

# EARTH

*teach me*

Amplifying the  
work of those striving  
to combat the climate crisis

  
**Inspire** a choir  
for unity

Friday, March 16, 2018 | 7:30 PM  
New York Society for Ethical Culture

In partnership  
with

  
**350  
NYC**

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

**ETHICAL**

## Welcome

Inspire is truly grateful that you have joined us tonight to celebrate the majesty and importance of our shared home. Throughout the evening we hope you feel connected to the Earth and to each other, recognize the urgency of her decline, and learn how to better protect her.

We are at a crossroads: our planet is on the brink of potentially irrevocable damage. Growing evidence continues to affirm the reality of human-induced climate change such that we can no longer afford to ignore, or be ignorant of, our need to act. 350NYC exemplifies this need to take action. Tonight's concert celebrates and amplifies their relentless efforts.

Collaborating with 350NYC has been a rewarding experience that perfectly realizes Inspire's vision to create empowered, informed, and enriched communities. Tonight, you are invited to participate in this vision. Our concerts do not end after the final bow. Community building is at the core of our work, requiring face-to-face interaction. Please stay with us to enjoy some refreshment, share your experience with someone new, and visit one of the 350NYC tables to learn more about their work.

## About the Program

The program tonight invites us - singers and listeners together - to reflect on the beauty and fragility of our planet. Our artistic inspiration comes from nature itself. From the primal energy of the elements, to the wondrous diversity of Earth's landscapes, it is our hope that through the music offered tonight you feel a deep kinship with the global ecosystem to which we are all inextricably connected.

One of our goals is to recontextualize music and words. Each piece carries its own meaning, but we bring our own meanings to each hearing and performance, and, together, these pieces take on new purpose. Some of tonight's pieces, such as Gimon's *Elements*, were chosen because they draw directly from sounds in the natural world, while others like Whitacre's *Alleluia* are sonic metaphors for nature's beauty, power, and resilience. Other pieces on tonight's program speak directly to our connection with nature. This is perhaps most noticeable in the two pieces inspired by Indigenous traditions. The first is *Vision Chant*, written by Cree composer Andrew Balfour who uses traditional Ojibway text, and the second, the title piece of our program, *Earth Teach Me*, is set to the text of an Ute Prayer calling on the Earth to impart its profound wisdom.

Of special note, this concert features the world premiere of two arrangements by members of Inspire. One is a reimagining of an old Civil Rights tune whose refrain invokes the steadfastness of a tree as a symbol of resistance in the face of injustice. The second arrangement is of particular significance as Lyna Hinkel - founder of 350NYC - joins us to sing her own composition which she dedicates to the "Water Defenders" of Standing Rock. Inspire is honored to share this piece with you and the stage with Lyna. When invited, we encourage you to join your voices with ours in *Touch the Water* as we celebrate the preciousness of life-giving water.

# EARTH, TEACH ME

*Please silence all electronic devices*

## I. Elements

Elements (Earth, Air, Fire)

Katerina Gimon (b.1993)

Wade in the Water

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

Rebecca Luttio, *alto*

## II. Earth Teach Me

Alleluia (originally *October*)

Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

Claire Manganiello, *soprano*  
Ricky Torres-Cooban, *bass*

Earth Teach Me

Rupert Lang (b.1948)

Eleanor Killiam, *soprano*  
Ben Keiper, *tenor*

## III. The Journey

Vision Chant (from *Bawajigaywin*)

Andrew Balfour (b.1955)

With a Lily in Your Hand

Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

## IV. What is Life?

Tabula Rasa

Don Macdonald (b.1966)

What is Life?

Ann-Sofi Söderqvist (b.1956)

Tegan Miller, *alto*; Carrie Quarquesso, *soprano*; Ben Keiper, *tenor*

## V. Just Like a Tree

We Shall Not be Moved

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Jon Pohlmann\* (b.1951)

Touch the Water

Lyna Hinkel, Founder of 350NYC  
arr. Ari Messenger\* (b.1993)

Lyna Hinkel, *singer-songwriter*

*\*member of Inspire*

*All are welcome to a reception following the concert*

## I. Elements

### Elements (Earth, Air, Fire)

Katerina Gimon

#### EARTH

earth  
calm, constant  
study, still, steady  
rock, sand, soil, and terrain  
earth

#### AIR

air  
wind, breath  
free, dynamic, transparent  
moving, flowing, changing, and fueling  
air

#### FIRE

fire  
heat, light  
strength, fuel, drive  
burning, melting evaporating and transforming  
fire

### Wade in the Water

Traditional Spiritual

*Wade in the water, children  
God's gonna trouble the water*

*See that host all dressed in white.  
The leader looks like and Isralite.*

*See that band all dressed in red.  
Well it looked like the band that Moses led.*

## II. Earth Teach Me

### Alleluia

*Alleluia. Amen.*

### Earth Teach Me

Ute Prayer

*Earth teach me stillness  
as the grasses are stilled with light.  
Earth teach me suffering  
as old stones suffer with memory.  
Earth teach me humility  
as blossoms are humble with beginning.  
Earth teach me caring  
as the mother who secures her young.  
Earth teach me courage  
as the tree which stands alone.  
Earth teach me limitation  
as the ant which crawls on the ground.*

*Earth teach me freedom  
as the eagle which soars in the sky.  
Earth teach me resignation  
as the leaves which die in the fall.  
Earth teach me regeneration  
as the seed which rises in the spring.  
Earth teach me to forget myself  
as the melted snow forgets its life.  
Earth teach me to remember kindness  
as the dry fields weep with rain.  
Earth teach me.*

### III. The Journey

#### Vision Chant (from *Bawajigaywin*)

*Babamadizwin*

Ojibway text

*Journey*

#### With a Lily in Your Hand

*With a lily in your hand  
I leave you, o my night love!  
Little widow of my single star  
I find you.  
Tamer of dark  
butterflies!  
I keep along my way.*

Federico García Lorca

English translation by Jerome Rothenberg

*After a thousand years are gone  
you'll see me,  
o my night love!  
By the blue footpath,  
tamer of dark stars,  
I'll make my way.  
Until the universe  
can fit inside  
my heart.*

### IV. What is Life?

#### Tabula Rasa

*En mis brazos, respira  
vida sin li mites  
luz del dia, noche oscura  
duerme, sueño, resto seguridad  
Con su córazon su alma  
escucha y sabe esta verdad  
Dentro de ti hay futuros ilimitados  
si le dan la libertad  
libertad de crecer  
libertad de aprender  
libertad de tocar  
libertad de sen tir  
libertad de imaginarse  
libertad de volar  
libertad de adorar  
libertad de ser amado*

Allison Girvan

*In my arms, breathe.  
Life without limits.  
Light of day, dark night.  
Sleep, dream, rest in safety.  
With your heart, your souls,  
listen and know this truth:  
Within you are boundless futures  
if you are given freedom;  
freedom to grow,  
freedom to learn,  
freedom to touch,  
freedom to feel,  
freedom to imagine,  
freedom to fly,  
freedom to love,  
freedom to be loved.*

#### What is Life?

*A voice can bring out the sense of intention  
Existence be transformed by thoughts  
The message of the will can move your  
heart*

*The beat of butterfly wings provoke a  
hurricane*

*Connected humans make a people  
In the moment you will find eternity  
The power from a seed can rise the woods*

Malin Hülphers

*And from a lighting spark the fire will  
extend*

*If you sharpen focus  
Sharpen focus for wonder  
If you catch a voice  
Catch the voice at heart  
If you hear a name  
Hear your name in silence*

*Hear my wonder  
What brings to us*

*The never-ending solitude  
We reach in the dark  
for significance of the mind  
why my cry from fear of expiry  
A trace of a memory  
Just like the surging waves from other  
oceans*

*Sharpen your focus for wonder  
Catch the voice at heart  
Hear your name in silence  
And you will burst into life*

*What is life  
A voice, A thought  
The beat of butterfly wings  
Who is life  
The power from a seed  
When is life  
Present moments  
Where is life  
A lightning spark  
When does life come into existence  
In your heart existence comes alive*

## **V. Just Like a Tree**

### **We Shall Not be Moved**

*We are on my way to heaven  
We shall not be moved  
Just like a tree that's standing by the  
waterside  
We shall not be moved*

*We are on the road to freedom  
We shall not be moved  
Just like a tree that's standing by the  
waterside  
We shall not be moved*

*We are sisters and brothers  
We shall not be moved*

### **Touch the Water**

*Touch the water, go ahead, touch it  
Feels like nothing else flowing through  
your fingers  
Slip your toes in, let your body follow  
Feels like nothing else  
Let the feeling linger  
Water, water is life itself (x2)  
water is our planet's greatest wealth*

*Taste the water, go ahead, taste it  
Feels like nothing else flowing through  
your body  
Sip its wetness, notice how it quenches  
Feels like nothing as nourishing your body  
Water, water is life itself (x2)  
Water is our planet's greatest wealth*

### **Traditional Spiritual & Jon Pohlmann**

*Fathers and mothers  
We shall not be moved  
Just like a tree that's growing by the  
waterside  
We shall not be moved*

*We know that truth always prevails  
We shall not be moved  
That lies and hate will fail  
We shall not be moved  
Just like a tree that's growing by the  
waterside  
We shall not be moved*

### **Lyna Hinkel**

*So let's dance, dance for the water  
Let's dance, dance in praise of its  
preciousness  
Dance for the water  
Let the blood of mother earth be  
blessed*

*Let it be blessed*

***\*Please join in singing the final verse***

*Touch the water,  
go ahead, touch it*



### **Artists**

Joshua Alexander	Tegan Miller
Graham Bobby	Caroline Pohlmann
Ryan Buchanan	Jon Pohlmann
Kate Bullock	Carrie Quarquesso
Laura Childers	Rebecca Luttio
Erin Halpin	Amber Salladin
Julia Hamilton	Miguel Saucedo
Justin Jalea	Michael Sauter
Ben Keiper	Emily Spear
Eleanor Killiam	James Knox Sutterfield
Bennett Mahler	Zana Thaqi
Claire Manganiello	Ricky Torres-Cooban
Tom Marks	Lindsey Weishaus
Ari Messenger	

with:

Lyna Hinkel, *singer-songwriter*

### **Board of Directors**

Katherine Austin-Evelyn, Chair  
Megan Chartrand, Executive Director & Treasurer  
Tuesday Rupp, Singer Liaison & Secretary  
Justin Jalea, Artistic Director

### **Artistic & Production**

Erin Halpin, Associate Conductor  
James Knox Sutterfield, Associate Artistic Director  
Ryan Buchanan & Tracy Dedrickson, Lighting Design  
Claire Manganiello & Erin Halpin, Digital Design  
Julia Hamilton & Ryan Buchanan, Education  
Eleanor Killiam, Artist Coordinator  
Lindsey Weishaus, Public Relations  
Tegan Miller, Wardrobe Coordinator  
Michael Sauter, Communications  
Susan Pohlmann, Reception Coordinator  
Ari Messenger, Media Editor

In partnership with:



and



**Inspire** is a New York City-based chamber choir dedicated to cultivating compassion and action for diverse social issues through the power of song. In partnership with organizations seeking positive social change, we encourage individual and collective action on socially pressing issues. We seek to inspire a spirit of unity among our artists, audiences, and wider community.

Inspire seeks to promote unity through the power of song. We are dedicated to fostering a more just society by championing the work of our community partners, encouraging audience engagement, and cultivating impassioned and excellent artistry.

**350NYC** is a local affiliate of 350.org, a global grassroots network of local groups in over 188 countries working to solve the climate crisis since 2008. 350NYC focuses on local campaigns in New York City and New York State as well as global climate campaigns. We host and participate in events, meetings, rallies, art builds, and protests in coalition with allied organizations for a sustainable future for everyone.

**Why the name 350?** 350 is the number of parts per million of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere we need to return to in order to preserve our future. Though we were below 350 ppm up until the 1980s, we are now over 400 ppm and rising due to excessive burning of coal, oil and gas.

### Special Thanks

The Center at West Park  
Ryan Jackson and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

Monica Weiss  
Robert Liebeskind  
Lyna Hinkel  
Deirdre Aherne  
Caren Rosenblatt  
Leonardo Gibson  
Susan Pohlman

Insomnia Cookies  
Mimi Daitz  
Yalitza Garcia  
Ermena Vinluan  
Marcia Annenberg  
Morgan Long  
Erik McGregor  
Nanette Melville

Nara Garber  
Heather Craig  
Alvin Tsang  
Christina Kershaw  
Tracy Dedrickson  
Joseph Jones

*and to our donors:*

Betsy Ashton  
Lottie Austin  
Katherine Austin-Evelyn  
Agnes & Jo Buchanan  
Simon Carrington  
Kathryn Chamberlin  
Jeffrey Douma  
Merrill Eisenberg  
Nick Feder  
Jane Isabelle Forner  
Rosemary Forrest

Marta Fudakowska  
John Halpin  
Madeline Healey  
Jennifer Hobbs  
Ryan John  
Christine Landry  
Michel Languedoc  
Marie-Josée Lapierre  
Fredmy Mejias  
Jay Messenger  
Jackie Sauter

Louise Schofield  
Matteo Sestito  
Seth Shulman  
James Stepleton  
James K Sutterfield  
Timothy Takach  
Kristi Roosmaa Tootell  
Marvin Weishaus  
Nathaniel WidELITZ  
Anonymous (15)

*Upcoming Concert*

## Voice Dance

June 8, 2018, 7:30 PM

The Center at West Park, 165 W 86<sup>th</sup> Street  
in partnership with Sing for Hope and the Center at West Park