

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Isaac Stern Auditorium / Ronald O. Perelman Stage

40th Anniversary Season
1983 to 2023

1,474th Concert Worldwide, 1,140th in New York, 682nd in Carnegie Hall

MIDAMERICA PRODUCTIONS

PETER TIBORIS, *Founder, General Director and Music Director*
JOHN RUTTER, CBE, *Conductor Laureate*

presents

New England Symphonic Ensemble

PRESTON HAWES, *Artistic Director*

SONGS OF JOURNEY, HOPE, AND LIGHT

PAULUS: “Sing Creations Music On”
arr. JONATHAN RODGERS: “Poor Wayfaring Stranger”
PAUL BASLER: *Songs of Faith: IV. “Alleluia”*
TIM MCCARTHY, *French Horn*

KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN: “Even When God is Silent”
arr. GWYNETH WALKER: “How Can I Keep From Singing”

JEANNE WOHLGAMUTH, *Conductor*
CHAD D. BAKER, *Piano*

Participating Choruses:

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Legacy Children’s Choir, Port Orange, FL (Constance Poitier, Director)
New World Singers of Columbus Children’s Choir, Columbus, OH
(Jeanne Wohlgamuth, Director)
*The United Girls’ Choir and The Elm City Girls’ Choir, New Haven, CT
(Rebecca Rosenbaum, Director)

Intermission

IMANT RAMINSH: *Missa Brevis*
I. Kyrie (soprano and chorus)
II. Gloria (soprano and chorus)
III. Sanctus / Benedictus (soprano and chorus)
IV. Agnus Dei (soprano and chorus)

CVETOZAR VUTEV, *Conductor*
ZHANNA ALKHAZOVA, *Soprano*

(program continued)

ANDERS EDENROTH: *Lionteeth* (excerpts) (World Premiere)
II. Imagine There's a Meeting /
A Brilliant Bouquet
IV. Sonya (Sunflower)
V. Kamala (Lotus)
VI. Tampopo (Dandelion)
VII. A Flower for Tomorrow

RYAN HOLDER, *Conductor*

Participating Choruses:

Desert Ridge High School Concert Choir, Mesa, AZ (Albert Lee, Director)
Raminsh Choir, Kamloops, BC (Cvetozar Vutev, Director)
Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers, Sedona, AZ (Ryan Holder, Director)

Intermission

HOPE FOR TOMORROW: A concert with a special message for a post-pandemic world.

BYRON J. SMITH: "I want Jesus"
BYRON J. SMITH: "Somebody's Knockin'"
BYRON J. SMITH: "Hope for Tomorrow"
BYRON J. SMITH: "He'll Make A Way"

BYRON J. SMITH, *Conductor*

Participating Choruses:

The Adult Choir of Grant AME Church, Los Angeles, CA (Byron J. Smith, Director)
The Collegiate Choir of Los Angeles Harbor College, Los Angeles, CA (Byron J. Smith, Director)
LA Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Los Angeles, CA (Byron J. Smith, Director)
Members of the Delta Choraliers, Los Angeles, CA (Byron J. Smith, Director)
The Spirit Chorale of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (Byron J. Smith, Director)
The Voices in Praise of Macedonia Baptist Church, Los Angeles, CA (Byron J. Smith, Director)

Clark W. Joseph & The St. John Church Music Ministry Sing Gospel

arr. PATRISHA GILL: "The Solid Rock"
arr. GLENN BURLEIGH: "Jesus Is a Rock"
JOSEPH: "Trust in the Lord"
KENNEDY JONES, *Tenor*
arr. BRITTEN: "Yes God Is Real"
YVOLANDA ROSS-ADAMS, *Contralto*

CLARK W. JOSEPH, *Conductor*
TRAMAUL LOVE, *Piano*

COMBINED CHOIRS

arr. RICKY DILLARD: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”
CLARK W. JOSEPH, *Conductor*
BYRON J. SMITH, *Piano*

Participating Choruses:

Dallas Chapter GMWA, Dallas, TX (Patrick Bradley, Director)
Lafayette Ecumenical Choir, Lafayette, LA (Mathilda Martin, Director)
NCGCC Houston, Houston, TX (Michael Pickett, President)
One Dallas Metro Choral Union, Dallas, TX (Dorothea Shanks, President)
Paul Quinn College Choir, Dallas, TX (Patrick Bradley, Director)
Project Unity Gospel Choir, Dallas, TX (Clark Wayman Joseph, Director)
Saint John Church of Grand Prairie, Grand Prairie/Southlake, TX
(Clark Wayman Joseph, Director)
South Dallas Concert Choir, Dallas, TX (Alfrelynn Roberts, Director)

Please hold your applause until the end of multi-movement works.

*Prior MidAmerica Productions appearance(s).

Notes ON THE PROGRAM

SONGS OF JOURNEY HOPE AND LIGHT

STEPHEN PAULUS “Sing Creations Music On” is based on the text of English poet John Clare. Clare was known for his powerful writings on nature, rural life, and the instability of the world. Stephen Paulus set the last two stanzas of the poem to music.

ARR. JONATHAN RODGERS “Poor Wayfaring Stranger” is a setting of the American folk spiritual known as “Wayfaring Stranger.” While many versions of the lyrics to this tune exist, they all tell the story of a Traveler who makes their way on a journey despite a rough road, difficult circumstances, and gathering darkness. The traveler does this for the promise of green pastures and a reunion with his Father and Mother at the journey’s end.

PAUL BASLER “Alleluia” is part of *Songs of Faith*, a five-movement work for choir, French horn, percussion,

and piano, written to celebrate the American Spirit. Each movement is dedicated to a different choral conductor and his ensemble. “Alleluia,” the fourth movement of this work, is dedicated to William Hall and the Chapman University Choir.

KIM ANDRE ARNESEN “Even When He Is Silent”, a work about hope in the darkest time of life, was commissioned in 2011 by the St. Olaf festival in Trondheim, Norway. The text was found written on a wall at a concentration camp after World War II.

ARR. GWYNETH WALKER “How Can I Keep From Singing” is an old Quaker hymn dating back to the 1800s. References to the persecution of friends may be heard in the lyrics. Yet faith and courage prevail. This arrangement emphasizes the celebratory and life-affirming aspects of the song.

IMANT RAMINSH *Missa Brevis*

Born 1943 in Ventpils, Latvia

Imant Raminsh, composer, conductor, and violinist, has written for all kinds of musical groups, but choral music has become the hallmark of his career. His distinctive choral textures, lush harmonic palette, and lyrical melodic sense have made him one of Canada’s most outstanding composers of choral music.

Raminsh, whose compositions are widely recognised and performed, immigrated to Canada as a child, studied violin at the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, received his bachelor’s degree at the University of Toronto, where he majored in violin, and studied at the Akademie Mozarteum

in Salzburg, Austria. The *Missa Brevis* is a short mass for soprano solo, treble choir and orchestra commissioned by the Indianapolis Children’s Choir and their conductor, Henry Leck. Raminsh notes that his intention was to compose a new work for treble voices of about the same length and weight as the Benjamin Britten *Missa Brevis*. Raminsh’s work premiered in Indianapolis in 1990 and has subsequently been performed worldwide in the original treble voice as well as in the more recent version for mixed chorus.

Raminsh has said that the work has “a cyclic architecture, with the *Kyrie*

and *Agnus Dei* sharing similar chant-like material. The *Gloria* and *Sanctus* display a variety of choral composi-

tional techniques and textures including fugato and antiphonal (double choir) writing.”

ANDERS EDENROTH, Composer, *Lionteeth*

Born May 15, 1963, Sweden

CARL RASMUSSEN

(b. 1978, Sweden)

The lyrics of *Lionteeth* are a dialog between humans and nature; an urgent conversation where we need to be good listeners if we will succeed in changing our behavior and saving our planet.

The main portion of the work is divided into four parts, each representing a different flower: the sunflower, the anemone, the lotus, and the dandelion. The first three flowers are cultivated and serve mankind in different ways. They are also symbols for three alternative sources of energy that we will be more and more dependent on in the future: the sun, the wind, and the water.

The dandelion differs from the other three flowers because it is not cultivated. It is often seen as an intruder in gardens and farmland. However, it has many fantastic powers. It is highly nutritious, it can break through asphalt, it fertilizes your lawn, and you can make wine, color, and rubber from it. But most of all, you can make a wish if you succeed in blowing all of its little parachutes away into the wind.

After the four flowers have been presented, the song will end with a poem that is sung a cappella like a hymn or a prayer. The poem wishes for a future where mankind thrives in harmony with nature.

HOPE FOR TOMORROW

A concert with a special message for a post-pandemic world.

BYRON J. SMITH “Somebody’s Knockin’”

Based on the spiritual, “Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door,” this gospel piece is an invitation for the listener to open up and receive blessings from our Savior. It’s latin groove and rousing vocal lines provide an engaging musical experience.

ARR BYRON J. SMITH “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

A traditional spiritual arranged in honor of departed choral arrangers Richard Jackson and Moses Hogan. The expressive soprano solo helps to

remind us that in this life, we never walk alone.

BYRON J. SMITH “He’ll Make a Way”

This up-tempo gospel work has been Onyx Publishing’s greatest hit for many years. It is based on the memory of my mother’s life-long mantra of “I Know the Lord Will Make a Way.” The message of this infectious song is clear and true.

BYRON J. SMITH “Hope For Tomorrow”

After surviving the recent Covid-19 pandemic, this song is an invitation for us to have faith and believe that everything will be alright. With the Lord on our side, we have “Hope For Tomorrow!”

CLARK W. JOSEPH & THE ST. JOHN CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY SING GOSPEL

The St. John Church Music Ministry Carnegie Hall Ensemble presents a program of good news songs that resonate a strong faith in Jesus Christ. *The Solid Rock* is a contemporary gospel hymn arrangement composed by Pat Gill based on the hymn text by Edward Mote. William B. Bradbury composed the original hymn tune. The biblical foundational text is Psalm 18:2, the Lord is my rock and my fortress, my deliverer, my God and my strength, in whom I will trust: my buckler and the horn of my salvation and my high tower. The gospel hymn arrangement includes stanzas one and two along with the chorus....”on Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

Continuing the solid rock theme is the song, **Jesus Is A Rock**. This piece was composed by Glen Burleigh and arranged by Patrick Lundy. Composed in the key of f minor, Burleigh’s text comes from the traditional text, Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm, based on the biblical text found in I Peter 2:7, the stone that the builders rejected has become

the very head of the corner. Both the composer and arranger take the listener on a musical style journey.

Trust In The Lord, composed by Clark W. Joseph is a testimony song based on the biblical text, Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy path. The composition was inspired by the composer’s life experiences, testifying of his trust and faith in God. This piece begins with the traditional gospel sound moving to the choral sound, finally ending with the contemporary gospel sound.

Yes God Is Real is a traditional gospel song that is found in many hymnals. Kenneth Morris composed the text and tune. Timothy Britten wrote the contemporary arrangement. This piece is a testimony song that highlights the attributes of Christ: his omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence. Yes God is real! Why? I can feel Him in my soul! He has washed and made me whole! His love for me is like pure gold! Yes God is real for I can feel Him in my soul!

THE Artists

JEANNE WOHLGAMUTH, *Conductor*



Throughout her 41-year career, Mrs. Wohlgamuth has inspired choral excellence in singers at all levels. Currently, she is in her eleventh year as Artistic Director of the Columbus Children's Choir, where she oversees the organization's artistic vision and directs New World Singers, the top-performing ensemble.

Under her direction, New World Singers was awarded Grand Prize in the

Rimini International Choral Competition and the Youth International Choral Competition. On three separate occasions, NWS was awarded first place in The American Prize.

Mrs. Wohlgamuth currently serves as President of the Ohio Choral Directors Association and Vocal Affairs Chair for the Ohio Music Education Association. Mrs. Wohlgamuth received the 2021 Professor Veneta Vicheva International Conductor's Mastery Award and the 2021 Best Conductor award of the Rimini International Choral Competition. She was awarded the 2020 National Teacher of the Year from the Organization of Kodaly Music Educators. Other awards include the Teacher of the Year award from Dublin Jerome High School, Karrer, and Grizzell Middle Schools, and Wright and Bowen Elementary Schools. She was also honored with the Golden Shamrock Award for Excellence in Education from Dublin City Schools and the Community Champion Award presented by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce.

CVETOZAR VUTEV, *Conductor*

A man of many passions, Cvetozar Vutev is a conductor, violinist, and teacher based in Kamloops, BC (Canada). He serves as concertmaster with the Kamloops Symphony Orchestra and the Symphony of the Kootenays and at times with Opera Kelowna and the Prince George Symphony Orchestra. Before coming to Canada from Bulgaria in 2005, Cvetozar played with Opera Passion (Milan), National Opera and Ballet Orchestra (Sofia), Operettenbühne (Vienna), and Lyric Opera (New York).



As a conductor, Cvetozar has worked with the Vernon Proms (Vernon, BC) on productions from Baroque stage works to the premieres of two new Canadian operas by Jim Leonard (2019) and Antony Knight (2021). He is the founding music director of the Kamloops Brandenburg Orchestra (2012) and the Raminsh Choir (2022) and served as conductor of the Vivace Chorale in Kamloops (2007-2021). Since 2013 Cvetozar teaches choir at the Thompson Rivers University (Kamloops, BC).

Cvetozar earned graduate and doctorate degrees from the Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music (Sofia, Bulgaria) and studied choral conducting with Ivet Glojenska and Lili Gyuleva. He furthered his conducting education under Graeme Langager (Vancouver, BC). Cvetozar's music career has spanned the globe, making music in Europe, East Asia, and North America.

ZHANNA ALKHAZOVA, *Soprano*



Dramatic soprano Zhanna Alkhasova's voice has been described as "masterful" and "effortless...with an exquisite

ease." Praised by Opera News for her "bright, sword-flashing sound" her notable recent engagements include the title roles of *Turandot* and *Manon Lescaut*, Elizabetha in *Don Carlos* and Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*. Her operatic credits include Title Role in *Tosca*, Title Role in *Aida*, Leonora in *Il Trovatore*, Tamara in *Demon* among others. The 2022-2023 season's engagements include a Connecticut Opera debut as Nedda in *I Pagliacci*, debuts at Bard Music Festival and First Coast Opera as a featured artist. An active performer on concert stages in the United States, this season she will perform with the Metropolitan Opera Guild, the Refugee Orchestra, the Beth El Symphony Orchestra and the Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra.

RYAN HOLDER, *Conductor*



Ryan Holder currently serves as the Associate Director of Choral Studies at Northern Arizona University, where he directs the Women's Chorale, *Northern Voices* and *High Altitude* vocal jazz ensembles, teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting and choral methods, supervises choral student teachers, serves as the adviser for the NAU stu-

dent chapter of the American Choral Directors Association and the three contemporary a cappella groups. In addition, he is the coordinator of the annual Jazz Madrigal festival, which brings in over 120 high schools and 165 choirs every year.

Dr. Holder has given lectures and presentations at local, state, and regional ACDA and NAFME conventions. His ensembles have been invited to perform throughout the Southwest, including performances at state and regional ACDA conferences.

Ryan served as the Arizona State ACDA President as well as the ACDA National Committee on Educational Technology. He also serves as the director of music at The Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona, Arizona where he is the founding artistic director of the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers.

Dr. Holder received his DMA degree from the University of Miami in addition to bachelors and masters degrees

from Southern Oregon University and University of Northern Colorado.

BYRON J. SMITH, *Conductor*

Byron J. Smith is a native of Los Angeles, California. He received his M.M in choral conducting from CSU Los Angeles and his B.M. from CSU Long Beach.

Smith's music career has included over 50 years in church music ministries, over 45 years of freelance keyboard work in the music industry, 38 years at Los Angeles Harbor College as a Professor of Commercial and Choral/Vocal Music and almost 30 years with his professional choral ensemble, The Spirit Chorale of Los Angeles. He completes his musical tapestry with composing and conducting numerous musical theater projects including his own award-winning musical, *Children of the Night*.

His choral compositions have been performed by countless ensembles worldwide. His company, Onyx Choral Music Publishing, continues to successfully print and distribute his music for over 25 years. Onyx's mission has been to spread the good news of gospels and



spiritual repertoire to schools, churches and community choirs.

Byron is the immediate past national president of the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc. A Historic Organization since 1919. He is also a member of numerous music organizations including ACDA, The Gospel Music Workshop of America, N.A.M.M., Chorus America, A.F.M., SAG-AFTRA and ASCAP.

CLARK W. JOSEPH, *Conductor*



Clark W. Joseph, a Lafayette, LA native, earned BM and MM degrees in Piano Performance from University of Louisiana Lafayette. He's also earned a MS in Education from Fordham University in New York. He earned the MTS from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX and was also awarded the DMin. from the Bell Grove Theological Seminary of Baton Rouge, LA. Finally he earned the DWS degree from Liberty University School of Music of Lynchburg, VA.

He served as Choir Master for the National Baptist Convention USA and the National Baptist Convention of America Board Meeting Musicals in Dallas. He serves as conductor for the Black Academy of Arts & Letters Black Music and Civil Rights Movement Concert at the Meyerson Symphony Hall in Dallas featuring recording artists CeCe Winans, Ledisi, Chrisette Michele, Reuben Studdard, Karen Clark-Sheard, Fantasia, Peabo Bryson, B Slade, Kim Burrell and Dorinda Clark-Cole. He was Choir Master for Gospel Goes Classical, featuring Marvin Winans, as well as Together We Sing with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra paying tribute to Richard Smallwood. His musical composition, *We've Come To Praise The Lord* was featured in the Fox Television Series, *Filthy Rich*.

Clark has served as Minister of Music & Worship Arts at St. John Church of Grand Prairie/Southlake, TX, one church ministering in multiple locations since 1996.

PRESTON HAWES, *Artistic Director,*
New England Symphonic Ensemble



reate of the Concours de musique du Canada, the Andrews International Music Competitions, and the Prix de Musique de Chambre à Fontainebleau, and is a recipient of the J.C. Van Hulsteyn Award and Peabody Career Grant. He has been heard as a soloist in more than 35 countries and in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, and Plovdiv Symphony Hall. Having earned a Master of Music degree and the coveted Artist Diploma at Yale University, Dr. Hawes completed his studies by earning a Doctorate of Musical Arts from The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Hawes is a professor of music and director of strings at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and is the artistic director of the New England Symphonic Ensemble.

Hailed by the European Academy of Arts and Sciences as an “electrifying and virtuosic” performer with “exquisite taste and rare talent,” Canadian violinist Dr. Preston Hawes is a lau-

NEW ENGLAND SYMPHONIC ENSEMBLE

With performances described as “flawless” (Rhodes Magazine), the New England Symphonic Ensemble (NESE), under the artistic direction of Dr. Preston Hawes, is among the most frequently featured organizations in Carnegie Hall. Since its inception in 1989, the NESE has drawn global critical acclaim in hundreds of concerts on the world’s most prestigious stages. In collaboration with MidAmerica Productions, the NESE has been led by a roster of guest conductors including John Rutter, Peter Tiboris, Sherrill Milnes, Helmuth Rilling, Simon Carrington, and Jonathan Willcocks, and regularly hosts international guest soloists. NESE world premieres

include Dinos Constantinides’ *Byron’s Greece, Hymn to the Human Spirit*, and *Midnight Fantasy II* for wind ensemble; John Rutter’s *Cantate Domino, Distant Land, Magnificat*, and *Mass of the Children*; and John Leavitt’s *A Christmas Garland*. The NESE boasts multiple U.S. premieres, including Mozart’s *Die Schuldigkeit des ersten Gebots*, Reimann’s Concerto for Violin and Cello, Tchaikovsky’s *Ode to Joy*, and René Clausen’s *Hellas: In the Name of Freedom*. The NESE can be heard on the Naxos label in an award-winning recording of spirituals with internationally renowned mezzo-soprano, the late Barbara Smith Conrad.

MIDAMERICA PRODUCTIONS

265 Sunrise Highway, Suite 1-183
Rockville Centre, NY 11570
Phone: (212) 239-0205
www.midamerica-music.com

MidAmerica Productions, Inc. was founded by Peter Tiboris in 1983. Now in its 40th season, MidAmerica presents conductors, soloists, and choral and instrumental ensembles from around the world in New York's Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, and Alice Tully Hall and David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center. MidAmerica also presents concerts in international locations including Vienna; Salzburg; Florence; Verona; Venice; Paris; Prague; Berlin; Warsaw; Krakow; Lisbon; Porto; London; Oxford; and, since 2005, in Syros, Greece (The International Festival of the Aegean). To date, MidAmerica Productions has produced more than 1,400 concerts worldwide.

Peter Tiboris, *General Director and Music Director of MidAmerica Productions and MidAm International*

James E. Redcay III, *Chief Executive Officer*

Eric Spiegel, *Chief Operating Officer*

Eilana Lappalainen, *MidAmerica Productions and MidAm International Artistic Administrator*

Norman Dunfee, *Production Manager for MidAmerica Productions at Carnegie Hall*

Andrea Niederman, *Director of Public Relations and Audience Development*

Cailin Marcel Manson, *Artistic Consultant*

C.J. Harden, *Director of Program Development*

Joyce Howard-Brazel, *Chief of Administration*

Giovanna Boyd, *Bookkeeper/Account Operations Associate*

Sonja Sepúlveda, *MidAm International Program Administrator & Conductor-in-Residence*

Matthew Harden, *Conductor-in-Residence & Program Development Associate*

Jack Hill, *Conductor & Program Development Associate*

Thomas Octave, *Conductor & Program Development Associate*

Stephen Pu, *Conductor & Program Development Associate*

Adam Stich, *Conductor & Program Development Associate*

Candace Wicke, *Conductor & Program Development Associate*

George Berry, *Associate Director of Program Development and Assistant Production Manager*

Dallas Wicke, *Program Development Associate*

Lily Wintringham, *Program Development Associate and Assistant in Concert Production*

Sawyer Branham, *Program Development Associate*

Tabitha Johnson, *Principal Administrative Assistant to Eilana Lappalainen*

Julie Kahn, *Principal Administrative Associate to General Music Director and Artistic Director,
Peter Tiboris*