

Unwearied Journey

June 3 + 4, 2023

Lutheran Church of the Reformation



Capitol Hill
CHORALE
Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director



Introduction to the Concert

I thank you for joining us today for Unwearied Journey, the third and final concert in our 2022-23 Season. The Journey Continues as we come together in commemoration of 30 years together in our shared joy of music and community. We are honored to feature our composer-in-residence Kevin Siegfried, who has been an integral part of our journey with the works "Child of Earth" and "Songs for the Journey" and the premier of his new work "Day is Breaking," written especially for this concert. I have had the joy of working with Kevin for 17 years with his first commission with us, "I sing of a Maiden." His thoughtful voice leading and textual sensitivity set him apart, and his compositions dwell in the realm of deep thematic understanding and emotional conveyance. Next year will be his 10th anniversary as our composer-in-residence and we look forward to many more.

We are also delighted to be joined again by American vocalist Katerina Burton, who is a recent graduate from the Cafritz young artists program at the Washington National Opera and has been acclaimed for her "rich and warm singing" (Opera Wire). A rising star in the operatic world, she will be premiering Adolphus Hailstork's "JFK: The Last Speech" at the Kennedy Center in October.

While our concert today grapples with somber concepts, it is nonetheless undergirded with joy and assuredness. We dedicate our concert today to those whom we have lost this past year, and hope our music brings solace.

Frederick Binkholder

Capitol Hill Chorale

Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director

Brent Erstad, Accompanist

Unwearied Journey

JUNE 3 + 4, 2023

Flow My TearsJohn Dowland (1563-1626)

Ombra Mai Fu (from Xerxes).....George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Princeton Miles, Baritone

Lay a Garland Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795 –1856)

Child of Earth..... Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

I. You Are Dust, and to Dust You Shall Return

II. Hear My Cry, O God

III. O Earth

IV. Our Days Are Like the Grass

V. All Streams Run to the Sea

Katerina Burton, Soprano

INTERMISSION

One Heart Kevin Siegfried

Day Is Breaking (premiere performance)..... Kevin Siegfried
Gabrielle Levy, Soprano





Agnus Dei (from Requiem)..... Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924)

Songs for the Journey.....Kevin Siegfried

1. Into Your Hands
2. When All That's Left of Me Is Love
3. More Love
4. Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep
Becca Wilson, Soprano
5. Celtic Blessing

With My Blessing I Have Blessed YouKevin Siegfried
(from Angel of Light)
Katerina Burton, Soprano

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Kyung LeBlanc
Concert Master
Patrick Lin
Lydia S Lui
Sergey Prokofyev
Violin 1

Matthew Maffett
Ethan Hoppe
Ha-Young Kim
Violin 2
Sarah Hart
Nina Kiken
Viola

Hrant Parsamian
Susanna Mendlow
Cello
Jessica Powell Eig
Bass
Eric Sabatino
Harp



This project was supported in part by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the Capitol Hill Community Foundation.



Photos of the Capitol Hill Chorale by Ryan Maxwell Photography

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Notes from the Composer

The chorale's June concert, Unwearied Journey, features multiple works by our Composer-In-Residence Kevin Siegfried. To provide additional context and color for this program, he has provided the below reflections for each of his pieces.

Child of Earth

"Child of Earth" was commissioned by the Capitol Hill Chorale in honor of Frederick Binkholder's 10th anniversary as Artistic Director. It was premiered in 2011. Since it was my first time composing a cantata, I dedicated a significant amount of time studying how Bach utilized the form. Bach's cantatas, especially BWV 198, 106, and 82, which delve into similar elegiac themes, served as invaluable references in constructing the libretto and conceiving the dramatic structure. During my search for potential texts to incorporate, I became captivated by a passage from Psalm 90: "You turn us back to the dust, and say 'Go back, child of earth.'" This line, with its poignant, direct, and universal tone, became the seed that inspired the entire work. It also influenced the decision to create a "lamentation cantata" with a libretto constructed from a patchwork of Biblical texts that could resonate with people universally. The cantata concludes with a line from Ecclesiastes – "the earth only endures" – which also happens to be a phrase from a Teton Sioux warrior song quoted in Dee Brown's "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee." This phrase has remained with me for over three decades since I first read Dee Brown's book. The plaintive themes of the cantata flow into these final words like rivers merging into an umbrous yet ultimately redemptive sea.

One Heart

"One Heart" was commissioned by the Heritage Chorale of Framingham, Massachusetts in celebration of their 85th anniversary. It was premiered in 2022. A setting of Emily Dickinson's poem "If I can stop one Heart from breaking," "One Heart" is essentially a "contrafact," a composition in which a new melody is layered over a familiar harmonic structure. In this instance, the familiar harmonic structure is the fourth movement of "Child of Earth." Dickinson's seemingly straightforward poem underscores the significance of cultivating compassion and shifting our focus from separation to interconnectedness. As Martin Luther King, Jr. famously wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Dickinson's poem operates on a similar understanding of our shared destiny. If the suffering of one life impacts us all, then the alleviation of suffering also resonates throughout, ultimately giving life meaning. "One Heart" embodies this ethos of compassion and mutual connection. Additionally, "One Heart" is an ode to choral singing. The words "one Heart, one Life" from Dickinson's poem are treated as a choral mantra, celebrating the interplay of breath, sound, and spirit that makes choral singing such a powerful unifying experience and driving force within society. The piano, throughout the piece, evokes the steady beat of our collective heart.

Day Is Breaking

"Day Is Breaking" was commissioned by the Capitol Hill Chorale to commemorate the Chorale's 30th anniversary season and will receive its premiere this weekend. The text is adapted from a 19th-century American folk song. "Day Is Breaking" is a radiant, ecstatic hymn that serves as a gentle summons to embrace an active and revolutionary hope towards each coming day. The score is prefaced with a quote from Indian author and activist Arundhati Roy, "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." All we need is here.

Songs for the Journey

"Songs for the Journey" was commissioned in 2010 by the Concord Chorale in Concord, New Hampshire to be a companion piece to Gabriel Fauré's Requiem. I have long admired Fauré's Requiem for its personal tone, and for the way in which Fauré emphasized the beauty and intimacy of the traditional Latin texts. In assembling the movements of "Songs for the Journey," I chose texts with uniquely personal stories and connections. "More Love," a song I had written for my wife when we were expecting our first child, became the cornerstone movement. The opening movement, "Into Your Hands," includes a brief harmonic reference to the Agnus Dei of Fauré's Requiem. This harmonic motif appears again at the outset of "Celtic Blessing." Together, the five movements of "Songs for the Journey" explore similar themes as the traditional Latin Requiem—love, faith, and mortality—but in a non-liturgical framework, with poems and texts drawn from a variety of sources.

With My Blessing I Have Blessed You, from "Angel of Light"

"With My Blessing I Have Blessed You" is the concluding movement of "Angel of Light," a cantata based on Shaker themes that was commissioned and premiered by the Capitol Hill Chorale in 2015. Adapted from a visionary Shaker hymn from 1841, "With My Blessing I Have Blessed You" is a rhapsodic exchange between soprano soloist and chorus, featuring English language text with a refrain in an unknown tongue. The use of vocables and unknown tongues are common elements of early Shaker music and a prominent focus of "Angel of Light." While these words at first seem unintelligible, their beauty and meaning emerges through the singing. In June 2024, the Chorale will perform "Angel of Light" in its entirety, at a concert honoring the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the Shakers in America.



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Texts and Translations

Flow My Tears

— John Dowland (1563 - 1626)

Flow, my tears, fall from your springs!
Exiled for ever, let me mourn;
Where night's black bird her sad infamy
sings,
There let me live forlorn.

Down vain lights, shine you no more!
No nights are dark enough for those
That in despair their lost fortunes
deplore.
Light doth but shame disclose.

Never may my woes be relieved,
Since pity is fled;
And tears and sighs and groans my
weary days
Of all joys have deprived.

From the highest spire of contentment
My fortune is thrown;
And fear and grief and pain for my
deserts
Are my hopes, since hope is gone.

Hark! you shadows that in darkness
dwell,
Learn to contemn light.
Happy, happy they that in hell
Feel not the world's despire.

Ombra Mai Fu (from Xerxes)

— George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759)

Frondi tenere e belle
del mio platano amato,
per voi risplenda il fato.

Tuoni, lampi, e procelle
non v'oltraggino mai la cara pace,
né giunga a profanarvi austro rapace.

Ombra mai fu di vegetabile,
cara ed amabile soave piu.

Tender and beautiful branches
of my beloved plane tree,
may fate (good fortune) shine on you.

May thunder, lightning and storms
not disturb your blessed peace
nor may the voracious south wind come
to damage you.

Never was there the shade from a tree
more dear and pleasant.

Lay A Garland

— Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795 –1856)

Lay a garland on her hearse
of dismal yew.
Maidens, willow branches wear,
say she died true.
Her love was false, but she was firm
Upon her buried body lie
lightly thou gentle earth.

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Child of Earth — Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

I.

You are dust, and to dust you shall
return.

Kyrie eleison

- *Genesis 3:19*

II.

Hear my cry, O God,
and listen to my prayer.
For my days drift away like smoke,
and my bones are hot as burning coals.

I call upon you from the ends of the
earth,
with heaviness in my heart.
For I have eaten ashes for bread
and mingled my drink with weeping.

- *Psalms 61: 1-2, 102:3, 9*

III.

O earth, cover not my blood,
and let my cry find no resting place.
For when a few years have come
I shall go the way from which I shall not
return.

We look to you, Lord,
to give us our food in due season.

You open wide your hand, and we are
filled with good things.

You take away our breath, and we return
to the dust.

You send forth your spirit, and we are
created,
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- *Job 16:18, 22; Psalm 104:28-31*

IV.

Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field.
When the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
You turn us back to the dust and say
"Go back, child of earth."

You make fast the mountains by your
power;
they are girded about with might.
You rule the raging of the sea
and still the surging of its waves.

Yours is the day, yours is the night;
you established the moon and sun.
You turn us back to the dust and say
"Go back, child of earth."

O child of earth.

- *Psalms 65:6, 74:15, 89:9, 90:3, 5,
103:13-15*

V.

All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they continue to flow.

A generation goes, and a generation
comes.

The earth only endures.

- *Ecclesiastes 1:4, 7*



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One Heart — Kevin Siegfried

If I can stop one Heart from breaking
I shall not live in vain
If I can ease one Life the Aching
Or cool one Pain
Or help one fainting Robin
Unto his Nest again
I shall not live in Vain.

- Poem by Emily Dickinson, c. 1864

Day Is Breaking — Kevin Siegfried

The stars are fading from the sky,
the mists before the morning fly;
the east is glowing with a smile,
and nature, laughing all the while –

Clear the way, the world is waking,
night is gone and day is breaking.

The stars are fading from the sky,
the mists before the morning fly;
the east is glowing with a smile,
and nature, laughing all the while –

Clear the way, the world is waking,
night is gone and day is breaking.

All we need is here.

The stars are fading from the sky,
the mists before the morning fly;
the east is glowing with a smile,
and nature, laughing all the while –

All we need is here.

- Anonymous, 19th cent., from Isaac
Woodbury's "Harp of the South" (1853);
additional text added by the composer



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Agnus Dei (from Requiem) — Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem sempiternam requiem.
Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of
the world,
grant them rest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of
the world,
grant them rest everlasting.
May eternal light shine upon them,
O Lord,
with Thy saints forever,
because Thou art merciful.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Songs for the Journey — Kevin Siegfried

1. Into Your Hands

Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.
You have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they find
peace in you.

- Psalm 31:5; St. Augustine: "Confessions"

2. When All That's Left of Me Is Love

When I die,
if you need to weep,
cry for someone
walking in the streets beside you.
And when you need me,
put your arms around others
and give them
what you need to give me.

You can love me most by letting
hands touch hands
and souls touch souls.

You can love me most by
sharing your joys
and multiplying your generosity
to others.

You can love me most
by letting me live in your eyes
and not just in your mind.

Love doesn't die,
people do.
So when all that's left of me is love,
give me away.

- Anonymous, adapt. from the poem
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3. More Love

O we have found a lovely vine
in this valley blooming,
whose blossoms shoot and promise fruit
that's beautiful and cheering.

Refrain:

More love, the heavens are blessing.
More love, the angels are calling.

Its verdant branches spread so wide,
it shades the meek and lowly,
its dazzling light does shine so bright,
it truly fills the valley.

(Refrain)

We'll plant it and sow it and everyday
grow it.
(Refrain)

The angels are calling more love.
- *Shaker song texts, adapt. Kevin Siegfried*

4. Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

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

- *Poem: Mary Elizabeth Frye*

5. Celtic Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,
may the wind be ever at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rain fall soft upon your fields;
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his
hand.

- *Traditional*

With My Blessing I Have Blessed You (from Angel of Light) — Kevin Siegfried

With my blessing I have blessed you,
O my children!
With my comfort I have comforted you;
Yea, with my love I have loved you.
Vo o vo nee; O harka e on a se.

With my union I have joined you,
O my children!
With my courage I've encouraged you,
Yea, with my strength I have
strengthened you.
Qua on, qua o; O larka ree anna so.

By my wisdom I have guided you,
O my children!
With my beauty I have beautified you.
Yea, with my light I've illumined you,
Yea, with my love, I have loved you.
Vo o vo nee; O harka e on a se.
- *Shaker Hymn, Canterbury, NH (1841),
adapt.*



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About the Chorale

2022–2023 marks the Capitol Hill Chorale's 30th season rehearsing and performing on Capitol Hill. Since its first concert in December 1993 with 45 singers, the Chorale has performed more than 70 choral programs, grown to more than 100 singers, toured Europe, uncovered rarely performed pieces, and commissioned new works.

This year, the Chorale celebrates its 23rd season under the baton of Artistic Director Frederick Binkholder, and he continues to bring innovative programming and high musical standards. His programming has included a wide repertoire—from the major works in the classical choral canon to works by early music masters, contemporary composers, and other genres of choral literature. Recent highlights include the 2019 summer tour of the country of Georgia, where a portion of the Chorale performed Zakaria Paliashvili's Orthodox Divine Liturgy; a concert of German lieder in memory of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau; programs exploring the American shape-note and Shaker traditions; and several programs of jazz interpretations featuring the David Jellema Ensemble. The Chorale regularly collaborates with other local groups, such as the Washington Saxophone Quartet.

During its very first season, the Chorale established its tradition of performing major Orthodox liturgical works with the North American premiere of Gretchaninoff's setting of the All-Night Vigil (Op. 59). Artistic Director Binkholder has since expanded this tradition, leading Chorale performances of the Orthodox Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in settings by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Zakaria Paliashvili, and Stevan Stojanovic Mokranjac. In its June 2016 program, the Chorale honored the centenary of World War I by performing Kastalsky's rarely performed "Memory Eternal to the Fallen Heroes" (1917).

Composer Kevin Siegfried has been the Chorale's Composer-in-Residence since March 2014, and the Chorale is honored to have premiered a number of his new works, including the cantatas "Child of Earth" (2011), "Angel of Light" (2015), "Vidimus Stellam" (2016), and "Music of the Spheres" (2017) for chorus and glass armonica—the last of which featured glass armonica player Dean Shostak.

In 2018, the Chorale was awarded the Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award for its contribution to the creation of new and challenging choral music. The Chorale won a WAMMIE (Washington Area Music Association Award) for Best Area Choral Group in 2008, and received nominations in 2017 and 2020. CHC has also been a finalist in the Washington City Paper's annual "Best of DC" multiple times in recent years.

Additional information regarding the Chorale's first commercially produced recording (a setting of sacred Georgian chants on the Orthodox Divine Liturgy by Georgian composer Zakaria Paliashvili) and the Chorale itself can be found at capitolhillchorale.org. You can follow the Chorale on Facebook, Twitter, and Spotify.

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 Brent Erstad, Accompanist
 Kevin Siegfried, Composer-in-Residence
 Bruce Purdy, President, Board of Directors

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Biographies



Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director

Frederick Binkholder is completing his 23rd season as Artistic Director of the Capitol Hill Chorale and has spent more than 35 years as a professional conductor, performer, and teacher. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Central Methodist College at the Swinney Conservatory of Music, studying under Dr. R. Paul Drummond and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Georgia State University under the tutelage of Dr. John B. Habermen. He is now Professor of the Practice at Georgetown University, where he serves as Director of Vocal Studies and was recently awarded the vicennial medal for distinguished service. With a penchant for idiosyncratic programming, he has performed numerous world premieres, helped to revive neglected classics and champion the performance of underrepresented composers. His ongoing work includes collaborations with composer Kevin Siegfried, musicologist Dr. Piotr Nawrot SVD in the authentic performance of *Música en las Reducciones Jesuitas*, and research into the choral music of Margaret Bonds. In February of 2018, the Concert Choir of Georgetown University gave the premiere performance of the Bonds 1964 cantata "Simon bore the Cross" at the Kennedy Center. His edition of this work was recently published by GIA Publications. His SSA edition of the Bonds "You can tell the World" will soon be released by Hildegard Publishing. Fred lives in Georgetown with his wife and son.



Brent Erstad, Accompanist

Brent Erstad serves as Director of Music and Organist of St. John's Church - Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C., commonly known as "The Church of the Presidents." He has also taught on the Music and Theology faculties at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA, and is a recent past manager of the Royal School of Church Music training course in Newport, RI. A native of Fond du Lac, WI, Brent holds a Master of Sacred Music degree from Boston University and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. His undergraduate degree is from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He studied organ with Peter Sykes and piano with Margarita Shevchenko and Olga Radosavljevic.





Kevin Siegfried, Composer-In-Residence

Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969) is an acclaimed composer known for distinctive works that bridge classical minimalism, early music, and modern folk. Described as "hypnotic and beautifully written" by The Boston Musical Intelligencer, "ethereal and otherworldly" by Organists' Review, his music is sought after for its direct expression and lyricism.

Published by E. C. Schirmer, Earthsongs, G. Schirmer, and MorningStar, Siegfried's music has been performed by renowned ensembles such as The Byrd Ensemble, Choral Arts Initiative, Conspire, The Dale Warland Singers, The Exon Singers, and The New York Choral Society. His compositions have been featured at festivals like the American Masterpieces Choral Festival, Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, Minnesota Beethoven Festival, and St. Magnus International Festival. Siegfried's music has been showcased at national and regional conventions of the American Choral Director's Association and performed by the ACDA National Youth Honor Choir.

As composer-in-residence with the Capitol Hill Chorale since 2014, Siegfried has composed an abundance of new works, including the cantatas "Child of Earth" and "Angel of Light." The Chorale's innovative programming and collaboration with Siegfried earned them the Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award. He also served as composer-in-residence with Choral Arts Northwest.

An advocate for early American music, Siegfried's arrangements of Shaker melodies have been performed worldwide. His Shaker arrangements on The Tudor Choir's album, "Gentle Words," received widespread acclaim. Siegfried has performed at the Maine Festival of American Music and collaborated with Brother Arnold Hadd at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker community on multiple projects, including concerts and oral histories. In 2022, he produced the film "Shaker Spirituals in Maine" for the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Beyond his composition work, Siegfried shares his passion for music as a teacher of songwriting, theory, and piano at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in composition from The New England Conservatory and has studied in Paris through the European American Musical Alliance. Siegfried also received a fellowship to study South Indian classical music in India with Sriram Parasuram. His previous teaching experience includes Harvard University, The New England Conservatory, and The University of Iowa.





Katerina Burton, Soprano

American vocalist Katerina Burton, acclaimed for her "rich and warm" singing (Opera Wire) is a recent graduate of the Cafritz Young Artist program at Washington National Opera where she recently made her role debut as Micaëla in Francesca Zambello's acclaimed production of "Carmen." She also made significant

debut last season as a soprano soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Gianandrea Noseda in Bach's Magnificat and Mahler's Symphony No. 4, as well as the soprano soloist in Beethoven's Symphony no. 9 with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Marin Alsop. Last summer she joined Aspen Music Festival as a Renee Fleming Artist where she took on the role of Alice Ford in Verdi's "Falstaff" opposite acclaimed bass-baritone Sir Bryn Terfel.

In the 2019/2020 season Burton originated the roles of Verna, Young Lovely, and Evelyn in the world premiere of Terence Blanchard's "Fire Shut Up In My Bones" as a Gerdine Young Artist with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and later that season completed her first engagement at The Metropolitan Opera, hand-selected as an ensemble member for their GRAMMY Award-winning production of Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess."

Burton completed her graduate studies at The Juilliard School, and holds a Bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Towson University. She is a proud recipient of multiple awards including the 2022 Sara Tucker Study Grant from the Richard Tucker Foundation, the 2021 William Matheus Sullivan Foundation Award (in memory of Rose Bampton), the Novick Career Advancement Grant, as well as the Gaddes Career Award presented by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis.



Princeton Miles, Baritone

Introducing Princeton Miles, a talented member of the Capitol Hill Chorale! Originally from Houston, Texas, Princeton's musical journey began with the Houston Boychoir and the Houston Grand Opera's "The Magic Flute," where he debuted as one of the three spirits. He furthered his training at the High School for

the Performing and Visual Arts and then the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, specializing in classical voice and earning a degree in Music Business. Princeton's choral achievements include winning first prize at the International Eisteddfod in Wales and participating in the Florilège Vocal de Tours in France. Since joining the Capitol Hill Chorale in 2022, Princeton has been an enthusiastic addition to the ensemble. Outside of music, Princeton has had successful corporate roles at Thermo Fisher Scientific and Salesforce, and is currently taking a sabbatical to focus on a significant career shift and preparing for graduate school at Cornell University in the Fall.



Gabrielle Levy, Soprano

Gabrielle Levy has been a member of the Capitol Hill Chorale since 2015, a soloist and the soprano section leader of the Arioso Chorale of the Friday Morning Music Club since 2016, and a cantor at Lutheran Church of the Reformation since 2018. She was most recently the soprano soloist for the world premier of

Paul Leavitt's Stabat Mater, performed at Reformation Church in May 2023. She has had the pleasure of singing across the U.S. and around the world with CHC and Arioso, as well as the Chamber Singers and Amalgamates co-ed a cappella group, both of Tufts University, including tours to the countries of Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, and England. Gabrielle holds Bachelors of Arts in English and Music from Tufts and a Master of Science in Journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. A native of Southern California, she is a communications professional at Climate Nexus, a climate change nonprofit communications firm, and was formerly a political reporter.



Becca Wilson, Soprano

Rebecca Wilson is a Mezzo-Soprano from Northern Virginia. Over the years she has performed with a variety of groups, including the Concert Artists of Baltimore, the Peabody Singers, the Virginia Tech Chamber Singers, and most recently the Fairfax Choral Society, the Friday Morning Music Club, and the Capitol

Hill Chorale. These engagements have taken her to St. Peter's Basilica, St. Mark's Basilica, Carnegie Hall, and the country of Georgia. While at Virginia Tech, Becca was also a member of Opera Roanoke's Artist Apprentice Program, where she performed in scenes and outreach programs and participated in a performance of the "Pirates of Penzance." Becca holds Bachelor of Music degrees in Vocal Performance and Recording Arts from Virginia Tech and a Master of Arts degree in Architectural Acoustics from Peabody Conservatory. Becca works as a part time Church Music Director and an Architectural Acoustic Consultant.



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Introducing our Inaugural Drummond Conducting Fellow, Ruslan Bondar



The Capitol Hill Chorale is proud to announce that Ruslan Bondar will be the 2023-2024 Drummond Conducting Fellow! During this year-long fellowship, Ruslan will serve as assistant conductor, leading warm-ups and sectionals, and gaining experience and expertise in working with American choirs. Under Artistic Director Frederick Binkholder, Ruslan will program, rehearse, and perform a concert with members of the Chorale during our 31st season.

Ruslan Bondar is a graduate of the National Academy of Music in Kyiv, Ukraine. He served as artistic director and conductor of the Kyiv Student Choir KPI, conductor of the Melody Girls of Ukraine, and assistant conductor of the Music Mission Kiev. He joined us for our March concert, Unwavering Prayer, and conducted "Prayer for Ukraine."

The fellowship honors the memory and influence of Mr. Binkholder's friend and mentor Dr. Paul Drummond.

Help us improve CHC concerts!



Please take our end-of-year survey and share your thoughts about our 30th season! Your feedback will help us in applying for grant funding and improving our concert experience for our audiences at future performances.



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New Beginnings, New Decade!

The singers of the Capitol Hill Chorale invite you to help in the creation of our musical magic! Fundraising is a critical part of our mission of bringing glorious harmonies to our community. We're so grateful to all who have supported us over the past 30 years. As we look ahead toward launching another year of musical enrichment and a new decade of community, please join us!

We gain so much joy in singing together and in bringing our music to our audiences. Your support helps us rent rehearsal and concert space, support our wonderful Artistic Director and Accompanist, expand our reach through marketing, sustain an amazing partnership with our Composer-in-Residence Kevin Siegfried, and engage in the vital work of embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of our identity.



Scan here to donate, or visit:
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Next season, join us for Ella, Fanny, and Mother Ann: Harmony in Diversity



Save the dates for our thirty-first season!

Below is a sneak peak of our plans for each concert.

ELLA

December 2 + 3, 2023

- Celebrating the Christmas charts of Ella Fitzgerald
- Collaborating with jazz artist David Jellema

FANNY

March 16 + 17, 2024

- Exploring the Choral Music of Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn Bartholdy)

MOTHER ANN

June 1 + 2, 2024

- Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Shaker arrival in America with a focus on female Shaker composers
- Featuring arrangements from Kevin Siegfried



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website at capitolhillchorale.org
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