



WOVEN VOICES



DIS CONNECTION

LIGHT AFTER DARKNESS

OAK GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BLOOMINGTON - MN

SUNDAY - MAY 17, 2026 - 4PM

DIS CONNECTION

LIGHT AFTER DARKNESS



2026 - The year of ICE raids; the year Minnesotans found connection by showing up again and again.

Content note: The theme of the piece "Please Stay" is about suicide and hope.

If you are struggling, please know that help is available.
You can connect with people who can support you by calling or texting 988 anytime in the US and Canada.

To allow everyone in the performance space to remain engaged in the experience,
we ask that you hold your applause until the end of the event.



Barbara Brooks, Artistic Director

Barbara is an active vocal coach and music director in the Twin Cities area. She is the Artistic Advisor and Accompanist for the Minnesota Chorale, the principal chorus for the Minnesota Orchestra. She has worked with various opera companies including Canadian Opera, Minnesota Opera, New Orleans Opera, Opera Banff, Berkshire Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Kentucky Opera, as well as the University of Minnesota Opera and University of North Texas Opera programs. She has served as a vocal coach for the Minnesota Opera's Resident Artist program and currently is on the music staff of the Wesley Balk Institute. Barbara has also collaborated as music director in the highly imaginative productions of Mozart's operas at Theatre de la Jeune Lune in Minneapolis and was Music Director for annual performances of Carmina Burana with the Minnesota Chorale and Minneapolis Dance Theatre for 15 years. She holds a master's degree in piano performance from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.



Joseph Trucano, Cello

Joseph Trucano is a Minneapolis-based performer. Joe serves as the Organist & Ensemble Director at Westminster Presbyterian Church and is the Artistic Director of Skål Chamber Collective. Prior to this, he was the Associate Producer of American Public Media's nationally broadcast Pipedreams program, and curator of Minnesota Public Radio's Pop-Up Classical series.

As a performer, Joe has performed for multiple live radio appearances as soloist and collaborator, was a 2016-2017 MPR Class Notes Artist, and is an active performer, conductor, and teacher within the Twin Cities and internationally. Local engagements have included appearances with the Schubert Club, Minnesota Public Radio, Park Square Theater, VocalPoint Chorus, Justice Choir, Minneapolis Fringe Festival, and Twin Cities American Guild of Organists.



Joe holds a Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance & Literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY where he was the recipient of the James B. Cochran award for excellence in performance. Prior to that, he attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota where he studied organ, cello and conducting and was the first student in Concordia's history to be awarded the prestigious Senior Honors award and orchestral appearance on two instruments (cello and organ).

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When I Am Among the Trees by Mary Oliver - read by Joan O'Donnell

"Ombra Mai Fù" from Xerxes by G. F. Handel

Joy Roellinger - soprano, Joseph Trucano - cello

"Ombra Mai Fù" from Xerxes by G. F. Handel, arranged by Adam & Matt Podd

Joseph Trucano - cello, Deyhdra Dennis-Weiss - saxophone

I Am Runner by Natalie Mitchell - read by Alyssa Northrop

The Runner by Joshua Rist

Joseph Trucano - cello

Fitting in Versus Belonging by Brené Brown - read by Deb Carbaugh

"Everybody Says Don't" from Anyone Can Whistle by Stephen Sondheim

Sometimes, I Forget How to Listen by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

read by Celia McCoy, Joy Roellinger, Linda Neuman, Becky Dop, Alyssa Breece, Laura Amos

The Sound of Silence by Paul Simon, Disturbed version arranged by Karen-Ivana

Becky Dop - alto

Report of Matthew Shepard and the Doe's Vigil - read by Debbie Richman

"Deer Song" from Considering Matthew Shepard by Craig Hella Johnson

Deb Carbaugh, Merilu Narum, Alyssa Breece - sopranos

I am Bullied by Maggie Smith - read by Kristen Schweiloch

Wisdom of Disraeli - read by Celia McCoy

Please Stay by Jake Runestad

Lindsey Hartjes - alto

Natalie Scholz, Deyhdra Dennis-Weiss, Merilu Narum, Stephanie Sulzbach

Kristie Shaffer, Deb Carbaugh, Dee Hein, Annalisa Anderson - narrators

My Flanders Field by Joan Potter - read by Joan Potter

Flanders Fields, words by John McCrae, music by Paul A. Aitken

Singing Resistance, Human Chain - read by Jodi Gustafson

Ilus Hääl (Estonian) music and lyrics by Margrit Kits, arranged by Laura Jēkabsons

Rochelle Milbrath, shaker

Out Beyond Ideas... by Rumi - read by Laura Amos

Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down, a Traditional Spiritual

arranged by Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

The Summons by Aurora Levins Morales - read by Lindsey Hartjes

All Things New by Elaine Hagenberg

Joseph Trucano, cello

Tribute to Minnesota from The Amen Effect by Rabbi Sharon Brous

Words of Rebecca Solnit from an Interview with David Marchese

Words of Minneapolis Mayor, Jacob Frey - read by Penny Meier, Rochelle Milbrath

O! What a Beautiful City, Traditional Spiritual, additional lyrics &

arrangement by Shawn Kirchner



Ombra Mai Fù

Ombra mai fù
Never was a shade

di vegetabile
of any plant

cara ed amabile,
dearer and more lovely

soave più.
or more sweet.

Everybody Says Don't

Everybody says don't
Everybody says don't, it isn't right
Don't, it isn't nice!

Everybody says don't
Everybody says don't walk on the grass
Don't disturb the peace
Don't skate on the ice

Well, I say do!
I say walk on the grass, it was meant to feel
I say sail!
Tilt at the windmill
And if you fail, you fail.

Everybody says don't
Everybody says don't get out of line
When they say that, then
Lady, that's a sign
Nine times out of ten
Lady, you are doing just fine!

Make just a ripple
Come on, be brave
This time a ripple
Next time a wave
Sometimes you have to start small
Climbing the tiniest wall
Maybe you're going to fall
But it's better than not starting at all!

The Runner

The ground fits her foot perfectly as she runs,
Each breath fits her lungs.
The earth pushes back with its slow spin.
While she crosses the golden field of barley
It seems that her whole body will burst into song

Everybody says no
Everybody says stop
Everybody says mustn't rock the boat
Mustn't touch a thing.

Everybody says don't
Everybody says wait
Everybody says can't fight City Hall
Can't upset the cart
Can't laugh at the King!

Well, I say try!
I say laugh at the kings or they'll make you cry
Lose your poise
Fall if you have to
But lady, make a noise!

Everybody says don't
Everybody says can't
Everybody says wait around for miracles
That's the way the world is made.

I insist on miracles, if you do them!
Miracles—nothing to them!
I say don't—
Don't be afraid!



The Sound of Silence

Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again,
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping.
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains within the sound of silence.

In restless dreams I walked alone
Narrow streets of cobblestone.
'Neath the halo of a street lamp
I turned my collar to the cold and damp,
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light
That split the night and touched the sound of silence.

And in the naked light I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more.
People talking without speaking,
People hearing without listening,
People writing songs that voices never share.
No one dared disturb the sound of silence.

"Fools" said I, "You do not know,
Silence like a cancer grows.
Hear my words that I might teach you.
Take my arms that I might reach you."

But my words like silent raindrops fell
And echoed in the wells of silence

And the people bowed and prayed
To the neon god they made.
And the sign flashed out its warning
In the words that it was forming.
And the sign said,

"The words of the prophets
Are written on the subway walls and tenement halls,
And whispered in the sounds of silence."

"Deer Song" from Considering Matthew Shepard

A mist is over the mountain.
The stars in their meadows upon the air.
Your people are waiting below them.
And you know there's a gathering there.
All night I lay there beside you.
I cradled your pain in my care.
We move through creation together.
And we know there's a welcoming there.

Welcome, welcome, sounds the song.
Calling, calling clear.
Always with us, evergreen heart,
Where can we be but there?

I'll find all the love I have longed for.
The home that's been calling my heart so long.
So soon I'll be cleansed in those waters.
My fevers forever be gone.
Where else on earth, but these waters?
No more, no more to be torn.
My own ones, my dearest, are waiting.
And I'll weep to be where I belong.

Welcome, welcome, sounds the song.
Calling, calling clear.
Always with me, evergreen heart.
Where can I be but here?

Please Stay

No! Don't go!

Don't let your worst day be your last
The storm is strong, but it will pass
You think you can't go on another day
But please stay. Just stay.

Hope is real. Help is real.
You are breath, you are life.
You are beauty, you are light.

Your story is not over.
You are not a burden to anyone.

Please stay. Just stay.



Flander's Fields

In Flanders fields 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,
In Flanders fields.



Ilus Hääl

Helisege helded metsad
Ring out, generous forests

Hüüdke vastu hütikesed
Shout back the huts

Minu kauni heale vastu
In return for my graceful voice

Lahedama laulu vastu
In return for my wonderful song

Kus mu healta kuuldaneksi
Where my voice is heard

Kus mu laulu laksuneksi
Where my song is sung

Seal kõik metsa murduneks
There all forests will fall

Ilma rauda rabamata
Even without striking iron

Ain't No Grave

Ain't no grave can hold my body down.
They ain't no grave can keep a sinner underground.
O, I will listen for the trumpet sound.
Ain't no grave can hold my body down.

They rolled a stone on Jesus.
And then they tried to bury me.
But then the Holy Ghost it freed us.
So we could live eternally.

Sinner you better get cho ticket if you wanna ride.
In the mornin' when Jesus call my number,
I'll be on the other side, I will fly.

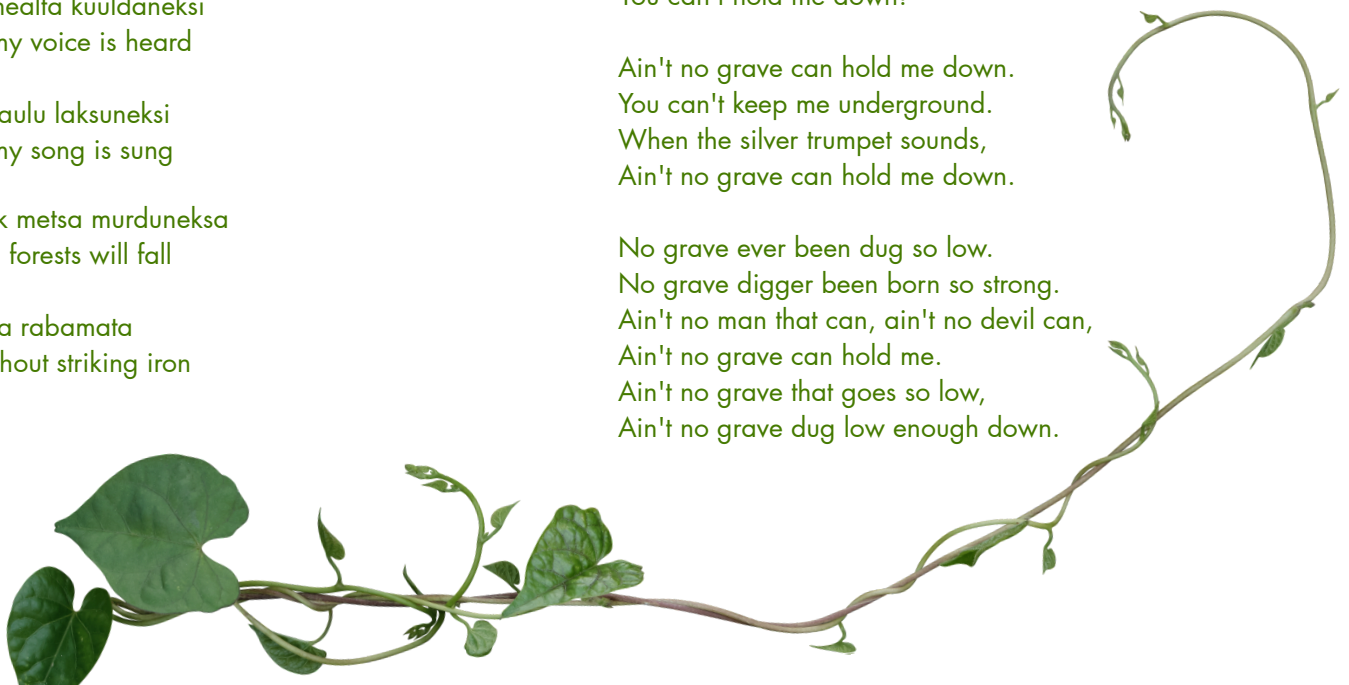
Ain't no grave is gonna hold me,
Ain't no man is gonna bury me,
Ain't no serpent gonna trick me.
Ain't no grave can hold my body down.

I will fly to Jesus in the mornin' when I die.
I know He will take me home to live with Him on high.
I will fly with Jesus in the mornin'.
Don't look here. I'll be way up in the sky.
Soon one day he's gonna call me up to heaven for a chariot ride.

I say no, no, no, no, no, no,
Ain't been a grave could hold me.
Ain't no grave dug deep enough to hold me.
Ain't no devil been slick enough to trick me.
Ain't no grave digger man enough to bury me.
You can't hold me down!

Ain't no grave can hold me down.
You can't keep me underground.
When the silver trumpet sounds,
Ain't no grave can hold me down.

No grave ever been dug so low.
No grave digger been born so strong.
Ain't no man that can, ain't no devil can,
Ain't no grave can hold me.
Ain't no grave that goes so low,
Ain't no grave dug low enough down.



DISCONNECTION

LIGHT AFTER DARKNESS

All Things New

Light after darkness, gain after loss,
Strength after weakness, gold after dross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
Home after wandering, praise after tears.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,
Love is making all things new.
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear.
Love is making all things new.

Sight after mystery, sun after rain,
Joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
Near after distant, gleam after gloom,
Love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Love is making all things new.

TRANSLATIONS AND TEXTS

O! What a Beautiful City

O what a beautiful city!
Twelve gates to the city. Halleluia!

Have you ever heard about the city?
The streets are paved with gold!
Three gates in the east.
Three gates in the west.
Three gates in the north.
Three gates in the south.
See those gates of pearl,
Open to all the world.
Halleluia!

THANK YOU!



Randy & Becky Dop & Oak Grove Presbyterian Church
Alyssa Breece, Linda Neuman & Becky Dop - Program
Joan Potter - Stage Director & Narration Coach
Deb Carbaugh - Vocal Coaching
Deyhdra Dennis-Weiss - saxophone
Rochelle Milbrath - percussion
Joseph Trucano - cello
Our volunteers

Your financial support means the world to us.
Currently, 100% of our funding comes from
friends and you, our audience members.

For a chance to connect, please join us in the
Fellowship Hall after the event for a sweet
treat!

Thank you for your support.
- Woven Voices



We make it easy to donate!
You can use the camera on your phone to scan this
QR code to access our online donation form.
Or go to our website: mnwovenoices.com.

THANK YOU!

*Note - at this time, your donations are not tax
deductible.



WOVEN VOICES



WOVEN VOICES 2026 ROSTER

Barbara Brooks, Artistic Director

Sopranos:

Laura Amos
Annalisa Anderson
Kate Biederwolf**
Alyssa K. Breece*
Deb Carbaugh*
Gina Cruciani Brunhuber
Deyhdra Dennis-Weiss
Penny Meier
Merilu Narum
Linda Neuman*
Alyssa Northrop
Natalie Scholz
Maya Tester**

Altos:

Becky Dop*
Jodi Gustafson
Lindsey Hartjes
Dee Hein*
Celia McCoy
Rochelle Milbrath
Joan O'Donnell
Joan Potter
Deborah E. Richman
Joy Roellinger
Kristen Schweiloch
Kristie Shaffer
Stephanie Sulzbach

* Denotes Leadership Team

** On Leave

Six years ago, Rebecca Pearson, founder of Woven Voices, was finally able to realize a long-held dream of forming a chamber choir. The dream became quickly shared by the skilled singers from our many wonderful local choirs, and within one week, 12 singers had joined together to begin rehearsing. Since that time, Woven Voices has steadily grown to our current group of 26 sopranos and altos that you see listed today.



WOVEN VOICES



Woven Voices is a chamber choir composed of experienced singers from various Minnesota-based choirs. We come together to joyfully explore and share choral literature written for soprano and alto voices.

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