
THE ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*

featuring

Catherine Rodland, *organ* • Heather Klopchin, *choreography* • Brian Evans, *poet/dancer*

Brianna Johnson, *media design* • Stephen Schroeder, *lighting design*

MAGNIFICAL AND MIGHTY

Sunday, November 23, 2025 | 3:30 P.M.

Boe Memorial Chapel

MAGNIFICAL AND MIGHTY

Songs of Passion, Madness, and Magic

We speak to you today through the voices of poets ancient and modern in these songs that amplify their messages of the “magnificent” and ineffable. We sound out their words of human passion at the heart of the music of Claudio Monteverdi, Mari Isabel Valverde, and Eric Whitacre; the artistic “madness” of the dreams and visions of Christopher Smart, Langston Hughes, and Benjamin Britten; and the timeless magic and soul expressed by Hildegard von Bingen, Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, and Henri Cazalis through the modern voices of Elaine Hagenberg and Randall Stroope. Together may they open our hearts and minds to find in us the wonder and possibilities of this magic and madness of human feeling and expression alive in every artist’s voice and spirit.

Hallelujah!

PROGRAM

A Hymne to Christ

Imogen Holst (1907–1984)

A Hymne to Christ

In what torne ship soever I embarke
That ship shall be my embleme of thy Arke;
What sea soever swallow mee, that flood
Shall be to mee an embleme of thy blood;
Though thou with clouds of anger do disguise
Thy face; yet through that maske I know those eyes
Which, though they turne away sometimes
They never will despise
I sacrifice this Iland unto thee
And all whom I lov'd there, and who lov'd mee;
When I have put our seas twixt them and mee
Put thou thy sea betwixt my sinnes and thee
As the trees sap doth seeke the root below
In winter, in my winter now I goe
Where none but thee, th'Eternall root
Of true Love I may know
text by John Donne

Bring Me All of Your Dreams

Christopher H. Harris (b. 1985)

Bring Me All of Your Dreams

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamer,
Bring me all your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.
from The Dream Keeper, Langston Hughes

Wondrous Glow

Mari Isabel Valverde (b. 1987)

Will Scroth-Douma, *soloist*

Wondrous Glow

today collect the dazzling shelter of flowers
stitch a crown large enough for the globe
fragrant enough for satellites to lift their noses
take the prayer of night into your arms
as she sleeps, breathe with her
breathe with the night
there are times when there is nothing
left to do, but create
form the unseen into a tangible communion
of stardust, place the galaxy on your tongue
let your mouth be a wondrous glow
your words a beacon
when everything is lost
imagine yourself as more than an earthquaking
body a gift
the streaking tail of a comet
become that which holds your eye
that which makes you gasp
from Grand Design, Amir Rabiya

Si ch'io vorrei morire (Yes, I would like to die)

Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643)

Sung in Italian

Yes I would Like to Die

Yes, I would like to die,
Now that I kiss, Love,
The beautiful mouth of my beloved.
Ah, dear and sweet tongue,
Give me such a feeling
That from sweetness I expire on this breast!
Ah, my life, on this white bosom,
Oh, press me until I swoon!
Ah, mouth, ah, kisses, ah, tongue, I say again:
Yes, I would like to die.

text by Maurizio Moro

Illuminare (Illuminate)

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

II. Caritas (Love)

III. Nox (Night)

Sung in Latin

Elizabeth Chen, *piano*

Avery Calhoun, Lene Erickson, Mari Keiser, Joshua Villanoy, *violins*

Moritz Dunbar, Ian Woolrich, *violas*

Myka Stewart, *cello*

Declan Coleman, *bass*

Caritas

Love abounds in all,
From the depths most excellent
To beyond the stars,
And loving toward all,
She has given the highest king
The kiss of peace.

text by Hildegard von Bingen

Nox

Night and darkness and fog,
Confused world and turmoil
Dark gloom tears the earth
Beats and stabs the sun

text by Aurelius Prudentius Clemens

Danse Macabre

Z. Randall Stroepe (b. 1953)

Sung in French

Elizabeth Chen, *piano*

Dance Macabre

Tap, tap, tap – Death rhythmically (in cadence) taps a tomb with its heel.
At midnight, it plays a tune on the violin.
The wind of winter blows and the night is dark.
Moans come out from the lime trees.
Everyone is stirring, and one hears the clacking of bones from dancers!
Tap, tap, tap! One can see the king and the peasant dancing together.
Dance, dance, skeletons dance!
But sssh!! Take flight! The rooster has crowed! The sun is coming up!
Skeletons, take flight!
Hooray!

text Henri Cazalis

Water Night

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Water Night

Night with the eyes of a horse that trembles in the night
Night with eyes of water in the field asleep
Is in your eyes, a horse that trembles is in
Your eyes of secret water
Eyes of shadow-water
Eyes of well-water
Eyes of dream-water
Silence and solitude
Two little animals moon-led
Drink in your eyes
Drink in those waters
If you open your eyes, night opens doors of musk
The secret kingdom of the water opens
Flowing from the center of the night
And if you close your eyes
A river, a silent and beautiful current, fills you from within
Flows forward, darkens you:
Night brings its wetness to beaches in your soul
Octavio Paz

text by Muriel Rukeyser

Rejoice in the Lamb

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Catherine Rodland, *organ*

Brian Evans, *poet/dancer*

Sierra Penning, Joe Rutar, Ian Carter, Brian Evans, Robert Shaw, Will Schroth-Douma,
Ben Quist, Noah Carlson, *soloists*

Heather Klopchin, Alannah Brooks, Nina Hodder, Anna Jacobsen,
ZeVon Johnson, Mary Staplin, *choreography*

Brianna Johnson, *media design*

Steven Schroeder, *technical director, lighting design*

Rejoice in the Lamb

Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues;
Give the glory to the Lord,
And the Lamb.
Nations, and languages,
And every Creature
In which is the breath of Life.
Let man and beast appear before him,
And magnify his name together.
Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter,
Bind a leopard to the altar
And consecrate his spear to the Lord.
Let Ishmail dedicate a tyger,
And give praise for the liberty
In which the Lord has let him at large.
Let Balaam appear with an ass,
And bless the Lord his people
And his creatures for a reward eternal.
Let Daniel come forth with a lion,
And praise God with all his might
Through faith in Christ Jesus.

Let Ithamar minister with a chamois,
And bless the name of Him
That cloatheth the naked.
Let Jakim with the satyr
Bless God in the dance,
Dance, dance, dance.
Let David bless with the bear
The beginning of victory to the Lord,
To the Lord the perfection of excellence.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah from the heart of God,
And from the hand of the artist inimitable,
And from the echo of the heavenly harp
In sweetness magnificent and mighty.
Allelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.
For I will consider my cat Jeoffry.
For he is the servant of the living God.
Duly and daily serving him.
(continued next page)

For at the first glance
 Of the glory of God in the East
 He worships in his way.
 For this is done by wreathing his body
 Seven times round with elegant quickness.
 For he knows that God is his saviour.
 For God has bless'd him
 In the variety of his movements.
 For there is nothing sweeter
 Than his peace when at rest.
 For I am possessed of a cat,
 Surpassing in beauty,
 From whom I take occasion
 To bless Almighty God.

 For the Mouse is a creature
 Of great personal valour.
 For this is a true case—
 Cat takes female mouse,
 Male mouse will not depart,
 but stands threat'ning and daring.
 If you will let her go,
 I will engage you,
 As prodigious a creature as you are.
 For the Mouse is a creature
 Of great personal valour.
 For the Mouse is of
 An hospitable disposition.

 For the flowers are great blessings.
 For the flowers are great blessings.
 For the flowers have their angels,
 Even the words of God's creation.
 For the flower glorifies God
 And the root parries the adversary.
 For there is a language of flowers.
 For the flowers are peculiarly
 The poetry of Christ.

 For I am under the same accusation
 With my Savior,
 For they said,
 He is beside himself.
 For the officers of the peace
 Are at variance with me,
 And the watchman smites me
 With his staff.
 For the silly fellow, silly fellow,

Is against me,
 And belongeth neither to me
 Nor to my family.
 For I am in twelve hardships,
 But he that was born of a virgin
 Shall deliver me out of all,
 Shall deliver me out of all.

 For H is a spirit
 And therefore he is God.
 For K is king
 And therefore he is God.
 For L is love
 And therefore he is God.
 For M is musick
 And therefore he is God.
 And therefore he is God.

 For the instruments are by their rhimes,
 For the shawm rhimes are lawn fawn and the like.
 For the shawm rhimes are moon boon and the like.
 For the harp rhimes are sing ring and the like.
 For the harp rhimes are ring string and the like.
 For the cymbal rhimes are bell well and the like.
 For the cymbal rhimes are toll soul and the like.
 For the flute rhimes are tooth youth and the like.
 For the flute rhimes are suit mute and the like.
 For the bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like.
 For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place and the like.
 For the clarinet rhimes are clean seen and the like.
 For the trumpet rhimes are sound bound and the like.
 For the trumpet of God is a blessed intelligence
 And so are all the instruments in Heav'n.
 For God the Father Almighty plays upon the harp
 Of stupendous magnitude and melody.
 For at that time malignity ceases
 And the devils themselves are at peace.
 For this time is perceptible to man
 By a remarkable stillness and serenity of soul.

 Hallelujah, hallelujah,
 Hallelujah from the heart of God,
 And from the hand of the artist inimitable,
 And from the echo of the heavenly harp
 In sweetness magnificent and mighty.
 Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.
text by Christopher Smart

PERSONNEL

St. Olaf Chamber Singers

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*

Elizabeth Chen, *collaborative pianist*

Tyler Hansen, *student manager*

Will Schroth-Douma, *student assistant*

Sopranos

Ella Douma
Ally Nolan
Giada Parigi
Sierra Penning
Ana Sofia Remolina
Sophie Smith
Ella Yarris

Altos

Shayla Gleason
Anna Lunstad
Emma Coen-Pesch
Joe Rutar
Romina Soto-Solari
Jasi Storck
Julie Xiong

Tenors

Kaz Beaudry
Ian Carter
Charlie Krohn
Sam Meyer
John Rasmussen
David Reed
Larry Williams

Basses

Noah Carlson
Tyler Hansen
Noah Halldorson
Lucan O'Neal
Ben Quist
Will Schroth-Douma
Robert Shaw

Chamber Ensemble

Elizabeth Chen, *piano*

Avery Calhoun, Lene Erickson, Mari Keiser, Joshua Villanoy, *violins*

Moritz Dunbar, Ian Woodrich, *violas*

Myka Steward, *cello*

Declan Coleman, *bass*

Chamber Dance Ensemble

Alannah Brooks

Nina Hodder

Anna Jacobsen

ZeVon Johnson

Mary Staplin

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Louis Epstein, *department chair*

Tracey Engleman, *department vice-chair*

Barbara Barth, *academic administrative assistant – Music*

Lisa McDermott, *academic administrative assistant – Music*

Faith Kimbrell, *instrument coordinator*

Brian Knox, *piano technician*

Charles Sadler, *assistant piano technician*

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*

Jonathan Kopplin, *associate librarian for ensembles and performing rights*

Aaron Looney '24, *coordinator of music organizations*

Amelia McNeil-Maddox, *ticketing manager*

BROADCAST/MEDIA SERVICES

Jeffrey O'Donnell '02, *director of broadcast/media services*

Sean Tonko, *associate director of event operations*

Grant Furguele, *associate director of broadcast engineering*

Mia Pardo, *assistant director of production*

FINE ARTS ADMISSIONS

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