

Carl Orff's Carmina Burana

Conducted by Josephine Lee

April 7, 2024
KENNEDY CENTER CONCERT HALL



Carl Orff's Carmina Burana

JOSEPHINE LEE, CONDUCTOR **CHORAL ARTS SYMPHONIC CHORUS UNITING VOICES CHICAGO AMY OWENS. SOPRANO KYLE TOMLIN, TENOR** VASIL GARVANLIEV. BARITONE **CHORAL ARTS ORCHESTRA**

WE ARE

W. Mitchell Owens, III (b.1990)

PARTITION

Ted Hearne (b.1982)

CARMINA BURANA

Carl Orff (1895 – 1982)

Performance timing - 90 minutes with no intermission

Performance made possible by a generous gift from Suzanne S. Brock

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TRUIST HH

From Conductor Josephine Lee

Tonight's program exemplifies the melding of various worlds past and present - bringing people together on common ground - hope - resilience, yet acknowledging how we can continue to persevere and strive for the greater good of humanity.

We open with *We Are* by W. Mitchell Owens, III (Uniting Voices Alumnus/Composer-in -Residence), which is more than just a song, it's a call to action, a reminder that in unity there is strength, and in hope there is a path forward. By embracing these ideals, we can create a supportive, compassionate world where positive change is not just possible, it's inevitable.

Following We Are, we continue with Partition by Ted Hearne (Uniting Voices Alumnus/former Composer in Residence). Ted was drawn to the following passage from Parallels and Paradoxes, a book of conversations about music and society between Palestinian-American theorist and cultural critic Edward Said and Argentinian-Israeli conductor and pianist Daniel Barenboim. Partition uses choral storytelling to explore the juxtaposition of unity and segregation within urban environments, highlighting the complexity of collective yet disparate human experiences.

We conclude with Carl Orff's legendary *Carmina Burana*, which captures the essence of human life's cyclical nature through its highs and lows. Tonight's performance explores the rich, powerful and immersive exploration of human experiences, diversity, and the socio-political landscape that shape our world.

Carmina Burana

Notes by John Goodwin

Born in Munich in 1895, Carl Orff showed musical talent from a young age, excelling in piano, cello, and composition. However, it was Carmina Burana, composed between 1935 and 1936, that catapulted him to international fame. The piece is based on a collection of secular medieval poems from the 11th to 13th centuries, written in old Latin, Middle High German, and French, which were discovered in a Bavarian monastery in the early 19th century. As fate would have it, Orff stumbled upon this book while browsing in a rare bookstore in Wűrzburg. Inspiration struck, and he began composing the opening movement that same day.

Carmina Burana is divided into three parts, each exploring themes of springtime, the pleasures and perils of food and drink, and finally, sensuous love. Orff's music is harmonically accessible, yet rhythmically intense, full of primal energy and visceral impact. The opening and closing movement, "O Fortuna," is perhaps one of the most recognizable pieces of classical music, with its thunderous chorus and pounding rhythms which bookend the entire work, signifying the wheel of fate as it spins around again and again.

Orff's approach was influenced by his interest in medieval music and his belief in the power of rhythm and melody to evoke strong emotions. He employed a large orchestra, including two pianos, five timpani, and three glockenspiels, to create a dramatic and colorful sonic landscape. The vocal parts are demanding, requiring a large SATB and children's chorus, capable of singing with both power and precision. Additionally, the soprano, baritone, and tenor soloists are frequently required to sing outside of their normal ranges, demonstrating the suffering of their characters (in the tenor's case, a roasting swan!)

Although originally conceived as a staged work, complete with sets, costumes, and "magic pictures", the work is best known in concert form, allowing the excitement of the music to stand alone. After *Carmina Burana*, Orff continued to compose similar works, always experimenting with and expanding his tonal language, striving for the most direct forms of musical expression.

Orff's legacy continues through his compositions and through his Orff-Schulwerk teaching method. Conceived in the 1920s, the Orff approach is still widely used throughout the world to teach music to children. His dedication to making music accessible to all and his ability to combine traditional and modern elements in his works have solidified his place as one of the most celebrated composers of the 20th century. *Carmina Burana* remains a testament to his creative genius and has cemented its place as one of the most iconic pieces of music ever written.

From Composer Ted Hearne

The text comes from a 1996 conversation between Palestinian-American scholar Edward Said, and the Jewish-Argentinian conductor Daniel Barenboim, included in their book *Parallels and Paradoxes*. Speaking about the dehumanizing effects of postcolonial rule, Said says: "[T]he legacy of empires. In the case of the British, whenever they were forced to leave a place, they divided it up. It happened in Palestine. It happened in Cyprus. It happened in Ireland... It's like someone telling you, 'Okay, the way to learn a piece of music is to divide it into tinier and tinier units, and then suddenly you can put it all together.' It doesn't work that way. When you divide something up, it's not so easy to put it all back together."

I have always been interested in the way music can reframe political speech, or unlock curiosities around it that our understanding of language alone may curtail. I love this text by Said because it literally invites music into a conversation about borders, identity conflict, and the right to self-determination. How can music (the respect and fluidity required to make it, the collaboration that is generated, the ineffability of the whole) model something different?

Two additional movements (not a part of this performance) set the texts of street maps — street names and addresses — of New Haven, Connecticut. One question this juxtaposition was meant to pose to the audience and musicians who premiered the piece: What artificial borders do we draw in our own minds through and around the places we live?

For a transcript of the 1996 conversation betweem Said and Barenboim, visit tedhearne.com

From Composer W. Mitchell Owens, III

We Are was written to motivate and inspire people through their trials and tribulations. We all have our different struggles, but standing together and helping each other will always outshine negativity. There is always hope, and we must continue to unite to create positive change. As a global community, we have a responsibility to help lift each other up, and that is the goal of this piece. Even when things seem uncertain, we can "make it through" together.

We Are

W. Mitchell Owens III, CCC Alumnus & Composer-in-Residence Commissioned in 2010 by Chicago Children's Choir

Version premiering tonight commissioned by The Choral Arts Society of Washington

There are times when we feel lost and scared, And the future seems unclear.
There are times we feel that one cares And we can't hold back our tears,
So it's time to regain all our strength.
We can't just give in again and again.
So we stand here joined in harmony,
We'll be the ones to hold your hand.

'Cause we are one family,
We will still soldier on.
'Cause we are one community,
There's still yet a new dawn.
So don't be discouraged,
We will make it through this together as one.

There are times it seems we can't move on And it seems like we won't make it through. There are times when we feel let down And we often feel confused.
But it's time to regain all our strength We can't just give in again and again.
So we stand here joined in harmony, We'll be the ones to hold your hand.

'Cause we are one family,
We will still soldier on.
'Cause we are one community,
There's still yet a new dawn.
So don't be discouraged,
We will make it through this together as one.

Yes, you'll make it.
Make it through the night.
Make it through the storm.
It will be alright.
Yes you'll make it.
You'll make it through.

Partition

Text by Edward Said (1935-2003), from Parallels and Paradoxes

1. partition

When you divide something up, it's not so easy to put it all back together.

3. music

It's like someone telling you
The way to learn a piece of music
Is to divide it up into tinier units,
Then suddenly you can put it all back together.
It doesn't work that way.

5. (not so)

easy

Carmina Burana

Carl Orff (1895-1982)

1. O Fortuna (O Fortune)

Text

O Fortuna, velut luna statu variabilis, semper crescis aut decrescis; vita detestabilis nunc obdurat et tunc curat ludo mentis aciem, egestatem, potestatem dissolvit ut glaciem.

Sors immanis et inanis, rota tu volubilis, status malus, vana salus semper dissolubilis, obumbrata et velata michi quoque niteris; nunc per ludum dorsum nudum fero tui sceleris.

Sors salutis et virtutis michi nunc contraria, est affectus et defectus semper in angaria. Hac in hora sine mora corde pulsum tangite; quod per sortem sternit fortem, mecum omnes plangite!

Translation

O Fortune, like the moon thou art changeable, always dost thou wax and wane. Detestable life, first dost thou mistreat us, and then, whimsically, thou heedest our desires. As the sun melts the ice, so dost thou dissolve both poverty and power.

Monstrous and empty fate, thou, turning wheel, art mean, voiding good health at thy will. Veiled in obscurity, thou dost attack me also. To thy cruel pleasure I bare my back.

Thou dost withdraw
my health and virtue,
thou dost threaten
my emotion and weakness with torture.
At this hour, therefore, let us
pluck the strings without delay.
Let us mourn together,
for fate crushes the brave.

2. Fortune Plango Vulnera (I Lament Fortune's Blows)

Text

Fortune plango vulnera stillantibus ocellis.

quod sua michi munera subtrahit

Verum est, quod legitur, fronte capillata.

sed plerumque seguitur occasio calvata

In Fortune solio sederam elatus, prosperitatis vario flore coronatus; quisquid tamen florui felix et beatus. nunc a summo corrui gloria privatus.

Fortune rota volvitur: descendo minoratus:

alter in altum tollitur: nimis exaltatus rex sedet in vertice-caveat ruinam! nam sub axe legimus Hecubam reginam.

Translation

I lament Fortune's blows with weeping eyes, for she extorts from me her gifts, now pregnant and prodigal, now lean and sear

Once was I seated on Fortune's throne, crowned with a garland of prosperity. In the bloom of my felicity I was struck down and robbed of all my glory.

At the turn of Fortune's wheel, one is deposed.

another is lifted on high to enjoy a brief felicity.

Uneasy sits the king-let him beware his ruin, for beneath the axle of the wheel we read the name of Hecuba.

I. PRIMO VERE (IN SPRINGTIME)

3. Fortune Plango Vulnera (I Lament Fortune's Blows)

Text

Veris leta facies mundo propinatur, hiemalis acies victa iam fugatur, in vestitu vario Flora principatur, nemorum dulcisono que cantu celebratur.

Flore fusus gremio Phebus novo more risum dat, hoc vario iam stipatur flore. Zephyrus nectareo spirans in odore. Certatim pro bravio curramus in amore.

Cytharizat cantico dulcis philomena, flore rident vario prata iam serena, salit cetus avium silve per amena, chorus promit virginum iam gaudia millena.

Translation

The bright face of spring shows itself to the world, driving away the cold of winter. Flora reigns in her colorful robes. praised in the canticle of sweet-sounding woods.

Phoebus laughs in Flora's lap again. Surrounded by flowers, Zephyrus breathes the fragrance of their nectar. Let us compete for the prize of love.

The sweet nightingale begins her song, the bright meadows laugh with flowers. Birds flit about the pleasant woods, the maidens' chorus brings a thousand joys. 9

4. Omnia Sol Temperat (The Sun Tempers All)

(Baritone Solo)

<u>Text</u>

Omnia sol temperat purus et subtilis, novo mundo reserat faciem Aprilis, ad amorem properat animus herilis et iocundis imperat deus puerilis.

Rerum tanta novitas in solemni vere et veris auctoritas iubet nos gaudere; vias prebet solitas, et in tuo vere fides est et probitas tuum retinere.

Ama me fideliter, fidem meam nota de corde totaliter et ex mente tota. Sum presentialiter absens in remota, quisquis amat taliter, volvitur in rota.

Translation

The sun, pure and fine, tempers all; a new world is opened by the face of April. The heart of man rushes to love, and over all the boyish God rules.

The power of Nature's renovation in the glorious spring commands us to be joyful. Spring evokes the wonted ways of love. Hold fast thy lover.

Love me faithfully, feel the constant adoration of my heart and mind. I am with you even when apart. Whosoever shares my feeling knows the torture of love.

5. Ecce Gratum (Behold the Spring)

(Chorus)

Text

Ecce gratum et optatum
ver reducit gaudia,
purpuratum floret pratum,
sol serenat omnia.
Iamiam cedant tristia!
Estas redit, nunc recedit hyemis sevitia.

Iam liquescit et decrescit grando, nix et cetera; bruma fugit, et iam sugit, ver estatis ubera; illi mens est misera, qui nec vivit, nec lascivit sub estatis dextera.

Gloriantur et letantur in melle dulcedinis, qui conantur, ut utantur premio Cupidinis; simus jussu Cypridis gloriantes et letantes pares esse Paridis.

Translation

Behold the spring, welcome and long-awaited, which brings back the pleasures of life.

The meadow with purple flowers is a-bloom, the sun brightens all things.

Now put all sadness aside, for summer returns, and winter's cold withdraws.

Ice and snow melt away, the frost flees, and spring sucks the breast of summer.

Miserable is he who neither loves nor frolics under summer's spell.

Those who vie for Cupid's prize taste the sweetness of honey. Let us, proud and joyful, be ruled by Venus. Let us emulate Paris.

6. Tanz (Dance)

(Orchestra)

7. Floret Silva Nobilis (The Noble Wood is Filled)

(Chorus)

Text

Floret silva nobilis floribus et foliis. Ubi est antiquus meus amicus? Hinc equitavit, eia, quis me amabit?

Floret silva undique, nah mime gesellen ist mir we. Gruonet der walt allenthalben, wa ist min geselle alse lange? Der ist geriten hinnen, o wi, wer sol mich minnen?

Translation

The noble wood is filled with buds and leaves.
Where is my love?
He rode away on horseback.
Alas, who will love me now?

Everywhere the forest is in bloom; I am longing for my lover.

If the wood is green all over, why does my lover not return?

He has ridden away.

Woe is me, who will love me?

8. Chramer, Gip die Varwe Mir (Shopkeeper, Give Me Color) (Chorus)

(CHOI do

Text

Chramer, gip die varwe mir, die min wengel roete, damit ich die jungen man an ir dank der minnenliebe noete. Seht mich an, jungen man! lat mich iu gevallen?

Minnet, tugentliche man, minnecliche frouwen! minne tuot iu hoch gemuot unde lat iuch in hohen eren schouwen. Seht mich an...

Wol dir, werlt, daz du bist also freudenriche! ich will dir sin undertan durch din liebe immer sicherliche. Seht mich an...

Translation

Shopkeeper, give me color to paint my cheeks, that young men may not resist my graces. Young men, look here, do I not charm you?

Make love, good men and gracious women. Love will ennoble you, and you will stand in high respect. Young men...

Hail, O world so rich in joys. I will obey you always, and accept your bountiful gifts. Young men...

9. Reie (Round Dance)

(Orchestra)

Swaz Hie Gat Umbe (Here are Maidens)

(Chorus)

Text

Swaz hie gat umbe, daz sint alles megede, die wellent an man allen disen sumer gan!

Translation

Here are maidens in a circle; they'd like to be without a lover all the summer through.

Chume, Chum, Geselle Min (Come, Come, My Pretty Maid) (Chorus)

Text

Chume, chum, geselle min, ih enbite harte din, chum, chum, geselle min.

Suzer rosenvarwer munt. chum unde mache mich gesunt, suzer rosenvarwer munt.

Swaz hie gat umbe...

Translation

Come, come, my pretty maid, I wait for thee, Come, come, my pretty maid.

Sweet rosy mouth, come and heal my longing, sweet rosy mouth.

Here are maidens...

10. Reie (Were diu Werlt Alle Min (Were the World All Mine) (Chorus)

Text

Were diu werlt alle min von deme mere unze an den Rin, des wolt ih mih darben, daz diu chünegin von Engellant lege an minen armen.

Translation

Were the world all mine, from the sea to the Rhine, I should gladly forsake it for the Queen of England in my arms.

II. IN TABERNA (IN THE TAVERN)

11. Estuans Interius (Burning Inwardly)

(Baritone Solo)

Text

Estuans interius ira vehementi in amaritudine loquor mee menti: factus de materia, cinis elementi, similis sum folio, de quo ludunt venti.

Cum sit enim proprium viro sapienti supra petram ponere sedem fundamenti, stultus ego comparor fluvio labenti, sub eodem tramite nunquam permanenti.

Feror ego veluti sine nauta navis, ut per vias aeris vaga fertur avis; non me tenent vincula, non me tenet clavis, quero mihi similes et adiungor pravis.

Mihi cordis gravitas res videtur gravis; iocus est amabilis dulciorque favis; quicquid Venus imperat, labor est suavis, que nunquam in cordibus habitat ignavis.

Via lata gradior more iuventutis, inplicor et vitiis immemor virtutis, voluptatis avidus magis quam salutis, mortuus in anima curam gero cutis.

Translation

Burning inwardly with rage and bitterness I talk to myself; made of matter, ash of the elements, I am like a leaf which the wind plays with.

If a wise man builds his house upon a rock, I, fool, am like a gliding river which follows no straight path.

I am swept away like a pilotless ship, like a bird floating aimlessly through the air. No fetters, no locks hold me; I am looking for my like, and I join the depraved.

The burdens of the heart weight too heavily on me.

Jesting is lovely and sweeter than the honeycomb.

What Venus commands is suave labor; love never dwells in cowardly hearts.

On the broad road I move along as youth is wont to do. I am entangled in vice, and unmindful of virtue. Greedy more for lust than for welfare,

dead in soul, I care only for my body.

12. Olim Lacus Colueram (Once I Dwelt in the Lakes)

(Tenor Solo and Male Chorus)

Text

Olim lacus colueram, olim pulcher extiteram, dum cignus ego fueram. Miser, miser! modo niger et ustus fortiter!

Girat, regirat garcifer; me rogus urit fortiter: propinat me nunc dapifer, Miser...

Nunc in scutella iaceo, et volitare nequeo, dentes frendentes video: Miser...

<u>Translation</u>

Once I dwelt in the lakes, once I was a beautiful swan. O miserable me! Now I am

The cook turns me on the spit, the fire roasts me through, and I am prepared for the feast.

O miserable me...

I am borne upon a platter and can no longer fly. I catch sight of gnashing teeth. O miserable me...

I am the Abbot of Cucany.

13. Ego Sum Abbas (I am the Abbot)

(Baritone Solo and Male Chorus)

Text

Ego sum abbas Cucaniensis et consilium meum est cum bibulis, et in secta Decii voluntas mea est, et qui mane me quesierit in taberna, post vesperam nudus egredietur, et sic denudatus veste clamabit:

Wafna, wafna! quid fecisti sors turpissima? Nostre vite gaudia abstulisti omnia!

<u>Translation</u>

and I meet with my fellow-drinkers and belong to the sect of Decius. Whoever meets me in the tavern over dice loses his garments by the end of the day, and, thus denuded, he cries:

Wafna, wafna! what has thou done, o infamous fate? Thou hast taken away all the pleasures of this life.

14. In Taberna Quando Sumus (When We Are in the Tavern)

(Male Chorus)

Text

In taberna quando sumus, non curamus quid sit humus, sed ad ludum properamus, cui semper insudamus. Quid agatur in taberna, ubi nummus est pincerna, hoc est opus ut queratur, si quid loquar, audiatur.

Quidam ludunt, quidam bibunt, quidam indiscrete vivunt. Sed in ludo qui morantur, ex his quidam denudantur, quidam ibi vestiuntur, quidam saccis induuntur. Ibi nullus timet mortem, sed pro Baccho mittunt sortem:

Primo pro nummata vini, ex hac bibunt libertini; semel bibunt pro captivis, post hec bibunt ter pro vivis, quater pro Christianis cunctis, quinquies pro fidelibus defunctis, sexies pro sororibus vanis, septies pro militibus silvanis.

Octies pro fratribus perversis, nonies pro monachis dispersis, decies pro navigantibus, undecies pro discordantibus, duodecies pro penitentibus, tredecies pro iter agentibus. Tam pro papa quam pro rege bibunt omnes sine lege.

Bibit hera, bibit herus, bibit miles, bibit clerus, bibit ille, bibit illa, bibit servus cum ancilla, bibit velox, bibit piger, bibit albus, bibit niger, bibit constans, bibit vagus, bibit rudis, bibit magus.

Bibit pauper et egrotus, bibit exul et ignotus, bibit puer, bibit canus, bibit presul et decanus, bibit soror, bibit frater, bibit anus, bibit mater, bibit ista, bibit ille, bibunt centum, bibunt mille.

Parum sexcente nummate durant, cum immoderate bibunt omnes sine meta. Quamvis bibant mente leta, sic nos rodunt omnes gentes et sic erimus egentes. Qui nos rodunt confundantur et cum iustis non scribantur.

14. In Taberna Quando Sumus (When We Are in the Tavern)

(Male Chorus)

Translation

When we are in the tavern, unmindful of the grave, we rush to the gaming tables over which we sweat. If you want to know what happens in the tavern (where money gets you wine), then listen to my tale.

Some men gamble, others drink, others shamelessly indulge themselves, and of those who stay to gamble, some lose their garments, and others are in sackcloth. There no one is in fear of death, throwing dice for Bacchus:

First, the dice are thrown for wine, which the libertines drink.
Then they toast the prisoners twice, then they toast the living thrice.
Four times wine is drunk for Christians, five times for the faithful departed, six times for the boastful sisters, seven times for the forest soldiers.

Eight times for the sinful brethren, nine times for the dispersed monks, ten times for the navigators, eleven times for men at odds, twelve times for the penitent, thirteen for the travelers.

We drink for Pope and King alike, and then we drink, we drink.

The mistress drinks, the master drinks, the soldier and the clergyman.
This man drinks, that woman drinks, the servant and the maid.
The quick man drinks, the lazy drinks, the White man and the Black.
The sedentary drinks, the wanderer drinks, the ignorant and the learned.

The poor man drinks, the sick man drinks, the exiled and the unknown.
The youngster drinks, the oldster drinks, the Bishop and the Deacon.
The sister drinks, the brother drinks, the old woman and the mother.
Women drink and men drink by the hundreds and the thousands.

Six hundred coins are not enough for this aimless and intemperate drinking. Though our drink is always gay, there are ever those who nag, and we shall be indigent. May they who nag us be confounded, and never be inscribed among the just.

III. COUR D'AMOURS (THE COURT OF LOVE)

15. Amor Volat Undique (The God of Love Flies Everywhere)

(Soprano Solo and Children's Chorus)

Text

Amor volat undique, captus est libidine. Iuvenes, iuvencule coniunguntur merito.

Siqua sine socio, caret omni gaudio; tenet noctis infima sub intimo cordis in custodia: fit res amarissima.

Translation

The God of Love flies everywhere and is seized by desire. Young men and young women are rightly joined together.

If a girl lacks a man she misses all delight; darkest night is at the bottom of her heart: this is bitterest fate.

16. Dies, Nox et Omnia (Day, Night and the World)

(Baritone Solo)

<u>Text</u>

Dies, nox et omnia michi sunt contraria, virginum colloquia me fay planszer, oy suvenz suspirer, plu me fay temer.

O sodales, ludite, vos qui scitis dicite, michi mesto parcite, grand ey dolur, attamen consulate per voster honur.

Tua pulchra facies, me fay planszer milies, pectus habet glacies, a remender, statim vivus fierem per un baser.

<u>Translation</u>

Day, night and the world are opposed to me, and the sound of maidens' voices makes me weep. Alas, I am filled with sighing and fear.

O friends, amuse yourselves and speak as you please. Spare me, a sad men, for great is my grief. Counsel me, by your honor.

Thy lovely face makes me weep a thousand tears because thy heart is made of ice. Thy single kiss would bring me back to life.

17. Stetit Puella (There Stood a Maid)

(Soprano Solo)

Text

Stetit puella rufa tunica; si quis eam tetigit, tunica crepuit. Eia! Stetit puella, tamquam rosula; facie splenduit, os eius floruit. Fia!

<u>Translation</u>

There stood a maid in a red tunic; when it was touched the tunic rustled.
Eia!
There stood a girl, like a rose; her face was radiant, her mouth bloomed.
Fia!

18. Circa Mea Pectora (My Heart is Filled)

(Baritone Solo and Chorus)

Text

Circa mea pectora multa sunt suspiria de tua pulchritudine, que me ledunt misere. Manda liet, manda liet, min geselle chumet niet.

Tui lucent oculi sicut solis radii, sicut splendor fulguris lucem donat tenebris. Manda liet...

Vellet deus, vellent dii, quod mente proposui: ut eius virginea reserassem vincula. Manda liet...

Translation

My heart is filled with sighing.
I am longing for thy beauty.
My misery is great.
Mandaliet, mandaliet,
my sweetheart does not come.

Thine eyes shine like the sun's rays, like lightning flashes in the night.

Mandaliet...

May the Gods look with favor on my desire to undo the bonds of her virginity. Mandaliet...

19. Si Puer cum Puellula (When a Boy and a Maiden)

(Male Chorus)

Text

Si puer cum puellula moraretur in cellula, felix coniunctio. Amore suscrescente, pariter e medio propulso procul tedio, fit ludus ineffabilis membris, lacertis, labiis.

Translation

When a boy and a maiden are alone together, happy is their union.
Their passions mount, and modesty disappears.
An ineffable pleasure pours through their limbs, their arms, their lips.

20. Veni, Veni, Venias (Come, Come, Come)

(Double Chorus)

Text

Veni, veni, venias, ne me mori facias, hyrca, hyrce, nazaza, trillirivos...

Pulchra tibi facies, oculorum acies, capillorum series, o quam clara species!

Rosa rubicundior, lilio candidior, omnibus formosior, semper in te glorior!

Translation

Come, come, come, do not let me die. Hyrca, hyrce, nazaza, trillirivos...

Pretty is thy face, the look of thine eyes, the braids of thy hair; O how beautiful thou art!

Redder than the rose, whiter than the lily, more beautiful than all the rest; always I shall glory in thee.

21. In Trutina (I am Suspended)

(Soprano Solo)

Text

In trutina mentis dubia fluctuant contraria lascivus amor et pudicitia. Sed eligo quod video, collum iugo prebeo; ad iugum tamen suave transeo.

Translation

I am suspended between love and chastity,
But I choose what is before me and take upon myself the sweet yoke.

22. Tempus est Iocundum (Pleasant is the Season)

(Soli, Chorus, Children's Chorus)

Text

Tempus est iocumdum, o virgines, modo congaudete vos iuvenes. Oh, oh, oh, totus floreo, iam amore virginali totus ardeo, novus, novus amor est, quo pereo.

Mea me confortat promissio, mea me deportat negatio. Oh, oh, oh...

Tempore brumali vir patiens, animo vernali lasciviens. Oh. oh. oh...

Mea mecum ludit virginitas, mea me detrudit simplicitas. Oh, oh, oh...

Veni, domicella, cum gaudio, veni, veni, pulchra, iam pereo. Oh, oh, oh...

Translation

Pleasant is the season, o maidens; now rejoice, ye lads. Oh, oh, oh, with love I bloom for a maiden, my new, new love, of which I perish.

Yielding gratifies me; refusing makes me grieve. Oh, oh, oh...

In winter man's desires are passive; the breath of spring makes him lascivious. Oh, oh, oh...

My maidenhood exites me, but my innocence keeps me apart. Oh, oh, oh...

Come, my mistress, come with joy, come, my beauty, for I die.
Oh, oh, oh...

23. Dulcissime (Sweetest One)

(Soprano Solo)

Text

Dulcissime, totam tibi subdo me!

Translation

Sweetest one, I give my all to you!

BLANZIFLOR ET HELENA (BLANZIFOR AND HELENA)

24. Ave Formossima (Hail to Thee Most Beautiful)

(Chorus)

Text

Ave formosissima, gemma pretiosa, ave decus virginum, virgo gloriosa, ave mundi luminar, ave mundi rosa, Blanzifor et Helena, Venus generosa!

Translation

Hail to thee most beautiful, precious gem, Hail, pride of virgins, most glorious virgin. Hail, light of the world, hail, rose of the world. Blanzifor and Helena, Venus generosa!

25. O Fortuna (O Fortune)

(The text repeats the opening chorus)

Josephine Lee Conductor

Emmy-winning and Grammy-nominated conductor, pianist, singer, producer and non-profit leader Josephine Lee has made a widespread impact in the fields of music and education through an array of engagements across the globe. Ms. Lee has worked with a sterling roster of international artists and currently serves as President of Uniting Voices (formerly Chicago Children's Choir), a nonprofit organization that empowers and unites 3,000+ diverse youth annually to find their voice and celebrate their common humanity through the power of music.



Through her vision for Uniting Voices, Ms. Lee has doubled the number of students served. tripled the organization's budget and established Uniting Voices Chicago as one of the city's premier civic and cultural institutions, creating a performance-based learning experience built around innovative creative partnerships. Lee led Uniting Voices Chicago singers in performances with Colombian pop superstar Karol G on Saturday Night Live and at Lollapalooza (2023); with Peter CottonTale on the viral work Together in Google's Year in Search video (2020) and on The Late Show With Stephen Colbert (2021); PBS Great Performances national broadcast of Bernstein's Mass with Ravinia Festival (2020); with Bobby McFerrin & The SpiritYouAll Band at Ravinia Festival (2019); recording of Chance the Rapper's debut studio album The Big Day (2019) and Grammy Award-winning Coloring Book; the world premiere of a hip hop version of Homer's Odyssey Long Way Home (2018); the original world musical Sita Ram with Lookingglass Theatre (2003, 2006, 2012); and performances with Yo Yo Ma, Luciano Pavarotti, Solange, Al Green, Eddie Vedder, Wyclef Jean, Buddy Guy, the Eagles, Andrea Bocelli, and more. For over two decades, Ms. Lee has prepared Uniting Voices Chicago ensembles to serve as the youth ensemble for Lyric Opera of Chicago and Chicago Symphony Orchestra, among other cultural cornerstones. Ms. Lee uses music as a tool for cultural diplomacy; Uniting Voices was the first non-Korean civilian group to be granted permission to enter the Yeolsei Observation Platform in the Korean Demilitarized Zone. In recognition of her leadership, Ms. Lee received the Kennedy Center's National Committee for the Performing Arts Award for Arts Advocacy, the Roman Nomitch Fellowship to attend the Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program, the Jesse L. Rosenberger Medal from the University of Chicago, the 3Arts Artist Award from MacArthur Foundation, and other esteemed awards.

As an independent artist, Lee delivered a "sensuous and bluesy" performance (*The New York Times*) in Pulitzer Prize finalist Ted Hearne's Place at its Brooklyn Academy of Music world premiere, as well as performances with the LA Philharmonic and Festival Musica in Strasbourg. As a composer, she was commissioned for a suite for piano and cello, *Ascension*, and a piece for piano, *The Good Goodbyes*. Ms. Lee has conducted the National Philharmonic at Strathmore with Grammy Award-winning artist Lisa Fischer and her band Grand Baton, Chicago Sinfonietta, Oregon Symphony, Grant Park Orchestra, Sphinx Virtuosi, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Ted Hearne Composer

TED HEARNE (b.1982, Chicago) is a composer, singer, bandleader and recording artist. Inspired by the overlay of different viewpoints and their sonic possibilities, he creates personal and multi-dimensional works that often explore unconventional interactions of text and music, and are rooted in a sense of inquiry.

The New York Times has praised Mr. Hearne for his "tough edge and wildness of spirit," and "topical, politically sharp-edged works." *Pitchfork* called Hearne's



work "some of the most expressive socially engaged music in recent memory -from any genre," and Alex Ross wrote in *The New Yorker* that Hearne's music "holds up as a complex mirror image of an information saturated, masssurveillance world, and remains staggering in its impact."

Twice a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, Hearne has collaborated with artists of many disciplines, including Saul Williams, Erykah Badu, Dorothea Lasky, Pam Tanowitz, Damon Davis, Sanford Biggers, Rachel Perry, Ashley Tata, Patricia McGregor and Daniel Fish. Recent works of note include over and over vorbei nicht vorbei (an opera commissioned by Komische Oper Berlin); Farming (a musical-theatrical work for The Crossing, envisioned as a conversation between Jeff Bezos and colonist William Penn); Place (a fiery meditation on gentrification and displacement, written with Saul Williams); Sound from the Bench (a vocal work setting the Supreme Court oral arguments to Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, with poet Jena Osman); and The Source (setting texts by U.S. Army Private Chelsea Manning and the U.S. Dept of Defense cables she was responsible for leaking to Julian Assange and Wikileaks).

Ted is a member of the composition faculty at University of Southern California. Upcoming commissions include a new orchestral work for the Royal Ballet of London and an operatic adaptation of Ursula K. Le Guin's seminal science-fiction work *The Dispossessed*, with Kaneza Schaal and WildUp

W. Mitchell Owens, III Composer

Born in Indianapolis, raised in Chicago, Mitchell Owens is both an established composer and producer. Classically-trained, he attended high school at Interlochen Arts Academy, and went on to study at Berklee College of Music.

Since the age of eighteen, he has continued to be the sole Composer-in-Residence for the Chicago Children's Choir. This has allowed his music and arrangements to be heard all over the world while also providing opportunities to work with notable artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Bobby McFerrin, Chance The Rapper, and more.



This earned him two co-production credits on Chance The Rapper's Grammy-winning album, *Coloring Book*. His work was also featured in an Emmy-winning documentary featuring the CCC called, *Songs On The Road To Freedom*.

Moving to LA in 2013, Mitchell began to leap into production and film scoring. He has produced, side by side with platinum-producer Mike Daley, for Ritchie Court, Productions. This catalog includes co-production credits for international and K-Pop artists like EXO, NCT 127, Red Velvet, WayV, Lil' Dicky, Chris Brown, Jordan Fisher, Grace Weber, BJ The Chicago Kid, and more.

He has also composed four full-length film scores, and two shorts. Notably, his professional debut was with superstar Justin Timberlake, as co-composer, orchestrator, and conductor for the indie film, *The Book of Love*. Since then, he has continued to be apart of the indie film world with two releases on both Hulu and Netflix, *Say You Will* and *Brampton's Own*. His most recent score for *Fate Of A Sport*, executive produced by Lebron James and Uninterrupted, has been nationally televised on ESPN, and is available on ESPN+.

Mitchell Owens continually brings excellence to the industry, as well as to the community, as he furthers his musical career.

Amy Owens Soprano

American soprano Amy Owens is known for her "high-flying vocals" and "scene-stealing" charisma on operatic and symphonic stages, as well as her innovative, multi-disciplinary pursuits across genres. Her performing career has taken her to some of America's most illustrious venues, including the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra, for her debut as the soprano soloist in *Carmina Burana* under the baton of Gianandrea Noseda. Amy has also performed the work with the Omaha Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Mobile Symphony and MidAmerica Productions for her Carnegie Hall debut. Recent operatic engagements include her main stage debut with Virginia,



Opera as Mabel *The Pirates of Penzance*, where she was praised by Opera News for her "silvery, focused soprano caressing each melodic contour," Lucy, *The Telephone* on tour with Santa Fe Opera, Chrisann Brennan, *The Revolution of Steve Jobs* with Utah Opera, Emily *Our Town* and Phoebe, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* with the Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theater, her debut with Chicago Opera Theater as Yan, *Becoming Santa Claus* conducted by Lydiya Yankovskaya, Johanna, *Sweeney Todd* with Michigan Opera Theater, and Florentine in On Site Opera's North American premiere of *La Mère Coupable*.

Recent concert engagements include Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* with the New Mexico Philharmonic, Handel's *Messiah* with the Dayton Philharmonic and Lubbock Symphony orchestras, *Grenados Canciones Amotorias* with the Brooklyn Art Song Society, appearances with the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, Brooklyn Art Song Society, the Florida Keys Concert Association and the role of Cunegonde in *Candide* with Utah Symphony.

Amy's affinity for new music has made her a sought-after soprano for developing contemporary works, including creating the title role in Augusta Read Thomas' *Sweet Potato Kicks the Sun* with Santa Fe Opera, the Metropolitan Opera workshop of *Eurydice*, and multiple workshops with American Opera Projects.

Amy was a resident artist with Utah Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and Central City Opera, and was a grand prize recipient from the Sullivan Foundation. She also holds awards from the Jensen Foundation (Finalist) and Metropolitan Opera National Council (Eastern Region Finalist). She is a multiple prize-winner with the George London Foundation and was a featured soloist on their recital series with Anthony Dean Griffey and Warren Jones.

She released two collaborative albums in 2019: a debut album of original music, *Haethor*, which received acclaim in the electronica world as "an enchanted force" (Impose), and *Songs of Leonard Bernstein*, including previously unrecorded vocal music. Other discography includes her performance as Mater Gloriosa in Utah Symphony's recording of Mahler *Symphony No. 8* and in New York Festival of Song's *Picnic Cantata*.

As an educator and producer, Amy co-founded The Collective Conservatory and developed a unique curriculum to forge new and innovative paths for online musical collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic. She assumed the role of director of the Young Voices of Santa Fe Opera in Fall of 2023. She holds a M.M. degree in vocal performance from Rice University and a B.M. in vocal performance from Brigham Young University.

Kyle Tomlin Tenor

Kyle Tomlin is an opera singer, classical soloist, and professional ensemble musician. Hailed by the Washington Post as "impressively commanding," he performs regularly as a featured artist with opera companies and symphonies all over the United States.

His traditional operatic roles include Rodolfo (*La bohème*), Tybalt (*Roméo et Juliette*), Nemorino (*L'elisir d'amore*), Jupiter (*Semele*), and Eisenstein



Die Fledermaus). He is also an accomplished ensemble musician singing at the Washington National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where he has been featured on many nationally and internationally televised events both as a soloist and as a member of those choirs.

While he regularly performs the standard repertoire, Mr. Tomlin is no stranger to new music. As a Gate City Bank Young Artist with Fargo-Moorhead Opera, he covered roles in the world premieres of *Buried Alive* and *Embedded*, two operas commissioned by the American Lyric Theatre for the Poe Project. He originated the role of John in the North American premiere of *Rockland*, an opera commissioned by the Pine Mountain Music Festival, where he was a Resident Opera Artist for three years. Most recently, he was a tenor soloist with the iSING! International Festival and the Philadelphia Orchestra in the North American premiere of compositions based on Chinese Tang Dynasty poems set for voice and orchestra.

He has sung at The Kennedy Center, Kimmel Center, the Music Center at Strathmore, and Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. Additional companies include Virginia Opera, Toledo Opera, St. Petersburg Opera, Charlottesville Opera, Fairfax Symphony, Tallahassee Symphony, and the National Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Tomlin is a member of the U.S. Army Chorus, the vocal counterpart of the Army's premier music organization, The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own." He holds vocal degrees from Penn State University and the University of Michigan.

Vasil Garvanliev Baritone

Macedonian born and raised singer-songwriter, Vasil Garvanliev, known as VASIL (Vah-SEAL) has been in the music business professionally since the age of 7. Now in his 30's and having lived over two decades in Chicago, Milano, Toronto, & London, he is finally back in Chicago focusing on his first solo cross over album. His 30-year



international professional music journey is quite diverse: from a child pop star to a member and soloist for many choirs, to over 50 roles as a leading baritone opera singer.

He graduated from the Glenn Gould School and the prestigious Opera School at University of Toronto with honors and was a member of the Calgary Opera Emerging Artists. Some of the festivals he has been a soloist at are Marlboro Summer, Stratford Summer, Toronto Summer, Britten-Pears, Grachten Festival, Banff Center and Tafelmusik. On the concert stage soloist for Faure & Brahms Requiem, Mahler Rückert Lieder, Handel's Messiah with Victoria Symphony, Regina Symphony, Montreal Symphony, and University of Toronto Symphony. Equally at home on the opera stage some role highlights are Don Giovanni, Leporello, Figaro, Don Alfonso and is an award recipient at the Montreal Internarional, Caballe, Belvedere, and regional Metropolitan Opera competitions.

Vasil returned in his pop roots releasing a few projects over the last couple of years and was the Macedonian representative at the Eurovision Song Contest in both 2020 and 2021 with the songs "YOU" and his original ballad "Here I Stand."

Uniting Voices Chicago

Founded in 1956 by Rev. Christopher Moore as the Children's Chorus of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago in direct response to the Civil Rights Movement, Uniting Voices Chicago (formerly Chicago Children's Choir) is rooted in the belief that music is a vehicle for fostering respect between young people of all races, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, religions, gender identities, and sexual orientations.



Since its founding 65 years ago, the organization has grown from a single choir into a vast network of school and after-school programs that serve thousands of students every year. They offer a performance-based learning experience built around innovative creative partnerships and compelling artistic endeavors—from regular appearances at Lyric Opera and Ravinia Festival to one-of-a-kind features on major recording projects like Chance the Rapper's Coloring Book (2016) and The Big Day (2019).

For more than half a century, they have developed programs that embrace the racial and economic diversity of Chicago, making a high-caliber musical education available to any singer who wants it. Accessibility forms the foundation of our signature world-class instruction.

Eighty percent of their youth live in low-to-moderate income households, and every year these 4,000+ students participate completely free of charge. Whether they're just getting started or are already seasoned performers, youth from every corner of the city discover how to make their voice heard through our empowering programs.

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For more information about making a gift to Choral Arts, please contact Drew Halford, Development Manager, at **dhalford@choralarts.org** or **202.244.3669**. Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is correct and complete. If your name has been misspelled or omitted please accept our apologies and contact Drew Halford so that we may correct the error.

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Choral Arts gratefully acknowledges Her Excellency Dame Karen Pierce DCMG, His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to the United States, and Sir Charles Roxburgh KCB, for their honorary patronage of our 43rd Annual Holiday Concert and Gala that took place on December 18, 2023. Furthermore, Choral Arts deeply appreciates the outstanding efforts of our Gala Chairs Anne Hatfield Weir, Andrea Hatfield, and Heidi Hatfield along with the extraordinary work of the members of the Host and Silent Auction Committees. We graciously acknowledge the many contributors to this event:

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