg Hall, and Killian Hall, among others. As a saxophone player, he has appeared in various jazz clubs, Mechanics Hall, and Boston's Symphony Hall. Whether performing a violin concerto, chamber music, or a jazz jam session, Hovsepien feels genuinely at ease connecting with his audiences with sincere artistry and poise.

As a prestigious Max Reger Ambassador prize winner at New England Conservatory's Preparatory division, Hovsepien moved on to become a recipient of several scholarship awards at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he is currently working on completing his Master's degree with one of the world's most outstanding violin personalities, Ilya Kaler.

**Megan Lin,** 21, began studying violin at age 5 in her hometown of Plano, Texas. She is currently an undergraduate student at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studies with Jaime Laredo and Jan Sloman. As a soloist, Megan has performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Lewisville Lake Symphony, and Asheville Symphony Orchestra. She was also named a Texas Young Master by the Texas Commission on the Arts in 2018. More recently, she was the 2021 recipient of the Dr. Jerome Gross Prize in Violin.

A longtime recipient of the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Scholarship, Megan has attended festivals such as the Meadowmount School of Music, The Institute for Strings, Heifetz International Music Institute, and New York String Orchestra Seminar.

As a member of the Elless Quartet, Megan won Grand Prize at the 7th Coltman Chamber Music Competition. The group was also a semifinalist at the 47th and 48th Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the 10th Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competition. Elless has also played in masterclasses given by members of the Emerson, Orion, Dover, and Miami String Quartets.

# *With Strings Attached*

## Guest Musicians

### **Joseph Skerik, viola**

Violist Joe Skerik is currently in his 4th year of undergraduate studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying with Jeffrey Irvine. He recently spent a semester studying at the Paris Conservatory with violists Jean Sulem and Marc Desmons, and will be attending the Yale School of Music in the fall to begin studies with violist Ettore Causa. This summer Joe will be participating in the Heifetz Chamber Music Seminar under the direction of Shmuel Ashkenazi and the Borromeo Quartet, and will also be performing at the Lake George Festival in New York. Past festivals include the Perlman Music Program, Aspen Music Festival, New York String Orchestra Seminar and the Bowdoin Festival. He has recently performed chamber music with musicians such as Jaime Laredo, Shmuel Ashkenazi, Andres Cardenes, Sharon Robinson and Shannon Lee.

### **Lydia Rhea, cello**

Cellist Lydia Rhea is quickly garnering international recognition as a skilled soloist and chamber musician. She is a 2022 graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied under Dr. Melissa Kraut. As a soloist, Lydia has performed with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and appeared on NPR's *From the Top* with renowned jazz pianist Fred Hersch, where she performed one of his original compositions in Jordan Hall, Boston. She was named the Gold Medalist and received the Agnew Prize for Bach at the 2020 Cleveland Cello Society Scholarship Competition.

An accomplished and dedicated chamber musician, Lydia has earned international honors for her work with various ensembles. Lydia is also the current Gloria Miner Fellow at the Sitka Cello Seminar in Sitka, Alaska. She attended the Seminar in 2021 and will be returning this summer, where she studies intensively with Zuill Bailey.

Lydia has performed throughout the US and Europe and earned numerous international prizes, and you can find more information and current events at [www.lydia-rhea.com](http://www.lydia-rhea.com).

## *Singers of the Western Reserve Chorale*

### **SOPRANO**

**Alice Bewie**

**Bonnie Cook**

**Nell Davidson**

Celeste DiCillo

Ellen Durand

**Rosalyn Gaier**

**Veronica Gallo**

**Katie Harbage**

Suzanne Harrington

**Mary Holmes**

**Leona Jackson**

**Nancy Jamieson**

**Carole Moran Krus**

**Karen Ling**

**Katharine Lobas**

**Ginie Mast**

**Katherine McCarty**

Joan McVeen

Samantha Miller#

Margaret Nash

**Stacy Newman#**

**Lydia Oppmann**

**Laura Otis\***

**Jane Richmond**

Karen Swift

**GINNA TAFT**

Margo Vinney

**Wendy Wagner**

Beth Wardrum

**Sally Wilson#**

Christine Winsberg

**Becky Zeigler**

### **ALTO**

**Cynthia Ahern**

Deena Barrett

Andrea Ber#

Kim Bihler#

Karen Bower

**Susan Brooks**

Erica Collins

Sharon Core

Lana Cowell

**Jessica Crist**

**Joan Delahay**

Gwen Dyer

Linda Frank

Marcia Gemler

**Elizabeth Gockel#**

Fern Grunberger\*

**Linda Haligowski**

Susan Harlow

**Rhona Jacobson**

Janice Katz

Judi Koffman

**Leslie Leventhal**

**Pat Lewis**

**Rebecca Moseley**

**Maxine Myers**

Mary Ober

**Barbara Opie**

**Marianne Prebet**

**Theresa Remick**

**Margaret Robinson**

Sara Schiller

Ruth Shoskes

Julie Siegel

**Doris Simpson**

Karen Smith

**Carol Steiner**

**Kelsey Tarase#**

Diana Vargo

Blossom Williams

Margarita Yakutovich

### **TENOR**

**Debbie Boyd-Tressler**

Eric Brandt

**Bill Davis**

**Rick Drake**

Dominique Durand

Stephen Hotchkiss

**Dan Ivancic**

**Alex Jamieson**

Karl Kaups

**Cliff Lewis**

**Bryan McGucken**

**James Pintner**

**Bob Rittenhouse**

**John Sherck**

**Ban Twaddell\***

**Mark Wakefield#**

**Mark I. Wallach#**

### **BASS**

**Aaron Ballonoff**

David Barnes

**David Bell#**

**John Blackwell**

Chris Brandt

**Don Chilcote**

Bill Fuller

**Bob Gaier**

**Donald Hylton**

**Dennis Jakse**

**Jeff Lobas**

Mac McVeen

**Dean Myers**

**Dave Rainey\***

**John Rydquist**

Gunter Schwegler

**Ed Solem**

*# Board Members*

*\* Section Leaders*

**Singers in bold are participating  
in this concert**

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*WRC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in Ohio.*

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**Aria (de la Suite No 3)**  
by Johann Sebastian Bach  
arranged by Miguel Astor

Score available through [Sheet Music Plus](#)  
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**Sicut locutus est**  
from Magnificat (BWV 243)  
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

As was spoken to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his seed forever.



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**Vier Quartette, op 92**  
**By Johannes Brahms**

**1. O schöne Nacht!**

*Text by George Daumer*

Am Himmel märchenhaft  
Erglänzt der Mond in seiner ganzen Pracht;

Um ihn der kleinen Sterne liebliche  
Genossenschaft.

Es schimmert hell der Tau  
Am grünen Halm; mit Macht

Im Fliederbusche schlägt die Nachtigall;  
Der Knabe schleicht zu seiner Liebsten sacht -

O schöne Nacht!

**2. Spätherbst**

*Text by Hermann Allmers*

Der graue Nebel tropft so still  
Herab auf Feld und Wald und Heide,  
Als ob der Himmel weinen will  
In übergroßem Leide..

Die Blumen wollen nicht mehr blühen,  
Die Vöglein schweigen in den Hainen,  
Es starb sogar das letzte Grün,  
Da mag er auch wohl weinen.

**1. O lovely night!**

In the heavens, the moon gleams magically  
in all its splendour;  
about it, the sweet comradeship of tiny stars.

The dew glimmers brightly  
on the green blades of grass; with great power,

the nightingale sings out in the elder-bush;  
the young man steals quietly to his sweetheart -

O lovely night!

**2. Late autumn**

The grey mist drops down so silently  
upon the field, wood and heath  
that it is as if Heaven wanted to weep  
in overwhelming sorrow

The flowers will bloom no more,  
the birds are mute in the groves,  
and the last bit of green has died;  
Heaven should indeed be weeping



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### 3. Abendlied

*Text by Christian Friedrich Hebbel*

Friedlich bekämpfen Nacht sich und Tag.  
Wie das zu dämpfen, Wie das zu lösen vermag!

Der mich bedrückte, Schläfst du schon,  
Schmerz?  
Was mich beglückte Sage, was war's doch,  
mein Herz?

Freude wie Kummer, Fühl' ich, zerrann,  
Aber den Schlummer Führten sie leise heran.

Und im Entschweben, Immer empor,  
Kommt mir das Leben Ganz, wie ein  
Schlummerlied vor.

### 4. Warum?

*Text by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

Warum doch erschallen himmelwärts die  
Lieder?  
Zögen gerne nieder Sterne,  
die droben Blinken und wallen,  
Zögen sich Lunas Lieblich Umarmen,  
Zögen die warmen, Wonnigen Tage  
Seliger Götter Gern uns herab!

### 3. Evening song

Peacefully does night struggle with the day:  
how to muffle it, how to dissolve it.

That which depressed me,  
are you already asleep, o Pain?  
That which made me happy,  
say, what was it, my heart?

Joy, like anguish, I feel has melted away,  
but they have gently invoked slumber  
instead.

And as I float away, ever skyward,  
it occurs to me that life is just like a lullaby.

### Why?

Why then do songs resound heavenward?  
They would gladly lure down the stars,  
which gleam and wander above;  
They would entice Luna's lovely embraces,  
and invoke the warm, blissful days  
of blessed gods - gladly would they do this!

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***Elegischer Gesang, op. 118***  
**by Ludwig van Beethoven**

*Based on text by Johann Christoph Friedrich Haug*

Sanft, wie du lebtest,  
hast du vollendet,  
zu heilig für den Schmerz!

Gently as you lived  
have you died  
more holy for the pain!

Kein Auge wein' ob  
des himmlischen Geistes  
Heimkehr.

Let no eye shed tears for  
the spirit's heavenly  
homecoming.

Sanft, sanft wie du lebtest,  
hast du vollendet,  
du, sanft wie du lebtest,  
hast du vollendet,  
ja, hast du vollendet.

Gently, gently as you lived  
have you died  
you -- gently as you lived  
you have finished,  
yes, you have finished.



**Arthur Brooks 1936-2021**

The Western Reserve Chorale wishes to dedicate *Elegischer Gesang* to our dear friend and fellow chorister, Art Brooks. Art was a long-time member of the Western Reserve Chorale since 1995. Art was described as a Lawyer, Legislator, Community Advocate, Environmentalist, and Tenor!

Art was not just a gentleman, but a gentle man and he is missed.

We dedicate this performance of Beethoven's *Elegischer Gesang* to Art, and we invite our audience to reflect upon the text as we all remember those lost to us during these past couple years as we have worked to maintain our engagement with each other throughout the pandemic.

## *The Lake Isle*

**Music by Ola Gjeilo. Text from The Lake Isle of Innisfree by W.B. Yeats.**

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I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and  
wattles made;  
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the  
honey bee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

I will arise and go now, for always night and  
day  
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by  
the shore;  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the  
pavements grey,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

Innisfree.



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## *Hard Times*

**by Stephen Foster, Arr .Nick Johnson**  
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Let us pause in life's pleasures, and count its many  
tears,  
While we all sup sorrow with the poor;  
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears;  
Oh, hard times come again no more.

'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary,  
Hard times, hard times, come again no more.  
Many days you have lingered around my cabin  
door;  
Oh, hard times come again no more.

While we seek mirth and beauty and music light  
and gay,  
There are frail forms fainting at the door;  
Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks  
will say,  
Oh, hard times come again no more.

'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary.  
Hard times, hard times, come again no more.  
Many days you have lingered all around my cabin  
door;  
Oh, hard times, come again no more.

'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary,  
Hard times, hard times, come again no more.  
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears;  
Oh, hard times come again no more.

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## **Across the Vast, Eternal Sky** **Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri,** **Music by Ola Gjeilo**

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**Sunlight shines on my face;  
This is my grace, to be  
Restored, born again,  
In flame!**

**When I was young I flew in the velvet night;  
Shining by day, a firebird bathed in light!  
Grey now my feathers, which once were red and gold;  
My destiny to soar up to the sun**

**Sunlight shines on my face;  
This is my grace, to be  
Restored, born again,  
In flame.**

**Do not despair that I am gone away;  
I will appear again  
When the sunset paints  
Flames across the vast, eternal sky.**

***At the Hour of Closing* by Katie Krings**

**Text by Moshe ibn Ezra.**

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***Lord of wondrous workings,  
grant us understanding—  
now at the hour of closing.***

**A chosen few are called,  
their eyes toward you lifting—  
they stand exalted in their trembling  
*now, at the hour of closing.***

**They pour forth their souls;  
erase, then, their straying—  
and grant them, Lord, your absolution  
*now at the hour of closing.***

**Be a shelter for them  
through all their suffering;  
consign them only to rejoicing  
*now, at the hour of closing.***

**Show them your compassion,  
in your justice turning  
on all who brought oppression to them—  
*now at the hour of closing.***

**Recall their fathers' merit  
and count it as merit for them;  
renew their days as once they were,  
*now, at the hour of closing.***

**Call for the year of grace—  
the remnant flock's returning  
to Oholibah and Oholàh—  
*now at the hour of closing.***

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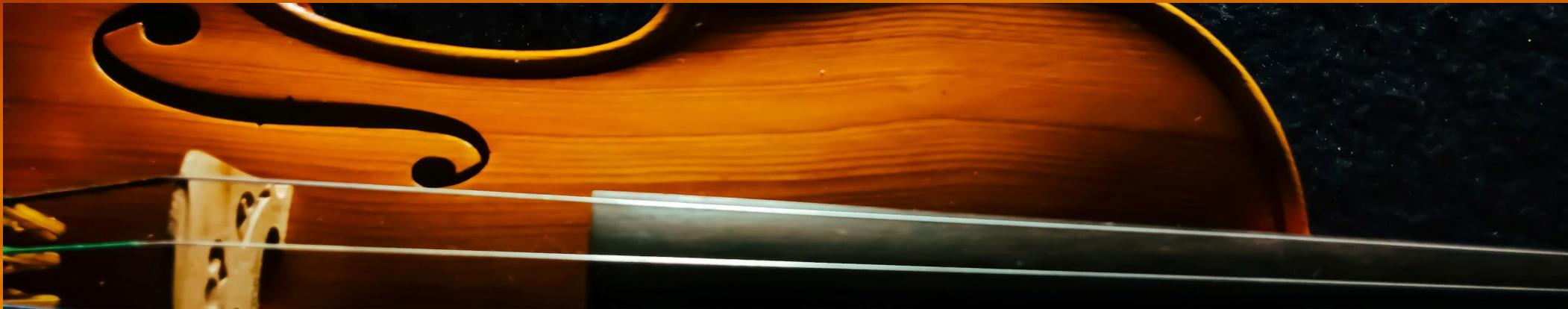
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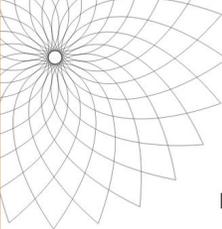
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***A Chorus of Thanks to the following:***

**Cuyahoga Arts & Culture for a project grant for our May 2022 concert.**

**Church of the Gesu for hosting our rehearsals and concerts.**

**Church of the Saviour for use of their space as needed.**

**David Gilson and Sara Smith for making rehearsals enjoyable and productive.**

**Bob Sammon, Production Wizard, who has connected us with the best tech help around.**

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