


**WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE
WITH CHORAL ARTS CLEVELAND**

David Gilson, Artistic Director



REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE

Sunday, March 12, 2023

3:30 pm

**Maltz Performing Arts Center
at Case Western Reserve University**

Johann Michael Haydn Requiem in C minor

Jonathan Willcocks From Darkness to Light:

A Requiem of Hope



The singers of Western Reserve Chorale and Choral Arts Cleveland welcome you to this very special program.

It is our hope that our music inspires you with gratitude for those who have, and those who continue to serve our country. We honor the sacrifices our veterans have made in the hopes of keeping this country safe.

The two Requiems we will perform today speak to these sacrifices and to the human need for hope and connection in the darkest of times.

As you read these pages you will find the lyrics of the pieces we are performing. The traditional approach to the Requiem Mass in Haydn's work, and the not-so-traditional combining of the Requiem text with the poetry of Ryland Andrew Baldwin, a Korean War veteran, in the Willcocks piece. In addition we have asked local veterans to provide their own poetry which you will find in this booklet.

May their words bring you insight and compassion for these honorable people and their experiences.

Remembrance and Hope is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.



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Remembrance and Hope

J. Michael Haydn
Requiem in C minor

Jonathan Willcocks
From Darkness to Light:
A Requiem of Hope

Brian Keith Johnson, baritone
Amanda Powell, soprano
Brian Skoog, tenor
Joanne Uniatowski, mezzo-soprano

Emily Cornelius	Concertmaster, Violin
Susan Britton, Kelsey Ferguson, Callista Koh,	
Nancy Patterson, Rebecca Rhoades	Violin
Mark Heinzin, Stephen Sims	Viola
Anna Bowman, Eliza Fath Poxon	Cello
Ann Gilbert	Double Bass
Virginia Crabtree, Audrey Park	Flute
Terry Orcutt, Danna Sundet	Oboe
Robert Davis, Lou Gangale	Clarinet
Mark DeMio, Janice Pylinski	Bassoon
Lisa Fink, Lauren Jensen, Tom Park,	
Ben Reidhead,	French Horn
Erik Sundet, Heather Zweifel	Trumpet
Chris Brosius, Dave Mitchell, Tom Pylinski	Trombone
Kenneth Heinlein	Tuba
Dylan Moffitt	Timpani
Mell Csicsila, Evan Mitchell	Percussion

Please patronize the local businesses listed in this program. Let them know you appreciate their support of music in our community.

WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE

For over 30 years, the Western Reserve Chorale (WRC) has carried out its mission to enhance the quality of life for Greater Cleveland residents by providing free, high quality choral music performances.

With over 100 singers from across Northeast Ohio, comprising various musical backgrounds, the WRC focuses on traditional choral standards and works for chorus and orchestra. The WRC's repertoire encompasses many periods and styles, from classical to modern, and includes newly commissioned compositions. Some highlights from WRC's recent performances are works by Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, Dan Forrest, Karl Jenkins, Ola Gielio, and John Rutter.

www.WesternReserveChorale.org

CHORAL ARTS CLEVELAND

Over four decades ago, the joy of singing and friendship brought together a small group of men and women which has grown to become Choral Arts Cleveland, a non-profit community chorus of dedicated and proficient singers. As part of its goal of contributing meaningfully to the artistic life of Greater Cleveland, Choral Arts collaborates with other local arts groups.

Members of Choral Arts are drawn from throughout the Greater Cleveland area, coming from all walks of life, diverse cultural backgrounds, a broad age range, and include talented voices with varying degrees of musical training. Choral Arts makes musical contributions to the community through free-admission concerts, allowing audience members to make a free will donation.

It is the mission of Choral Arts Cleveland to present quality concerts that engage and enhance the musical experience of diverse community audiences and performers through creative, thoughtful choral selections in a welcoming and accessible environment.

www.ChoralArtsCleveland.org



DAVID GILSON **Artistic Director**

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.



BRIAN KEITH JOHNSON **Lyric Baritone**

Brian Keith Johnson has performed many roles in opera from Figaro in *il barbiere di Siviglia* to Ford in *Falstaff*. As a member of Actors' Equity Association, he has also performed a variety of musical theatre roles ranging from Jim in *Big River* to Father/God in *Children of Eden*.

His concert repertoire includes most of the major baritone works such as Carmina Burana, Elijah, The Verdi Requiem, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, The Brahms Requiem and The Faure' Requiem. He has performed operatic and musical theatre roles across the United States including performances with The Cleveland Orchestra, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Blossom Festival Orchestra, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, Opera Western Reserve, Carolina Master Chorale, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and Porthouse Theatre. Mr. Johnson received his BM Degree from The University of Akron and has also studied abroad at The New Opera Academy of Rome in Rome, Italy and The American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria.

Brian is currently in his 33rd year of teaching music in The Akron Public School System. He taught 27 years at Akron Garfield High School as the Choir Director. His current assignment is teaching General Music at Findley CLC. Last year, he received The Marilyn Parks Award given to teachers who have shown excellence throughout their entire careers and "making a significant difference in the lives of their students".

This year's engagements include Sweeney Todd, The Messiah, Amahl and the Night Visitors, Two Concerts with The Cleveland Composer's Guild, The Brahms Requiem and The Elixir of Love.



AMANDA POWELL **Soprano**

Amanda has been praised as “the star of the evening” (*Seen and Heard International*, UK) and “charismatic and theatrically arresting” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). A highly versatile musician, she is at home in repertoire from Monteverdi to Mozart to Ravel, and has toured internationally as soloist

in baroque opera, oratorio, and crossover folk programs. Her tour performances with GRAMMY-winning baroque orchestra Apollo's Fire (Jeannette Sorrell) include such venues as the National Concert Hall of Ireland in Dublin, the Irish National Opera House, the Aldeburgh Festival (UK), the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the National Gallery in Washington, and Zellerbach Hall in San Francisco, among others. Her 2019 debut as *Messiah* soloist with the Calgary Symphony won kudos as “the soloist of the night... singing to perfection.”

As a recording artist, Amanda has been featured on several Apollo's Fire albums including *Sugarloaf Mountain*, *Sephardic Journey*, and *Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain*, all of which received rave reviews on both sides of the Atlantic and debuted in the top ten on the BILLBOARD Classical Chart. Her solo album, *Beyond Boundaries*, is an intimate program of folk, jazz, and global music. She is a fluent improviser and has collaborated with such artists as Bobby McFerrin, Jamey Haddad, and Sheila Jordan. Amanda currently tours with the Italian folk/jazz group, Alla Boara (Anthony Taddeo).

Amanda is on the voice faculty at Cleveland State University. She is also the Community Arts Liaison for the Cultural Arts Center at Disciples Church, Cleveland Heights.
www.amandapowell.info



Brian Skoog **Tenor**

Brian Skoog is known for his “vocal power” (*San Diego Story*) and “fine lyric tenor” (*Toledo Blade*). In the summer of 2023, he will make his role debut as

Tempo in Handel's *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* with Opera Neo in San Diego, California. Skoog also appears this season as Mozart in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mozart and Salieri* with The Cleveland Opera and covers the role of Normanno in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Druid City Opera. This season, Skoog gives concert performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Briggs's *Requiem*, Michael Haydn's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Handel's *Messiah*. He also appears as a special guest of the Cleveland Women's Orchestra. Recent seasons include operatic roles with Central City Opera, The Cleveland Opera, Cleveland Opera Theater, Dayton Opera, Nashville Opera, Opera Fayetteville, Opera Neo, Pensacola Opera, Toledo Opera, and Utah Festival Opera.

Skoog is an active performer of oratorio and concert work across the United States. In recent seasons, he has appeared as a repeat soloist with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, performing Handel's *Messiah* as well as music by Bach and Beethoven. A frequent guest of Toledo Opera, he recently made his debut with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra as the soloist for Handel's *Messiah*. In 2020, Skoog performed Benjamin Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings* with the Heights Chamber Orchestra. A champion of new music and living composers, Skoog was recently the tenor soloist for the world premiere of Margaret Brouwer's environmental oratorio *Voice of the Lake*. *Seen and Heard International* praised his “brilliant” singing and called him “one of the highlights.” His performance of “The Lake” was included on a 2022 album of Brouwer's compositions on the Naxos label.



Joanne Uniatowski
Mezzo-Soprano

Associate Professor at Baldwin Wallace University, Dr. Uniatowski 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 is currently the Executive Director of the Art Song Festival (Cleveland Institute of Music). 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.

Western Reserve Chorale would like to thank these individuals whose contributions have made the 2022-2023 Season possible.

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Singers performing Remembrance and Hope

* Western Reserve Chorale # Choral Arts Cleveland

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Debbie Boyd-Tressler*, Eric Brandt*, Pete Clapman#, Bill Davis*, Alex Jamieson*#, Karl Kaups*, Cliff Lewis*, Bryan McGucken*, Paul Pojman#, Quentin Quereau#, Bob Rittenhouse*, John Sherck*, Mark Wakefield*

BASS

Aaron Ballonoff*, David Barnes*, David Bell*, John Blackwell*, Chris Brandt*, Don Hodell Chilcote*, Steve Engstrom#, Robert Gaier*, Tom Holmes#, Donald Hylton*, Dan Ivancic*, Dennis Jakse*#, Jeff Lobas*, Mac McVeen*, Dean Myers*, Dave Rainey*, Don Robbins*, John Rydquist*, Ed Solem*

About the program:

First, the ensembles will present Michael Haydn's *Requiem in C minor*. Though written under time constraints and duress, it is a work of lyricism, depth and beauty. Leopold Mozart and his 15-year-old son, Wolfgang, newly returned from Italy, played in the orchestra at the funeral performance. Young Mozart, with his photographic memory, later was to use themes from this work in some of his own. You may recognize the direct influence Michael Haydn had on Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* and *Requiem*.

The Haydn will be followed by Jonathan Willcocks's *From Darkness to Light*, a major work that presents settings of the Requiem Mass alongside settings of the poetry of Ryland Baldwin written during the height of the Korean War. Baldwin was with the First Marine Division in 1950 and was involved in the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. The poetry that came from that experience is gripping, with three of the poems featured written from his recollections of that battle. A fourth poem, "*Visit to Bellau Wood*," was written after a visit to the American Cemetery at Bellau, France.

At the premier of *From Darkness to Light*, Ryland Baldwin shared that, "Remembering is the price of surviving. ... Darkness can represent disaster, calamity, adversity, time out of joint. There are corporate or national disasters and there are personal disasters: a friend and loved one diagnosed with cancer, terrorist bombings, mass shootings, accidents, and disease. All can be seen as the darkness when adversity falls upon us. But we also have the promise of light that can overcome the darkness; the dawn finally comes and leads to a new day.

As we find our world to be in times of pandemic, war, divisiveness, and more, we hope you will join us for *Remembrance and Hope*, a concert honoring the sacrifices of veterans who have served in times of war, focusing on the need for all human souls to find hope when faced with the darkest of situations.



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Requiem in C minor

Johann Michael Haydn (1737—1806)

Requiem

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis. Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem. Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Requiem

Eternal rest grant them, O Lord; and may perpetual light shine upon them. A hymn becometh Thee, O God, in Sion, and unto Thee shall a vow be paid in Jerusalem. Listen to my prayer; unto Thee all flesh shall come. Eternal rest grant them, O Lord; and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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Dies Irae

*Dies irae dies illa
solvat saeculum in favilla
teste David cum Sybilla.
Quantus tremor est futurus,
quando iudex est venturus
cuncta stricte discussurus
Tuba mirum spargens somum
per sepulchra regionum,
coet omnes ante thronum.
Mors stupebit et natura,
cum resurget creatura,
iudicanti responsura.
Liber scriptus proferetur,
in quo totum continetur
unde mundus iudicetur.
Iudex ergo cum sedebit
Quidquid latet, apparebit,
Nil inultum remanebit.
Quid sum miser tunc dicturus,
Quem patronum rogaturus,
cum vix justus sit securus?
Rex tremendae majestatis,
qui salvandos salvas gratis,
salva me, fons pietatis.
Recordare Jesu pie!
Quod sum causa tuae viae.
Ne me perdas illa die.
Quaerens me, sedisti lassus
redemisti crucem passus,
tantus labor non sit cassus!
Iuste iudex ultionis!
Donum fac remissionis
ante diem rationis.
Ingemisco, tanquam reus,
culpa rubet vultus meus*

Dies Irae

Day of wrath and terror looming!
Heaven and earth to ash consuming,
David's word and Sibyl's truth foredooming!
What horror must invade the mind,
when the approaching judge shall find,
and sift the deeds of all mankind.
The trumpet casts a wondrous sound,
through the tombs of all around,
making them the throne surround.
Death is struck and nature quaking,
all creation is awaking,
to its judge an answer making.
The written book shall be brought forth,
in which is contained all
from which the world is to be judged.
So when the Judge shall sit,
whatever is hidden shall be seen,
nothing shall remain unpunished.
What am I, wretched one, to say,
What protector implore,
when even a just person needs mercy?
King of awesome majesty,
you who save freely those to be saved,
save me, fount of pity.
Remember, kind Jesus,
that I am the cause of your journey;
do not let me be lost on that day.
Seeking me, you sat exhausted;
you redeemed me by undergoing the Cross
let so much toil not be in vain.
Just Judge of vengeance,
grant the gift of forgiveness,
before the day of reckoning'.
I groan, as one guilty;
my face is red with shame;

*supplici parce, Deus.
Qui Mariam absolvisti
et latronum exaudisti,
mihi quoque spem dedisti.
Preces meae non sunt dignae,
sed tu bonus fac benigne,
ne perenni cremer igne!
Inter oves locum praesta,
et ab haedis me sequestra
statuens in parte dextra.
Confutatis maledictis,
Flammis acribus addictis,
Voca me cum benedictis.
Oro supplex et acclinis,
cor contritum quasi cinis,
gere curam mei finis.
Lacrymosa dies illa,
qua resurget ex favilla
iudicandus homo reus.
Huic ergo parce, Deus,
Pie Jesu Domine!
dona eis requiem. Amen.*

spare, O God, a suppliant.
You who forgave Mary
and heard the plea of the thief
have given hope to me also.
When the accursed are silenced,
sentenced to piercing flames,
call me with the blessed.
Suppliant and bowing, I beg,
my heart contrite like ash:
Have a care for my end.
My prayers are unworthy;
but you, the Good, show me favor,
that I may not be consumed by
eternal fire.
Grant me a place among the sheep,
and separate me from the goats,
placing me at your right hand.
Tearful that day,
on which will rise from ashes
all humanity for judgment.
So have mercy, O God, on us.
Compassionate Lord Jesus,
grant them rest. Amen.



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Offertorium

*Domine Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae,
libera animas omnium fidelium
defunctorum de poenis inferni
et de profundo lacu.*

*Libera eas, de ore leonis,
ne absorbeat Tartarus,
ne cadant in obscurum.*

*sed signifer sanctus Michael
repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam
quam olim Abrahae promisisti,
et semini ejus.*

*Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis
offerimus.*

*Tu suscipe pro animabus illis,
quarum hodie memoriam facimus.*

*Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad
vitam.*

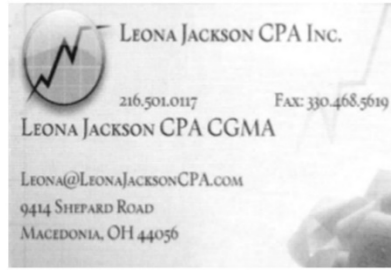
*Quam olim Abrahae promisisti, et semini
ejus.*

Sanctus

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.*

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.



Offertorium

Lord, Jesus Christ, King of Glory,
deliver the souls of all the faithful
departed from infernal suffering
and from the bottomless abyss.
Deliver them from the lion's mouth,
that hell engulf them not,
that they sink not into darkness.
But let the standard-bearer Saint Michael
lead them quickly into the holy light,
as of old Thou didst promise to Abraham
and his seed.

Sacrifices and prayers of praise we offer
to Thee, O Lord.

Accept them for those souls
of whom we this day commemorate.

Allow them, O Lord, to pass from death to
life.

as of old Thou didst promise to Abraham
and his seed.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem sempiternam.*

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine.

*Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, qui a
pius es.*

*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine:
et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

*Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, qui a
pius es.*



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Benedictus

Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of
the world, grant them rest everlasting.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of
the world, grant them rest everlasting.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of
the world, grant them eternal rest.

May light eternal shine upon them, O
Lord,
with Thy saints in eternity, because Thou
art merciful.

Eternal rest grant them, O Lord;
and may perpetual light shine upon them.

with Thy saints in eternity, because Thou
art merciful.

J. Pistone

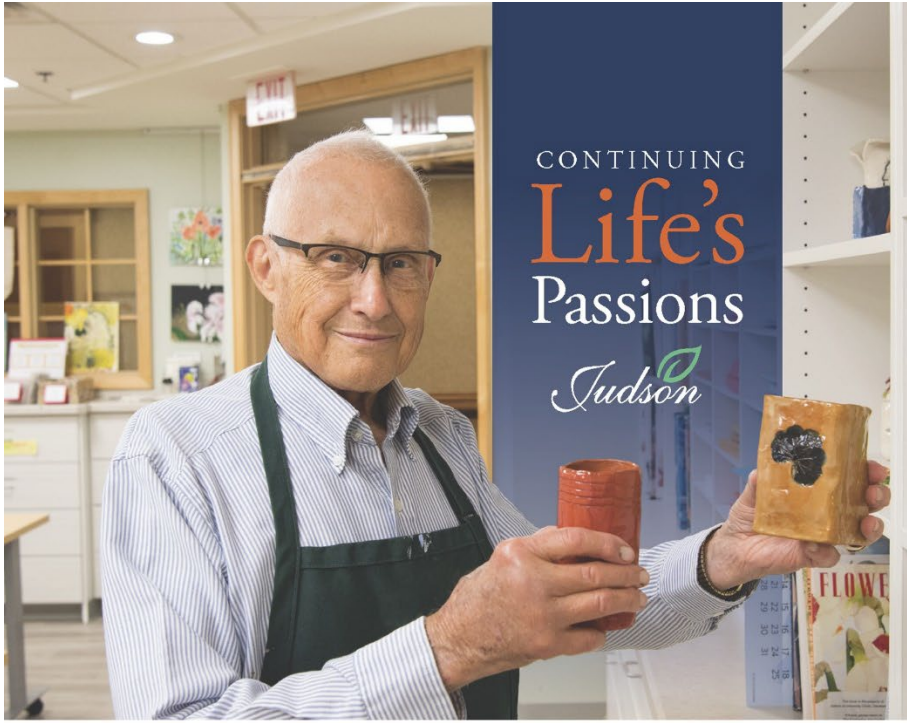
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Peter has always been passionate about living, working, and volunteering in University Circle. From his lifelong work as an astronomer to his recent work in pottery and everything in between, Peter is always searching for new things to explore.

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From Darkness to Light: A Requiem of Hope Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953)

Poetry by Ryland Andrew Baldwin
with additional text from the *Requiem Mass*

1.

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine;

Et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Grant them eternal rest, Lord,
and let perpetual light shine on them.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.



Photo [7436370](#) / [War](#) © [Adam Larsen](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)
Korean War Memorial, Washington, DC

2.

Sudden darkness engulfs us;

Shall light arrive as suddenly?

Must we embrace this dread visitor,

We would fight if we but knew how?

Gross darkness comes at noonday;

Terror falls like a curtain on our life.

It comes with a frightening silence,

Taking the very breath from our mouth.

Darkness completely void of a ray of light,

So thick it can be felt, smothers life;

Is there no rescue from this night?

- from "Darkness"

Dies irae, dies illa,

Solvat saeculum in favilla,

Teste David cum Sybilla.

Quantus tremor est futurus,

Quando judex est venturus,

Cuncta stricte discussurus.

Day of wrath, day of anger
will dissolve the world in ashes,
as foretold by David and the Sibyl.
Great trembling there will be
when the Judge descends from heaven
to examine all things closely.

3.

All is tranquil this cool September morn;
In morning breeze, halyards snap their staff,
Birds sing, and sun never brighter shone,
The grounds all show the gardener's craft
Gone the sound and stenching smell of war
In the quiet wood and verdant field below,
No bugles for charge, no sergeant shouts more,
Only crosses and stars stand silent, row on row,
Swallow hard as you read each name,
A boy eighteen, a man twenty-one,
Jim from Alabama, Bill from Maine,
One died just as the battle is won,
Names graven on walls in the hillside chapel,
Those men who died and were lost that June,
Bodies that could not be found where they fell,
Or gathered from where they were strewn,
- from "Visit to Belleau Wood"



Photo courtesy of Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland, OH

4.

How hard, how wooden they look,
Lying on the frozen ground
Like logs for a mill to work;
Veils of cold snow their shrouds,
These green-parka hooded lads
From whom life so swiftly fled.
Where shall our fallen comrades
Finally lie, these who lately bled?
No green field in Belleau Wood,
No place for them in Arlington;
This lonely land never should
For these brave ones be home.
No cross., no star, no name-engraved stone,
No bugle to honor lives now gone.
- from "Weep for the fallen"

*Tuba mirum spargens sonum,
Per sepulchra regionum,
Coget omnes ante thronum.
Mors stupebit et natura,
Cum resurget creatura,
Judicanti responsura.*

The trumpet will send its
wondrous sound
throughout earth's sepulchres
and gather all before the throne.
Death and nature will be
astounded,
when all creation rises again.



Photo [41533011](#) / War © Maocheng | Dreamstime.com

5.

*Lacrymosa dies illa qua resurget ex favilla,
Judicandus homo reus. Huic ergo parce Deus.
Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.*

That day of tears and mourning,
when from the ashes shall arise,
all humanity to be judged.
Spare us by your mercy, Lord,
gentle Lord Jesus,
grant them eternal rest.



Photo 131834231 / Darkness © Benjamin James | Dreamstime.com

6.

A tocsin sounds ere long,
 Stygian gloom, be gone;
 Darkness, thy knoll is rung,
 A dirge to thee is sung.
 Dawn comes, not like thunder,
 But slyly, as in a motion, slow.
 Still below the horizon, yonder,
 Sun sends us his warming glow.

Darkness, by light sublime,
 Is destroyed one ray at a time.
 Our joys now abound in day,
 As morning comes, let us say,
 Once lost, now we' re found,
 This is surely hallowed ground.
 - from "Light"

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine. Amen.

Let eternal light shine on them, Lord. Amen.

My DRUM

*ALTHOUGH MY DRUM NO LONGER BEAT SO
 LOUD; I'LL NEVER CEASE TO FOLLOW ITS SOUND.
 ITS BEAT LED ME THROUGH RIVERS, FORESTS,
 AND SANDS; EQUALLY THROUGH ENEMIES'S
 UNFORGIVING HANDS.
 ONE DAY AGAIN I WILL BEAT PRIDEFULLY
 A SOUND, STRIKE DOWN THROUGH MY BODY
 AND RATTLE THE GROUND.
 THIS, IS MY DRUM.*



America

Drew Ferguson, US Army Special Forces Captain
 Iraq, Germany, Afghanistan, Africa
 In total, he led special operations units in close
 combat for four years during over 300 combat
 missions, earning two more Bronze Star Medals.



Project DREW was founded to honor the legacy of Special Forces Captain Drew Ferguson. D.R.E.W. is an acronym that uses his first name to capture our mission: Delivering Restorative Energy to our Warriors.

Drew was deeply passionate about music and on several occasions, made anonymous donations to Music on a Mission, a unique non-profit in his hometown. After Drew passed away, the Executive Director of Music on a Mission, Marilyn Zeidner, came up with the vision for Project DREW to honor his legacy of service and love of music.

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Veterans Day

Faded insignia, found
in the back of a drawer –
the uniform I wore the day
when James, my classmate
fellow corpsman, breathed
his last in a jungle, eight
thousand miles away.

I was not at his side,
never knew how or at what hour.
All I had left was a hollow,
a hope that it happened quick,
that he didn't die abandoned.
Did his widow ask? Would any
answer
have made the gash less deep?

Blind luck – some Chicken
Colonel found reason to call up
the 184th.
A different flick of his wrist,
the pin on his board would have
been the 183rd. The me I was then
would have saluted – too young,
maybe too stupid – and the widow
would have been mine.

I didn't see The Wall
'til twenty years later – fifty-eight
thousand chiseled names.
My eyes stuck on a woman's
fingers – lingering – tracing
letters left to right,
spelling out a life.

On the news today a soldier
was interviewed next to The Wall.
“At least these guys didn't die
for nothing,” he said.

And I wondered how “for nothing”
is spelled in Pashto. In Arabic.
In Vietnamese. In French,
German, Russian, Japanese.
How they said it long ago
in Troy, in Greece.

Adrian Schnell
USAF 1970-72, Wichita, KS

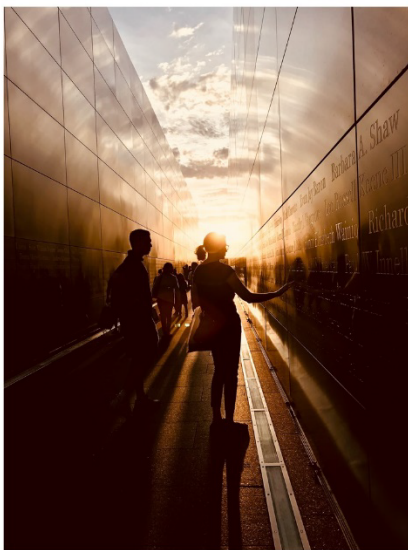


Photo: Tobe Roberts on Pexels

The Walking Dead

“In Flanders Field the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row
That mark our place and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved and were loved, and now we
lie...”

The sands of time do blow
Spirits moving row on row
They move to beckon us take up
The quarrel with the foe.
We take the torch we hold it high
And off the young men go
To fight another war...

To the beaches of Normandy, and
of Okinawa
Korea, Cuba, Bay of Pigs Vietnam
Cambodia
El Salvador and Libya, Iran and
Desert Storm
Afghanistan and Pakistan, Iraq the
list goes on...

In Arlington gentle breezes blow
Between the crosses row on row
A wall stands silent and in
reverence shows its toll

Names only heroes all
Lined up for their last roll call
Names only heroes all
Lined up for their last roll call...
Between the crosses row on row
We vets stand proud but our tears
flow
So many dead beneath the rows
Why we came back we'll never
know
Our deepest wounds the ones that
do not show...

We are the dead
The walking dead
We live we love
But we will never be the same
The sacrifice we made
Will silently remain...

Still we go row on row
Day by day still we pray
No more war
So those who lie beneath
Can sleep in peace



**Arthur ‘Doc Z.’ Zimmerman
(1942-2022)
U.S. Army 1960-64 Germany,
Army Reserves 1980s**

Photo: Jean Paglia on
Pexels

Good, Bad, & Ugly

We grew up singin' in a family band.
Old country tunes with Mom and Dad.
And we love pickin' and singin' too,
Trusting that the music would get us through.

Then I signed up to serve in the war.
Soldiers aren't treated like in wars before.
From Cam Ranh Bay in South Vietnam,
Packed up to Saigon to play in an army band

It's the good, the bad, and the ugly
All came back to that one fatal day.
It's the good, the bad, and the ugly
And one day the freedom bird will take us away.

Brought them all music to the firebase,
Cheered up the boys as we played away.
Through the fighting those shots rang out.
Guess those Vietcong don't like rock n roll ... anyhow.

On the gun truck in the final days,
That RPG blew us away.
Two men died, another lost his arm.
Should've been me, but I guess I'm O.K.

It's the good, the bad, and the ugly
All came back to that one fatal day.
It's the good, the bad, and the ugly
And one day the freedom bird will take us away.



Mark Shane Philips
US Army
Vietnam War

Photo: military.com



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Ode to 8th Air Force Pilots in WWII

The posters called out, "We need YOU!"
And so, we joined to "fly & fight"
Leaving farm and tractor for one with wings
We traded for machines with might and bite.

The world in training gained a 3rd dimension
Our stomachs did object
To looking up and seeing ground
First weightless, then 4 G's and 800 pounds

Power at our fingertips
To make our winged craft dance
Turning, twisting, learning, landing
Gaining confidence that gave us a chance

The day did come for graduation
With pride we did parade
For generals, moms and dads
And heard speeches under sun's glare

Those who made the grade
Thought of those who didn't
And marched across a makeshift stage
To join the elite and receive our silver wings

And then we donned the uniform
And flew across the sea
We knew not where life would lead us
Or exactly what we'd see

With youth and vigor, we flew the flag
The Stars & Stripes forever
On aluminum painted and shoulder sewn
Alerted all, "The Yanks were over there!"

We flew and fought with what we'd learned
And dreamed of those back home
Parents, aunts and uncles
And the sweethearts left behind

We asked God's grace to get us through
Logging missions and enemies downed
Anticipating when we'd done enough
To be relieved by those coming 'round

Our formidable foes got lucky, too
And brought down our best friends
Through our tears we said "goodbye"
Then up again and flew the channel blue

We're now home to tell our stories
To those who show an interest
And visit those who shared our lot
Over there...

In our twilight with quiet pride
We know all did their part
To rid the world of evildoers
Preserving freedom in our hearts

God bless America!

**E.J. Thomas, COL, (Ret.)
USAF Pilot & Instructor,
8th Air Force
Honored to Serve 32 Years**



Army Air Force Recruitment Poster 1942

Guernica, Aleppo, Ukraine Refugee

Their crops are not in.
Their wheat will now rot.
Their sunflowers unpicked
and sugar beets unsold.
They are driving and walking
to another land border.
They've left all their men folk
to fight on for freedom.

From all the world's conflicts,
the famines, the floods,
droughts and catastrophes,
the result is the same.
Records of refugees march
in his name.

Good-by my Aliya.
Good-by Rushena.
Good-by all my friends.
You will have a name
if you make Poland's border.
We hope it will be more
than just "refugee".

**Jim Mayer
Vietnam Era veteran,
Ohio National Guard in the late 1960s.**



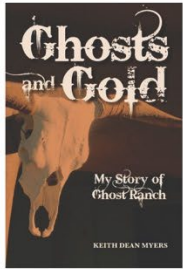
They are all desperate.
They are all haunted.
They are cold and hungry.
They fight for life's freedom's
and must move on.
So to NATO's warm hearths
they travel with hope in their hearts,
for its safety they seek.

Their cars' tanks are empty.
The roads are all clogged.
The impact of greed tries
to split their strong will.
Where are all these friends
who may die as brave soldiers?
The internet said
they are all volunteers.

Good-by my Aliya.
Good-by Rushena.
Good-by all my friends.
You will have a name

I wrote this shortly after the beginning of the war in Ukraine. It is adapted from the 1948 song "Deportee" by Woody Guthrie and Martin Hoffman.
Aliya is the feminine form of "The Most High" and Rushena "light, bright, clear".

Photo: pexels - аlessь-усцінаў



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A Chorus of Thanks to the following:

The Maltz Performing Arts Center at Case Western Reserve University and its amazing staff who helped make this concert happen.

David Gilson and Sara Smith for making rehearsals enjoyable and productive

Church of the Gesu, University Heights

Disciples Christian Church, Cleveland Heights

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Topp Layer Printing, Lakewood

A few generous donors who choose to remain anonymous. Your contributions made this event possible.

The veterans who have served in all branches of the military. A special thanks to the local veterans who shared their poetry in this book.

...and to YOU. Thank you for continuing to support choral music. We hope you enjoyed this concert and come to future events.

Please visit our websites:

www.WesternReserveChorale.org and

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