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Madison Symphony Chorus
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#### **Program Notes**

- 1:30pm Cantilena, Cantabile, Ragazzi, and the MYC/Capitol Lakes Intergenerational Choir
- 15 4:00pm Purcell, Britten, Holst, and Ragazzi
- 29 7:00pm Choraliers, Con Gioia, and Capriccio
- 35 Music Educators
- 38 MYC Members
- 43 Friends and Donors





#### From the Director

How is the work of a scientist like the work of a musician? This was one of our key questions this semester, and answering it has been an exciting part of our learning. Singers have explored, experimented, hypothesized, gathered data, and of course, looked in detail at the music they are studying. We also had wonderful collaborations with UW Chemistry professors Bassam Shakhashiri and Rodney Schreiner, who brought their UW-Madison based "Science is Fun" presentations to our fall camp. Jim Lattis of UW Space Place led an evening of stargazing for MYC families. Con Gioia performed with Dr. Shakhashiri at the Wisconsin Science Festival, and MYC produced four short videos with local scientists Michael Parsen, Dr. Sam Gellman, Dr. Jim Lattis, and Dr. Amy Wendt for our weekly email notes. Special thanks to MYC Development Director, Nicole Sparacino, for her video production work.

Mike Ross, Artistic/Executive Director



#### **Please Note**

Every MYC concert is recorded, and each concert represents the extraordinary effort and hard work of our young musicians. We want them to remember their performance for its artistry, not its interruptions.

Please silence or turn off all electronic devices. And if you are attending with young children and they are having trouble enjoying the concert quietly, please consider stepping out into the lobby.

Thank you for your cooperation.



#### **Special Thanks**

Our winter concert series, now named the *Diane Ballweg Winter Concerts*, has been permanently endowed by Diane Ballweg. Her incredible gift supports the production costs of presenting a winter concert series (facility rental, guest musicians, music) each year in perpetuity. We are grateful to Diane for her long-time support of MYC. If you are interested in learning more about creating a concert endowment, please contact us. We'd love to talk to you more about how an endowment gift can make a significant impact on the wonderful young musicians you will hear today.



#### Visit madisonyouthchoirs.org for more information.

Hosted by Madison Youth Choirs, in partnership with Madison Metropolitan School District.



YOUTH CHOIRS





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**Diane Ballweg Winter Concerts** 

# INQUIRY. science, music, imagination

1:30pm, Sunday, December 13, 2015 First Congregational Church



#### **CANTILENA**

Marcia Russell, conductor Jingwen Fan, piano

#### **CANTABILE**

Michael Ross, conductor Jess Salek, piano

#### **RAGAZZI**

Michael Ross, conductor Jess Salek, piano

# MYC/CAPITOL LAKES INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR

Lisa Kjentvet, conductor Michael Ross, piano

#### **CANTILENA**



#### Bel Tempo Che Vola

Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632–1687)

(sung in Italian)

Let's sing. Let's enjoy our youth. What's lost will not come back again.

Bel Tempo Che Vola is a duet from Lully's opera *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. One of the challenges of singing songs in languages other than English is not knowing what the words mean. As scientist-musicians, the members of Cantilena were asked to use the tools they had to translate the Italian text, and then summarize the meaning in their own words.

#### Weep No More

David Childs (b. 1969)

As part of the "scientific musical process," members of Cantilena were encouraged to help decide the program order for today. They considered text, tonality, tempo and overall *effect* of the song. *Weep No More* is an adaptation of a poem by John Keats called *Fairy's Song*. This piece is not melodic in the traditional sense of choral music; rather, it sets a mood. The combination of the wistful piano accompaniment and repetitive vocal line create a setting in which one may imagine the fairy whispering into the heroine's ear as she sits in a woodland forest.

#### Songbird

Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)

Sarah Quartel is a Canadian composer on the rise. Her works have been performed around the world at all levels. This piece is light and playful, and the text seems to be a play on a childhood counting song. Performed a cappella, the challenge for the singers involves vocal crossing (altos singing higher than sopranos) and the interplay between g natural and g sharp. "I am a songbird, I will sing anything. Give me a tune, I will spin you gold."

#### **Sound the Trumpet**

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

A large portion of Henry Purcell's work included composing welcome songs and odes to the Royal family. It is not surprising, given the imaginative construction of these works, that they are still widely performed today. *Sound The Trumpet* is a treasure trove of musical discovery. Beginning with the ground bass in the piano, the long sustained first note in the voice, and the melismatic interplay between the two voices, this is not only a celebration for making music, it is a celebration of experiencing music.

#### When I Set Out for Lyonesse

Keith Bissell (1912-1992)

Perhaps no song this semester has intrigued the imagination of Cantilena more than Bissell's setting of this poem penned by Thomas Hardy:

When I set out for Lyonnesse. A hundred miles away. The rime was on the spray. And starlight lit my lonesomeness When I set out for Lyonnesse, A hundred miles away.

What would bechance at Lyonnesse While I should sojourn there No prophet durst declare, Nor did the wisest wizard guess What would bechance at Lyonnesse While I should sojourn there.

When I came back from Lyonnesse With magic in my eyes, All marked with mute surmise My radiance rare and fathomless. When I came back from Lyonnesse With magic in my eyes!

The singers explored the strophic setting of the text, the use of unison and harmony, and the changes in tempo and tonality. Once they paired this research with a study of the life of the poet, the magic of the story was revealed to their eyes.

### **RAGAZZI**



Regina Coeli (sung in Italian) Gregorian chant, ca. 10th century

Regina Coeli (sung in Italian) Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia: for He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia; He has risen as He said, alleluia; pray for us to God, alleluia.

Palestrina's compositional output was extraordinary, including 105 masses and more than 300 motets. To many, his work is seen as the height of Renaissance polyphony. Here, he sets short melodic excerpts from the *regina coeli* chant throughout all of the voices. In performance practice typical of Palestrina's time, the men of Ragazzi sing all four vocal parts: Cantus (modern soprano), Altus, Tenor, and Bassus.

#### Song of Peace

Vincent Persichetti (1915–1987)

American composer Vincent Persichetti's work spans many musical mediums; he wrote works for piano, instrumental solos, symphonies, and major works for concert band. Here he weaves a simple melody throughout, treating it as if it were a literal plea for peace.

#### Dúláman

Michael McGlynn (b. 1964)

(sung in Gaelic)

James Tautges, Michael Verban, Brian Yin, Peter Woods, soloists

Seaweed of the yellow peaks, gaelic seaweed, seaweed of the ocean, gaelic seaweed...

Due to the erosion of the land, people were forced to carry seaweed from the shorelines along the barren West Coast of Ireland; this was then allowed to rot, and was eventually used to plant potatoes in. The text of this song, an extract from a much longer traditional text, may have been sung while the seaweed was being gathered. (notes by the composer)

Michael McGlynn is a well-known Irish composer and conductor, best known as director of the successful Irish choir Anúna, founded in 1987.

#### **CANTABILE**



Utopia Moira Smiley

In the United States in the 19th century, singing schools led by itinerant music teachers concentrated on improving congregational singing. Instead of focusing on European composers, these amateur musicians learned the music of early American composers, who used English parish church models combined with free counterpoint and loose harmonic rules.

In the South, this music found a permanent cultural home. Singers learned to read music by using a four-note system of shapes. This shape-note tradition continues today, with singing groups still active throughout the country (including Madison!). *Utopia* is a newer composition (1994) written in this style by Moira Smiley, a member of the amazing women's a capella group Voco.

Lacrimoso son io (K. 555) (sung in Italian)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Tearful am I; I have lost my idol.

The compositional genius of the then 32-year old Mozart is clearly demonstrated in this complex 4-part canon. Mozart paints the tearful loss inside the melody itselfwaves of loss and pain flow throughout its short four lines of music.



# DID YOU KNOW THAT OVER 1,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SING IN MYC'S CHORAL PROGRAMS EVERY YEAR?

In addition to the 330 singers who will participate in today's concert, nearly 700 additional choristers participate in our music education activities throughout Madison. These programs include:

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engaging over 400 boys in a daylong choral celebration and public performance

#### A NEW INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR

joining the voices of teenage MYC singers with senior residents of Capitol Lakes retirement community

#### **CHORAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

encouraging musical exploration for new singers at Lussier Community Education Center

All of these programs are made possible by the generous support of our donors and sponsors, listed on page 43–44. Thank you for serving as the sustaining force behind our drive for musical innovation and arts accessibility for all!



#### The Gods Have Heard My Vows

Thomas Weelkes (1576–1623)

Weelkes' three-part "mini-madrigal" captures much of his 16<sup>th</sup> century musical spirit. It uses text from an earlier age: here, excerpts paraphrased from a Roman ode. He uses text-painting, writing musical phrases that reflect the literal meaning of the text. Weelkes was one of England's most famous 16<sup>th</sup> century composers.

#### **Palomita**

Traditional Peruvian lament Arranged by Randal Swiggum

Laura Pinsonneault, flute

Little dove, where are you? Because I am looking for you. Lonely, perhaps you cry, without a way to come back.

My dove, I've lost you. I don't know where you went. Desolate, I search for you, perhaps never to see you.

A simple, poignant melody set effectively to capture the loneliness and desolation of the lyrics, this arrangement by MYC conductor Randal Swiggum has become a favorite of ours. The flute part evokes the sound of the Andean pan pipe.

#### Hoj, hura hoj!

Otmar Mácha (1922-2006)

(sung in Czech)

O, mountain, O! The children herding their dear cows shoo them as always, calling them out of the village:

O mountain, O!

My dear cows are eating all around me until the evening bells ring; I will go home with you. I will go behind the hills as my sheep graze.

I will go to Maria, my dear friend.

The children herding their dear cows...

Mácha's composition (sung in a Moravian dialect of Czech) evokes the sound of shepherds, almost always young girls, calling out across the mountains. Otmar Mácha was one of the Czech Republic's most respected composers.

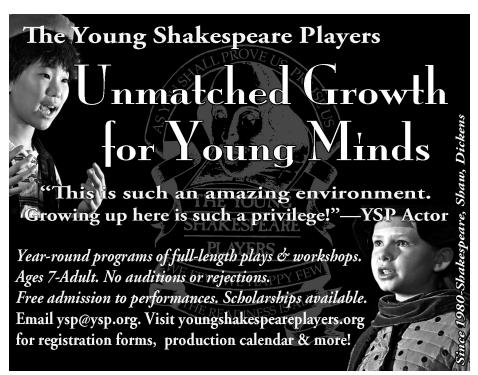
#### Join a community of musicians passionate about learning!

**Audition for a Performing Choir** | Wednesday, January 6, 2016 For singers ages 11-18. Auditions are free and require no advance preparation. We want to hear you sing!

**Enroll in Spring Introductory Choir** | begins mid-February Designed for singers ages 7-10, our engaging classes provide the perfect introduction to MYC for young musicians of all abilities. Scholarships are available. Space is limited, so register early!

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#### **CANTABILE AND RAGAZZI**



#### **Apple-Tree Wassail**

Stephen Hatfield (b. 1956)

We tend to associate wassailing with Christmas, but its origins predate the introduction of Christianity to England. According to the composer: "Wassail comes from the Anglo-Saxon wes hael—to be healthy. Originally, wassails were taken seriously as blessings on farms and farmers that would help ensure the health of the coming year. Apple-Tree Wassail comes from the cider country of Devon and Somerset, where it might be sung in the orchards or at the farmer's door. The references to 'lily white pins' and 'lily white smocks' are meant to flatter the farmer's family by listing the fine clothes and ornaments they could supposedly afford to wear. The twelfth day of Christmas (Epiphany) was thought to be a perfect time to bless the orchards, in part because it was believed that evil spirits did their best to confound Christmas piety in the twelve days following Christ's birth."

(Program notes by Michael Allsen)

# MYC/CAPITOL LAKES INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR and COMBINED CHOIRS



#### **Forever Young**

Bob Dylan (b. 1941)

Members of the Intergenerational Choir (\* denotes Cantabile/Ragazzi singer): Sallie Bestul\*, Michael Briggs, Nora Cahill\*, Royce Dembo, Liam Forrest\*, John Frantz, Mary Frantz, Marcus Graham\*, Dolores Gohdes, Paul Gohdes, Mary Grist, Jim Grist, Lincoln Hartford, Bernie Hebb, Herb Hellen, Bob Klassy, John Kruse, Jacob Larget\*, Gracie Little\*, Breanna McClarey\*, Bettina Pietri, Ken Riggs, Joan Riggs, Julia Russell\*, Ameya Sanyal\*, Stella Sanford\*, Louise Seebeck, Don Snyder, Debby Thomas, Doris Unger, Eli Wilson\*.

The Intergenerational Choir brings together the young singers of MYC with the residents of Capitol Lakes to create a unique, innovative musical ensemble that benefits from blending voices with a wide range of life experiences. Through this program, which is supported in part by the Madison Community Foundation, we hope to demonstrate that creative expression is vital at every age and encourage further collaboration between artists of different generations.



**Diane Ballweg Winter Concerts** 

# INQUIRY. science, music, imagination

4:00pm, Sunday, December 13, 2015 First Congregational Church



#### **PURCELL**

Margaret Jenks, conductor Andrew Johnson, piano

#### **BRITTEN**

Randal Swiggum conductor Michael Ross, piano

#### **HOLST**

Margaret Jenks and Randal Swiggum, conductors

#### with special guests

Nathaniel Johnson and Steven Wilke, violins Andrew Briggs, cello Shaun Spencer, guitar Tim Gustafson, bass

#### **MADISON BOYCHOIR**



#### Two St. Nicholas Songs

St. Nicholas was a fourth-century Christian saint. His life and deeds were not recorded until several hundred years after his death, so separating fact from legend is virtually impossible. The legend says he was born in the port city of Myra, in modern Turkey, and that he was elected bishop through divine intervention. He spent the rest of his life performing courageous, altruistic, and miraculous deeds in defense of his flock, and after his death (usually given as December 6, about 342 A.D.), his bones mysteriously exuded a fragrant healing oil. Reports of his miracles steadily increased.

In the late 11<sup>th</sup> century, the time of these songs, the remains of St. Nicholas were removed to the Italian city of Bari. Adoration of St. Nicholas grew stronger during this time, and there were many songs and liturgical services dedicated to him written throughout Europe, including these.

#### I. Intonent Hodie

Anonymous (probably 12th century)

(sung in Latin)

Let the voices of boys sing out today! Thus the joyful day shone forth in a rejoicing world, with a jubilant heart and a merry mouth.

This famous saint, the Lord's subject, was placed in a cradle. He denied his flesh—even his mother's milk, and on Saturday the boy fasted three times.

To the grieving parent, his son drowned in the dangerous sea, he granted what was asked: God heard his prayers and gave the drowned boy back to his father.

This text dates from at least 1360, but is probably much older. The melody associated with it comes from the famous *Pies Cantiones* of 1542, but is also older. It is actually better known today in its later form, as *Personent Hodie*.

With a lively processional feeling, it's possible the song was sung by monastery boys on St. Nicholas Day (December 6) or in procession with the boy bishop on the Feast of Fools, between Christmas and New Year's. The lyrics include four verses, retelling four of the most famous legends about St. Nicholas.



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#### II. Sainte Nicholaes

(sung in Latin)

Saint Nicholas, God's favorite, Build for us a fair, beautiful house. At our birth, at our death, Saint Nicholas, bring us safely there.

This song, whose composer we actually know, is part of the oldest manuscript of a song in English that includes both text and music. Because Godric was so famous (often called "Saint Godric") several medieval biographers wrote of him, and (fortunately for us) included his three famous songs in the text of their biographies, including this one.

Born in Norfolk, Godric spent the first forty years of his life as a seafaring merchant. He later made holy pilgrimages to Rome and Jerusalem before withdrawing to a hermitage at Finchale (pronounced 'Finkel'), near Durham, on the river Wear. Here he spent the remaining sixty (!) or so years of his life. At first he lived alone, and outdoors. Then the nearby monks built him a hermitage to protect him from the elements. He was later joined by his sister Burgwen, and a servant. He died on May 20, 1170, attended by monks from Durham.

Godric was not a trained musician, but his biographer Reginald explained that his three songs came to him in visions, much like Hildegard of Bingen, his contemporary. According to Reginald, one night Godric sang loudly and called out to St. Nicholas, and later said that the saint had visited him, and they had sung together.

#### **PURCELL**



Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)

#### Singt den Herrn

(sung in German)

Sing to the Lord, Allelujah!

All who love him praise him. Praise his name! Sing with tambourine and harp!

One of the strictest musical forms is the canon or round (like "Are You Sleeping?"), which is usually associated with children's music but is actually quite difficult to compose. The rigor of writing a canon that both followed the rules (canon means "rule") and was pleasant to sing and hear seems to have appealed most strongly to German composers, and none more so than theologian and musician Michael Praetorius. Although he never traveled outside of his native Germany, he was heavily influenced by the new Venetian polychoral style, experimenting with creating a sense of space and distance in his music. "Singt dem Herrn," probably written for instruction or for devotional music-making in the home, is a magnificent example of the "logic" of compositional means applied to expressive ends.

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#### Who Can Sail?

Norwegian Folk Song Arranged by Jeanne Julseth-Heinrich

Folk songs invite speculation and this one is rich with possible interpretations, including its origin, which has been variously ascribed to Swedish, Finnish, and Norwegian traditions. Wisconsin composer Jeanne Julseth-Heinrich—a proud Norwegian—has written a tender setting of this haunting melody which asks a profound question: what is the nature of human relationships?

#### **Rolling Down to Rio**

Edward German (1862-1936)

Scientists and artists both need vivid imaginations. The desire to explore, to imagine something we have never seen, to speculate on what might be—these are important drives toward creativity and venturing forward. Rudyard Kipling's poem, "Rolling Down to Rio" perfectly captures this sense of adventure and exploration.

Kipling (1865-1936) is best known for *The Jungle Book* and *Just So Stories*. He brought to life exotic, far away places and an idealized excitement for adventure, writing at the peak of British colonialism and expansion. Edward German, another British composer and exact contemporary of Kipling, set these texts in his *Just So Songbook* of 1903. Every British schoolboy at the turn of the century would have known "Rolling Down to Rio" and it was arranged and rearranged many times. We were delighted to "rediscover" it and introduce it to another generation of boys.

#### **BRITTEN**



#### **Rattlesnake Skipping Song**

Derek Holman (b. 1931)

Dennis Lee, Canada's first poet laureate, published his collection of poems, *Alligator Pie*, in 1974. It not only became one of the best-selling Canadian children's books of all time, but poems like "Rattlesnake Skipping Song," with their tonguetickling rhymes and rhythms, quickly became favorite playground and nursery chants. What seems like a silly children's poem, however, takes on a creepy, almost surreal quality with Derek Holman's musical setting—a canon which keeps expanding in number of parts, building to a macabre ending. An unnerving piano part contributes to the mayhem.

Britten boys also discovered that the entire piece is based on a simple motif: the interval of a minor third, heard in the opening bars of the piano accompaniment and the first few notes of the sung melody. To uncover how this motif is the seed or "DNA" of the entire piece, informing every melodic gesture and accompaniment figure of the piece (it is present in literally every single measure) was a fascinating study not only of compositional craft, but of how a piece is made coherent by this musical genetic material.

## Because your soul also needs to be fed



## A PROCESSION OF ANGELS

Madison Choral Project
HOLIDAY CONCERT

Friday evening, Dec. 18 at 7:30 PM First Congregational Church, Madison

Saturday afternoon, Dec. 20 at 2:30 PM Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, Madison

O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.



-Psalm 43

#### Tit-for-Tat

Benjamin Britten (1916-1976)

In keeping with our tradition of singing a piece by our namesake composer, the Britten boys are singing what is likely the first performance of this piece by a choir, originally intended for solo voice. Britten wrote an evocative piano part and a spiky, angular vocal line to bring to life a truly unusual poem by Walter de la Mare (one of his favorite poets). The boy Tom Noddy is a hunter with little regard for the defenseless creatures he frightens in the woods. In an ironic, humorous twist, the poet speculates on Tom the Hunter becoming "the Hunted" (by an Ogre from Space).

Britten boys first explored the poem without its title and speculated on what might be a good title. The "karma" and "what goes around comes around" aspect of the poem was fun to discover, but also the deeper understanding that, at its heart, this is not an anti-hunting poem as much as a poem about empathy, noticing other (especially less powerful) creatures, and seeing oneself not as the center. Britten's fantastic musical setting, written when he was just twelve years old (a marvel in itself), was an endless source of details to uncover as we practiced our "expert noticing" skills.

#### Jerusalem

Sir Hubert Parry (1848–1918) Poem by William Blake (1757–1827)

Although England has no official national anthem, Jerusalem has long been considered its most beloved patriotic song, known to every schoolchild and sung at official occasions, sporting events, and as a processional or recessional in cathedrals and churches across the land. Many Americans first heard it in the closing scene of the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*, whose title came from the song's lyric, "Bring me my chariot of fire."

William Blake's cryptic poem of 1804 alludes to an ancient legend that Jesus, as a young man, visited England with his uncle Joseph of Arimathea. Jerusalem is a metaphor not only for a heavenly, eternal city (as in the Book of Revelation) but a place of universal peace and brotherhood. In contrast to the "dark satanic mills" of England's industrial revolution, Jesus created, briefly, a heaven in England—a spiritual vision that Blake summons forth from his English countrymen, calling them to create such a country again.

The poem was relatively obscure for nearly one hundred years, until it was included in an anthology of patriotic verse in 1916, during the dark period of World War I when morale in England was low. Sir Hubert Parry—at the time England's most prominent composer—was asked to set the poem to "suitable, simple music that an audience could sing" for a political Fight for Right campaign. In 1922, Edward Elgar arranged the song for large orchestra and it became the traditional ending of that most British of musical events: the Last Night of the Proms (Sir Henry Wood's Promenade Concerts) held in London, and broadcast live all across the nation.

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#### **HOLST**



Ríu Ríu Chíu (sung in Spanish)

Anonymous from Villancicos de diversos Autores (1556)

Riu, riu, chiu, He who herds by the river. God has kept the wolf far away from our lamb.

Probably the single most famous piece of Renaissance music, "Ríu Ríu Chíu" was first published in a collection of *villancicos* (short, rhythmic vocal pieces in Spanish) in Venice, 1556. Only a single copy of this collection remains, discovered in the archives at the University of Upsalla in Sweden. In 1909, it was released in a modern performing edition and of the forty pieces in the collection, "Ríu Ríu Chíu" became the most popular, recorded by early music groups and pop singers alike (including the Monkees in their 1967 Christmas special).

The song's title is enigmatic. "Ríu ríu chíu" may be a kingfisher's call, or the cry of a shepherd. The various verses draw upon a striking image: the lamb (Mary) has been kept safe from the wolf (Satan) by the shepherd (God) who, like a human shepherd, protects her with a wall around her (the Immaculate Conception, a doctrine which held Mary to be without the stain of original sin). The extended metaphor reveals not only the preoccupation with this doctrine in the 16th century, but also the literary tastes at the Spanish court at Valencia, where subtlety and allusion were prized.

Anima Mea (sung in Latin) Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)

My soul, which is so downcast: hope in the Lord. He will surely bring help.

Another example of Praetorius' skill at writing canons, in this case with three voices at the interval of the fifth, this piece sounds surprisingly modern and expressive, capturing the mood of longing in the text. Like the more jubilant "Singt dem Herrn" (above), this piece was also probably intended for devotional singing among Lutherans at home. For Holst, the piece was a chance to explore the idea of sequences as building blocks of larger musical units, as well as the theme of resilience—how we persevere in the face of discouragement and obstacles.









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#### The Sound of Silence

Paul Simon (b.1941)

Listed among *Rolling Stone's* Greatest Songs of All Time, *The Sound of Silence* did not have an auspicious beginning when it was released in 1963 as part of the album *Wednesday Morning*, *3 A.M.* But when college radio stations began playing it as a single it quickly spread in popularity up and down the East Coast, eventually reaching No. 1 on the Billboard chart.

Speculation is a feature of both the work of the scientist and the work of the artist—the urge to create meaning by interpreting details and assembling them into a coherent picture. Holst speculated on the underlying meaning of these elusive lyrics, which have been a subject of debate since the song's debut. Was it a dark reflection on the Kennedy assassination, three months earlier? A commentary on the trap of blind pursuit of material wealth, technology, or all that can be measured and quantified easily? Art Garfunkel, when pressed, once summarized the song as "the inability of people to communicate with each other,....especially emotionally, so what you see around you are people unable to love each other." Like any masterpiece of its genre, *The Sound of Silence* overflows the boundaries of simple, straightforward interpretation and invites continual speculation.



Regina Coeli (sung in Latin) Gregorian chant, ca. 10th century

Regina Coeli (sung in Latin) Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia: for He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia; He has risen as He said, alleluia; pray for us to God, alleluia.

Palestrina's compositional output was extraordinary, including 105 masses and more than 300 motets. To many, his work is seen as the height of Renaissance polyphony. Here, he sets short melodic excerpts from the regina coeli chant throughout all of the voices. In performance practice typical of Palestrina's time, the men of Ragazzi sing all four vocal parts: Cantus (modern soprano), Altus, Tenor, and Bassus.

#### **Song of Peace**

Vincent Persichetti (1915–1987)

American composer Vincent Persichetti's work spans many musical mediums; he wrote works for piano, instrumental solos, symphonies, and major works for concert band. Here he weaves a simple melody throughout, treating it as if it were a literal plea for peace.





#### **Introducing the Madison Youth Choirs Legacy Society**

Honoring MYC supporters who have made a planned gift

In July 2003, Madison Youth Choirs (MYC) was created through the merger of the Madison Boychoir and Madison Children's Choir, combining nearly 50 years of service to young people in our community. Since 2003, participation in MYC's choral programs has more than doubled, and a growing scholarship fund has ensured that every child, regardless of financial ability, has the opportunity to add his or her voice to the choir.

With a rich, historic past and a bright, expanding future, Madison Youth Choirs is thrilled to offer a new opportunity for our supporters to help assure the sustainability of the choirs for years to come. Anyone who chooses to make MYC the beneficiary of a planned gift, regardless of the amount, is eligible to be an honored member of the **Madison Youth Choirs Legacy Society.** 

We invite you to join the following founding members of the MYC Legacy Society, whose generosity will help to sustain young voices in our community for generations to come.

Alexis Buchanan and James Baldwin Gwen and Kenn JeSchonek Richard Moll Kris Rasmussen and Bob Factor Michael Ross and Kirsten Fruit

To find out more about the MYC Legacy Society, please contact Nicole Sparacino at nicole@madisonyouthchoirs.org or visit madisonyouthchoirs.org/support/legacy



Dúláman

Michael McGlynn (b. 1964)

(sung in Gaelic)

James Tautges, Michael Verban, Brian Yin, Peter Woods, soloists

Seaweed of the yellow peaks, gaelic seaweed, seaweed of the ocean, gaelic seaweed...

Due to the erosion of the land, people were forced to carry seaweed from the shorelines along the barren West Coast of Ireland; this was then allowed to rot, and was eventually used to plant potatoes in. The text of this song, an extract from a much longer traditional text, may have been sung while the seaweed was being gathered.

(notes by the composer)

Michael McGlynn is a well-known Irish composer and conductor, best known as director of the successful Irish choir Anúna, founded in 1987.

#### THE MADISON BOYCHOIR



Hava Nashira (sung in Hebrew)

Traditional Hebrew canon

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**Diane Ballweg Winter Concerts** 

# INQUIRY. science, music, imagination

7:00pm, Sunday, December 13, 2015 First Congregational Church



#### **CHORALIERS**

Lisa Kjentvet, conductor Vincent Fuh, piano Madison Anderson, choir intern

#### **CON GIOIA**

Marcia Russell, conductor Jingwen Fan, piano

#### **CAPRICCIO**

Lisa Kjentvet, conductor Vincent Fuh, piano

#### **CHORALIERS**



Hava Nashira (sung in Hebrew) Traditional Hebrew canon

Let us sing together, alleluia!

*Hava Nashira* has become a favorite song among our singers due to the sheer joy found in singing a well-crafted melody in harmony. A short canon with a one and a half octave range, the tune is often attributed to Johannes Okeghem (1425–1497) which, if accurate, would make it over 500 years old.

Wind on the Hill

Victoria Ebel-Sabo (b. 1957) Text by A.A. Milne (1882–1956)

Laura Pinsonneault, flute

A. A. Milne's poem poses a simple question that a child might ask but never have answered. Noticing and pondering the origin of the wind is exactly the kind of observation that might lead to scientific inquiry. The text is set to a beautiful flowing melody over the continuous motion in the piano accompaniment.

#### You'll Never Guess What I Saw

Ruth Watson Henderson (b. 1932)

Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand." *You'll Never Guess What I Saw*, with text by Susan Astington, ignites the imagination, which plays an important role not only in scientific advances but in expressive musicianship as well.

Suo Gân

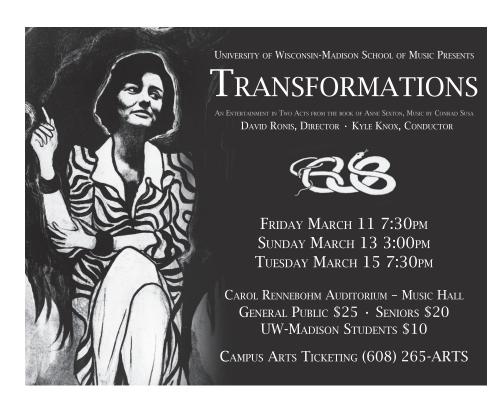
Welsh Lullaby Arranged by Alec Rowley

The first four notes of this Welsh carol form a musical motif on which the entire song is based. The motif is repeated numerous times before it grows and flourishes, much like the potential growth from a small seed. The singers sharpened their music reading skills by noticing detail in the dotted rhythms of the melody.

#### Tailor of Gloucester

English Folk Song Arranged by Cyndee Giebler

The Tailor of Gloucester is a children's book written and illustrated by Beatrix Potter who coincidently was also a natural scientist and conservationist. Giebler's musical setting has four verses and in the subsequent verses the word "feedle" is displaced by increasing increments. As we work toward becoming "expert noticers" of musical details, the singers experimented with the scientific idea that matter takes up space, much like rests taking up time in music.





#### **CON GIOIA**



#### **Donkey Carol**

John Rutter (b. 1945)

*Donkey Carol* is set in 5/8 meter, which is an uncommon musical meter. The melody consists of ascending skips and leaps paired with a quick descent to the tonic at the end of the phrase. Given the text, Rutter combines the rhythm and melody in such a way that the singer can experience the bumps along the donkey's journey. Con Gioia was thrilled to perform this song with the Madison Symphony Orchestra in December as part of *A Madison Symphony Christmas*.

#### Mid-Winter

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

As Con Gioia has explored the concert theme this semester, it has become standard practice for us to look closely at the music and wonder *why...*? Why did the composer put a rest there? Why did the composer set this part in unison and this part in two-parts? Becoming more inquisitive about the world around us has challenged us to keep our minds open to other interpretations. In the case of *Mid-Winter*, Bob Chilcott's setting of the Christina Rossetti poem, there was a general consensus that this melody is simply beautiful. The challenge was to explain *why*? We'll let you decide.

#### **Fancie**

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Tell me where is fancy bred, Or in the heart or in the head? How begot, how nourished? Reply, reply. It is engender'd in the eyes, With gazing fed; and fancy dies In the cradle, where it lies. Let us all ring fancy's knell; I'll begin it – Ding, dong, bell. Ding, dong, bell.

These words come from William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* at a point when the character Bassanio must choose between three caskets to win Portia. He looks past the fanciest of the three, decked with silver and gold, and finds her portrait in the plain, leaden one. Britten's musical setting of this text requires the same type of discernment and close examination. There is a rhythmic motif of two short eighth notes, paired with an ambiguous tonal center, that mirrors the urgency and ambiguity of the question, "Where is Fancie bred?" The final G Major section imitates the ringing of bells. Do the bells ring in celebration, or is it a death knell? Despite the short duration of the piece, Britten keeps the listener guessing.

#### **CAPRICCIO**



#### **Sound the Trumpet**

Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

Sound the Trumpet is taken from Come Ye Sons of Art, a musical ode composed by Purcell in 1694 in honor of Queen Mary's birthday. Instead of using actual trumpets, Purcell chose to incorporate a lively ground bass, a favorite device of English composers, as the singers demonstrate their virtuosity and imitate the sound of trumpets. The line "you make the listening shores rebound" is a play on words. Two of the instrumentalists in the orchestra would have been the famous trumpeters Matthias and William Shore.

An die Musik (D. 547)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

(sung in German)

You lovely art, in how many gloomy hours of experiencing the turmoil of life, have you ignited love in my heart, and transported me to a better world?

Often a sigh from your harp, a sweet and holy chord from you opened the heaven of better times. You lovely art, I thank you for it!

Schubert's great classic is based on a poetic text by Franz Adolf Friedrich von Schober (1796–1882), which conveys the powerful impact music has on our lives. The best works of art promote deeper thinking, cause us wonder about the world around us and help us feel emotion. The rise and fall of this beautifully crafted melody as well as the augmented rhythms of the vocal line contrast with the eighth note figures in the piano accompaniment.

Palomita (sung in Spanish)

Traditional Peruvian lament Arranged by Randal Swiggum

Laura Pinsonneault, flute

Little dove, where are you? Because I am looking for you. Lonely, perhaps you cry, without a way to come back. My dove, I've lost you. I don't know where you went. Desolate, I search for you, perhaps never to see you.

A simple, poignant melody set effectively to capture the loneliness and desolation of the lyrics, this arrangement by MYC conductor Randal Swiggum has become a favorite of ours. The flute part evokes the sound of the Andean pan pipe.

Niska Banja

Serbian Gypsy Dance Arranged by Nick Page (b. 1952)

Vincent Fuh and Michael Ross, piano

The rhythms of the natural world, from our heartbeat to the rising and setting of the sun, guide our daily activity and our very existence. This energetic song is more about the infectious, driving 9/8 dance rhythm than a profound text, loosely translated as "Let's go to the baths of Nis where we shall kiss!" Niska Banja sonically paints a picture of celebration, wild dancing and joyful living.



#### A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR GIRLCHOIRS!

Following our outstanding experience at the 2014 Aberdeen International Youth Festival, we are thrilled that our girlchoirs Cantabile, Cantilena, and Capriccio have been invited to perform in the 2016 festival, where they will collaborate with fellow young artists from around the world, sharpen their musical skills, and develop lifelong memories.

A wonderfully generous anonymous donor is helping to make this experience possible for all eligible singers, including those who face financial challenges, through a major matching gift. From now through December 31, all donations to the Scotland Tour Scholarship Fund will be matched 1:1, effectively doubling every dollar contributed towards this \$20,000 goal!

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund, a donation envelope with the option to designate the gift to international tour scholarships is included in this program. You may drop the envelope in the MYC donation box at the entrance of the sanctuary, or mail it to the MYC office.

You may also make a secure, online donation on our website at madisonyouthchoirs.org/support/donate.

Thanks to the many families and past tour participants who have already kick-started this ambitious effort!

#### MUSIC EDUCATORS

Madison Youth Choirs wishes to recognize, honor and thank the music educators who teach and inspire our singers in their classrooms. Thank you for your dedication to the art of teaching young people!



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Jennifer Yancey

Many of our members study voice privately. We wish to publicly thank the following private voice teachers who work with our members and inspire them every week to accomplish great things!

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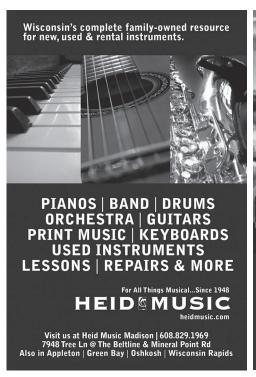
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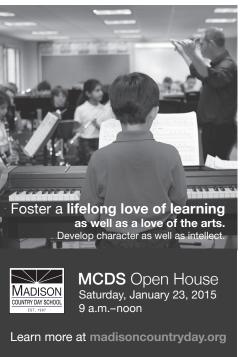
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TALLIS

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Emma Matz Frederick Berkelman
Kayah McCants Josh Boyd

Kayah McCants Josh Boyd
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Mary Nagle Dylan Hesthaven

Isa Killian

Beatrice Norman Liam Kendziorski Evan Sherer Daniel Knight

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(A)=Alumni (P)= Current Parent (S)= Current Singer

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**Note:** This list reflects donations and pledges received between April 11, 2015 and December 3, 2015. We regret any errors or omissions — please contact the MYC office with your corrections. Thank you,

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#### **MYC AUDITIONS**

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 Wednesday, January 6, 2016 Various Dates May 2016

#### **MYC WINTER CONCERTS**

First Congregational Church, Madison Sunday, December 13, 2015 1:30pm • 4:00pm • 7:00pm

#### MADISON BOYCHOIR FESTIVAL

Madison West High School Saturday, January 30, 2016 Half-day workshop for boys in grade 2-12 and free concert for the community at 12:30pm



#### **MYC SPRING CONCERTS**

Capitol Theater, Overture Center Saturday, May 7, 2016 • 7:00pm Sunday, May 8, 2016 • 3:30pm • 7:30pm

#### **CANTABILE & RAGAZZI** AT THE MONROE ARTS CENTER

Monroe, Wisconsin Sunday, May 22, 2016 • 2:00pm

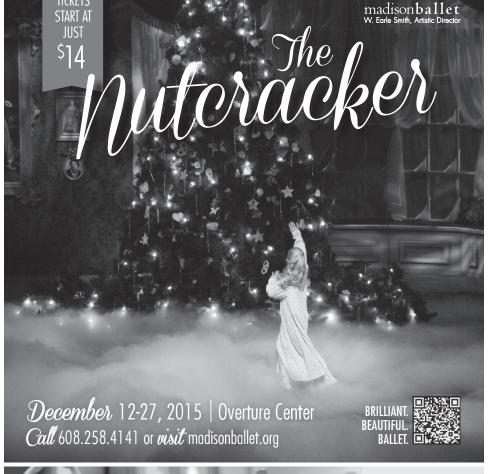
#### **NOTEWORTHY COLLABORATIONS**

Madison Opera, Overture Hall La Boheme, November 13 and 15, 2015

Madison Symphony Orchestra, Overture Hall A Madison Symphony Christmas, December 4-6, 2015 Carmina Burana, April 29-May 1, 2016

Overture Concert Organ Performance Overture Hall With Samuel Hutchison, Organist, March 8, 2016

Madison Bach Musicians First Congregational Church Handel's Messiah, April 8 and 10, 2016



TICKETS











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