

VOICE

dance

A choral celebration of
music's power to connect, heal,
excite, uplift, and inspire


Inspire a choir
for unity

Friday, June 8, 2018 | 7:30 PM
The Center at West Park

In partnership
with



Welcome

Inspire is delighted to welcome you to this final concert of our inaugural season. Whether you have been with us from the beginning or are joining us for the first time, we are grateful for your support of our mission of community engagement. Our partner Sing for Hope works to spread the healing, educating, and community building power of art, and tonight we are gathered to share and celebrate that mission as it intersects with our own. Similarly, the Center at West Park, our gracious host tonight and partner throughout this season—as we have utilized much of this historic building for our rehearsals—is a home for arts, culture, and community. Inspire seeks to empower, inform, and enrich communities. Our hope is to foster an enduring spirit of community engagement uplifted through song. We thank you for celebrating that goal tonight and hope you will continue to support our vision.

Our concerts do not end at the final bow. Like Sing for Hope and the Center at West Park, community building is at the core of our work, and that requires face-to-face interaction. Please stay with us to enjoy some refreshment, share your stories with someone new, and visit one of the Sing for Hope tables to learn more about their work.

About the Program

Tonight, we offer you stories of music's power to connect, heal, excite, uplift, and inspire us. All of us gathered tonight have our own narratives to share about how music has influenced our lives—sometimes profoundly, sometimes in ways that might seem trivial to an outsider but, nevertheless, stick in our memory. The American folk hymn “How Can I Keep from Singing?” has inspired countless arrangements, because its text continues to speak to generations of singers who are united by a collective sense that we cannot keep from singing. The text speaks of all that life can throw at us yet that through it all “a song of hope is springing.”

Spirituals have resonated with singers and audiences since their introduction to the concert hall by the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University, a historically black college in Tennessee. While they speak from the devastating mistreatment of slavery, spirituals contain a defiant, indomitable hope. “Sing to the Moon,” by contrast, is an entirely modern song; however, songwriter Laura Mvula—a British woman of Caribbean descent—draws upon Gospel music in her writing, and this particular song owes its inspiration to a biography of Harlem jazz singer Adelaide Hall. Mvula's lyrics speak to tragedy and heartbreak, but, like Spirituals of old, look to a promise of a brighter future.

“We Dance” and “Psalm 98” need little introduction. They are swift, rhythmic, swirling, and invigorating—exciting to sing and hear!

The folk song “Bright Morning Stars” and “Wanting Memories”—by Ysaye M. Barnwell of Sweet Honey in the Rock—speak to hope, lessons learned, and assurance. “Voice Dance,” tonight's titular song, communicates without words. The vocal lines weave in and out of one another, taking turns to speak, walking together, and wandering and returning. We invite you to listen and feel for what it has to tell you this evening as you consider its place in the program.

In our final section, we celebrate the inspirational power of music. Jake Runestad's “I Will Lift Mine Eyes” is a sumptuous setting of Psalm 121, from its opening, rising lines to its final, gentle cadence. Shawn Kirchner's “Unclouded Day” has come far from its Gospel roots to become a vigorous choral showstopper overflowing with joy and promise. We hope it leaves you full of the joy that music can bring and inspired to help bring music to those who need it.

VOICE DANCE

Please silence all electronic devices

I. Connect

How Can I Keep from Singing

American Folk Hymn

Ronald Staheli

Carrie Quarquesso, Eleanor Killiam, Megan Chartrand, *soprano*
Jenn Mello, *alto*

II. Heal

Been in de Storm / Wayfaring Stranger

Spirituals

arr. Craig H. Johnson (b. 1962)

Brooke Larimer, alto
Emily Spear, Christina Kershaw, soprano

Sing to the Moon

Laua Mvula (b. 1986)

arr. Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

edit. Ari Messenger* (b. 1993)

Claire Manganiello, soprano

III. Excite

We Dance

Dominick DiOrio (b. 1984)

Psaume 98

Peter Togni (b. 1959)

IV. Uplift

Bright Morning Stars

Kentucky Folk Song

arr. Jay Althouse (b. 1951)

Christina Kershaw, Laura Childers, soprano
Erin Halpin, alto

Wanting Memories

Ysaye M. Barnwell (b. 1946)

Voice Dance

Greg Jasperse (b. 1968)

V. Inspire

I Will Lift Mine Eyes

Jake Runestad (b. 1986)

Unclouded Day

J.K. Alwood (1828-1909)
arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

**member of Inspire*

All are welcome to a reception upstairs following the concert

I. Connect

How Can I Keep from Singing

*My life flows on in endless song:
Above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn
that hails the new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing;
It sounds an echo in my soul:
How can I keep from singing.*

*When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
and hear their death-knells ringing,
When friends rejoice both far and near,
How can I keep from singing.
In prison cell or dungeon vile
our thoughts to them are winging;
When friends by shame are undefiled,
How can I keep from singing?*

American Folk Hymn

*What if my joys and comforts die?
I know that Truth is living.
What tho' the darkness 'round me close?
Still Truth its light is giving!
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging:
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth:
How can I keep from singing.*

*I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin,
I see the blue above it,
And day by day this pathway smooths,
since first I learned to love it.
The peace from love makes fresh my heart,
a song of hope is springing.
All things are mine since Truth I've found:
How can I keep from singing.*

II. Heal

Been in de Storm / Wayfaring Stranger

*I've been in de storm so long, children,
Oh, give me little time to pray.*

*Oh, let me tell my mother how I come along,
Oh, give me little time to pray.*

*With a hung down head and an aching heart,
Oh, give me little time to pray.*

*Oh, when I get to heaven gonna walk all about,
Oh, give me little time to pray.*

*There'll be nobody there to turn me out,
Oh, give me little time to pray.*

Sing to the Moon

*Hey there you, shattered in a thousand pieces
Weepin' in the darkest nights.
Hey there you, try to stand up on your own two feet
And stumble into the sky.*

*Hey you are broken so hey there
hold on through till to the morning.*

*Sing to the moon and the stars will shine
Over you, lead you to the other side.
Sing to the moon and the stars will shine
Over you, heaven's gonna turn the tide.*

Spirituals

*I know dark clouds will gather 'round me,
I know my way is rough and steep,
But golden fields lie out before me
Where God's redeemed shall ever sleep.*

*I'm goin' there to see my mother,
She said she'd meet me when I come,
I'm just a goin' over Jordan,
I'm just a goin' over home.*

*I'm goin' there to see my Savior,
to sing His praise forever more.
I'm just agoin' over Jordan,
I'm just agoin' over home.*

Laura Mvula

*Hey there you, looking for a brighter season
Need to lay your burden down.
Hey there you, drowning in a hopeless feeling
Buried under deeper ground.*

*Hey you are broken so hey there
hold on through till to the morning.*

*Sing to the moon and the stars will shine
Over you, lead you to the other side.
Sing to the moon and the stars will shine
Over you, heaven's gonna turn the tide.*

III. Excite

We Dance

Janet Galván & Dominick DiOrio

Alleluia! We Dance!

We dance in the sparkle of the wondrous night sky!

We dance to the music our voices raised high!

We dance to sweet laughter, so fast we can fly!

Psaume 98

Psalm 98 v.1-3

*Chantez au Seigneur un chant nouveau
car il a fait des merveilles.*

Sa droite, son bras très saint

l'ont rendu vainqueur.

Le seigneur a fait connaître sa victoire

aux yeux des nations,

Il a révélé sa justice.

Il s'est rappelé sa fidélité, sa loyauté

en faveur de la maison d'Israël.

Sing to the Lord a new song

for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm

have won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made his salvation known

and revealed his righteousness

to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his

faithfulness to Israel.

IV. Uplift

Bright Morning Stars

Kentucky Folk Song

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 mothers?

Oh, where are our dear mothers?

They are gone to heaven shouting.

Day is breaking

In my soul.

Oh, where are our dear fathers?

Oh, where are our dear fathers?

They are down in the valley praying.

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.

Wanting Memories

Ysaye M. Barnwell

*I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.*

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me

To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

You said you'd rock me in the cradle of your arms.

You said you'd hold me 'til the storms of life were gone.

You said you'd comfort me in times like these and now I need you.

Now I need you...

And you are gone.

So, I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me

to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

Since you've gone and left me, there's been so little beauty,

but I know I saw it clearly through your eyes.

Now the world outside is such a cold and bitter place.

Here inside I have few things that will console.

And when I try to hear your voice above the storms of life,

then I remember that I was told.

*Yes, I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.
Yes, I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me
To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.*

*I think on the things that made me feel so wonderful when I was young.
I think on the things that made me laugh, made me dance, made me sing.
I think on the things that made me grow into a being full of pride.
Think on these things, for they are true.*

*I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.
I thought that you were gone, but now I know you're with me.
You are the voice that whispers all I need to hear.
I know a "please", a "thank you", and a smile will take me far.
I know that I am you and you are me, and we are one.
I know that who I am is numbered in each grain of sand.
I know that I am blessed, again and over.*

*I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.
I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me
To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.*

V. Inspire

I Will Lift Mine Eyes

Psalm 121

*I will lift mine eyes unto the hills.
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the Lord,
He is them maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved.
He who keeps you will not slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper the Lord is thy shade
upon thy right hand.*

*The sun shall not harm you by day nor the
moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil.
He will keep your soul.
The Lord will keep your going out and your
coming in
from this day forth for evermore.*

Unclouded Day

J.K. Alwood

*O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
they tell me of a home far away;
and, they tell me of a home where no storm
clouds rise,
O they tell me of an unclouded day.*

REFRAIN:

*O the land of cloudless day,
O the land of an unclouded sky,
O they tell me of a home where no
storm clouds rise,
O they tell me of an unclouded day.*

*O they tell me of a home where my friends
have gone,
O they tell me of that land far away.
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom
sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day.*

REFRAIN

*O they tell me of a King in His beauty there,
they tell me that mine eyes shall behold
Where He sits on the throne that is
bright as the sun,
In the city that is made of gold.*

REFRAIN



Artists

Joshua Alexander
Graham Bobby
Ryan Buchanan
Megan Chartrand
Laura Childers
Erin Halpin
Julia Hamilton
Justin Jalea
Ben Keiper

Eleanor Killiam
Christina Kershaw
Brooke Larimer
Bennett Mahler
Claire Manganiello
Tom Marks
Lela McElfresh
Jenn Mello
Ari Messenger

Caroline Pohlmann
Jon Pohlmann
Carrie Quarquesso
Miguel Saucedo
Michael Sauter
Emily Spear
James Knox Sutterfield
Ricky Torres-Cooban
Lindsey Weishaus

Inspire will be holding auditions for our second season.

If you are interested in singing with us please contact choirforunity@gmail.com to set up an audition!

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
Anthony Collins, Public Relations
Ryan Buchanan, Lighting Design
Claire Manganiello & Erin Halpin, Digital Design
Eleanor Killiam, Artist Coordinator
Lindsey Weishaus, Donor Appreciation
Tegan Miller, Wardrobe Coordinator
Ari Messenger, Media Editor

In partnership with:



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.

Sing for Hope forges close relationships with under-resourced schools, hospitals, and community centers throughout the five boroughs. They grow and nurture a roster of hundreds of artists, amateur and professional alike - from opera singers to jazz musicians, actors to dancers, painters to puppeteers. Every day they mobilize these artists to participate in volunteer service programs at partner sites, where they bring the power of their art directly to those who need it most. Sing for Hope believes that the arts have unmatched power to uplift, unite, and transform lives. And they believe that all people deserve access to them.

Special Thanks

Anthony Collins
Troy Messenger
Angela James
Gilles and Maxine Chartrand
Kate Bullock
Sivu Mzamo

The Center at West Park, Zachary Tomlinson, Jessica Dyer, Dion Thompson
Sing for Hope, Lester Vrtiak

and to our donors:

Betsy Ashton
Lottie Austin
Katherine Austin-Evelyn
Ellyn Berman
Agnes & Jo Buchanan
Simon Carrington
Kathryn Chamberlin
Jeffrey Douma
Merrill Eisenberg
Nick Feder
Jane Isabelle Forner
Rosemary Forrest
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Timothy Takach
Kristi Roosmaa Tootell
Corinne Weishaus
Marvin Weishaus
Nathaniel Wideltz
Anonymous (20)

Inspire's second season will be announced soon!
Join our mailing list to be among the first to know at choirforunity.org/contact
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www.choirforunity.org