

presents our 2025 spring concert:

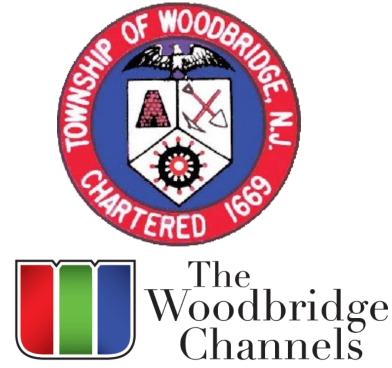
Sounds of America

an evening celebrating American composers

with Director Beth Amory-Teutsch & Accompanist Hannah Han

> Saturday May 10, 7:30 pm St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church 244 Avenel St. Avenel, NJ

Programming is funded by a grant from the Woodbridge Township Recreation Department



We would like to thank Woodbridge TV 35/36 for their televised coverage of our concert!

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www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us/244/TV-35-36







From the Director

Welcome! Thank you so much for being here with us tonight!

Over the summer I decided to create a program that featured American composers, arrangers and genres. It was so much fun putting together a long list of pieces and narrowing it down to the selections you'll hear tonight!

Leonard Bernstein's "Take Care of This House" is from his Broadway musical "1600 Pennsylvania Avenue" and the "house" he refers to is The White House. While the show closed after just six performances, this beautiful piece is timely in its message. The lyrics could just as easily apply to a family home or house of worship. *"Make the floor of faith, Make the walls of truth, Put a roof of peace above. Only build my house of love."*

"Sure on This Shining Night" is one of Samuel Barber's most famous art songs. The choral arrangement is challenging and the melody and contemporary harmonies haunting and lovely.

I was first introduced to Ives' "The Circus Band" during my college days while singing in the Westminster Choir. It is a quirky piece that captures Ives' fond childhood memories of the circus coming to town and the parade of performers marching down Main Street. It is said he had an off-beat sense of humor and that, combined with the language of the time, accounts for lines like, *"Where is that clown, that funny gink?"* (fool), *"Last year he winked at me I think. Can he have died?"* (Yikes! Ives' dark humor!), *"Can that 'rot'!"* (that would be bad). Sounds a lot better when we don't interpret the words literally!

Grammy Award winning composer and conductor Erik Whitacre is one of the most well-known contemporary American musicians of our time. His compositions are beautiful, thoughtful and, at times, complex. "Sing Gently" was composed during the Covid-19 pandemic and first performed virtually by 17,572 people from 129 countries. Whitacre knew this would be a time of suffering and great division. He wanted to compose a song that would bring comfort and that would make people feel connected in a time of intense disconnection. To date he has brought together people from 145 countries in multiple virtual performances!

"Shenandoah" is the quintessential American folksong dating back to the early 19th Century. The song's origins are debated. Some say it's simply about a river while others believe its inspiration was a love story between the daughter of a Native American Chief named "Shenandoah" and a fur trader. Regardless of the meaning, it is simply lovely! "Bright Morning Stars" is an Appalachian folksong also made popular in the 19th Century. Bright morning stars were thought to be a harbinger of hope and salvation.

I simply could not do a concert honoring American composers and arrangers and not include Moses Hogan! Moses Hogan is known for his exciting arrangements of the old traditional spirituals. He is a favorite among choristers everywhere! This arrangement of "Joshua Fought The Battle" is a great example of his rhythmic vocal lines, vocal layering and call and response.

Elaine Hagenberg writes some of the most exquisite choral music I have ever heard. She is truly a favorite of mine! In her piece "By Night" she takes Harriet Prescott Spotfford's poem which depicts a young woman who discovers a world of thrilling beauty when she ventures beyond her familiar walls and makes it come to life with a soaring accompaniment.

At this point in the program we take a journey into the jazz genre. "Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me" is arranged by Darmon Meader, leader of the world famous New York Voices followed by Duke Ellington's "Duke's Place" and Ira Gershwin's "I've Got a Crush On You". Jazz harmony utilizes 7th chords, added 9th, 11th and 13ths not typically found in classical music. At times we stray from familiar lyrics to non-sensical syllables called "scat singing". While challenging to master, these pieces take us back in time and are so fun to sing. As I compiled my list of songs, I realized that the concert might go on for hours or even days if we continued to work our way beyond the jazz era; that would have to wait until the next concert. However, once I discovered this Adam Podd arrangement of "The Times They Are A-Changin'" I felt I had to include it. The arranger stated that he set out to reimagine this song so it might lend itself to a church service or concert setting where it might not otherwise fit saying "Bob Dylan is among the best in the world and this would be the perfect text for any service or concert with themes of social justice." He hoped the reharmonization and contrasting musical style to the original would bring new attention and poignancy to these well-known words.

We end our concert with a gospel style piece entitled "I Will Sing". Gospel is at the heart of all American music since its evolution. More importantly, this piece doesn't just fit the theme of this concert. This song stands as an anthem to all of us who love to sing.

I will sing, forevermore! I will sing with all my heart and my soul! I have decided that with this one life I will sing!

Woodbridge Community Choir

Sopranos

Susan Brown-Peitz Barbara Buccino Joanna Cafaro 🛠 Amanda Cohen Shubha Dathatri 🛠 **Bethany Davison** Laura Dizon 💠 Colleen Donovan 🛠 Jillian Ferrari Concha 🛠 Lucy Huang Erin Jeglinski Melinda Jeglinski Elizabeth Kaelber 💠 Kayla Kaminsky Pamela Lebedda Colleen Lyons-Wells Amy Magsajo 🛠 Veronica Meyer Lori Miller � Maria Mjartan 🛠 Ellen Nemeth Marisa Rosen Susan Schwefringhaus Marilyn Stephan Dana Tavoularis **Tracy Torres**

Altos

Tara Anderson Delgandio Cindy Brown 🛠 Kathy Ciallella Jessica Cimini-Samuels Jacqueline Crocker Susan Eagle Carol Evans Carolyn Fischer Cathy Freeman Yulaimy Freyle Jennifer Harrison 🚸 Amelia Kreski 🛠 Katie Marciniak 🛠 Jenn Matkowsky Mary Louise Morrone Marie Orriss Elaina Pacella Sam Paladino Sue Palmer Marianne Poos Carolayn Quintanilla Carla Rizzolo-Glick 🛠 Grace Rozger Lisa Sanfilippo 💠 Tina Spangler Kim Vasaturo Alex Wright

Woodbridge Community Choir

Tenors

Joe Aulisi Louis DeVizia Jonathan DeVizia Reggie Dizon Jim Griffin John Hogan Stephen McCarthy Ruben Montalvo Jeremy Schafer

Basses

Josiah Brown Stephen Brown Mike Forbes Ed Griffin Jim Griffin, Sr. Stephen Kalista Dave Spangler Kelly Terrell

Denotes Chamber Ensemble

Beth Amory-Teutsch, Conductor Hannah Han, Accompanist

with Special Guests

Ann Marie Pocklembo, Violin Mira Kang, Cello John LoCascio, Drums Sydney Grimaldi, ASL Interpreter

Program

Take Care of This House/My House

from "1600 Pennsylvania Ave." and "Peter Pan"

Sure On This Shining Night

from "Permit Me Voyage (Agee)"

Circus Band

arr. Rob Fisher

lves arr. Alexander Dashnaw

Bright Morning Stars

Kentucky Folk Song Soloists Elizabeth Kaelber. Joanna Cafaro, Carla Rizzolo-Glick

Sing Gently

Shenandoah American Folk Song

The Battle of Jericho

Trad. Spiritual

Intermission (15 Minutes)

By Night Perf. by WCC Chamber Choir

Hagenberg Words by Harriet **Prescott Spofford**

arr. James Erb

arr. Moses Hogan

arr. Jay Althouse

Whitacre

Barber

Lerner

Bernstein

Program continued

Do Nothin' Till You Hear From Me

Perf. by WCC Chamber Choir Soloists Amelia Kreski, Ed Griffin Ellington Russell arr. Darmon Meader

Duke's Place

Ellington, Katz, Thiele Roberts arr. Kirby Shaw

I've Got A Crush On You

Gershwin/Gershwin arr. Jay Althouse

The Times They Are A-Changin' Soloist Jim Griffin Sr.

Dylan arr. Adam Podd

I Will Sing

Engelhardt

Take Care Of This House/My House

Will you build me a house A house that really will be mine Then let me give you my design A simple scheme of The house I dream of

Build my house of wood, Build my house of stone, Build my house of brick and mortar

Make the ceiling strongCheck all the doors,Strong against the stormIf someone makes off witShelter when the days grow shorterThe dream will be yours.

But build my house of love And paint my house with trusting And warm it with the warmth of your heart

Make the floor of faith, Make the walls of truth Put a roof of peace above

Only build my house of love, love, love

Take care of this house Keep it from harm If bandits break in sound the alarm Care for this house Shine it by hand And keep it so clean The glow can be seen all over the land.

Be careful at night, Check all the doors, If someone makes off with a dream The dream will be yours. TAKE CARE OF THIS HOUSE Be always on call Care for this house, It's the hope of us all.

But build my house of love And paint my house with trusting And warm it with the warmth of your heart

Make the floor of faith, Make the walls of truth Put a roof of peace above

Only build my house of love, love, love

Sure On This Shining Night

Sure on this shining night Of starmade shadows round, Kindness must watch for me This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north. All is healed, all is health. High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder Wandering far alone Of shadows on the stars. On this shining night.

<u> The Circus Band</u>

All summer long we boys dreamed 'bout circus joys! Down Main Street comes the band, Oh! "Ain't it a grand and glorious noise!"

Horses are prancing, knights advancing Helmets gleaming, pennants streaming, Cleopatra's on her throne! That golden hair is all her own.

The Circus Band (cont'd)

Where is the lady all in pink? Last year she waved to me I think, Can she have died? Can! that! rot! She is passing but she sees me not.

Where is the clown, that funny gink? Last year hew inked at me I think. Can he have died? Can! that! rot! He's still a winkin' but he sees me not. (not)

Bright Morning Stars

Bright morning stars are rising Bright morning stars are rising Bright morning stars are rising Day is breaking in my soul

Oh, where are our dear fathers? Oh, where are our dear fathers? They are down in the valley a-praying Day is breaking in my soul

Oh, where are our dear mothers? Oh, where are our dear mothers? They are gone to heaven a-shouting Day is breaking in my soul

Bright morning stars are rising Bright morning stars are rising Bright morning stars are rising Day is breaking in my soul

<u>Shenandoah</u>

Oh, Shenandoah, I long to see you And hear your rolling river Oh, Shenandoah, I long to see you 'Way, we're bound away Across the wide Missouri.

I long to see your smiling valley And hear your rolling river I long to see your smiling valley 'Way, we're bound away Across the wide Missouri.

'Tis seven long years since last I've seen you And hear your rolling river 'Tis seven long years since last I've seen you 'Way, we're bound away Across the wide Missouri.

Oh, Shenandoah, I long to see you And hear your rolling river Oh, Shenandoah, I long to see you 'Way, we're bound away Across the wide Missouri.

Oh, Shenandoah Oh, Shenandoah Oh, Shenandoah

The Battle Of Jericho

Joshua fit the Battle, *yes, the Battle of Jericho* Joshua fit the Battle, *yes, the Battle of Jericho*

[Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle

Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho, and the walls come tumbling down Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Jericho Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Jericho (Repeat)]

Talk about your kings of Gideon *Go on you can talk about*

Talk about your men of Saul Go on, yes, you can talk about him

But none like good old Joshua at the Battle of Jericho *That morning*

Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle

Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho, and the walls come tumbling down Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle, Joshua, the Battle Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Jericho Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Jericho

The Battle Of Jericho (cont'd)

Right up to the walls of Jericho *Jericho*

He marched with spear in hand Blow that horn, Joshua

"Go blow that ramhorn!" Joshua cried *'Cause the battle am in my hand* God almighty then the

Battle, Battle, oh Lord, yes, oh, the Battle Lamb, ram, sheephorn, begin to blow

Battle, Battle, oh Lord, yes, oh, the Battle and the trumpet begins to sound

Battle, Battle, oh Lord, yes, SHOUT! Joshua commanded the children to shout

And the walls come a tumblin' down *Oh Lord, you know that*

[Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Jericho Joshua, Battle he fought the Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Jericho Battle, Battle he fought the Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Battle, Battle Jericho The walls come a tumblin' down Oh Lord, you know that] (Repeat)

Jericho, the walls come tum-ba-lin' down

<u>By Night</u>

Deep in the tarn the mountain A mighty phantom gleamed,

She leaned out into the midnight, And the summer wind went by, The scent of the rose on its silken wing And a song its sigh (Vocalizations) And a song its sigh

And, in depths below, the waters Answered some mystic height, As a star stooped out of the depths above With its lance of light.

(Vocalizations)

And she thought, in the dark and the fragrance, How vast was the wonder wrought If the sweet world were but the beauty born In its Maker's thought.

If the sweet world were but the beauty born In its Maker's thought. (*Vocalizations*)

A mighty phantom gleamed,

Do Nothin' Till You Hear From Me

Do nothing till you hear from me Pay no attention to what's said Why people tear the seam of anyone's dream Is over my head.

Do Nothin' Till You Hear From Me (cont'd)

Do nothing till you hear from me At least consider our romance If you should take the word of others you've heard I haven't a chance

True I've been seen with someone new But does that mean that I'm untrue? When we're a part the words in my heart Reveal how I feel about you.

Some kiss may cloud my memory And other arms may hold a thrill But please do nothing till you hear from me And you never will.

Oh, don't you do nothin' Pay no attention to the stories So I've seen another guy or two Don't mean I'm not in love with you Why people tear the seams of anyone's dream The reason is over my head.

Don't you do a think until you hear it from me Please just consider what a dance our romance has been I'd certainly do it again If you should take the word of others you've heard I haven't got a chance

True I've been seen with someone new But does that mean that now my love's untrue? When we're apart The words in my heart Reveal just how i feel about you

Do Nothin' Till You Hear From Me (cont'd)

Some kiss may cloud my memory And other arms may hold a thrill But baby do nothing till you hear it from me Oh just do nothin'

Won't you just wait and see Cuz baby, oh no You never will You never will You never will Oh oh no

You never will

Duke's Place

Baby, take me down to Duke's Place Wildest box in town is Duke's Place Love that piano sound in Duke's Place

Saxes do their tricks in Duke's Place Fellas swing their chicks in Duke's Place Come on, get your kicks in Duke's Place

By the time you count to four, you'll hear that band begin to roar It will make your spirit soar, so baby let's get out on the floor They'll be pumpin', we'll be jumpin' Baby let's dance

(Add second time) For the hippest sounds in town now And you want to party down now Head on down to Duke's and lose your frown now Come on, baby

<u> Duke's Place (cont'd)</u>

(Add third time) Bah dah dot, doot dot doot dot dah dot dot Oh, buh dah dot, doot dot doot dot dah dot dot Well, bah, bah dah, doot dot doot dot dah dot dot Shoo-bee doo-bop! (Repeat with all)

Baby, take me down to Duke's Place Wildest box in town is Duke's Place Love that piano sound in Duke's Place

If you've never been to Duke's Place Take your tootsies into Duke's Place Life is in a spin in Duke's Place

The rhythm will be right We'll dance and dance all through the night So, baby, let's head down to Duke's Place!

Bah doot doo-lya doo dot dot!

<u>l've Got a Crush on You</u>

I've got a crush on you, Sweetie pie. All the day and night-time, hear me sigh I never had the least notion That I could fall with so much emotion

Could you coo? Could you care For a cunning cottage we could share? The world will pardon my mush 'Cause I've got a crush, my baby, on you

<u>l've Got a Crush on You</u> (cont'd)

Could you coo? Could you care For a cunning cottage we could share? The world will pardon my mush, 'Cause I have got a crush, my baby, on you. I've got a crush on you.

The Times, They are a Changin'

Come gather 'round people Wherever you roam And admit that the waters Around you have grown And accept it that soon You'll be drenched to the bone If your time to you is worth savin' Then you better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone For the times they are a-changin'

Come mothers and fathers Throughout the land And don't criticize What you can't understand Your sons and your daughters Are beyond your command Your old road is rapidly agin' Please get out of the new one if you can't lend your hand For the times they are a-changin'

The Times, They are a Changin' (cont'd)

The line it is drawn The curse it is cast The slow one now Will later be fast As the present now Will later be past The order is rapidly fadin' And the first one now will later be last For the times they are a-changin'

<u>I Will Sing</u>

We've all been given our little corner of space and time With the permission to do with it as we see fit for a while So begs the question, What will I do with the portion given to me? The one possession, so pure and precious. Darkness and fear abound, This song keeps calling out From deep within me.

With all of my soul, I will sing My heart ever steadfast, this melody will bring It may or may not resonate, but here's the thing: Even so, oh even so, With all of my soul, I will sing I will sing

<u>I Will Sing</u> (cont'd)

It's not that easy Great are the doubts from within and without They won't defeat me Not if I'm completely Standing on higher ground Confident in the sound That lives with me

With all of my soul, I will sing My heart ever steadfast, this melody will bring It may or may not resonate, but here's the thing: Even so, oh even so, With all of my soul, I will sing I will sing

I will sing forever more I will sing with all my heart and my soul I have decided that with this one life, I will sing, I will sing (repeats)

I will sing! I will sing! I will sing! With all of my soul (repeats)

We will sing with all our souls, we will sing with all our hearts! We will sing forever more, so we're just getting started (repeats)

I will sing! I will sing! With all of my soul I will sing! I will sing!



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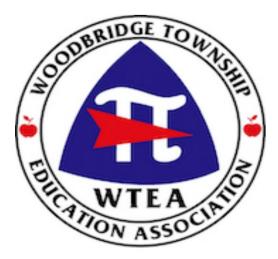


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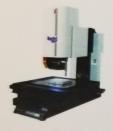
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Amy M. Wright awformosaeng@aol.com

168 Route One, North Edison, NJ 08817-5031 There really is no mincing words; we live in turbulent and uncertain times. Coupled with a nearly constant stream of violence and vitriolic rhetoric, just getting by seems increasingly a daunting endeavor.

Music is so much more than an art form set aside for our entertainment. Much of our own musical styles and traditions were born of trial and tribulation. As much as it was then, it is still a medium through which we relate to and channel our emotions, conveyed all through the sounds we make and the words we sing.

Now, more than in recent memory, do we not only need a constructive means of conveying our strife, but moreso, a way of drawing inspiration; a hope that despite how things seem now, we can still strive to be better, for ours and our posterity.

This ensemble might very well be the best example of drawing strength and inspiration from our own ups and downs, and I've never been happier or more proud to be both a member of, and have the opportunity to serve a more awesome, if not eclectic, group of people.

Thank you all, and it will always be my continued privilege working with all of you.

Boosters

Kayla Mae, I absolutely love that I had the chance to sing with you this spring. I am so proud of you. I love you. - Aunt Colleen

Where words fail, music speaks. Kayla Mae, do what you love. Sing from your heart. We love you. Love, The Crew

Best of luck Melinda & Erin! The Mother-Daughter Duo shines again! Love, Ronni

Gram & Aunt Erin, sing your little hearts out! We love you! Love, Rileigh & Brady

Congratulations Mom (Gram) and (Aunt) Erin on another amazing performance! We're so proud of you, knocking everyone's socks off again! Love, Shane, Abby & Liam

Congratulations Melinda & Erin! Hope you have another great performance. I'm looking forward to the concert. Love Jerry (Dad)

Darling,

I never had the notion that I could fall with so much emotion. The world can pardon my mush, 'cause I've got a crush on you! Sparky

Boosters cont'd.

To my peeps,

What a change eight years has made! This song keeps calling out from deep within me. I will sing with all of my heart. Thank you for all your support and encouragement. Steve K.

Jess and Dan,

For as long as you choose, take care of this house. Build it with love, and warm it with the warmth of your heart. Poppi

Marianne, Alex & Katie, Congratulations on another beautiful performance. We are proud of you all. The Poos Family

Way to Go Alex, Love you Mom and Dad

Very Proud of you Ally, Love Artie and Kate

Great Job Marianne, Love Aunt Amy, Uncle Art, Artie and Kate

To my fellow Choirmates; (Go Baritones!) Break many Legs tonight! I wish you all a pleasant Spring Season. - Kelly W. Terrell

A Special Thank You to

Hon. John E. McCormac, Mayor of Woodbridge Brian Molnar, Director, Dept. of Recreation John Hagerty, Public Information Officer

> The administration and staff of Woodbridge Middle School

The Township of Woodbridge

Fr. David Kosmoski and St. Andrew's Church

Beth, thank you for directing us Hannah for your continued dedication to our ensemble

> Our executive board for the work they do: Lori Miller, President Laura Dizon, Vice-President Reggie Dizon, Secretary Sue Palmer, Treasurer

Our expanded logistics team of Amy Magsajo, Cindy Brown, and Marisa Rosen

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And of course...

All of you, our family, friends; our community. We are always grateful for every performance you attend, and yet, we cannot sincerely overstate how valuable, both, your presence and support are to the purpose and function of this group. While our challenge remains in creating art, our passion will always be in sharing it with all of you.

Once more, thank you for joining us!

See you in the Fall!

For more information, please visit: www.woodbridgechoir.org

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