

Dubuque Chorale
50th Anniversary Concert
Program Addendum

Program Notes

And the Glory of the Lord and Hallelujah! from
Messiah

These two choruses are from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel. *Messiah*, Handel's best-known and most frequently performed oratorio, was composed in 1741 in just 24 days. The first performance was in Dublin in April of 1742 with Handel conducting. Thereafter, Handel performed *Messiah* regularly in London during Easter week.

Messiah is divided into three parts: Part One deals with prophecy and nativity; Part Two, passion and resurrection; Part Three, mankind's hope of resurrection.

“And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed” is the jubilant opening chorus of the oratorio and beautifully sets up the entire prophecy and nativity of Part One.

“Hallelujah!”, the best-loved and most popular chorus of *Messiah*, ends Part Two. Even though “Hallelujah!” is often performed at Christmastime today, it was intended to praise the resurrection of the Messiah.

—Dennis Williams

The Creation (Day Four: Light)

Joseph Haydn is considered one of the most important Classical period composers. With contributions to musical forms such as the symphony and small string ensembles, Haydn was also a mentor to W. A. Mozart and an educator to a young Beethoven.

Haydn's *The Creation (Die Schöpfung)* is one of his masterpieces. He took a year to write the work, as he was inspired after hearing Handel's *Messiah* in Israel and Egypt after trips to London in the 1790s. The text came from the King James Version of the Bible and both German and English translations were set to the score.

The Creation is set up in three sections. Part I illustrates the first days of creation: creation of light, the separation of the heavens and earth, creation of land and water and flora. The second part sings of the creation of animals and of man and woman. The third part then deals with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Within the piece, three soloists depict three archangels: Raphael, Uriel, and Gabriel.

The Chorale will perform three pieces from Part I with two recitatives sung by the tenor Uriel (Thomas Taylor), finished with the Chorale singing "The Heavens Are Telling" with the archangel trio Gabriel (Mary Bryant) and Raphael (Mark Oppedahl).

—Than Chesher

A New Creation

According to the composer, René Clausen: “*A New Creation* is a piece of church music, not of any particular sect, synod, or denomination; however, the piece does express a Christian point of view and is written in praise of God.” Three of the twelve movements are being performed.

“A New Creation” text is from 2 Corinthians 5:17. It states that whoever is in Christ is a new creation.

“The Greatest of These Is Love” is from the familiar 1 Corinthians 13:1-2 and 4-8, and expresses the many aspects of love.

“Hymn” is from Song of Songs 8:6-7. The text is: “Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it.”

—Dennis Williams

Lux Aeterna

Beloved American choral composer Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943) wrote *Lux Aeterna* for the Los Angeles Master Chorale in 1997 during his tenure as their composer-in-residence. Today, the Dubuque Chorale will perform three of the work’s five movements, all of which are settings of Latin texts that reference “Light.” About this work, Lauridsen writes:

I composed *Lux Aeterna* in response to my mother’s final illness and found great personal comfort

and solace in setting to music these timeless and wondrous words about Light, a universal symbol of illumination at all levels - spiritual, artistic, and intellectual. The instrumental introduction to the *Introitus* softly recalls motivic fragments from two pieces especially close to my heart (my settings of Rilke's *Contre Qui, Rose* and *O Magnum Mysterium*) which recur throughout the work in various forms. Several new themes in the *Introitus* are then introduced by the chorus, including an extended canon on *et lux perpetua. O Nata Lux* and *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* are paired songs, the former an a cappella motet at the center of the work and the latter a spirited, jubilant canticle.

—Francis John Vogt

Beati quorum via

“Beati quorum via” is the third of a set of Three Motets written by Irish composer Charles Villiers Stanford. While he was raised in Dublin, he studied at Cambridge and then in Leipzig and Berlin. At only 29, he helped found the Royal College of Music, where he taught composition for the rest of his career. Stanford never embraced 20th-century modernism (like that of the atonal set), and instead adhered to tonality and form. Among his students would be both Holst and Vaughan Williams.

It is particularly interesting that Stanford, who wrote primarily for the Anglican tradition, chose to write

these three pieces in Latin. This work is particularly lush in harmony and provides a gorgeous breadth of phrase and line. The text paraphrases Psalm 1—“Happy are they that are upright in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.”

—Dr. Bob Demaree

Inscription of Hope

“Inscription of Hope” by Z. Randall Stroope is a setting of a moving text found on a cellar wall. The words were found inscribed in Cologne, Germany, where Jews hid from the Nazis during World War II. The message of hope in such a dire situation speaks across countries and generations.

Stroope, an American composer, has written more than 165 pieces. His works are performed by prestigious groups all over the world.

While singing “Inscription,” the children worked on singing beautiful lines in two parts and portraying the message of the text expressively.

—Karmella Sellers

Evening Prayer from *Hansel and Gretel*

One of the most poignant moments in Humperdinck’s opera *Hansel and Gretel* occurs when the siblings are in the forest in Act II. Sent by their mother to the haunted forest to gather strawberries, they become tired and are visited by the Sandman, who apologizes, but then says that he must get them to go to sleep. However,

before they do so, Gretel reminds Hansel that they must say their evening prayers. Afterwards, there follows a pantomime in which the “14 angels” that they sing about appear and guard them overnight.

—Dr. Bob Demaree

One Love

“One love, one heart, let’s get together and feel alright!” Who doesn’t need to hear a song like this after the past couple of years? This song was originally chosen for our Great Innovators concert that was never performed in the Spring of 2020. “One Love,” written by Bob Marley, appeared on the 1965 debut album of the Wailers. Starting out as ska, it was reworked in 1970 as a reggae hit. It is a song of peace, unity, and love. Hearing children sing it makes it even more special. After the 18-month hiatus due to Covid, the Dubuque Chorale Children’s Choir only had four returning singers.

This song was accessible to all our singers, encouraging them to listen while singing in unison, but then challenging them to sing in two parts.

—Karmella Sellers

My Shot

“My Shot” is one of the iconic songs from Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Broadway musical, *Hamilton*. The song outlines the 19-year-old Alexander Hamilton’s desire to do something, to become something, to make a difference. “My Shot” gave the children the opportunity to both rap and sing in two parts. The children used a

variety of dynamics and good diction to bring the song to life. The soloists tell the desires of a young man while the other singers support his quest. It's an exciting, engaging piece for both the singers and the audience!

—Karmella Sellers

Amendment: Righting Our Wrongs

In 2019, the Dubuque Chorale board voted to undertake a co-commissioning project spearheaded by Chorosynthesis. This non-profit choral organization, founded by two of my colleagues from the University of Washington, “seeks to re-conceptualize and broaden the scope of American choral music by fostering innovation, sustainability, collaboration, and excellence in and among the choral arts.” Our interest in the collaboration began as we were preparing a 2020 concert honoring the anniversary of the women’s suffrage movement. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the performance was cancelled. As we were planning our 50th Anniversary Concert, the board and I agreed that this co-commissioned work would be the perfect centerpiece for the second half of our performance, looking forward to the next 50 years.

Amendment: Righting Our Wrongs combines words by American journalist, researcher, and activist Ida B. Wells with text from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, as well as excerpts from speeches and other writings penned by both historic and contemporary voting rights advocates. As we

acknowledge the successes and struggles of our collective history and work toward justice for all, “we look forward to a future bright with promise and hope.”

—Dr. Amanda Huntleigh

Seize the Day from *Newsies*

This Disney musical classic follows a group of kids in their battle for just child labor laws in 1890s New York City. The social justice anthem provides a connection to the call-to-action presented in our co-commissioned piece while emphasizing the importance of youth voices in determining our collective future. The Dubuque Chorale and Dubuque Chorale Children’s Choir wish to highlight the role of bravery in any movement, encourage speaking up when it is most challenging, and prioritize supporting each other in the fight for justice. We are: “one for all” and “all for one.”

—Dr. Amanda Huntleigh

Texts & Translations

Messiah

And the Glory of the Lord

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

—Isaiah 40:5

Hallelujah

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world is become
the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ;
And He shall reign for ever and ever,
King of kings, and Lord of lords.
and He shall reign for ever and ever,
Hallelujah!

—adapted from Revelations 11:15, 19:16

The Creation (Day Four: Light)

And God Said

And God said:

Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven
to divide the day from the night,
and to give light upon the earth;
and let them be for signs and for seasons,
and for days, and for years.
He made the stars also.

—adapted from Genesis 1:14, 1:16

In Splendor Bright

In splendor bright
is rising now the sun
and darts his rays;
an am'rous joyful happy spouse,
a giant proud and glad,
to run his measur'd course.

With softer beams and milder light steps
on the silver moon through silent night.
The space immense of th' azure sky
innum'rous host of giant orbs adorns.
And the sons of God announced the fourth day
in song divine, proclaiming thus his power.

The Heavens Are Telling

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of his works displays the firmament.
To day, that is coming, speaks it the day;
the night, that is gone, to following night.

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of his works displays the firmament.
In all the land resounds the word,
never unperceived, ever understood.

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of his works displays the firmament.

—adapted from Psalm 19

A New Creation

A New Creation

Therefore, whoever is in Christ is a new creation.

The old has passed away;

You are a new creation.

Behold the new has come!

Alleluia.

—2 Corinthians 5:17

The Greatest of These Is Love

If I speak in tongues of men and angels,

But have not love,

I am a noisy gong, or a clanging cymbal;

And if I have prophetic powers,

And understand all mystery, all knowledge,

And if I have faith to remove mountains

But have not love, I am nothing.

Love is patient and kind;

Love is not jealous or boastful;

It is not arrogant or rude;

Love does not insist on its own way;

Love does not rejoice in the wrong but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things, believes all things,

Hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

—Corinthians 13:1-2, 4-8

Hymn

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

Set me as a seal upon you heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love.
Neither can the floods drown it.
Neither can the floods drown it
(neither can the floods drown it,
neither can they drown it).

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

—Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Lux Aeterna

Introitus

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
A hymn befits thee, O God in Zion,
and to thee a vow shall be fulfilled
in Jerusalem:

Hear my prayer,
for unto thee all flesh shall come.
Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

O Nata Lux

O born light of light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
mercifully deem worthy and accept
the praises and prayers of your supplicants.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost ones.
Grant us to be made members
of your holy body.

Veni, Sanctus Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit,
send forth from heaven
the ray of thy light,
come, Father of the poor
come, giver of gifts
come, light of hearts.

Thou best of consolers,
sweet guest of the soul
sweet refreshment.
In labor, thou art rest,
in heat, the tempering,
in grief, the consolation.

O light most blessed,
fill the inmost heart
of all thy faithful
without your grace,
there is nothing in us,
nothing that is not harmful.

Cleanse what is sordid,
moisten what is arid,
heal what is hurt,
flex what is rigid,
fire what is frigid,
correct what goes astray.

Grant to thy faithful,
those trusting in thee,
thy sacred seven-fold gifts,
grant the reward of virtue,
grant the deliverance of salvation,
grant everlasting joy.

Beati Quorum Via

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the law of the Lord.

—Psalm 119:1

Inscription of Hope

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
And I believe in love even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God even when he is silent,
I believe through any trial there is always a way.
But sometimes in this suff'ring and hopeless despair,
My heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there.
But a voice rises within me saying
Hold on, my child,
I'll give you strength,
I'll give you hope,
Just stay a little while.

May there someday be sunshine,
May there someday be happiness,
May there someday be love,
May there someday be peace.

Evening Prayer from *Hansel and Gretel*

When at night I go to sleep,
Fourteen angels watch do keep,
Two my head are guarding,
Two my feet are guiding,
Two are on my right hand,
Two are on my left hand,
Two who warmly cover,
Two who o'er me hover,
Two to whom 'tis given
To guide my steps to heaven.

God sends angels down to me
while I sleep so silently,
Two put faith within me
Two grant peace around me,
Two with strength uphold me,
Two with truth enfold me,
Two bring hope and goodness.
Two bring joy and gladness,
Two grant blessings from above
To fill God's world with heavenly love.

When at night I go to sleep,
Fourteen angels watch do keep,
Two my head are guarding,
Two my feet are guiding,

Two are on my right hand,
Two are on my left hand,
Two who warmly cover,
Two who o'er me hover,
Two to point when I arise
The way to heaven's paradise.

One Love

One love! One heart!
Let's get together and feel all right.
Let them all pass all their dirty remarks,
There is one question I'd really love to ask,
Is there a place for the hopeless sinners
Who's hurt all mankind just to save his own?
Believe me.

My Shot from *Hamilton*

I am not throwin' away my shot!
Hey yo, I'm just like my country,
I'm young, scrappy and hungry,
And I'm not throwin' away my shot!
I'm 'a get a scholarship to King's College
I probably shouldn't brag, but boy, I amaze and astonish
The problem is I got a lot of brains but no polish.
I gotta holler just to be heard.
With every word I drop knowledge!
I'm a diamond in the rough, a shiny piece of coal,
tryin' to reach my goal.
My power of speech: unimpeachable.
The plan is to fan this spark into a flame.

But man, it's getting dark, so let me spell out my name

I am the A-L-E-X-A-N-D-E-R.

We are meant to be

a colony that runs independently

so there will be a revolution in this century

I am not throwin' away my shot

Everybody sing

Whoa, whoa, whoa, yeah.

Rise up. When you're living on your knees, you rise up.

Tell your brother that he's gotta rise up.

Tell your sister that she's gotta rise up.

When are these colonies gonna rise up?

It's time to take a shot!

And I am not thorwing away my shot!

Amendment: Righting Our Wrongs

The Quest

Text by Stacey Abrams

In this time of division and crisis, we must come together and stand for, and with, one another. America has stumbled time and again on its quest towards justice and equality.¹

All Men Are Created Equal

Text by Melissa Dunphy

All men are created equal.

1 Stacey Abrams, "Democratic Response to the State of the Union Address." 2019

governments are instituted among men:²
all free men
having a sufficient evident common interest:³
a fifty-acre freehold,^{4,5,6,7}
twenty-five acres improved,⁸
one hundred acres unimproved,⁸
a twenty-pound freehold,⁹
sixty pounds of personal estate,¹⁰
ten pounds,¹¹
forty pounds,^{4,12}
one hundred and thirty-four dollars,¹³
thirty pounds current money,⁶
fifty pounds proclamation money,¹⁴
forty shillings annual rent,⁹
forty shillings lawful-money,¹²
three pounds annual value,¹⁰
liable to pay tax,¹¹
of three shillings sterling,¹⁵
a sum equal to the tax on fifty acres of land,⁵

2 US Declaration of Independence, 1776

3 PA Constitution, 1776

4 DE Constitution, 1776

5 SC Constitution, 1778

6 MD Constitution, 1776

7 NC Constitution, 1776

8 VA Constitution, 1776

9 NY Constitution, 1777

10 MA Constitution, 1780

11 GA Constitution, 1777

12 RI Acts and Bylaws, 1760:62

13 RI Constitution, 1843

14 NJ Constitution, 1776

15 SC Constitution, 1790

having maturity in years,
quiet and peaceable behavior,
a civil conversation,
and forty shillings freehold,¹⁶
a free white person,
a person of good character,¹⁷
male inhabitants,¹⁸
and their eldest sons,³
provided such persons shall have paid their poll tax,¹⁹
able to read and write any section of the constitution in
the English language,¹⁹
twenty-one years of age,¹⁸
free, white, male.²⁰

We Hold These Truths

*Text from the U.S. Declaration of Independence and by
Frances Harper and Zitkála-Šá*

We hold these truths.²

You white women speak here of rights. I speak of
wrongs.²¹

O women of America! Demand justice, simple justice,
as the right of every race; and brand with everlasting
infamy the brutal cowardice that lynches, burns, and
tortures your own countrymen.²²

16 CT Constitution, 1818

17 Naturalization Act of 1790

18 14th Amendment to the US Constitution, 1868

19 Public Laws of NC, Chapter 218, 1899

20 NJ Act of 1807

21 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, “We Are All Bound Up Together.”
Speech given at the Eleventh National Women’s Rights Convention, 1886

22 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, “Woman’s Political Future.” Speech

The time is here: for our own soul's good, we must acknowledge the American Indian.

O sisters, work to that end, that the stain upon our country in the treatment of my people may be wiped out.²³

Identity Politics

Text by Stacey Abrams, Melissa Dunphy, and Ida B. Wells

With no sacredness of the ballot
there can be no sacredness of human life itself.²⁴

Our rights depend:
On whether we live in the right state,
On where we were born,
On how or when our families arrived,
On whether we can afford valid ID,
On whether that ID matches our gender,
On the lawyers we can afford,
On whether the criminal justice system
has convicted us of certain crimes under the law,
a system that targets some of us
more than others.

This is the next battle for our democracy,
one where all [eligible] citizens can have their say

given at the World's Congress of Representative Women at the Chicago Columbian Exposition, 1893

23 Zitkála-Šá, "Americanizing the First Americans." Speech given at the Biennial Council Meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, 1921

24 Ida B. Wells, "How Enfranchisement Stops Lynchings." Essay for *Original Rights Magazine*, 1910

about the vision we want for our country.²⁵

Our rights depend:

On whether we have the time to stand in line
for hours on a weekday,

On whether our names were purged from the rolls,
On whether our votes are spoiled
and left in uncounted piles.

Our rights depend

On whether America can live up to its promises
Of equality
And liberty and justice for all.

Pledging Allegiance

Text by Francis Bellamy, Astrid Silva, and Mary Church Terrell

With liberty and justice for all.²⁶

We know the wind blows words away.

Actions are what matter²⁷

And so, lifting as we climb, onward and upward we go.
With courage born of past success, with a keen sense of
responsibility, we look forward, to a future large with
promise and hope.²⁸

25 Stacey Abrams, “Democratic Response to the State of the Union Address.” 2019

26 Francis Bellamy, “The Pledge of Allegiance.” 1971

27 Astrid Silva, “Democratic Response to President Donald Trump’s First Congressional Joint Address.” Speech given in Spanish with the English translation made available through The Washington Post, 2017

28 Mary Church Terrell, “The Progress of Colored Women.” Speech given at the National American Women’s Suffrage Association, 1898

Amendment

Text by Stacey Abrams and from the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

Spoken: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.²⁹

Sung: In this time of division and crisis, we must come together and stand for, and with, one another. America has stumbled time and again on its quest towards justice and equality; but with each generation, we have revisited our fundamental truths, and where we falter, we make amends.³⁰

Seize the Day from *Newsies*

Open the gates and seize the day.

Don't be afraid and don't delay.

Nothing can break us.

No one can make us

Give our rights away.

Arise and seize the day.

Now is the time to seize the day.

Send out the call and join the fray.

Wrongs will be righted

If we're united.

Let us seize the day.

29 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, 1920

30 Stacey Abrams, "Democratic Response to the State of the Union Address." 2019

Friends of the friendless, seize the day.

Raise up the torch and light the way.

Proud and defiant

We'll slay the giant.

Let us seize the day.

Neighbor to neighbor,

Father to son.

One for all and all for one.

Photos and Reminiscences



Songfest 2019



2000, On Tour in Norway

I've been part of the choir since 1979 and have been lucky enough to have all 4 of our wonderful directors. Oh the memories.

—Mary Beth Ferring



20th Anniversary Concert



2019 Concert — “Singing Dubuque’s History”

Performing with DCCC means a lot to me. Singing is a part of me; it feels like it comes from my soul.

—Raina Fabricius

The Dubuque Chorale is a good place to meet great people. #altrio4evch

—Susan Tonn



Before 2018 Concert, "Movie Melodies"

Spending time with children, helping them develop as musicians, is one of my greatest joys!

—Karmella Sellers

Mark and I have not been Dubuque Chorale members for very long, and one of the highlights was the trip to Canada in June 2018. These photos are from that trip. We enjoyed the friendships from traveling together, and the joy of singing in some fabulous cathedrals and chapels.

—Yasyn Lee



2018, On Tour in Canada



2018, On Tour in Canada



2021 Holiday Concert



2018 Concert, “Movie Melodies”

Singing together on a weekly basis leaves me feeling so good in body and spirit. I love the community aspect, too, and have formed lasting, close relationships with fellow singers.

—Mary Bryant



2019 Concert, “Canticles of the Spirit”



2019 Concert, "Singing Dubuque's History"



2019 Concert, "Singing Dubuque's History"



2005 Concert



After 2022 Concert at Kennedy Mall

It was a lot of fun and it gave me something to sing. Mrs. Sellers has been a great teacher throughout my entire life.

—Lela Bryant-Henry



2022 Concert at Kennedy Mall



2007, Concert at St. Michael's, Galena

It's one of the most enriching experiences in my life. The opportunity to sing choral masterworks with an orchestra, the collaboration with the Dubuque Symphony, working under their maestros, Nicholas Palmer and William Intrilligator, those experiences I treasure.

—Joyce Johnson



1996 Concert, 25th Anniversary Season



30th Anniversary Concert

I have enjoyed my time in the children's chorale. This was my first year and I feel it has advanced my musical talent.

— Aubrielle Jellison



Before 2022 Concert at Kennedy Mall



2005, On Tour in Australia

I've learned so much in my 20+ years with Chorale, from languages to vocal techniques to really being part of an ensemble.

—Curtis Zeimet



2002 Concert with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra



2000, On Tour in Finland

The Dubuque Chorale changed my life. I gave up public singing years ago, I'm so glad I returned to it, and to do so in a musical home like the Dubuque Chorale is truly a gift.

—Danielle Phillips



2021 Holiday Concert

