

THE ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS AND CARLETON CHAMBER CHOIR PRESENT

THE ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*

THE CARLETON CHAMBER CHOIR

Mathew J Olson, *conductor*

VOICES OF OUR TIME

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

BOE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

THE ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS
AND
THE CARLETON CHAMBER CHOIR
PRESENT

A “Bridge” Concert

VOICES OF OUR TIME

featuring

(Re)formation Cantata by Matthew J. Olson
and
Dark Night Of The Soul by Ola Gjeilo

Therees Tkach Hibbard and Matthew J. Olson, *conductors*

with

Nathan Proctor, *organ*
Ella Boers, *piano*
Høyde String Quartet
KrisAnne Weiss, *soprano*
Andrew Kane, *baritone*

St. Olaf Chamber Singers
Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*

Vox Populi

Giedrius Svilvainis (b.1972)

The voice of the people is the voice of God.
Man is a friend to man.
Where there is unity, there is victory.

Warm-Up (A Round for Chorus)

Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)

Alleluia

Libby Larsen (b.1950)

O Crux

Mark Jennings (b.1968)

O Cross, more radiant than the stars,
Celebrated throughout the earth,
Beloved of the people,
Holier than all things,
Which alone was found worthy
To bear the light of the world:
Blessed Tree,
Blessed Nails, Blest the weight you bore:
Save the flock which today
Is gathered to praise you
-VENANTIUS FORTUNATUS (530-609)

The Coolun

Will Fecko (b.2002)

~Premiere Performance~

Come with me, under my coat,
And we will drink our fill
Of the milk of the white goat,
Or wine, if it be thy will;
And we will talk until
Talk is a trouble, too,
Out in the side of the hill,
And nothing is left to do,
But an eye to look into an eye
And a hand in a hand to slip,

And a sigh to answer a sigh,
And a lip to find out a lip:
What if the night be black
And the air on the mountain chill,
Where the goat lies down in her track
And all but the fern is still!
Stay with me under my coat,
And we will drink our fill
Of the milk of the white goat
Out on the side of the hill.

-James Stephens (1880–1950)

Christ the Appletree

Stanford Scriven (b.1988)

The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree

For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I be with
Jesus Christ the apple tree

I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree
*-text compiled by Joshua Smith
(New Hampshire, 1784)*

Combined Choirs

Matthew Olson, *conductor*

with

KrisAnne Weiss, *mezzo-soprano* • Andrew Kane, *baritone*

Nathan Proctor, *organ*

Rebecca Lyford, Claire Hughes, *violins* • Akseli Mende, *viola* • Alice Ryan, *cello*

Carter Allen-Weyenberg, Caroline Russell, *flutes*

Lily Mitzel, Joseph Becker, *oboes*

(Re)formation Cantata

Matthew Olson (b. 1983)

~Premiere of Final Version~

1. **I Must Arise**
Chorus
I must arise,
For the poor know oppression,
The needy sigh,
Now will I arise.
(*Psalm 12:5*)
“A mighty fortress is our God.”
(*Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, Martin Luther*)
To me ascend my people’s sighs,
And I have heard their suing:
My saving Word shall take the field,
Shall be the poor man's strength and shield
(*Hymn: O God, from Heaven Look Down and See, Vs. 4. Martin Luther*)
2. **We, Who Are Many, Are One Body**
Aria & Chorus
(Solo)
Since when has the evildoer
the right to portray evil deeds
as the will of God?
(*Marga Meusel*)
(Solo)
I thought....
We, who are many, are one body?
(*1 Corinthians 10:17*)
(Choir)
All that God asks you
is to go out of Yourself
and let God be God in you
(*Meister Eckhart*)
3. **Let Justice Roll On**
Aria & Chorus
Let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream.
(*Amos 5:24*)
We are not to simply bandage the wounds of
victims beneath wheels of injustice,
we must seize the wheel itself.
(*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*)
4. **Thou Sweetest Love**
Chorale
Thou sweetest Love, grace on us bestow;
Set our hearts with heavenly fire aglow,
That with hearts united we love each other
Of one mind, in peace with one another.
Lord, have mercy!
(*Hymn: Now Do We Pray God, the Holy Ghost, Vs. 3, Martin Luther*)
5. **In Time It Will Appear**
Baritone & Chorus
(Choir)
Even though you do not see it now,
in time it will appear.
(Solo)
Thus you will be warmed and stirred to love,
hearing it all the more,
and God will also grant that it bear fruit,
more than anybody can tell.
(*Lecture on Galatians, Martin Luther*)
6. **Let Me Arise**
Chorus
Awake, my heart! I may not wait!
Let me arise and open the gate,
To breathe the wild warm air of the heath,
And to let in Love, and to let out Hate,
And anger at living and scorn of Fate,
To let in Life, and to let out Death
(*A Reverie (excerpt), Mary Singleton*)
Thou sweetest Love, grace on us bestow;
Set our hearts with heavenly fire aglow,
Lord, have mercy!
(*Martin Luther*)
I must arise.
(*Psalm 12:5*)

Carleton Chamber Choir

Matthew Olson, *conductor*

Nathan Proctor, *piano*

“Lacrimosa” from *Requiem*

Lacrimosa dies illa,
qua resurget ex favilla
judicandus homo reus.
Huic ergo parce, Deus,
pie Jesu Domine,
dona eis requiem. Amen.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

The day of tears and mourning,
when from the ashes shall arise,
all humanity to be judged.
Spare us by your mercy, Lord,
gentle Lord Jesus,
grant them eternal rest. Amen.

“The Prayer of the Raven” from *Prayers from the Ark*

I believe, Lord I believe!
It is faith that saves us, You have said it!
I believe the world was made for me,
Because as it dies I thrive on it.
My undertaker’s black
My black is in keeping with my cynical old heart.
Raven land is between You and that life down there
For whose end I wait to gratify my self.
“Aha!” I cry.
“Avant moi le déluge!”
What a feast!
I shall never go back to the Ark!
Oh let it die in me
This horrible nostalgia. Amen.

Ivor Davies (1901–1970)

Kasar Mie La Gaji

Kasar Mie La Gaji
The Earth is Tired

Alberto Grau (b. 1937)

Combined Choirs

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*

Ella Boers, *piano*
Høyde String Quartet

Dark Night of the Soul

One dark night,
Fired with love’s urgent longings
– Ah, the sheer grace! –
I went out unseen,
My house being now all stilled.
In darkness, and secure,
By the secret ladder, disguised,
– Ah, the sheer grace! –

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1948)
Rachel Dumont, Caroline Geer, Mia Poletti, *sopranos*

In darkness and concealment,
My house being now all stilled.
On that glad night,
In secret, for no one saw me,
Nor did I look at anything,
With no other light or guide
Than the one that burned in my heart.
–St. John of the Cross (1542–1591)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Matthew J. Olson is Director of Choral Activities at Carleton College, Artistic Director of Bach Roots Festival, and Assistant Conductor of The Singers – MN Choral Artists. Bach Roots Festival's recent performances have been hailed as "masterful" (*B Minor Mass*) and "a gripping realization" (*St. John Passion*) by The Star Tribune. In 2019, he served as chorusmaster for The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra's production of Bach's *St. John Passion* with The Singers for which the choir was praised for being "scrupulously prepared" in a performance that was "one of the most satisfying you could ever hope to hear" (*Star Tribune*).

A passionate music educator, Matthew was named Minnesota's 2024 Collegiate Music Educator of the Year. He has served as visiting professor at St. Olaf College and a visiting conductor at Florida State University. His award-winning choral arrangements and compositions are published by Colla Voce, Santa Barbara, and via his website. Matthew studied choral and orchestral conducting at St. Olaf College, The Oregon Bach Festival, Michigan State University, The Canford Conducting School (U.K.), and The University of Minnesota. He lives in Northfield with his wife Maureen and their children Ani and Holden.

Nathan Proctor, *piano*, holds degrees in church music and organ performance from St. Olaf College and Indiana University, having studied with John Ferguson and Larry Smith. He has served congregations in Minnesota, California, and North Carolina, and is currently Organist and Director of Worship, Music, and Arts at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield, MN.

In addition to overseeing a large music program, each week he leads worship at the organ and directs choirs of youth and adults. He is also an active clinician and hymn festival leader.

Andrew Kane, *baritone*, is a Minnesota native and has been performing sacred, oratorio and consort repertoire locally, nationally and internationally since 2007. Recent appearances include Elijah with the Saint Mark's Cathedral music series, Britten's Cantata Misericordium with the Oratorio Society, and Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers with Consortium Carissimi. He has enjoyed regular appearances as a soloist for a number of Twin Cities sacred music series, including those of Saint Mark's, Holy Family Catholic Church, Mount Olive Lutheran, and House of Hope Presbyterian, with whom he performed the role of the Bishop in Stephen Paulus's opera *The Three Hermits* in 2017. Andrew also has solo and consort credits with many other ensembles, including The Mirandola Ensemble, The Rose Ensemble, Minnesota Bach Ensemble, Lyra Baroque Orchestra, the Minnesota Bach Society, and the Oregon Bach Festival, and enjoys regular appearances with Transept of Sioux Falls. He holds a degree in voice from Augsburg College.

KrisAnne Weiss (she/her), *mezzo-soprano*, performs an eclectic array of music-theater and concert works, appearing with Skylark Opera Theatre, Lyric Opera of the North, Nautilus Music-Theater, Opera on the Lake, and Mixed Precipitation's Pickup Truck Opera, among many others. Most recently, she played the role of Ruth in *Dark Sisters* with Journey North Opera, and multiple roles in An Opera Theatre's production of Marc Blitzstein's *The Cradle Will Rock*. She hosts and facilitates An Opera Theatre's Voice Lab, a free monthly artistic development and community-building resource for Twin Cities singers at any point in their careers, and she is on the voice faculty at St. Olaf College.

PERSONNEL

HØYDE STRING QUARTET

Violin
Rebecca Lyford '24
Claire Hughes '25

Flute
Carter Allen-Weyenberg '24
Caroline Russell '25

Viola
Akseli Mende '26

Oboe
Lily Mitzel '24
Joseph Becker '24

Cello
Alice Ryan '25

CARLETON CHAMBER CHOIR

Matthew Olson, *conductor*
Nathan Proctor, *collaborative pianist*

Soprano
Norah Dillner
Marjorie Mitaliski
Hannah Moran
Audrey Schwartz
Annelisa Smith
Maeva Tchouaffe

Alto
Sophie Boileau
Ella Gullickson
Sophie Hill
Amelia Lawlor
Sadie Solomon
Juju Xiaaj

Tenor
Owen Hanold
Eliot Klus
Harald Lundberg
Ian Tarter
Kai Weiner
Nathan Wolff

Bass
Ezra Axel
Jonas Bartels
Ashok Khare
Douglas Meeker
Brady Rivkin
Luke Rowen
Gabe Tarini

ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*
Emma Boers, *collaborative pianist*
Henry Vermeer, *student assistant* • Aiden Kocian, *student manager*

Sopranos
Lucy Chambers
Rachel DuFour
*Rachel Dumont
Caroline Geer
Emily Hagel
Ava Messinger
Giada Parigi
Mia Poletti

Altos
Leigha Daniels
Laila Franklin
Nathaniel Johnson
Anna Lunstad
Elyssa Post
*Natalie Robuck
Lauren Schilling
Meleah Upton

Tenors
Mitchell Caponigro
Harrison Do
Tyler Hansen
Noah Hubbard
*Aaron Looney
Sam Meyer
David Reed

Basses
Noah Carlson
Elijah Culp
Aiden Kocian
Leo Libet
Avery Nevins
*Henry Vermeer
Jesse Wiener – Hastings

*section leader

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Kathryn Ananda-Owens, *department chair*

David Carter, *department vice-chair*

Barbara Barth, *academic administrative assistant – Music*

Lisa McDermott, *academic administrative assistant – Music*

Faith Kimbrell, *instrument coordinator*

MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLEGE RELATIONS

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Terra Widdifield '95, *associate director of music organizations*

Connor Smith, *assistant director of music organizations for audience development*

Sarah Gingerich '11, *assistant director of music organizations for project management*

Jonathan Kopplin, *associate librarian for ensembles and performing rights*

Emma Jenks '22, *coordinator, music organizations*

Gabbie Holtzman '21, *ticketing coordinator, music organizations*

BROADCAST/MEDIA SERVICES

Jeffrey O'Donnell '02, *director of broadcast/media services*

Sean Tonko, *associate director of event operations*

Grant Furgiuele, *associate director of broadcast engineering*

Mia Pardo, *assistant director of production*

FINE ARTS ADMISSIONS

Molly Boes Ganza '08, *associate dean of fine arts recruitment*

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