

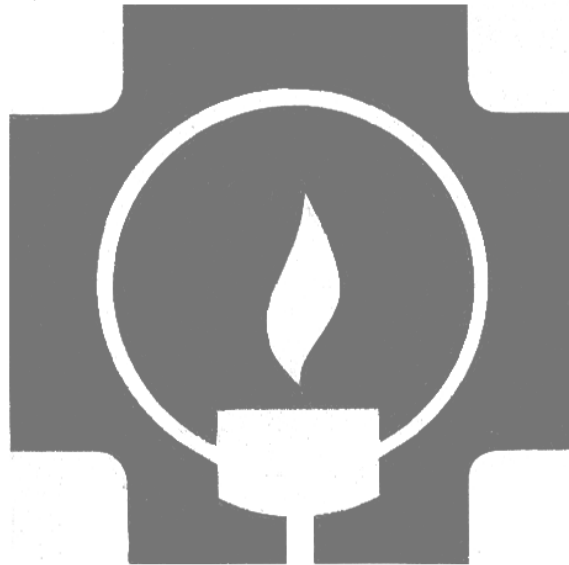
VESPERS / EVENING PRAYER

18 OCTOBER 2009 • 7:30 P.M.



BOE MEMORIAL CHAPEL
ST. OLAF COLLEGE

In Paradisum



The St. Olaf Chapel Choir
Christopher Aspaas '95, conductor

The Northfield Youth Chorale
Karen Lutgen '02, conductor

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CHORAL INTROIT
Prepare the Way

arr. Margareta Jalkeus

SERVICE OF LIGHT

HYMN OF LIGHT

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

PSALMODY

• READINGS AND RESPONSES •

Whom may we seek...

READING
Sacrifice

ANTHEM
Agnus Dei from *Requiem*

John Rutter

...to rain down righteousness

READING
God is in us

ANTHEM
Rorando Coeli

Jan Campanus Vodnansky

HYMN ELW 447 O Blessed Spring

PRAYER

May the angels lead you...

READING

Death

ANTHEM

In Paradisum

Eric Sayre '10

PRAYER

GOSPEL CANTICLE

with a sincere heart...

READING

1 John 3: 1-3, 16-20

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

HYMN ELW 572 Now it is Evening

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dona nobis pacem

ANTHEM

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich

Felix Mendelssohn

HYMN ELW 781 Children of the Heavenly Father

BLESSING

ANTHEM

Requiem

**Eliza Gilkyson
arr. Craig Hella Johnson '84**

Notes on our program

During the last few years, the academic leadership of St. Olaf College has chosen a campus-wide theme, around which the faculty can guide readings, discussion and discourse. This year's theme is *migration*, which Merriam-Webster defines in part as:

Etymology: Latin *migratus*, past participle of *migrare*; perhaps akin to Greek *ameibein* to change.

1: to move from one country, place, or locality to another

The inspiration for tonight's program comes from one of our musical selections, *In Paradisum*, a piece that is all about migration: a soul's passage from life into earthly death; a son's journey through grief and acceptance... The composer, Eric Sayre '10, brought a draft of this work to me last spring — only weeks after the loss of his father. Inside the front cover, Eric writes:

In Paradisum depicts my childhood fantasy of the journey a soul must take before reaching paradise. I began composing this piece with a hypothetical soul in mind; however, less than a year later when my father passed away, the work immediately began to take new shape. I grew up in a family of multiple faiths, so the loss of my father inevitably raised many theological questions. This piece is my conclusion. It is not a debate between Judaism and Christianity, but rather a harmonious marriage of the two.

From here, with this journey in mind, we worship this evening, using the Vespers liturgy and hymnody from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The singing begins with a Dala melody arranged by Margareta Jalkeus, founder of The Real Group. Its words of promise and blessing recall Jesus' path to Jerusalem, strewn with palms, garments, and praise. The simple, winding melody sung by the altos in the first verse masks the jazz-inspired harmonies created by the rest of the ensemble.

John Rutter's *Agnus Dei* from *Requiem* captures the image of one calling for help, quietly at first, and then with an ever-growing need, until ultimately it becomes an overwhelming plea for mercy. Its intense chromaticism creates a palpable tension harmonically and melodically, and in doing so, makes for stunning contrast with the end of the work when the text says, "I am the Resurrection and the Life." English words from the *Book of Common Prayer* are interspersed with an ancient chant, (played on the organ) *Victimae paschali laudes*, prescribed for worship on Easter Sunday (a translation is included in the bulletin). The buoyant and rhythmic *Rorando Coeli* clearly captures musically the hope of salvation. One can hear the 'springing up' in the soprano voices of each choir.

Eric Sayre has described his *In Paradisum* as a programmatic work, and is clearly divisible into four major sections. The soothing and calm opening section is an open invitation and promise — notice how the men and women exchange English text over the repeated chant of "In paradisum." The second section is a setting of the Jewish Prayer for the Dead (recited at his father's funeral), and again, you will hear the men's and women's voices soaring through these chant-like passages, followed by a brief return to the opening material which Eric describes as "some form of heavenly choir (angels, saints...) reminding the soul of what is to come, that there is something greater on the horizon. That window then quickly closes and is pulled in with other wondering souls." The third section is without words, and Eric calls it "the soul wandering... lost and trying to find its way." One can hear the sense of loss and mourning change into tension and overwhelming grief as the voices enter and layer upon each other. After one climax, this section builds again into a return of the opening section, this time stronger and with the sopranos even higher in their range. A brief coda leaves us with a solo voice proclaiming the same text we heard in the Rutter, "I am the Resurrection and Life..." followed by the choir's final statement in Hebrew, "And let us say, Amen."

Ola Gjeilo's setting of the *Ubi caritas* text truly captures the essence of love and charity in this simple homophonic setting. Following the unison introduction of the chant in the women's voices, colorful harmonies allow the text to lead the movement of the work. Listen closely to the subtle changes in sonority during the text, "*et ex corde diligamus, nos sincero /* and may we love each other with a sincere heart," and one can hear Gjeilo's understanding of 'sincerity.'

In the 200th anniversary of this birth, we sing Mendelssohn's setting of the Luther text, *Verleib uns Frieden*. Mendelssohn called this piece a cantata, even though might better be called a chorale motet in modern terms. Originally set for orchestra, one can hear the weaving lines of two celli throughout the introduction and interludes played by the organ. In the second verse, something quite different happens: the women sing the chorale tune and text, while the men sing a descant *below* them... It creates a magnificent duet that leads into the strong final verse set for full chorus.

We end our program with an arrangement by Craig Hella Johnson, '84 written by Eliza Gilkyson as a "vehicle for grieving" after the devastating tsunami of 2004. Although its text calls for intercession from "mother mary," an idea contrary to mainstream Protestant theology, it is impossible not to hear and experience the cry for help and comfort of the authors. Gilkyson, in an interview with NPR, described Mary as the "archetype for compassion." The setting of this piece is honest and genuine, and acts as a powerful expression of faith and hope.

Leaders in the Liturgy

Presider • Pastoral Intern, Andy Willis; **organist** • George Fergus '13; **pianist** • Chris Ganza, '10; **cantor** • Heather Eikenbary, '12; **readers** • members of the St. Olaf Chapel Choir; **St. Olaf Chapel Choir** • Christopher Aspaas '95, conductor; **The Northfield Youth Chorale** • Karen Lutgen '02, conductor

Readings

Sacrifice, God is with Us, and Death by Susan Palo Cherwien, from *Crossings: Meditations for Worship*, © 2003 MorningStar Music Publishers

Acknowledgments

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Special Thanks to:

Dan Dressen, Associate Dean of Fine Arts
Alison Feldt and Andy Hisey, Chairs of the Music Department
Bob Johnson, Tim Wells, Miranda Bryan, and the entire staff of Music Organizations
Barb Barth and Kathee Hanscom in the Music Department Office
Karen Lutgen and the members of the Northfield Youth Choirs Chorale
Bethel Lutheran Church of Northfield for hosting our fall retreat
Andy Willis, Pastoral Intern, for his leadership this evening
Eric Choate for the engraving in tonight's program
George Fergus, organ

2009-10 NORTHFIELD YOUTH CHORALE KAREN LUTGEN, CONDUCTOR

SOPRANO

Esme Etter
Hannah France
Deon Haider
Emma Kleese
Julia Mandsager
Hannah Morris
McKinzie Sippola
Courtney Terry
Becca Winter
Heather Wolf

ALTO

Ellen Behrens
Irene Duba
Alison Haider
Teresa Schier
Emma Singer
Laura Wadleigh

TENOR

Peter Duba
Christopher Hager
Jeffrey Pedersen
Connor Rowley
Patrick Walker

BASS

Nate Anderson
Nicholas Benson
Matthew Benson
CJ Betcher
Jordan Ett
Eduardo Jaramillo
Patrick Klein
Jake Mulford

2009-10 ST. OLAF CHAPEL CHOIR

CHRISTOPHER ASPAAS, CONDUCTOR

SOPRANOS I

Laura Bond, *Rochester, Minn.*
Natalie Davis, *Dassel, Minn.*
Heather Eikenbary, *Waupaca, Wis.*
Erin Fox, *Brownsburg, Ind.*
Anna Fulton, *Colton, N.Y.*
Megan Hadley, *Anoka, Minn.*
Hannah Langholz, *Edina, Minn.*
Sonja Midthun, *Chanbassen, Minn.*
Lauren Piper, *Faribault, Minn.*
Marin Werdahl, *Chaska, Minn.*

SOPRANOS II

Callie Biddiscombe, *Apple Valley, Minn.*
Alyssa Cassada, *Apple Valley, Minn.*
Dianna Cheney-Peters, *Grand Forks, N.D.*
Erin Duwell, *Oshkosh, Wis.*
• Elise Bundl Egan, *Wilmette, Ill.*
Kayla Frederickson, *Monterey, Calif.*
Emily Heninger, *Bettendorf, Iowa*
Abigail Kempe, *Portland, Ore.*
Kathleen Lorenz, *Grand Rapids, Mich.*
Sarah Melcher, *Davis, Calif.*
Gillian Rendahl, *Winona, Minn.*
Melanie Schowalter, *Racine, Wis.*
Susan Voss, *Willmar, Minn.*
Katie Whitman, *Bethesda, Md.*

ALTOS I

Lauren Bartelt, *Maple Grove, Minn.*
Kayla Benson, *Mount Vernon, Wash.*
Elisabeth Granquist, *Northfield, Minn.*
Becca Grupe, *St. Louis, Mo.*
Emma Harness, *Minneapolis, Minn.*
• Lucy Hires, *Cedar Park, Texas*
April Kim, *Eden Prairie, Minn.*
Caroline Nitz, *Northfield, Minn.*
Eliza Snortland, *Fargo, N.D.*
Bonnie Steward, *Duluth, Minn.*
Sarah Widder, *Wauwatosa, Wis.*
Gillian Yoerg, *Hudson, Wis.*

ALTOS II

Holly Belgum, *Remer, Minn.*
Ana Cline, *Minnesota Lake, Minn.*
Kelsey Fahy, *Gig Harbor, Wash.*
Maddie Hansen, *Cedar Rapids, Iowa*
Sarah Jacobson, *Arusha, Tanzania*
Erika Johnson, *Dallas, Texas*
Siri Jorstad, *Golden Valley, Minn.*
† Laura Kauffman, *New Ulm, Minn.*
Kayli Kirkegaard, *Minnetonka, Minn.*
Jenny LaRoy, *Minnetonka, Minn.*
Kate Nesbit, *Northfield, Minn.*
Erin Poor, *Lincoln, Neb.*
Maggie Ruenzel, *Oakland, Calif.*
Sonja Tosteson, *Chisago City, Minn.*

TENORS I

Riley Bruce, *Wichita, Kan.*
Phinehas Bynum, *Salt Lake City, Utah*
Erick Carlstad, *Howard Lake, Minn.*
Thore Dossdall, *Morris, Minn.*
Jake Garin, *Apple Valley, Minn.*
Scott Grandt, *West Lafayette, Ind.*
Scotty Gunderson, *Sberidan, Wyo.*
Colin Hutchins, *Baldwin, Wis.*
Carlton Migliaccio, *Colorado Springs, Colo.*
Isaac Prichard, *Greensburg, Pa.*
James Ribe, *West Chicago, Ill.*
Chris Riggs, *Waverly, Iowa*
Olaf Samuelson, *Albert Lea, Minn.*
Matt Sander, *Lakeville, Minn.*
• Eric Sayre, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

TENORS II

Robert Davis, *Solon, Iowa*
Kevin Fisher, *Eden Prairie, Minn.*
Tom Hildreth, *Wheaton, Ill.*
Bob Kelly, *Mendota Heights, Minn.*
Egemen Kesikli, *Tekirdag, Turkey*
André LaBissoniere, *New Hope, Minn.*
Henry Lewers, *Peterborough, N.H.*
Steven Milne, *Wayzata, Minn.*
Eli Reding, *Phymouth, Minn.*
Josh Riddle, *Prior Lake, Minn.*
Todd Robinson, *Cokato, Minn.*
Nick Roetker, *Fond du Lac, Wis.*
Vance Ryan, *Vadnais Heights, Minn.*
Wally Sadowski, *Nonthaburi, Thailand*
Jonathan Woolums, *Denver, Colo.*

BARITONE

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Sam Fiorillo, *Salina, Kan.*
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† Chris Ganza, *Waterville, Maine*
Alex Gaya, *Palo Alto, Calif.*
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† Michael Schaner, *Caledonia, Mich.*
Jordan Soderlind, *Apple Valley, Minn.*
Kaleb Sutherland, *Farmington, Mo.*
Zack Teska, *Loveland, Colo.*
Gregory Wahlberg, *Ironwood, Mich.*
Conner Westby, *Decorah, Iowa*

BASS

Eric Becklin, *Cambridge, Minn.*
• Geoff Carlisle, *Happy Valley, Ore.*
Teddy Covey, *Dubuque, Iowa*
Mark Donlin, *Andover, Minn.*
Rudyard Dyer, *Mount Pleasant, Iowa*
Ted Eschweiler, *Golden Valley, Minn.*
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