



Inspire a choir
for unity



DON'T SHOOT, JUST LISTEN

**A choral concert commemorating
all those lost to gun violence and seeking
to inspire unity and peace.**

SEPTEMBER

14th • 7:30 pm St Paul's on the Green Norwalk, CT.

15th • 7:30 pm Yale University Marquand Chapel

16th • 3:00 pm University of CT von der Mehden Recital Hall

choirforunity.org

ST. PAUL'S
ON THE GREEN 



UCONN
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS
MUSIC



Welcome

It is with joy that we welcome you to this tour reprising Inspire's inaugural concert. Given the nature of the program, perhaps joy is the wrong word to use. After all, how can joy persist in the wake of the senseless loss that results from gun violence? Nevertheless, to us your presence here tonight is a testament to the insistence of hope in the face of tremendous sorrow and an expression of the willingness to engage in efforts aimed at creating a brighter future. In this way, we find joy in the opportunity to share our voices with you as we amplify the vital work of Sandy Hook Promise.

Inspire seeks to empower, inform, and enrich communities. Our hope is to foster an enduring spirit of community engagement uplifted through song; a goal that is impossible without generous supporters such as you. Thank you for becoming part of this vision.

We are also pleased to welcome Jeffrey Douma and the Yale Glee Club and Jamie Spillane and the UConn Concert Choir, who join their voices and artistry with us in sharing the message of this program.

About the Program

There is an epidemic of gun violence in the United States. The death toll is staggering. We are so beleaguered with news of tragedy after tragedy that it can be overwhelming. We here have all experienced these events differently, yet we come together to unite our spirits in grief, in pain, and in mourning—and also in search of comfort, peace, and even hope.

This program seeks to guide us—singers and listeners together—through this spectrum of emotions. One of our goals is to recontextualize familiar music and words. As such, the diverse repertoire includes spirituals, a song of unrequited love, texts sacred and secular, ancient and modern. Each piece carries its own meaning, but we too bring our own meanings to the hearing, and, together, these pieces take on new purpose as part of a larger tapestry woven of those collective messages, interpretations, and interactions.

Interspersed throughout is a poem written for this tour and recited by Petra Thombs: "Every Day We Die a Little." Our original program made use of the poem "Don't Shoot, Just Listen," but continued gun violence of the past year necessitated a current voice to address the ongoing crisis, and we are grateful that Ms. Thombs agreed to fill that need so eloquently.

Also of note, this concert features three arrangements by members of Inspire. Two are reimaginings of old standards; the third is an arrangement of a song by the Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus at The Riverside Church. Rev. Forbes began writing "Sound out of the Ground" in response to the tragedy at Sandy Hook and continued to add verses in response to other incidents of gun violence. He set his poem to an original melody, and we are honored to share it in this choral arrangement.

The late Pierre Boulez said, "One should essentially see concerts as a means of communication, as animated contact between participants, be they listeners or creators." In that spirit, we invite you to join your voices with ours for the final three verses of "Amazing Grace" in communal hope that "grace will lead us home."

Finally, community building is one of the pillars of social justice and a core principal of Inspire's mission. We encourage you to stay for fellowship and conversation after the concert.

DON'T SHOOT, JUST LISTEN

with

Petra Thombs, *poet & reader*

Yale Glee Club and Jeffrey Douma (Sept. 15)

UConn Concert Choir and Jamie Spillane (Sept. 16)

*Please silence all electronic devices
and hold applause until the program concludes.*

I. "Every day we die a little"

Motherless Child arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

Brooke Larimer, Brandon Hornsby-Selvin, Carrie Quarquesso, *soloists*

Ov'é Lass', Il Bel Viso? Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

Sound out of the Ground James Forbes (b. 1935)

arr. Ari Messenger* (b. 1993)

Abaigh Wheatley, *mezzo soprano*

II. "No one stands for us"

Nunc Dimittis Pawel Łukaszewski (b. 1968)

Da Pacem Domine Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Only in Sleep Ēriks Ešvalds (b. 1977)

Christina Kershaw, *soprano*

III. "They have danced their last among us"

In Remembrance Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

There Will Be Rest Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

IV. "Let there be love"

Down in the River to Pray arr. Jon Pohlmann* (b. 1951)

Miguel Saucedo, *tenor*

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)

Amazing Grace arr. Unknown & Ryan Buchanan* (b. 1992)

Please stand as you are able and join in singing when invited:

Yea, when this flesh
and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace

When we've been there
ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Amazing grace!
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

**member of Inspire*

All are welcome to a reception following the concert.

Please hold applause until the program concludes.

I. "Every day we die a little"

Motherless Child

African-American Spiritual

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child—
a long way from home.

Sometimes I feel like I got no friends—
a long way from home.

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost home—
a long way from home.

Ov'è Lass', Il Bel Viso?

Henricus Schafften

Where, alas, is the beautiful face? Behold, it hides.
Woe is me, where is my sun?
Alas, what veil drapes itself and renders the heavens dark?
Woe is me, that I call and see it; it does not respond.
Oh, if your sails have auspicious winds,
My dearest sweet, and if you change your hair and features late,
If the Lord of Delos hides grace and valor in your beautiful bosom,
Hear my sighs and give them place to turn unjust disdain into love,
And may your pity conquer hardships.
See how I burn and how I am consumed by fire;
What better reason, what greater sign
Than I, a temple of faithful life and love!

Sound out of the Ground

James Forbes

Cain murdered and buried his brother.
No one knew Abel's blood had been shed.
Out of the ground came a mournful sound:
Abel's blood crying out in his stead.

Our precious young children of Newtown
Asked us all for this one sacrifice.
"Grieve our demise with eyes on the prize.
Save the children; our blood paid the price."

Refrain:

What is that sound coming out of the ground?
It's the blood of our fallen children.
What is their crying trying to say?
We've got to stop this senseless killing.

Young brothers died asking this question:
"Must we fall so that you can feel tall?"
When we can see we're one family,
Life will be so much better for all.

The blood in our veins should be crying
With the blood that's still crying today.
Rise above fear, speak out loud and clear!
For our children, put weapons away!

II. "No one stands for us"

Nunc Dimittis

Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
According to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of they people Israel.

Da Pacem Domine

7th-century hymn

Give peace, O Lord, in our time.
For there is none other
Who would fight for us
If not you, our God..

Only in Sleep

Sara Teasdale

Only in sleep I see their faces,
Children I played with when I was a child.
Louise comes back with her brown hair braided,
Annie with ringlets warm and wild.

Only in sleep Time is forgotten—
What may have come to them, who can know?
Yet we played last night as long ago,
And the dollhouse stood at the turn of the stair.

The years had not sharpened their smooth round faces,
I met their eyes and found them mild—
Do they, too, dream of me, I wonder,
And for them am I too a child?

III. "They have danced their last among us"

In Remembrance

Mary Elizabeth Frye

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight-ripened grain,
I am the gentle morning rain.
And when you wake in the morning's hush,
I am the sweet uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.

There Will Be Rest

Sara Teasdale

There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the rooftops crowned with snow.
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,
The music of stillness, holy and low.
I will make this world of my devising
Out of a dream in my lonely mind.
I shall find the crystal of peace; and above me
Stars I shall find.

IV. "Let there be love"

Down in the River to Pray

Traditional

As I went down to the river to pray,
Studying about that good old way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown,
Good Lord, show me the way.

Oh, sisters...
Oh, brothers...
Oh, fathers...
Oh, mothers...
Oh, sinners...
...let's go down in the river to pray.

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

attr. F. R. Warren

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.
Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb. Glory to the great I Am.

And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away.
Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb. Glory to the great I Am.

Souls have crossed before me saintly to that land of perfect rest,
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.
Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb. Glory to the great I Am.

Amazing Grace

John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear,
And Grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come.
'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
It will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Please stand as able and join in the final verses:

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.



Artists

Graham Bobby	Jenn Mello
Ryan Buchanan	Ari Messenger
Laura Childers	Tegan Miller
Anthony Collins	Jon Pohlmann
Erin Halpin	Carrie Quarquesso
Brandon Hornsby-Selvin	Amber Salladin
Justin Jalea	Miguel Saucedo
Ben Keiper	Emily Spear
Christina Kershaw	Laura Stelman Jaeger
Eleanor Killiam	James Knox Sutterfield
Brooke Larimer	Ricky Torres-Cooban
Bennett Mahler	Abaigh Wheatley
Lela McElfresh	

with:

Petra Thombs, *poet & reader*

Board of Directors

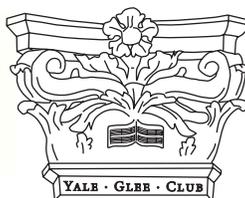
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Inspire is a New York City-based chamber choir dedicated to cultivating compassion and action for diverse social issues through the power of song. In partnership with organizations seeking positive social change, we encourage individual and collective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

Sandy Hook Promise is a national non-profit organization founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012.

Based in Newtown, Connecticut, their intent is to honor all victims of gun violence by turning their tragedy into a moment of transformation by providing programs and practices that protect children and prevent the senseless, tragic loss of life. More information at www.sandyhookpromise.org.

Special Thanks

Sandy Hook Promise
St Paul's on the Green
UConn Concert Choir
University of Connecticut Music Department
Yale Glee Club
Yale Institute of Sacred Music

Mark Barden	Ari Messenger
Carmela Bobby	Gayle Oko
Sarah Brody	Eric Rice
Anthony Collins	Rosemary Roberts
Jeffrey Douma	Sheelagh Schlegel
Katrina Fitzgerald	Jamie Spillane
Matthew Fried	Jacob Street
Eleanor Killiam	Petra Thombs
Janette Kinnally	Peter Thompson
Natalie Gaimari	Alexa Tomassi
Sean Maher	Jeff Tousignant
Jessy McShee	Mary Welander

and to our donors

Upcoming engagements will be announced soon!

Partnerships this season include:



Visit our website and join our mailing list to stay updated!

www.choirforunity.org

