
THE ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*

joined by

James Bobb, *harpsichord*

Bach String Ensemble

Anna Severtson, *jazz piano*

FINDING JOY SEEKING JUSTICE

Sunday, November 14, 2021 | 7:30 P.M.

BOE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Our concert this evening reflects the sounds and messages of voices both ancient and modern seeking more than they could find – refuge from terror, strength to find a better way or a better life, a promise of joy, courage, and the possibility of seeking righteousness and justice in the world around them and beyond. These words of inspiration and feelings of hope evoked from this broad variety of texts are interwoven into the tapestry of these songs.

Interspersed with the chorales and choruses of these powerful statements of faith in *Jesu Meine Freude*, we have placed moments of reflection and connections of these themes. The promise of joy and miracle of *O Magnum Mysterium*; the longing for a better world in *Prayer for Peace*; and the witnessing of the extraordinary moment of courage of a young African-American woman in Little Rock, Arkansas in the 1960s that inspired Paul McCartney to write *Blackbird*.

At the heart of these universal themes of seeking refuge and courage in the face of adversity, we have centered the opening hymn of *St. Martin De Porres*, from *Black Christ of the Andes* by the 20th century African-American jazz pianist and composer, Mary Lou Williams. She begins this remarkable work with an opening hymn telling the story of the humble servant of God and humanity – St Martin de Porres (Saint Martin of the poor)– a Dominican lay brother from 17th century Peru who became the patron saint of racial harmony and justice. He devoted his life as a healer and an advocate for the poor, the sick, those seeking justice from discrimination and hate, and especially those of mixed race – and in raising up those facing desolation and poverty.

We bring these disparate voices to life this evening to highlight both historic and modern messages brought together to speak to moments in our lives that bring us to clarity and to conscience – and help us to gather the strength to choose joy, to seek the path to a better way or a moment of action, and to take that next small step to a more just and inclusive world.

FINDING JOY SEEKING JUSTICE

Deo dicamus gratias

Gottfried August Homilius

1714-1785

Deo dicamus gratias

Let us give thanks to God.

Jesu Meine Freude, (Jesus my joy) – BWV 227

Johann Sebastian Bach

1685-1750

I. Chorale

Jesus, my joy,
my heart's pasture,
Jesus, my treasure!
Ah, how long, ah long
has my heart suffered
and longed for you!
God's lamb, my bridegroom,
besides You on earth
nothing shall be dearer to me.

II. Chorus

Now there is nothing damnable
in those who are in Christ Jesus,
who do not walk after the way of the flesh,
but after the way of the Spirit.

O Magnum Mysterium

César Alejandro Carrillo

b. 1957

O great mystery
And wondrous sacrament,
That animals should see the new-born Lord
Lying in their manger.
Blessed in the Virgin whose womb
Was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Chorale

Under your protection
I am safe from the storms
Of all enemies.
Let Satan rage,
Let the enemy fume,
Jesus stands with me.
Whether now it thunders and flashes,
Whether sin and Hell terrify,
Jesus will protect me.

IV. Trio

Zoë García, Shae Lime, *sopranos*
Laura Albrecht, Sarah Shapiro, *mezzo-sopranos*
Daniel Haakenson, Roan Finley, *altos*

For the law of the spirit,
which gives life in Christ Jesus,
has made me free from the law of sin and death.

V. Chorale

Defiance to the old dragon,
Defiance to the vengeance of death,
Defiance to fear as well!
Rage, world, and attack;
I stand here and sing
In entirely secure peace!
God's strength holds me in watch;
Earth and abyss must fall silent,
However much they might rumble.

St. Martin De Porres from *Black Christ of the Andes*

Mary Lou Williams
1910-1981

St. Martin de Porres, his shepherd's staff a dusty broom
St. Martin de Porres, the poor made a shrine of his tomb
St. Martin de Porres, he gentled creatures tame and wild
St. Martin de Porres, he sheltered each unsheltered child
This man of love, born of the flesh, yet of God
This humble man healed the sick, raised the dead, his hand is quick
To feed beggars and sinners, the starving homeless and the stray
Oh Black Christ of the Andes, come feed and cure us now we pray
Spare, oh lord
Spare my people
Lest you be angered with me, forever
(Lest you be angered with me, forever)
This man, this man
Of love, born of the flesh, yet of God
This humble man healed the sick, raised the dead, his hand is quick
St. Martin de Porres, he gentled creatures tame and wild
St. Martin de Porres, he sheltered each unsheltered child
words by Reverend Anthony S. Woods, S. J.

VII. Chorale

Away with all treasures,
You are my delight,
Jesus, my joy!
Away, you vain honors,
I don't want to listen to you,
Remain unknown to me!
Misery, want, torture, shame and death
Shall, although I must suffer much,
Never part me from Jesus.

VIII. Trio

Zellie Owen, Sarah Shapiro, *altos*
Alexander Famous, Blake Wieseler, *tenors*
Roan Findley, Sean Griswold, *basses*
However if Christ is in you,
Then the body is dead indeed
For the sake of sin;
But the spirit is life for the sake of righteousness.

IX. Chorale

Good night, existence
That cherishes the world!
You do not please me.
Good night, sins,
Stay far away,
Never again come to light!
Good night, pride and glory!
To you utterly, life of corruption,
Be good night given!

Prayer For Peace

Kurt Knecht
b. 1971

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation.
May it be your will to undo wars and bloodshed from the earth,
And spread a great and wondrous peace in the world.
All who dwell on the earth will recognize and know the whole truth.
We did not come into this world for conflict and strife.
We did not come into this world for hatred and jealousy.
We did not come into this world for bickering and bloodshed.
We only come into the world to know you.
May you be blessed forever.
text by Rabbi Nathan of Breslov
translated by Guy Trainin

X. Chorus

Therefore now since the Spirit of Him
Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
That same who raised Christ from the dead
Will make your mortal bodies living,
For the sake of His spirit that dwells in you.

Blackbird

John Lennon, 1940-1980, and Paul McCartney b. 1942
Arranged by Darry Runswick

Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to arise
Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to be free
Blackbird fly, blackbird fly
Into the light of a dark black night
Blackbird fly, blackbird fly
Into the light of a dark black night
Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to arise
You were only waiting for this moment to arise
You were only waiting for this moment to arise

XI. Chorale

Hence, you spirits of sadness,
for my Master of joy,
Jesus, comes here.
For those who love God,
even their troubles
must be pure sugar.
Though I endure mockery and shame here already,
nevertheless you stay with me even in sorrow,
Jesus, my joy.

PERSONNEL

James Bobb, *harpsichord*
Hermione Yim, *piano*

Bach String Ensemble

Owen Cromwell, *violin*
Emma Dougherty, *violin*
Holly Petersen, *violin*
Tristan Hall, *viola*
Elsa Buck, *cello*
Beatrice Hammel, *bass*

Jazz Duo

Anna Severston, *piano*
Beatrice Hammel, *bass*

ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*
Hermione Yim, *collaborative pianist*
Jayden Browne, *student assistant*
Austin Meyer, *student manager*

SOPRANO

Laura Albrecht, *San Jose, CA*
Caroline Flaten, *Prior Lake, MN*
Zoë Garcia, *Davis, CA*
Maren Hrivnak*, *Madison, MS*
Olivia Inberg, *Magnolia, TX*
Shae Lime, *Treasure Island, FL*
Madeline Smoot, *Longmont, CO*

ALTO

Emira Erickson, *Woodbury, MN*
Daniel Haakenson, *Minneapolis, MN*
Josephine Lynn, *Mechanicsville, VA*
Zellie Owen, *Pasadena, CA*
Sarah Shapiro*, *Wilmette, IL*
Joanna Thuesen, *Indianapolis, IN*
Hermione Yim, *Hong Kong SAR*

TENOR

Logan Combs*, *Haysville, KS*
Alexander Famous, *Princeton, NJ*
Aidan Kocur, *Fort Worth, TX*
Noah Smith, *Glasgow, KY*
Richard Spahn, *Dekalb, IL*
Blake Wieseler, *Yankton, SD*

BASS

Jayden Browne, *Lancaster, PA*
Roan Findley, *Sycamore, IL*
Sean Griswold, *San Clemente, CA*
Nicholas Hinson*, *Tampa, FL*
Christopher Kopits, *Princeton, NJ*
Austin Meyer, *Sioux Falls, SD*
William McIntyre, *Faribault, MN*

*section leader

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David Carter, *department vice-chair*

Barbara Barth, *academic administrative assistant – music*

Lisa McDermott, *academic administrative assistant – music*

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