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# THE ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*

*joined by*

James Bobb, *harpsichord*

*Bach String Ensemble*

Anna Severtson, *jazz piano*

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## **FINDING JOY SEEKING JUSTICE**

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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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

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**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.

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## PERSONNEL

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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*

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## ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS

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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

#### **DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

Kathryn Ananda-Owens, *department chair*

David Carter, *department vice-chair*

Barbara Barth, *academic administrative assistant – music*

Lisa McDermott, *academic administrative assistant – music*

#### **FINE ARTS ADMISSIONS**

Molly Boes Ganza '08, *associate dean of fine arts recruitment*

#### **MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLEGE RELATIONS**

Michael Kyle '85, *vice president for enrollment and college relations*

Jean Parish '88, *director of college relations for music organizations*

Terra Widdifield '95, *associate director of music organizations*

Connor Smith, *assistant director of music organizations for audience development*

Sarah Gingerich '11, *assistant director of music organizations for project management*

Courtney Kleftis, *associate librarian for ensembles and performing rights*

Kiernan Bartlett '21, *arts management intern for production and concert management*

Ella Harpstead '21, *arts management intern for marketing and touring*