

Western Reserve Chorale 29th Season David Gilson, Artistic Director

June 2021 Concert



Western Reserve Chorale

Premiere Friday, June 4, 2021

Featuring eight new recordings by members of WRC, with original poetry by the students of Laurel School and art by the students of Cleveland Heights High School.

Grace Before Sleep Who Has Seen the Wind? How Do I Love Thee? Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star I See the Heaven's Glories Shine Wanting Memories Maya's Prayer for Peace Hope Sara Teasdale Christina Rosetti Elizabeth Barrett Browning Jane Taylor Emily Bronte Ysaye Barnwell Maya Angelou Emily Dickenson Composed by Susan LaBarr Composed by Jay Althouse Composed by Bruce Tippette Composed by Daniel Elder Composed by Andrea Ramsay Music and Lyrics Composed by Tom Trenney Composed by Debra Scroggins

Kevin Montgomery, Audio Mixing Engineer

Bob Sammon, Video Production

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 Gielo, John Rutter and more.

Past appearances have included collaborative concerts with the R. Nathaniel Dett Concert Choir of the Cleveland School of the Arts, Choral Arts Cleveland, the Singer's Club of Cleveland, Suburban Symphony and the Heights Chamber Orchestra, plus performances at The Maltz Performing Arts Center, The Breen Center, The Cleveland Play House, Judson Manor, Judson Park, The McGregor Home, The Waterford, The Renaissance, and Hamlet Village. We have provided the chorus for concert performances of H.M.S. Pinafore and The Mikado by Gilbert and Sullivan in collaboration with Opera per Tutti and Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra. The Church of the Gesu in University Heights has become a familiar home for the chorale and an all-around wonderful experience for us. We are anticipating many more exciting programs being presented there when we can once again gather again. In the meantime, we hope these virtual performances will add some joy to your holiday season.



DAVID GILSON

David has served as Artistic Director of the Western Reserve Chorale since 2012. He holds degrees in music from Allegheny College and the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) with major studies in the fields of vocal performance, conducting and Dalcroze eurhythmics. David serves as Associate Dean for Student Affairs as well as teaching choral conducting.

David currently serves as Director of Music for Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights. He previously served the United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls for 23 years. Through the CIM Distance Learning program, he has served as a choral coach and clinician to numerous school choirs across the country. David has also conducted numerous North-East Ohio ensembles including 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 in 2014. David has also served as choral director for 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 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.



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Support Western Reserve Chorale with your donation made securely online through paypal. <u>https://www.westernreservechorale.org/support-wrc</u> *WRC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in Ohio. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law* Women Poets featured this season span the timeframe from Victorian-era 1800s to present day. Pre-women's rights poets--Sara Teasdale, Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti and Emily Bronte--authored works under pseudonyms. Some, Maya Angelou and Ysaye M. Barnwell, earned various degrees and doctorates in addition to writing their poetry. We are thankful for their work.

Maya Angelou (1928-2014): 2022 will see Maya Angelou appear on the American quarter, honoring her as part of a new series through "the American Women Quarter Program." A Civil Rights Activist, poet, singer, and author, Maya wrote under a pen name: Maya is a nickname given by her brother.

Ysaye M. Barnwell (1946 - present): In addition to writing poetry, Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell holds numerous graduate degrees, including a Doctorate of Philosophy in Speech Pathology. Her early life was steeped in music, and she later became a long-standing member of "Sweet Honey in the Rock," an internationally-renowned ensemble. Multi-dimensional in the arts, including acting and authoring children's books, she is a teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance.

Emily Bronte (1818-1848): Emily Bronte was the daughter of a clergyman. She is perhaps best known for her novel, "Wuthering Heights." Emily began writing at an early age, along with her sisters. Her muses were solitary walks to enjoy nature and wildlife.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1805-1861): Elizabeth Browning's Sonnets from the Portuguese contains her best-known piece, Sonnet 43, "How Do I

Love Thee," resulting from pre-marriage letters to her husband, poet Robert Browning. Elizabeth was anti-slavery, as noted in her "Poems Before Congress."

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886): A rather reclusive poet, Emily Dickinson wrote over 1,800 poems. Only a few were published in her lifetime; a family member published most works after her death. Her common themes are death, solitude, and mental health.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894): Two of Christina's poems, "In the Bleak Midwinter" and "Love Came Down," became familiar lyrics of two English Christmas songs. She sat for painter Dante Gabriel Rosetti, inspiring his painting, "The Girlhood of Virgin Mary"--Christine later married him. She wrote the children's poems, "Goblin Market and Other Poems."

Jane Taylor (1783-1824): A novelist, poet, and engraver, Jane Taylor's poem "The Star," later set to music, is beloved by many parents and children alike: "Twinkle, Twinkle, little star...."

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933): A sickly child, Sara Teasdale grew up in a lonely adult world. She often wrote of things of beauty.

Singers of the Western Reserve Chorale

SOPRANO

Alice Bewie Carrie Bodenger Ellen Brooks **Bonnie Cook** Nell Davidson Celeste DiCillo Ellen Durand Mary Fruehwald **Rosalyn Gaier** Veronica Gallo Alison Goodman Juliann Hammond Katie Harbage Suzanne Harrington Leona Jackson **Nancy Jamieson** Vicki Jamison Carole Moran Krus Karen Ling Pamela Maben

Ginie Mast Katherine McCarty Joan McVeen Rebecca Medina Samantha Miller# **Stacy Newman** Lydia Oppmann Laura Otis* Paula Pronio Jane Richmond Karen Swift **Ginna Taft** Margo Vinney Wendy Wagner Beth Wardrum Judith Weiss Sally Wilson# Christine Winsberg **Becky Zeigler**

Board Members * Section Leaders Singers in bold submitted recordings for this concert

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Cynthia Maleski Groch Lynda Mayer Joan McHugh **Maxine Myers** Mary Ober Marcia Polevoi Marianne Prebet Margaret Robinson Sara Schiller Jaymie Shanker **Ruth Shoskes** Julie Siegel **Doris Simpson Karen Smith Carol Steiner** Kelsey Tarase# Janet Thompson **Diana Vargo** Julia Weiss **Blossom Williams** Gayle Woodrow Margarita Yakutovich

TENOR **Debbie Boyd-Tressler Eric** Brandt Tom Brandt William Davis **Rick Drake Stephen Hotchkiss Alex Jamieson** Karl Kaups **Cliff** Lewis Bryan McGucken Arlen Overholt **Bob** Rittenhouse **Rick Schmid** John Sherck **Ban Twaddell Bobbie** Varble Mark Wakefield# Mark I. Wallach#

BASS **David Barnes David Bell#** John Blackwell Chris Brandt Don Chilcote **Richard Fruehwald Bill Fuller Robert Gaier Donald Hylton Dennis** Jakse Marc Kirschenbaum Mac McVeen Francis Miller **Dean Myers Dave Rainey*** Brent Robins# John Rydquist Gunter Schwegler **Ed Solem** Mike Varble



Margaret W Wong

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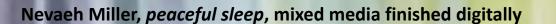
Thank you, WRC, for lifting women's voices! Mary Ober, Revy Fair Trade



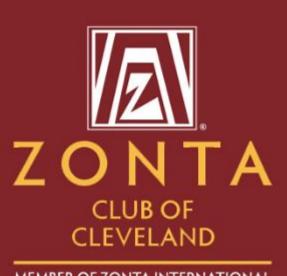


Cecelia Adams, Heaven's Glories Shine, Oil

When reading the poem "I See the Heaven's Glories Shine" by Emily Bronte, I pictured light as a source of protection to ward off evil. I felt that if I could capture what I imagined while reading then I would be successful in conveying the message. I also felt that oil paint would be the best way to showcase this.



I chose Grace before sleep because as soon as I heard the name an image appeared in my head. I imagined a beautiful girl asleep on clouds formed from the curls on her head. I wanted to portray her sleeping peacefully and gracefully. WRC is delighted to share the great work done by the local chapter of the Zonta Club. Find out how you can get involved at www.zontacleveland.org



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Megan Harrington, Lady under a Tree, Tempera

My artwork was inspired by "Who Has Seen The Wind" by Christina Rosseti. The author talks about how though no one can see the wind, you can feel it and you can see it in the trees when the wind blows. When I was reading it, I had a reflective feeling and I was wondering how I could incorporate that into my piece. So I thought of having a girl under a tree, wind in her hair and the leaves, having her look out reflecting on something. What is she thinking about? Thats what the person viewing the piece has to ponder. Congratulations Western Reserve Chorale On Tour 29th Season

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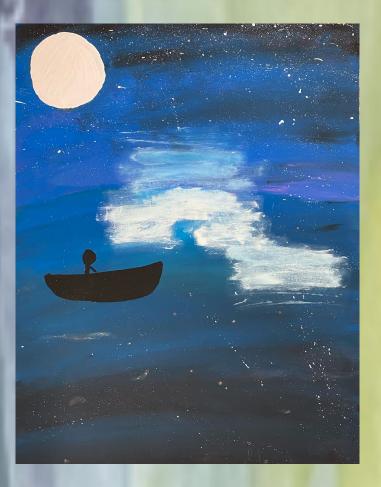
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Katherine Motley, Land, Fire and Wind, Watercolor

My artwork is about hope & fire, earth, wind and water. When I was making this I thought of all the fire and natural disasters that happened in the last couple years. Back in 2014 I lived in Buffalo, NY where there was snow in November, it was one of the worst snowstorms we ever had. This is really meaningful.



Tylar Crosby, Untitled, acrylic paint, pencil

The song twinkle twinkle little star inspired me to make a calm and quiet place where you can relax and I thought of a lake at night watching the stars. I got this idea to paint the portrait of a person on the lake because I like to go to the beach/ lake at night and watch the stars and listen to the water when I'm stressed/ sad. It just takes me away from my problems and gives me peace.

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Rose Goodluck, Flying, Watercolor and Fountain pen

I was inspired both by the concept of female writers as a whole, and the poem "Who Has Seen the Wind?" I decided to translate these concepts by having a woman holding sheets of paper while others blow around her in the wind. I wanted to create rhythm in the peace to mimic the flow of the poetry and the music.



Libby Warren, The Elements of Life, Mixed Media

The essential idea behind this piece was to couple the meaning behind the song "Prayer" with the feminist energy that is exerted from the rest of the music featured in the show. I have personally done lots of research about Maya Angelou and was particularly drawn to her poem, so I tried to embody not only her identity in pure form but also capture the dynamic course of her life and the moods within both her poem as well as the musical application. As for the feminist symbolism, the bold and colorful elements -- that are meant to be flying out of the head of Angelou -- are designed to represent the remarkably vibrant and artistic minds of women, a virtue that this performance could not exist without. The displaced facial features which can be noticed in various areas are rather a nod to the fact that even though women have proven to be essential in the landscape of creative expression, art, and intellect, it is still considerably challenging for a female to find her place and voice in a world that is largely dominated my paternal influence and constant noise. However, as will be displayed in this performance, feminist power and energy will prevail. I wish everyone the best of luck and a beautiful experience!

A Chorus of Thanks to the following:

Laura Skehan and her Studio II Art Class from Cleveland Heights High School

The young poets from Laurel School. Please follow the link <u>on</u> <u>our website</u> to read all of the poetry these students submitted for this program.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture for extending their project grant into this season.

Church of the Gesu for continuing to be our home even when we cannot be there.

Church of the Saviour for allowing our Director and Accompanist to run Zoom rehearsals from their space.

David Gilson, Sara Smith, and Vicki Jamison for making it possible for the singers to learn their parts and record from home.

Kevin Montgomery, Audio Engineer Extraordinaire

Bob Sammon, Video Production Wizard

...and to YOU. Thank you for continuing to support choral music. We hope to return to you live in the near future.



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Lily Fawcett-Dubow, Flight of Hope, Acrylic and Oil

I was inspired by the performance of "Hope". I have always loved rainbows and the ombre effect that they create. Rainbows and birds both symbolize hope and peace to me, so I felt inclined to do a painting of a bird flying freely into a rainbow background. I loved the idea of having human hands release the bird into the colors to symbolize freedom and respect for nature. Because I wanted a more smooth finish, I used oil paint for the first time in this painting.



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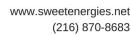
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