



RENEWAL

WOVEN
VOICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 - 2:00 P.M.
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Welcome to our *Renewal* Concert!

A little over three years ago, Rebecca Pearson, founder of Woven Voices, was finally able to realize a long-held dream of forming a chamber choir of soprano and alto voices. This came in the form of a request to provide music for the Basilica of St. Mary's Missa Choralis series.

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 for the Basilica's service.

Since that time (with a break due to the pandemic), Woven Voices has performed once in 2021, twice last year, and has steadily grown to the group of 20 sopranos and altos that you see today.

Woven Voices was honored to be invited as Choir-In-Residence at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights beginning in 2023. *Renewal* is our first concert of this residency. Thank you to Jeffrey Patry, Music Director, for offering this position and for the use of First Lutheran for our rehearsals and concert.

We hope you enjoy our concert today, and we look forward to seeing you here at First Lutheran for our next concert this fall.

A note from our Artistic Director, Barb Brooks:

Love, Loss and Renewal-Turning the page and starting anew.

Today's program focuses on love, in all its forms, the loss of love, the hope for, and ways of, renewing and healing one's heart after loss.

I used to walk Lake of the Isles alone every single day. The lake became my trusted friend as I poured out my joys and sorrows to the lake as I walked. The wildlife entranced me and every year I waited for the Canadian Geese to honk their way back into my life. I realized there is so much to love in the world that exists in so many forms from the smallest ant, to the stars, to the Universe itself.

Love often comes with the risk of loss and heartbreak. Vulnerability takes much courage as the poet Sara Teasdale eludes to in her poem "Listen, I love you."

We seek renewal and relief and come to realize that we do live in a wonderful world filled with love and kindness if only we look and listen.



BARBARA BROOKS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & PIANIST

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. She holds a master's degree in piano performance from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

THANK YOU!

Jeffrey Patry & First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights

Alyssa Breece - Website, Social Media and Program
Patrick Coleman - percussion
Wendy Lukaszewski - cello
Our volunteers

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



SCAN ME

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: mnwovenvoices.com.

THANK YOU!

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

WOVEN VOICES

RENEWAL

WELCOME

Poems written by various artists, read by Debbie Richman

Sing, my Child.....Sarah Quartel

Merilu Narum & Maya Tester, sopranos; Patrick Coleman, percussion

All the way home.....Sarah Quartel

Alyssa Breece, soprano

Voice on the Wind.....Sarah Quartel

Celia McCoy, alto; Patrick Coleman, percussion

Four Strong Winds.....Ian Tyson, arr. Larry Nickel

Listen, I love you.....Stephen Chatman, lyrics by Sara Teasdale

The Sun Never Says.....Dan Forrest, lyrics by Daniel Ladinsky

Wendy Lukaszewski, cello

À Chloris.....Reynaldo Hahn, arr. Adam Burnette, lyrics by Théophile de Viau

Orion.....Susan LaBarr, lyrics by Faith Zimmer

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square.....Manning Sherwin, lyrics Albert Eric Maschwitz, arr. Kirby Shaw

Elisabeth Drost, alto

Take a Chance on Me.....Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, arr. David Das

I Love You/What a Wonderful World.....Larry Norman, Randall Stonehill, Bob Thiele, arr. Craig Hella Johnson

AnnaLisa Anderson, soprano; Penny Meier, soprano; Becky Dop, alto



Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)

Canadian composer and educator Sarah Quartel is “known for her fresh and exciting approach to choral music.” Her works are performed by children, youth, and adults throughout the world and her work as an educator connects musical experiences with classroom learning.

Quartel regularly partners with ensembles worldwide on commissioning projects. Her compositions have been featured internationally in numerous concerts, commercial recordings, and radio broadcasts.

Quartel grew up the daughter of a church organist, so music has always been a part of her life. Her earliest memory of writing music, aged three or four, is of making up harmonies to a funny sound their family washing machine made. She began singing in choirs from the age of six and studied piano from an early age. She recalls that she was eight years old before she realized that not everyone had a harpsichord in their basement.

Quartel continues to work as a guest clinician at various music education and choral events internationally. She currently lives and writes in both Ontario and Hawaii.

The joyful text in “Sing, my Child” celebrates the beauty found all around us in everyday life. Characterized by tight harmonies and a dynamic percussion line, the buoyant 7/8 meter of the opening drives the piece forward. Lush harmonies color the hymn-like B section as the text evolves into a call for strength despite the troubles that may come.

“All the way home” was inspired by the Radcliffe Ladies' Choir and their motto, “Friendship through singing.” The lilting vocal lines are underpinned by a delicate piano part, and the opening performance direction “contentedly rocking” describes the overall nature of the piece: peaceful, content, and easygoing.

“Voice on the Wind,” about the empowerment of singing, is set to a catchy melody with imitative scat singing and a driving hand drum accompaniment. This piece has all the hallmarks of Quartel’s innovative style.

TEXTS & PROGRAM NOTES

Sing, my Child

*Sing for the promise of each new morning. Sing for the hope in a new day dawning.
All around is beauty bright! Wake in the morning and sing, my child, sing, my child.*

*Dance in the joy of the day unfolding. Dance as you work and dance as you're learning.
All around is beauty bright! Take in the day and dance, my child, dance, my child.*

*But when troubles come and worry is all that can be found,
Gather your strength and hear your voice. Sing, my child.*

*Laugh in the cool and the fresh of the ev'ning.
Laugh in your triumph, laugh in succeeding.
All around is beauty bright! Rest in the ev'ning and laugh, my child.
Peace, peace, peace.*

*But when troubles come and worry is all that can be found,
Gather your strength and hear your voice.
Sing, my child. Dance, my child. Laugh, my child. Peace, my child.*

All the way home

*Sing to me comfort, sing to me home, sing to me friendships I have known.
Sing me a place where I belong,*

*Joyful, with harmonies sing me all the way home with a song in my heart.
All the way home brighten my path and carry me on, all the way home.*

*There's a beautiful pow'r in what we bring, there's strength in the glorious song we sing.
Easing all troubles, calming all fears, joyful, with harmonies sing me
all the way home....*

*Evening brings a shining star, her ancient anthems from afar.
Silence below, her song in the sky.
joyful, with harmonies sing me all the way home....*

Voice on the Wind

I heard a voice on the summer wind,

*Who she is I can't explain.
Blowing free and blowing wild.
Strength and spirit in her song.
With a song I seem to know.
Sounds familiar like my own.
Moves me like she knows me well.
Sounds familiar like my own.
Strong and sure where e'er I stand.*

I am the voice.



Four Strong Winds

Ian Dawson Tyson (1933 – 2022) arr. Larry Nickel (b 1952)

*Four strong winds that blow lonely,
Seven seas that run high,
All those things that don't change, come what may.*

*But our good times are all gone,
And I'm bound for moving on;
I'll look for you if I'm ever back this way.*

*Think I'll go out to Alberta,
Weather's good there in fall;
I got some friends that I can go to working for.
Still I wish you'd change your mind if I asked you one more time,
But we've been thru' that a hundred times or more.*

*If I get there before the snow flies, and if things are going good,
you could meet me if I sent you down the fare.
But by then it would be winter, there ain't too much for you to do,
And those winds sure can blow cold way out there.*

This beloved Canadian folk song by singer-songwriter Ian Dawson Tyson is about life, love and loss in southern Alberta. Growing up in British Columbia, he learned to ride horses on his father's farm, and eventually became a rodeo rider. He took up the guitar while in hospital recovering from a broken ankle sustained in a rodeo accident.

In 2005, CBC Radio One listeners chose his song "Four Strong Winds" as the greatest Canadian song of all time. Tyson was inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 1992. He was a strong influence on fellow Canadian Neil Young who recorded the song in 1978, as did Johnny Cash in 2006.

Larry Nickel lives in Vancouver, BC, and composes for a wide variety of genres, but has primarily written and arranged hundreds of compositions for choirs. Nickel also works as a choral clinician, occasional university professor, music minister, guest conductor and music festival adjudicator.

Listen, I love you

Stephen Chatman (b. 1950),
lyrics by Sara Teasdale (1884 – 1913)

Listen, I love you.

*Do not turn your face
Nor touch me.
Only stand and watch awhile
The blue unbroken circle of the sea.*

*Look far away and let me ease my heart
Of words that beat in it with broken wing.
Look far away, and if I say too much,
Forget that I am speaking.
Only watch.*

Listen, I love you.

Stephen Chatman is one of Canada's most prominent composers. Born in Faribault, Minnesota, he studied at the Oberlin Conservatory, University of Michigan and in Cologne, Germany. He is currently Professor of Composition at the University of British Columbia. His choral music is frequently performed and his orchestral music has been performed by orchestras all over the world. He has also composed a comic opera, *Choir Practice*.

Sara Teasdale was an American poet whose short, personal lyrics were noted for their classical simplicity and quiet intensity. "Listen, I love you" is one of a set of six of Teasdale's love poems. Her seven books of poetry received public admiration for her well-crafted lyricism which centered on a woman's changing perspectives on beauty, love, and death. In 1918, she won the Columbia University Poetry Society prize, forerunner of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry.



TEXTS & PROGRAM NOTES

The Sun Never Says Dan Forrest (b. 1978) lyrics by Daniel Ladinsky (b. 1948)

*Even
After
All this time
The Sun never says to the Earth,*

"You owe me."

*Look
What happens
With a love like that,
It lights the whole sky.*

As recorded by VOCES8, this setting of Hafiz-inspired poetry by Daniel Ladinsky speaks of the matchless beauty of unconditional love.

Dan Forrest was born in Breesport, New York, and began piano lessons with his elementary school music teacher at age 8. He majored in piano performance at Bob Jones University also studying advanced theory and composition at University of Kansas. Forrest also studied with renowned choral arranger, Alice Parker, whom he counts as a foremost influence.

Forrest composes for ensembles across the spectrum of choral music. His music has been performed in leading venues around the world including Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, *NPR's Performance Today*, and on the BBC Proms. He now regularly teaches composition lessons and masterclasses, and speaks about composing, music-making, aesthetics, music publishing, and the music business in guest-artist residencies with universities and choirs in the United States and abroad.

Daniel Ladinsky is an American poet and interpreter of mystical poetry, born and raised in St. Louis. Over a twenty-year period, beginning in 1978, he spent extensive time in a spiritual community in western India. "The Sun Never Says" is one of four works which he claims are inspired by the poetry of 14th-century Persian Sufi poet, Hafiz.

À Chloris

Reynaldo Hahn (1875-1947), arr. Adam Burnette (b. 1982), lyrics by Théophile de Viau (1590-1626)

*S'il est vrai, Chloris, que tu m'aimes,
(Mais j'entends, que tu m'aimes bien),
Je ne crois pas que les rois mêmes
Aient un bonheur pareil au mien.*

*Que la mort serait importune
A venir changer ma fortune
Pour la félicité des cieux!
Tout ce qu'on dit de l'ambrosie
Ne touche point ma fantaisie
Au prix des grâces de tes yeux.*

*If it be true, Chloris, that you love me,
(And I'm told you love me dearly),
I do not believe that even kings
Can match the happiness I know.*

*Even death would be powerless
To alter my fortune
With the promise of heavenly bliss!
All that they say of ambrosia
Does not stir my imagination
Like the favour of your eyes!*

Reynaldo Hahn de Echenagucia was a Venezuelan-born French composer, conductor, music critic, and singer. He is best known for his songs, of which he wrote more than 100. "À Chloris" ranks as one of his most successful, with a text by the seventeenth-century French poet Théophile de Viau. Hahn was particularly known for his *pastiches*, where he placed his own composing style on top of that of another composer with a differing style and often from another era. With "À Chloris", he composed an elegant song on top of a bass line of Bach's "Air on the G-string."

Adam Burnette has enjoyed a rich and varied career over the course of the last twenty years. His professional conducting debut was at the age of 25 with National Symphony Orchestra at Kennedy Center. He has conducted professional orchestras and opera and musical theater touring companies in the US, Canada, and Ireland and has accompanied Grammy, Tony, and Emmy Award-winning artists.



TEXTS & PROGRAM NOTES

Orion

Susan LaBarr (b. 1981), lyrics by Faith Zimmer (b. 1997)

*Most mourn the falling leaves,
The weight of death the ground receives.
Yet you rise in Winter's Chill, And in the gloom you still believe.*

*Most mourn the setting sun, The aging day is overcome.
Yet you rise in Twilight Still, And night reveals you one by one.*

*Carefully the constellations bend their knees to your dictation.
Standing guard with quiver ready,
Stance you've held for centuries steady.
Warrior high above the earth, you tell us of our worth.*

*Most mourn the sinking mast, the ocean's pull into the vast.
Yet you rise at Mem'ry's Will, and you will stand on ages past.*

*Carefully we bend our knees,
Standing guard...
Warrior high above the earth,
You tell us of our worth.*

"A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" is a British romantic popular song written in 1939 and published in 1940, right before the outbreak of World War II. Berkeley Square is a large leafy square in the Mayfair neighborhood of London with the Ritz Hotel nearby. The nightingale is celebrated in literature and music for the beauty of its song.

This song has been recorded by innumerable singers from Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole and Frank Sinatra to Sting, Harry Connick Jr. and Michael Buble. Perhaps the best known version is by *The Manhattan Transfer* which won a Grammy Award in 1981 for its arranger, Gene Puerling.

In July 2005 the song was sung to millions in London by Petula Clark as part of a national celebration of the 60th anniversary of the ending of World War II.

Born in Philadelphia, composer Manning Sherwin attended Columbia University before

embarking upon a long career in musical theater and films. He settled in Britain in 1938, and composed for numerous musical performances in the West End.

Albert Eric Maschwitz was an English entertainer, writer, editor, broadcaster and broadcasting executive. He had a long and varied career both on stage and as writer, including co-writing the movie adaptation of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips", for which he shared an Academy Award nomination. In 1958 he became an executive for the BBC and was instrumental in the creation of television show "Doctor Who."

Kirby Shaw has made a major impact in choral music education and has shared his musical expertise US-wide and globally. A composer/arranger with nearly 3000 choral compositions/arrangements in print, he has many commissioned pieces to his credit, and his creative and prolific output has resulted in numerous ASCAP awards.

Susan LaBarr is a composer and choral editor living and working in Springfield, Missouri. She has completed commissions for choirs worldwide, and served as the Missouri Composer Laureate for 2012 and 2013. LaBarr studied with Alice Parker at her home in Hawley, Massachusetts, and attended Missouri State University in Springfield, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in music and a Master of Music in music theory.

Faith Zimmer is a published choral composer, poet, singer/songwriter and illustrator, also having studied with Alice Parker and currently living in Springfield, Missouri. She graduated from Missouri State University in 2019 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition and in 2021 with a

graduate certificate in choral studies. In addition to composing, Zimmer paints commissioned visual art, writes poetry, teaches voice and songwriting lessons. About "Orion" in the composer's own words:

"...I feel that it is about each of us searching for our own inner worth. Orion is a constellation that sits on the celestial equator and is visible throughout the world. Where I live, it is most visible in winter. I like to think of this constellation as having strength even in the most difficult season. No matter what the world tells us or what pressures there are on young women, what really matters, and what will help us through our difficult seasons, is the strength that we find within ourselves."

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square **Manning Sherwin (1902 – 1974),** **lyrics Albert Eric Maschwitz (1901 – 1969)** **arr. Kirby Shaw b. 1942**

*That certain night, the night we met
There was magic abroad in the air,
There were angels dining at the Ritz
And a nightingale sang in Berkeley Square.*

*I may be right, I may be wrong,
But I'm perfectly willing to swear
That as you turned and smiled at me
A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square.*

*The moon that lingered over London town,
Poor puzzled moon, he wore a frown.
Oh, how could he know we two were so in love!
The whole darn world seemed upside down.*

*The streets of town were paved with stars.
It was such a romantic affair,
And as we kissed and said good-bye
A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square.*



TEXTS & PROGRAM NOTES

Take a Chance on Me

Benny Andersson (b. 1946), Björn Ulvaeus (b. 1945),
arr. David Das (b. 1975)

<i>If you change your mind, I'm the first in line, Honey, I'm still free, take a chance on me, If you need me, let me know, gonna be around, If you've got no place to go, if you're feeling down.</i>	<i>To get to know you better, cuz you know I got So much that I wanna do, when I dream I'm alone with you, It's magic. You want me to leave it there, afraid of a love affair, but I think you know that I can't let go.</i>
<i>If you're all alone, when the pretty birds have flown, Honey, I'm still free, take a chance on me, Gonna do my very best, and it ain't no lie, If you put me to the test, if you let me try.</i>	<i>Take your time, baby, I'm in no hurry, I know I'm gonna getcha, You don't wanna hurt me, baby don't worry, I ain't gonna let ya. Let me tell you now,</i>
<i>Take a chance on me.</i>	<i>My love is strong enough, to last when things are rough, It's magic.</i>
<i>We can go dancing, we can go walking, As long as we're together, Listen to some music, maybe just talking</i>	<i>You say that I waste my time, but I can't get you off my mind, oh, I can't let go, cuz I love you so.</i>

Half of the Swedish supergroup, ABBA, Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus wrote songs for one of the most popular and successful musical groups of all time, topping the charts worldwide from 1974 to 1982, and in 2022. In 2010, ABBA was the first group from outside the English-speaking world to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 1999, ABBA's music was adapted into "Mamma Mia!", a stage musical that toured worldwide and is still in the top-ten longest running productions on both Broadway and the West End.

Written and recorded in 1977, "Take a Chance on Me" was one of ABBA's first singles in which their manager, Stig Anderson, did not assist with writing the lyrics, confirming Andersson and Ulvaeus as a songwriting partnership. The song's origins sprang from Ulvaeus, a keen runner, who would repeat a "tck-a-ch"-style rhythm to pace himself. This evolved into "take-a-chance" and the eventual lyrics.

"Take a Chance on Me" proved to be one of ABBA's most successful hits, widely regarded as one of the group's finest.

Arranger David Das is a prolific composer, music producer, and songwriter based in Los Angeles. His experience covers the range from feature films, TV shows, cartoons, commercials, choral and orchestral writing/arranging, and more. He has composed music for dozens of TV shows, scored films and written and produced songs for numerous pop, rock, R&B, soul, and indie artists.

I Love You/What a Wonderful World

Larry Norman (1947 – 2008), Randall Stonehill (b. 1952),
Bob Thiele (1922 – 1996)
arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

<i>We can be together now and forever, I love you, I love you. And when I'm prayin', I hear him sayin' "I love you, I love you." People all over the world, they're opening up, they're comin' around</i>	<i>And I think to myself "What a wonderful world." The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky, Are also on the faces of people passing by. I see friends shaking hands, saying, "How do you do?" They're really saying, "I love you."</i>
<i>And they're sayin' I love you, I love, you, I love you, love you, I love you. I love you.</i>	<i>I hear babies cry, I watch them grow; They'll learn much more than I'll ever know, And I think to myself What a wonderful world."</i>
<i>I see skies of blue and clouds of white Bright, blessed day and dark, sacred night;</i>	

Known for his unique pairing of songs, Craig Hella Johnson has creatively combined the early contemporary Christian song, "I love you," with the popular favorite from the '60s, "What a Wonderful World." "I love you" was co-written by American musicians, singers and songwriters Larry David Norman and Randall Evan Stonehill who are considered to be pioneers of Christian rock music. "What a Wonderful World," written by Bob Thiele, was first recorded by Louis Armstrong in 1967, and the recording was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999.

Born in Crow Wing County, Minnesota, Johnson and one of his sisters adopted the name Hella, after the village in Norway that their family came from. He studied piano and sang in the St. Olaf Choir and went on to study at Juilliard, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Yale University. As the recipient of a National Arts Fellowship, Johnson studied with Helmuth Rilling at the International Bach Academy in Stuttgart, Germany.

Johnson dedicated this piece to *Conspirare*, a group he founded, for whom he is the artistic director and with whom he won the 2015 Grammy for Best Choral Performance. He is also former artistic director of the Victoria Bach Festival and the second artistic director of *Chanticleer*.

Currently, Johnson serves as Resident Artist in Choral Music at Texas State University and as Music Director of Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati. In 2013, he became only the second classical musician to receive the honor of Texas State Musician.



WOVEN VOICES

WOVEN VOICES 2022-23 SPRING ROSTER

ANNAIISA ANDERSON, SOPRANO
PAT ARASIM, SOPRANO
KATE BIEDERWOLF, SOPRANO
ALYSSA BREECE*, SOPRANO
GINA CRUCIANI, SOPRANO
BECKY DOP*, ALTO
ELISABETH DROST, ALTO
DEE HEIN, ALTO
CELIA MCCOY, ALTO
PENNY MEIER, SOPRANO
MERILU NARUM, SOPRANO

LINDA NEUMAN*, SOPRANO
BECKY NYSTUEN, SOPRANO
JOAN O'DONNELL, ALTO
DAMARA O'MALLEY, ALTO
DEBBIE RICHMAN, ALTO
KRISTEN SCHWEILOCH, ALTO
KRISTIE SHAFFER, ALTO
STEPHANIE SULZBACH, ALTO
MAYA TESTER, SOPRANO

* DENOTES LEADERSHIP TEAM

Interested in singing with us?
info@mnwovenvoices.com

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.