COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT – SAINT JOHN’S UNIVERSITY
CHAMBER CHOIR

SAINT JOHN’S UNIVERSITY MEN’S CHOIR

AXEL THEIMER, CONDUCTOR

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021
7:30 P.M.
GREAT HALL
SAINT JOHN’S UNIVERSITY

This is our music.

PROGRAM

SAINT JOHN’S UNIVERSITY MEN’S CHOIR

Please hold your applause to the end of the first half of the program (after Alma Mater)

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child
arr. Fenno Heath (1926 – 2008)
G. Schirmer/Hal Leonard 10567
Zachary Staver, baritone
Kate Hillesheim, piano

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long ways from home.
Sometimes I feel like I’d never been born, a long ways from home.
Sometimes I feel like I’m almost gone, a long ways from home.

Nинe отпушча́ешь

Alexandre Gretchaninoff (1864-1956)
Musica Russica Gr 040mc

Nинe отпушча́ешь Ныне отпущаешь раба Твоего,
Владыко, по глаголу Твоему, с миром; яко видеста очи мои спасение Твое,
еже еси уготовал, пред лицем всех людей,
свет во откровение языков и славу людей Твоих Израиля.

Lord, now lettest You Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word.
For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared,
In view of all the people. A light to enlighten all Gentiles
and to the glory of Your people, Israel.

The Word Was God
Rosephayne Powell (b. 1962)
(Gentry Publications JG2314)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. The same was in the beginning with God. By Him all things were made that have been made. Nothing was made, He has not made. All things were made by Him. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.
When David heard that his son was dead, he was deeply moved.
He went up to the chamber o'er the gate and wept. And as he wept, he said:
“O my son Absalom! Would I have died instead of you, O Absalom my son!”

(Galaxy Music 1.3428) arr. Alice Parker (b.1925)

Avir harim tzalul kayayin vereiach oranim, nisa ber'ach ha'arbayim im kol pa'amonim.
Uvetardemat ilan va'even shvuyah bachalomah, ha'ir asher bedad yoshevet /nitzevet uvelibah chomah.

Chorus: Yerushalayim shel zahav veshevet nechoshet veshevel or halo lechol shirayich ani kinor.

Eicha yavshu borot hamayim kikar hashuk reikah, ve'ein poked et har habayit ba'ir ha'atikah.
Uvame'arot asher basela Meyalelot ruchot, ve'ein yored el yam hamelach bederech Yericho.

Chorus:

Ach bevo'i hayom lashir lach velach lik'shor k'tarim, katonti mitze'ir bana'ich ume'acharon ham'shorerim.
Ki shmech tzorev et hasfatayim keneshikat saraf, im eshkachech Yerushalayim asher kulah zahav... Chorus:

Chazarnu el borot hamayim lashuk velakikar, shofar kore behar habayit ba'ir ha'atikah.
Uvame'arot asher baselah alfei shmashot zorchot, nashuv nered el yam hamelach bederech Yericho! Chorus...

The mountain air is clear as wine and the scent of pines is carried on the breeze of twilight with the sound of bells.
And in the slumber of tree and stone, captured in her dream, the city that sits solitary and in its midst is a wall.

Chorus: Jerusalem of gold and of copper, and of light. Behold I am a violin for all your songs.
How the cisterns have dried, the marketplace is empty, and no one frequents the Temple Mount in the Old City.
And in the caves in the mountain winds are howling and no one descends to the Dead Sea by way of Jericho.

Chorus:

Yet as I come today to sing to you, to weave crowns for you I am the least of the youngest of your children and among the last poets. For your name scorches the lips like the kiss of a seraph: “If I forget thee, Jerusalem...” which is all gold. Chorus

We have returned to the cisterns, to the market and to the marketplace. A ram's horn calls out on the Temple Mount in the Old City. And in the caves in the mountain thousands of suns shine - We will once again descend to the Dead Sea by way of Jericho!

Chorus

When I hear her ........................................ Mark Templeton (b. 1961)
(Santa Barbara, SBMP 673)

Many a flower have I seen blossom, many a bird for me will sing.
Never saw I so sweet a singer, never heard I so fair a thing.
She is a bird, a bird that blossoms. She is a flower, a flower that sings, and I a flower when I behold her, and when I hear her, I have wings.

Jägerchor ............................................... Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)
1) What can compare with the joy of hunting, who enjoys life more than the hunter? To hide in the grass when the hunters’ horns are sounding, to track the deer through the woods – (Refrain) that is true joy, is manly desire, makes us strong and makes us enjoy food more. Whenever woods and mountains surround us, the full pitcher, at the end of the day, seems even more desirable. Joho, tralala.

2) Diana knows how to brighten the night and provide shade during the day. To hunt the bloody wolf and the boar, which destroys the fields, (Refrain)

Saint John’s Alma Mater ......................... Axel Theimer (b. 1946)

(meanscript)

High above the Sagatagan, Towering o’er the oak and pine
Proudly stands our alma mater ever let her beacon shine.
Alma mater we’ll be loyal, ever love and praise thy name.
Hail, all hail Saint John’s our mother, we thy honor will proclaim.

BRIEF COVET INTERMISSION

COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT – SAINT JOHN’S UNIVERSITY
CHAMBER CHOIR

Please hold your applause to the end of the second half of the program (after Chai Ho!)

The Gift to be simple .......................... arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Traditional Shaker Tune
Hal Leonard 08740327

The gift to be simple, the gift to be free, the gift to come down where you ought to be, and when we find ourselves in a place just right, ‘T’will be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed, to turn, turn will be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.

Keep Your Lamps ............................. arr.: André Thomas (b. 1952)

Hinshaw Music HMC 577
Kate Hillesheim, long drum

Refrain: Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children don’t get weary ‘til your work is done. Refrain…
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh. Refrain…

What Wondrous Love ...................... Edwin Fissinger (1920-1990)

Colla Voce 55-54143

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!
What wondrous love is this! That caused the Lord of bliss!
To send this precious peace, To my soul, to my soul!

When I was sinking down, beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown For my soul, for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing!
And while from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and while from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on!

Indodana                       arr. Michael Barrett and Ralf Schmitt
(Santa Barbara Music Publishing SBMP 1177)
(Sung in Xhosa/Nguni Bantu–South Africa)

Ngob' umthatile eh umtwana wakho    (You took Your own son)
uhlalaehathihololo helele           (Who lived amongst us)
Indodana ka Nkulunkulu             (The Son of God)
Bayi' bethilelalololo helele        (Was crucified + [a wordless expression of grief/a wail])
Oh Baba, Baba, Baba Yehova         (Oh Father, Jehovah!)
Baba, hololo, helele                (Father! [+wailing])

Women:  "You took your own son who lived amongst us. The son of the Lord God was crucified."
Men:    "Hololo Father Jehovah" (Hololo represents crying and has no translation);
        "Zjem zja father" (Zjem zja is expressive).

Caña Dulce                      Jose Daniel-Zuñiga (b. 1955)
(Twin Elm Publishing TE00-18)

Caña dulce pa moler cuando tenga mi casita: ¡Oh, qué suerte tan bonita que ser!
Cuando apunte el verolís y yo viva con mi nena, no tendré ninguna pena y seré siempre feliz.
Tendré entonces mi casita
y una milpa y buenos bueyes y seré como esos reyes que no envidian ya nadita.
Con mi Dios y mi morena, caña dulce y buen amor, esta vida noble y Buena pasaré sin un recor.

Sugar cane to grind when I get my own house: Oh, what lovely luck will be for me!
When the flower of the sugar cane sprouts, and I'm living with my sweetheart,
I won't have any sorrows, and I will always be happy.
Then I'll have my little house, my cornfield, and good oxen.
Then I'll be like those kings who don't envy any little thing.
With my God and my brown-skinned sweetheart, sugar cane and good love,
I will spend this noble and good life without any resentment at all.

Nda Wana                       arr. Michael Barrett
Traditional Venda
(Santa Barbara MusicPublishing SBMP 1389)
Joe Lara, baritone
Kate Hillesheim, long drum

Nda wana vhana vha tshi khoutam ba vha tshi imbelela tshino ni
Vha tshi ri thungunununu nemulambo kumedza

I found the children playing while the birds were singing by the river (mulambo) as they resisted sleep

Jai Ho! (India)                   Arr. Ethan Sperry (b. 1971)
(Earthsongs)
Maria Schneider, soprano
Kate Hillesheim, long drum
Alyssa Wedin, tambourine
I have had singing

Ron Jeffers (1943-2017)

(earthsomgs)

Text: Fred Mitchell, an 85-year-old ploughman recalls his childhood in a tiny village in Suffolk County, England, the harshness, the isolation, but also the beauty of the lives of the villagers, where all the heavy work was always accompanied by music and singing. He says: “I never did any playing in all my life. There was nothing in my childhood, only work. I never had pleasure. One day a year I went to Felixstowe along with the chapel women and children, and that was my pleasure”.

Singing, singing, oh the singing! There was so much singing then! We all sang, and this was my pleasure too. The boys in the fields (and at night we all met at the Forge and sang), the chapels were full of singing, always full of singing. (When the first war came, it was singing, singing all the time). Here I lie, I have had pleasure enough, I have had singing

CHAMBER CHOIR

Sopranos
Mary Ahles
Krystiana Connelly
Elizabeth Padula
Alyssa Wedin

Emma Archbold
Maria Determan
Callie Pendergrass

Margaret Beckmann
Rianna Doyle
Grace Savard

Maggie Blaska
Taelor Nebel
Maria Schneider

Altos
Emily Booth
Maggie Heil
Abigail Kluter
Claire Oelke

Sydney Bordgrass
Rena Henrich
Anne Koslowski
Brenna Skahen

Taylor Bothun
Reagan Hightower
Hope Lindenfelser
Grace Spaniol

Bernadette Donlon
Stephanie Holmgren
Sarah Neve

Tenors
Luke Broghammer
Joe Lara

Brady Labine
Evan Mattson

Carter Howell
Nathan Stoebe

Ryan Imm
(Online: Ethan Gustafson)

Basses
The CSB/SJU Chamber Choir has been in existence since 1970, when its present director joined the music faculty at St. John’s University and College of St. Benedict. Until then the students of the two colleges had participated in either the Saint John’s University Men’s Chorus or the Campus Singers - the Women’s Choir at College of Saint Benedict - combining their voices only occasionally for special celebrations. The choir is now one of the major touring ensembles of the combined CSB/SJU Music Department.

Most of the choir’s performances are scheduled in the Midwest, although over the years the choir has also performed extensively throughout the United States (on their last US tours the choir gave concerts in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota) and has toured Europe in 1980, 1985, 1992, 1997, 2000, 2010 and presenting concerts in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. In the spring of 2005 the choir toured Asia for the first time, performing with and for choirs and audiences in Tokyo, Okinawa, Seoul, Beijing and Hong Kong. In May of 2019, the most recent International Tour, singers from this choir - as members of the CSB/SJU’s Choral Arts Ensemble – returned to Europe - performing on a three-week concert tour in Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria.

Traditionally the program features a wide variety of sacred and secular music, ranging from polyphony of the Renaissance to masterworks of the 20th century. This year's performance includes compositions by Morten Lauridsen, Egil Hovland, Arvo Pärt, Judy Rose, Bob Chilcott and World Music - songs from India, Maya, Syria, Japan and Yoruba.

The Chamber Choir appears regularly with the Amadeus Chamber Symphony, most recently presenting major choral/orchestra works by Beethoven, Handel, J.C Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Brahms, Mendelssohn and others, has participated in joined performances with the Plymouth Music Series and the University of Minnesota and has performed numerous times for MN-ACDA and MMEA Music Conventions. In 2002 the choir presented the American Premiere performance of Anno Domini an oratorio by noted Czech composer Petr Eben.

MEN’S CHORUS

Tenor 1
Alec Boedigheimer Ryan Murphy Noah Polipnick Ryan Sanchez

Tenor 2
Braden Bizal Kyle Curphy Kevan Donohue Ben Epper

Sam Kelly Alex Mao

Bass 1
William Conzemius Gavin Knott Paul Langan Preston Parks

Stephen Renze Zachary Staver Nick Uphoff

Bass 2
Ben Ascheman Peter Janssen Nicholas Pink Soren Pitt

Logan Woods

The SJU Men's Chorus, an auditioned choir for undergraduate students at St. John’s, was organized in 1948 by Fr. Bartholomew Sayles, OSB. Fr. James Kelly, OSB conducted the choir until 1958 and Gerhard Track until 1969 when Axel Theimer, the present director, joined the music faculty at St. John’s University and the College of St. Benedict.

The singers represent a wide variety of musical backgrounds, talent and choral experience. What brings us all together is the enjoyment of making music and the special camaraderie, which is such an important part
of ensembles. In general, students join the choir in their first year at St. John's and are encouraged, time and schedule permitting, to remain in the choir throughout their college years.

Recent tours included concerts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Virginia, Washington DC, Illinois, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, California, Arizona, Colorado and Nebraska. In May 2005 members of this choir joined other singers at CSB/SJU on a 23-day concert tour to Asia. This special choir (CSB/SJU Choral Arts Ensemble) performed concerts and was part of several choral festivals and seminars in Tokyo, Okinawa, Seoul, Beijing and Hong Kong, including a performance which was part of the “Welcome to Beijing’ Fine Arts Festival. In May 2010, 2015 and most recently in May 0f 2019, members of the Men’s Chorus traveled with the Choral Arts Ensemble - which also included members of the Chamber and Women’s Choir - to Europe for 3 weeks, performing concerts in Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria.