



FIRST CHURCH
ARTS

UCAO
UKRAINIAN CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION OF OHIO



CONCERT FOR UKRAINE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

SEVEN IN THE EVENING

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CONCERT FOR UKRAINE

Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Magpie Consort

Matthew MacManus, *tenor*

Κύριε ἐλέησον

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy

Ukrainian Orthodox Chant of the XV century

Transcribed and arranged by Sheena Phillips

from the singing of the Kyiv Chamber Choir

Greeting

Natalia Lebedin, UCAO President

Ret. Brig. Gen. Mark Arnold

Traditional Bread and Salt Welcome

Natali Chudnovsky, Olia Klymenko, Yuliya Korotayeva

Cherubic Hymn No. 7

Magpie Consort

Dmitriy Bortniansky (1751-1825)

from The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Ukrainian-born Bortniansky was a towering figure in 18th century Orthodox liturgical music. A prolific composer, his sacred choral works are performed to this day. The Cherubic Hymn is from the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, the principal Eucharistic service of the Orthodox and Eastern Rite Catholic traditions.

Иже Херувимы тайно образующе,
и животворящей Троицѣ трисвятую пѣснь
припѣвающе, всякое нынѣ житейское
отложимъ попеченіе.

Аминь.

Яко да Царя всѣх подыmemъ,
Ангельскими невидимо доносима чинми.
Аллилуїа.

*Iže kheruvimī taino obrazuyušče,
i životvoriaščey Troitsi trisviatuyu piśn' priprivayušče,
fsiakoye nini žiteyskoye
otložim popečeñiye.*

Amiñ.

*Yako da Tsaria fsikh podimem,
anhel'skimī nevidimo dorinosima činmī.
Alliluya, alliluya, alliluya!*

We, in mystically representing the cherubim,
and in singing a song to the life-giving Trinity,
let us now set aside all our daily suffering, Amen,
so that we may see the Lord of all
lifted up by invisible angels.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

-tr. Marika Kuzma

Homin Stepiv (The Sound of the Steppes)

Maksym Mahlay, *bandura*

Hryhoiy Kytasty (1907-1984)

The bandura is the national Ukrainian folk instrument, traditionally used to accompany epic tales. Kytasty, a Ukrainian-born composer and conductor, was a master of the bandura, for which he wrote many works featuring the intricate tonalities of the instrument. Here he captures the movement of the swirling winds on the open steppe.

Duma pro Marusiu Bohuslavku (The Story of Marusia Bohuslavka)

Maksym Mahlay, *baritone, bandura*

The duma, or epic ballad, originated in the 16th century.

It was performed by itinerant kozak bards accompanied by a stringed instrument, such as a kobza or bandura.

Far from the lands of Ukraine, across the Black Sea, a fortress stands, holding captive the many Ukrainian Kozak brethren. Being in captivity for thirty-three years, they have not seen their homeland. But Marusia Bohuslavka, the wife of the sultan, ends up befriendng the men in chains. With a holiday approaching and her husband departing, she starts setting free the Kozaks. But she herself cannot go, for she has become the wife of the sultan, enjoying riches and fame. She cannot return to the homeland. And so she passes a message to her parents: take care, be free, but do not try to free me.

Vladyko neba I zemli (Master of heaven and earth)

Ukrainian Opera Ensemble

Matthew Mac Manus, *tenor*

Skye Johnson, *soprano*

Beth Parker, *piano*

Semen Hulak-Artemovsky (1813-1873)

from the opera “Zaporozhets za Dunayem”

(“The Zaporizhzhian Kozak beyond the Danube”)

This 1863 opera is a comic tale of kozaks in exile beyond the Danube (present-day Romania), in the Ottoman Empire. It ends in the beautiful prayer of thanksgiving when the sultan allows the kozaks to return home to Ukraine.

Владико неба і землі,
Взиваємо Тобі з мольбою,
Де сни цією всіх нас святою
З висот небесних осіни.
О, Боже, призри на народ,
Єдина бо єси надія,
І благоді Твої святії
Славити будем з роду в рід.

О батьківщина в чужині.
Сини свої в журбі змарніли,
І в тузі спомини будили
Про горе й муки всі Твої.
Щасливу путь нам, Боже, дай,
На Тебе, Спасе, уповаєм,
В сльозах до Тебе прибігаєм,
Побачить дай нам рідний край.

Lord of heaven and earth,
We call to You with a prayer,
Where the dreams of this saint of all of us
Fall from the heights of heaven.
Oh, God, look upon the people,
You are our only hope.
And we will celebrate Your holy blessings
From generation to generation.

*Vladyko neba I zemli,
Vzyvayemo Tobi z mol'boyu,
De sny tsiyeyu vsikh nas sviatoyu
Z vysot nebesnykh osiny.
O, Bozhe, pryzry na narod,
Yedyna bo yesy Nadiya,
I blahosty Tvoyi sviatiyi
Slavyty budem z rodu v rid.*

*O bat'kivschyna v chuzhyni
Syny svoyi v zhurbi zmarnily,
I v tuzi spomyny budyly
Pro hore' muky vsi Tvoyi.
Schaslyvu put' nam, Bozhe, day,
Na Tebe, Spase, upovayem,
V sl'ozakh do Tebe prybihayem,
Pobachyt' day nam ridniy kray.*

O homeland in a foreign land!
Our sons wasted away in grief,
Yearning awoke their memories
Of all your sorrows and torments.
God, give us a happy journey,
In You, Savior, we trust,
We run to You in tears,
Let us see our native land.

Not a Poem in Forty Days

Magpie Consort

Boris Humenyuk (b. 1965)

From the collection *Words for War: new poems from Ukraine* (Boston, 2017)

Translated from the Ukrainian by Oksana Maksymchuk and Max Rosochinsky

The war in Ukraine began in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea and the Russian subversion of the eastern provinces.

Humenyuk is a poet, writer, and journalist who joined the Ukrainian army in 2014 and now serves in a volunteer brigade. The 40 days in the poem refer to the traditional period of mourning for the dead.

Not a poem in forty days
Poetry went to the grave
When on November 23rd
Andriy Yurga, a fighter of the “OUN” battalion
Died in battle at Pisky
He came from Lviv, nickname “Davyd.”
Poetry turned black
Wore mourning clothes for forty days
Then it was covered with earth
Then with ash
Forty days poetry sat in the trenches
Clenching its teeth shooting back in silence
Poetry didn’t want to talk to anyone
What is there to talk about?
Death?
During those forty days poetry saw many deaths.
Poetry saw trees die.
Those that ran through the minefields of a fall
And never made it to winter.
Poetry saw animals die.
Wounded cats and dogs
Dragging their spilling guts down the streets
As if this were something ordinary
Poetry didn’t know what to do:
Take pity and help them die, or
Take pity and let them live.
Poetry saw houses die.
Their house,
Your house.
Was that your house
over there, around the corner?
A year ago, an ordinary house
With flowers in the front
And a garden in the back,
With apple trees, plum trees, pear trees,
A walnut tree in the garden
With the people that used to
Live there.
When the first bullet came
The house didn’t understand
It gasped quietly
And wept quietly:

The bullet wounded a wall.
Other bullets came
The house could never guess when they would arrive
It couldn’t get ready for them
Cover itself with hands
Hide in the attic or
in the basement.
The bullets made holes in the walls,
broke the windows
They flew into the house
the kitchen, the living room,
the kids’ room.
Looking for people.
Bullets always look for people.
People are the reason for a house.
Then came the mortar shell
In autumn, the house used to like the sound
of walnuts and apples
hitting the roof.
Now the shell hit the roof.
Then came a rocket from the rocket launcher.
The house leapt up like a girl
Jumping over a fire at the summer solstice
It hung in the air for a moment
then landed slowly
but it could no longer stand up straight.
Walls, floors, furniture,
kids toys, kitchenware, grandfather clock
all of it bitten by war,
licked by fire.
Poetry saw people die.
Poetry put spent bullet shells in its ears.
Poetry would rather go blind
than see corpses every day.
Poetry is the shortcut to heaven.
Poetry sees into the void.
When you fall
It lets you remember your way back.
Poetry went places
where there isn’t place for poetry.
Poetry witnessed it all.
Poetry witnessed it all.

Stepom, stepom (Across the Steppe)

Ukrainian Opera Ensemble

Stephanie Durant, *mezzo soprano*

Maksym Mahlay, *bandura*

Beth Parker, *piano*

Lyrics: Mykola Nehoda (1928-2008)

Music: Anatoliy Pashkevych (1938-2005)

arr. Maria Gordon

This song was written in 1966 as a memorial to the soldiers who died in the Second World War.

It is being sung again in Ukraine as so many families grieve the loss of loved ones killed each day in the war.

Степом, степом йшли у бій солдати.

Степом, степом - обрїй затихло.

Мати, мати стала коло хати,

А навкруг в диму село.

Степом, степом розгулись гармати,

Степом, степом - клеїт нароста...

Степом, степом падають солдати,

А навкруг шумлять жита.

Степом, степом поросли берізки,

Степом, степом сонце розлилось...

Степом, степом - встали обеліски,

А навкруг розлив колоссь.

Степом, степом - людям жито жати,

Степом, степом даль махне крилом...

Мати, мати жде свого солдата,

А солдат спить вічним сном...

Stepom, stepom yshly u biy soldaty,

Stepom, stepom – obriy zatiahlo,

Maty, maty stala kolo khaty,

A navrkuh v dymu selo.

Stepom, stepom rozhublys' harmaty,

Stepom, stepom – klekit narosta...

Stepom, stepom padayut' soldaty,

A navkrub shumliat' zhyta.

Stepom, stepom porosly berizky,

Stepom, stepom sontse rozlylos'...

Stepom, stepom – vstaly obelisky,

A navkrub rozlyv koloss'.

Stepom, stepom – liudiam zhyto zhaty,

Stepom, stepom dal' makhne krylom...

Maty, maty zhde svoho soldata,

A soldat spyt' vichnym snom...

Across the steppe, soldiers marched to battle,

Across the steppe stretched the far horizon.

A mother, a mother stood beside her house

While the village burned around her.

Across the steppe, guns are roaring

Across the steppe, the noise is growing,

Across the steppe, soldiers are falling

While all around, the rustle of rye.

Across the steppe, birches have grown,

Across the steppe, sunshine has spread,

Across the steppe, obelisks have risen,

While all around, the sheafs of rye have spread.

Across the steppe, it's time to harvest,

Across the steppe, the distance flaps its wings,

A mother, a mother awaits her soldier,

But the soldier rests in eternal sleep.

Melodiya (Melody)

Lumen Quartet from the Chamber Music Connection

Julian Tugaoen, *violin*

Sotto Lai, *violin*

Hyunyoung Bella Lee, *viola*

Josiah Tugaoen, *cello*

Myroslav Skoryk (1938-2020)

from the movie *Vysokyy pereval* (The High Pass)

The music was composed for the 1982 film Vysokyy pereval (The High Pass), a story of Halychyna province after World War II. The music captured the tragedy and pathos of war, a subversive reading of the Soviet view of the war in this film. The music was often played during the Revolution of Dignity and since the latest invasion.

Ой у лузі червона калина (A Red Viburnum in the Meadow)

Ukrainian Opera Ensemble

Beth Parker, *piano*

Lyrics: Hryhoriy Truch

Music: Stepan Charnetskiy (1881-1944)

Arr. Mykola Deychakiwsky

This 1914 song was popular with the Ukrainian Riflemen in World War I, the Ukrainian People's Army during the independence movement of 1918, and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army during World War II. When the national anthem was banned by Soviet authorities, this became the rallying anthem of the country. It is currently banned in the occupied territories. A new arrangement by the lead singer of the pop group Boombox is a favorite of the younger generation.

Ой у лузі червона калина похилилася,
Чогось наша славна Україна зажурилася.
А ми тую червону калину підіймемо,
А ми нашу славну Україну, гей, гей,
розвеселимо!

Не хилися, червона калино, маєш білий цвіт.
Не журися, славна Україно, маєш вільний рід.
А ми тую червону калину підіймемо,
А ми нашу славну Україну, гей, гей,
розвеселимо!

Марширують наші добровольці у кривавий тан
Визволяти братів-українців з ворожих кайдан.
А ми наших братів-українців визволимо,
А ми нашу славну Україну, гей, гей,
розвеселимо!

Oh, in the meadow, a red viburnum is listing.
Why has our glorious Ukraine become worried?
We will lift up that red viburnum
We will bring joy to our glorious Ukraine!

*Oy u luzi chervona kalyna pokhylylasia.
Chobos' nasha slavna Ukrayina zazhurylasia.
A my tuyu chervonu kalynu pidiymemo,
A my nashu slavnu Ukrayinu – hey, hey –
rozveselymo!*

*Ne khylysia chervona kalyno, mayesh bilyy tsvit.
Ne zhurysia slavna Ukrayino, mayesh vil'niy rid.
A my tuyu chervonu kalynu pidiymemo,
A my nashu slavnu Ukrayinu – hey, hey –
rozveselymo!*

*Marshyruyut' nashi dobrovol'tsi u kryvaviy tan,
Vyzvoliaty brativ-ukrayintsiv z vorozhykh kaydan.
A my nashykh brativ-ukrayintsiv vyzvolymo
A my nashu slavnu Ukrayinu – hey, hey –
rozveselymo!*

Don't bend down, red viburnum, you have white flowers.
Don't worry, glorious Ukraine, you have a free people.
We will lift up that red viburnum
We will bring joy to our glorious Ukraine!

Our volunteers are marching in a bloody dance
To free our brothers-Ukrainians from the enemy's chains.
We will free our brothers-Ukrainians,
We will bring joy to our glorious Ukraine!

-trans. Marika Kuzma

Ой у лузі червона калина (A Red Viburnum in the Meadow)

Ukrainian Children's Choir

Beth Parker, *piano*

arr. Andriy Khlyvnyuk (b. 1979)

About Frontline Medical Ukraine

Ret. Brig. Gen. Mark Arnold

- INTERMISSION -



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Cash or check donations may be placed in the offering plates.

Checks should be made out to the Ukrainian Cultural Association of Ohio (UCAO).

Excerpts from the opera *Natalka Poltavka* (Natalia from Poltava)

Viyut' vitry (The Winds Are Blowing)

Skye Johnson, *soprano*

Beth Parker, *piano*

Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912)

Lyrics: Marusia Churai (1625-1653)

Only a handful of songs can be attributed to the semi-mythical Marusia Churai, a poet, composer, and singer of the Baroque period. This is one of them. Lysenko wove this song into his opera about love lost and love regained.

Віють вітри, віють буйні, Аж дерева гнуться... Ой як болить моє серце, А сльози не ллються.	<i>Viyut' vitry, viyut' buyni Azh dereva hnut'sia... Oy yak bolyt' moye sertse, A sl'ozy ne llyutsia.</i>	The winds are blowing, blowing fiercely, Blowing, bending trees... Oh, how fiercely my heart aches, Yet the tears don't flow.
Трачу літа в лютім горі І кінця не бачу, Тільки тоді і полегша, Як нишком поплачу.	<i>Trachu lita v liutim hori I kintsia ne bachu, Til'ky todi I polehsha Yak nyshkom poplachu.</i>	In my grief I waste my years, There is no end in sight. Only times of quiet tears Help relieve the pain.
Не поправлять сльози щастя, Серцю легше буде, Хто щасливим був часочок, По смерть не забуде...	<i>Ne popravliat' sl'ozy schastia, Sertsiu leh'she bude, Khto schaslyvym був chasochok, Po smert' ne zabude...</i>	Tears of happiness won't change it, But the heart is lighter. Those who've tasted happiness but once, Will take it to their graves...

De z'hoda v simeystvi (Where Harmony Reigns in a Family)

Skye Johnson, *soprano*; Stephanie Durant, *mezzo soprano*; Robert Kerr, *baritone*

Beth Parker, *piano*

Lyrics: Ivan Kotliarevsky (1769-1838)

Two giants in their fields, Kotliarevsky and Lysenko, made Ukrainian literature and music national treasures again in the 19th century. Together they created this opera, which has remained a classic for more than 100 years.

To keep the peace, Natalka bows to pressure from her mother and village elder to marry a rich old man.

Де згода в сімействі, там мир і тишина, Блаженні там люди, блаженна сторона. Їх Бог благословляє, добро їм посилає І з ними вік живе, і щастя їм дає.	<i>De zhoda v simeystvi, tam myr i tyshyna, Blazhenni tam liudy, blazhenna storona. Yikh Boh blahoslovliaye, dobro yim posylaye I z nymy vik zhyve, i schastia yim daye.</i>
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Where harmony reigns in a family, peace and tranquillity rule,
Blessed are the people there, blessed is their domain.
God will bless them, grace them with good fortune,
Live with them for ages, and grant them happiness.

Оу ya divchyna poltavka (I Am a Girl from Poltava)

Skye Johnson, *soprano*

Beth Parker, *piano*

Lyrics: Ivan Kotliarevsky

Ой я дівчина полтавка,
А зовуть мене Наталка.
Дівка проста, некрасива,
З добрим серцем, неспесива.

Коло мене хлопці в'ються
І за мене часто б'ються.
А я люблю Петра дуже,
До других мені байдуже.

Я з Петром моїм щаслива,
І весела, й жартівлива,
Я Петра люблю душею,
Він один владіє нею.

*Оу ya divchyna poltavka,
A zovut' mene Natalka.
Divka проста, nekrasyva,
Z dobrym sertsem, nespesyva.*

*Kolo mene khloptsi vyutsia
I za mene chasto byutsia.
A ya liubliu Petra duzhe,
Do drubykh meni bayduzhe.*

*Ya z Petrom moyim schastlyva,
I vesela, y zhartivlyva,
Ya Petra liubliu dusheyu,
Vin odyn vladiye neyu.*

I'm just a girl from Poltava
And everyone calls me Natalka.
This girl is simple and plain,
With a kind heart, not arrogant.

Boys are always around me
And they often fight over me.
But I love Petro dearly,
And don't care at all about them.

With Petro I'm truly happy,
Full of fun and always cheerful,
I love Petro with all my soul,
He alone rules over it.

Rushnychok (The Embroidered Towel)

Arkadiy Gips, *violin*

Tony Hagood, *piano*

Lyrics: Andriy Malyshko (1912-1970)

Music: Platon Mayboroda (1918-1989)

In this loving tribute to motherhood, an adult son reflects on a towel his mother embroidered for him as a token of her affection and guardianship. He reminisces about his homeland, the goodness of his mother's heart, her tender smile, and her sad and worried blue eyes.

Рідна мати моя, ти ночей не доспала,
Ти водила мене у поля край села,
І в дорогу далеку ти мене на зорі проважала,
І рушник вишиваний на щастя дала.

Хай на ньому цвіте росяниста доріжка,
І зелені луги, солов'їні гаї,
І твоя незрадлива материнська ласкава усмішка,
І засмучені очі блакитні твої.

Я візьму той рушник простелю наче долю,
В тиші шелесті трав, щебетанні дїбров,
І на тім рушничкові оживе все знайоме до болю,
І дитинство, й розлука, і вірна любов.

My dear mother, you didn't sleep all night,
You took me to the fields at the edge of the village,
You sent me off on a long journey at dawn,
And you gave me an embroidered towel for good luck..

May the dewy path bloom on it,
And green meadows, nightingale groves,
And your motherly smile, trusting and gentle,
And your sorrowful blue eyes.

I'll take that towel and spread it like fate
In the silence of the rustling grass,
the chirping of oak trees,
And on that towel everything painfully familiar
will come to life,
And childhood, and separation, and true love.

Nich yaka misyachna (What a Moonlit Night!)

Maggie Consort

Arkadiy Gips, *violin*

Lyrics: Mykhailo Starytsky (1840-1904)

Music: Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912)

Arr. Sheena Phillips

The moon and stars are ever-present motifs in Ukrainian love songs, and this is a very popular example.

Ніч яка місячна, зоряна, ясная!
Видно, хоч голки збирай.
Вийди, кохана, працю зморена,
Хоч на хвилиночку в гай.

*Nich yaka misyachna, zoryana, yasnaya!
Vidno, khoch holki zbirai.
Viydi, kokhanaya, pratseyu zmorena,
Khoch na khvilinochku v hai.*

Сядем у купочці тут під калиною –
І над панами я пан!
Глянь, моя рибонько, – срібною хвилею
Стелиться полем туман.

Небо незміряне всипане зорями,
Що то за Божа краса!
Перлами ясними попід тополями
Грає краплиста роса.

Ти не лякайся, що ніженьки босії
Вмочиш в холодну росу:
Я тебе, вірная, аж до хатиньки
Сам на руках однесу.

What a moonlit night, starry and bright,
So clear you could see a needle.
Come out to the grove, my beloved,
Wearied with work, if just for a moment.
We'll sit close under the guelder rose –
And I'll be a king among men!
Look, my sweetheart – the fog
Is rolling like a silver wave over the field.

*Syadem ukupochtsi tut pid kalinoyu
I nad panami ya pan!
Hlian', moya ribon'ko, sribnoyu khvileyu
Stelitsya polem tuman.*

*Nebo nezmiryane vsypane zoryami,
Shcho to za bozha краса!
Perlami yasnimi popid topolyami
Hraye kraplista rosa.*

*Ti ne lyakaisya, shcho nizhen'ki bosiyi
Vmochish v kholodnu rosu.
Ya tebe, virnaya, azh do khatinon'ki
Sam na rukakh odnesu.*

The endless sky is covered in stars,
What a heavenly beauty!
Drops of dew are playing
Like bright pearls under the poplars.
Don't be afraid of dipping
Your bare feet in the cold dew:
My faithful one, I'll carry you home
In my arms.

Оу ты дівчино з хорикха зерня (O Lovely Lady, Why So Cruel?)

Robert Kerr, *baritone*
Arkadiy Gips, *violin*
Beth Parker, *piano*

Lyrics: Ivan Franko (1856-1916)
Music: Anatoliy Kos-Anatolsky (1909-1983)
Arr. Sheena Phillips

The great poet Ivan Frank wrote this poem c. 1895. He elevated a common folk motif of dark-eyed beauties by drawing stark contrasts between the woman's outer beauty and the dark elements of her soul.

Despite her rejection, the man cannot resist her beauty.

Ой ти, дівчино, з горіха зерня,
Чом твоє серденько — колюче терня?
Чом твої устенька — тиха молитва,
А твоє слово остре, як бритва?
Чом твої очі сяють тим чаром,
Що то запалює серце пожегом?

Ох, тії очі темніші ночі,
Хто в них задивиться, й сонця не хоче!
І чом твій усміх — для мене скрута,
Серце бентежить, як буря люта?
Ой ти, дівчино, ясна зоре!
Ти мої радощі, ти моє горе!

Ой ти, дівчино, з горіха зерня,
Чом твоє серденько — колюче терня?
Тебе видаючи, любити мушу,
Тебе кохаючи, загублю душу.
Ти моя радість, ти моє горе!
Ой ти, дівчино, ясна зоре!

*Ou ty divchyno z horikha zernia,
Chom tvoye serden'ko – koliuche ternia?
Chom tvoyi uston'ka – tykha molytva,
A tvoye slovo ostre, yak brytva?
Chom tvoyi ochi siayut' tym charom
Scho to zapaliuye sertse pozharom?*

*Okh, tiyi ochi temnishy nochi
Khto v nykh zadyvytsia, y sentsia ne khoche!
I chom tviiy usmikh – dlia mene skruta,
Sertse bentezhyt', yak buria liuta?
Oy ty, divchyno, yasnaya zore!
Ty moyi radoschi, ty moye hore!*

*Ou ty divchyno z horikha zernia,
Chom tvoye serden'ko – koliuche ternia?
Tebe vydayuche, liubyty mushu,
Tebe kokhayuche, zahubliu dushu.
Ty moya radist', ty moye hore,
Oy ty divchyno, yasnaya zore!*

Oh lovely lady, why so cruel,
Why is your heart – a prickly thorn?
Why are your lips – a quiet prayer,
Yet your word is sharp, like a blade?
Why do your eyes shine with a charm
That ignites the heart with fire?

Oh, those eyes, darker than the night,
Whoever looks into them, needs no sun!
And why is your smile – such pain for me,
Stirs the heart like a violent storm?
Oh lovely lady, bright star!
You are my joy, you are my sorrow!

Oh lovely lady, why so cruel?
Why is your heart – a prickly thorn?
Looking at you, I must love you,
Loving you, I lose my soul.
You are my joy, you are my sorrow!
Oh lovely lady, bright star!

I Will Be a Child of Peace

New World Singers of the Columbus Children's Choir
Jeanne Wohlgamuth, *conductor*

Traditional Shaker Hymn
Arr. Elaine Hagenberg

We all hope that victory will lead to peace.

O Holy Father I will be
a child of peace and purity.
For well I know Thy hand will bless
the seeker after righteousness.

Think On Me

New World Singers of the Columbus Children's Choir

Lyrics and Music: Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587)
Arr. James Mulholland (b. 1960)

*This song speaks to remembering those who have fallen and lost their lives
while striving for victory and peace.*

When I no more behold thee, think on me.
By all thine eyes have told me, think on me.
When hearts are lightest, when eyes are brightest, when griefs are slightest,
Think on me.

In all thine hours of gladness, think on me.
If e'er I soothed thy sadness, think on me.
When foes are by thee, when woes are nigh thee, when friends all fly thee,
Think on me.

When thou hast none to cheer thee, think on me.
When no fond heart is near thee, think on me.
When lonely sighing o'er pleasure flying,
When hope is dying,
Think on me.

Oy po hori, po hori (On the Mountain)

New World Singers of the Columbus Children's Choir

Ukrainian Folk Song
Donald Patriguin (b. 1938)

The shepherd is herding his sheep on the mountain, and wondering whether it was better to love or leave.

This is a popular song, typical of Ukrainian themes that mix love and nature – trees, flowers, rivers.

На краю села хатина Загляда в вікно смерека А в хатині є дівчина Та до неї так далеко Ой, смереко Розкажи мені, смереко Чом ростеш ти так далеко Чарівна моя смереко	<i>Na krayu sela khatyna Zahliada v vikno smereka A v khatyni ye divchyna Ta do neyi tak daleko Oy, smereko Rozkazkhy meni, smereko Chom rostesh ty tak daleko Charivna moya smereko?</i>	In a house by the village A spruce peers through the window. In that house a girl is sitting, It's so far to get to see her. Oh, spruce, Tell me, spruce, Why are you so far away My charming spruce?
Вийди мила на озерце Бачити тебе я мушу Ти запала мені в серце Полонила мою душу Ой, смереко...	<i>Viydy myla na ozertse Bachyty tebe ya mushu, Ty zapala meni v sertse Polonyla moyu dushu. Oy, smereko...</i>	Come out dearest to the lakeshore, Truly there I must see you. You have fallen into my heart And have captured all my soul. Oh, spruce...
Вже весна Карпати вкрила Журавлі вже прилетіли Лиш свою дівчину люблю Ми з тобою не зустріли Ой, смереко	<i>Vzhe vesna Karpaty vkryla Zhuravli vzhe pryletily Lysh svoyu divchynu liubu My z toboyu ne zustrily. Oy, smereko...</i>	Spring has covered the Carpathians, Cranes already are arriving. I have love for only one girl, But we haven't even met yet. Oh, spruce...

Ukrayina – tse ty (Ukraine – It's You)
Ukrainian Children's Choir

Lyrics: Tina Karol (b. 1985)
Music: Mykola Brovchenko (b. 1954)

This is a popular children's song, celebrating the child's connection with everyday things that are part of being Ukrainian.

Моє ім'я - Батьківщина, лелеки легке крило. Моє ім'я - Україна, і сонечка тепло. Моє ім'я - Вишиванка, я хрестик на полотні. Моє ім'я - Синє небо, я -- сонях малий під ним. Татові слова: Україна - це я. Мамині пісні: Україна - це ти. Україна - це ти.	<i>Moye imya – Bat'kivschyna, leleky lehke krylo. Moye imya – Ukrayina, I sonechka teplo. Moye imya – Vyshyvanka, ya khrestyk na polotni. Moye imya – Synie nebo, ya – soniakh maliy pid nym. Tatovi slova: Ukrayina – tse ya. Mamyni pisni: Ukrayina – tse ty. Ukrayina – tse ty.</i>	
Моє ім'я - Степ широкий. моє ім'я - Хліба смак. Останній шкільний дзвіночок, над сивим Дніпром туман. Моє ім'я - то Надія. моє ім'я - то Любов. Моє ім'я - чиста мрія. і віра, що з нами Бог. Татові слова: Україна - це я. Мамині пісні: Україна - це ти. Україна - це ти.	<i>Moye imya – Step shyrokyy, moye imya – Khliba smak. Ostanniy shkil'niy dzvinnochok, and syvym Dniprom tuman. Moye imya – to Nadia, moye imya – to Liubov. Moye imya – chysta mriya, I vira, scho z namy Boh. Tatovi slova: Ukrayina – tse ya. Mamyni pisni: Ukrayina – tse ty. Ukrayina – tse ty.</i>	
My name is Motherland, a stork's light wing. My name is Ukraine, the warmth of the sun. My name is Vyshyvanka, a cross-stich on linen. My name is Blue Sky, I am a little sleepy under it. Father's words: Ukraine is me. Mother's songs: Ukraine is you. Ukraine is you.	<i>My name is the broad Steppe, the taste of Bread. The sound of the last school bell, fog o'er the gray Dnipro. My name is Hope. My name is Love. My name is a pure dream, and faith that God is with us. Father's words: Ukraine is me. Mother's songs: Ukraine is you. Ukraine is you.</i>	

Molytva za Ukrainu (Prayer for Ukraine)
Stephen Caracciolo, *conductor*

Lyrics: Oleksandr Konysky (1836-1900)
Music: Mykola Lysenko (1842–1912)
Arr. Alexander Koshetz (1875–1944)

When Konysky wrote the poem in 1885, Ukrainian was officially banned. Lysenko set it to music, and slowly it spread throughout the country, becoming the nation's spiritual anthem by the time of the War of Independence (1917-1920). It is sung with reverence to this very day.

Боже великий, єдиний! Нам Україну храни, Воли і світу промінням Ти її осіни.	<i>Bozhe Velykiy, Yedyniy! Nam Ukrainu khrany; Voli I svitu prominnyam, Ty yiyi osiny.</i>	O Great God, one and only! Protect Ukraine for us, with freedom and rays of light, awaken her.
Світлом науки і знання Нас, дітей, просвіти, В чистій любові до краю Ти нас, Боже, зрости.	<i>Svitlom nauky i znannia, Ty yiyi prosvity; V chystiy liubovi do krayu Ty nas, Bozhe, zmitsny.</i>	With the light of knowledge, illumine her, in pure love for our country, strengthen us.
Молимося, Боже єдиний, Нам Україну храни, Всі Свої ласки, щедроти Ти на люд наш зверни!	<i>Molymos', Bozhe Yedyniy, nam Ukrainu khrany. Vsi Svoyi lasky, schedroty, Ty na liud nash zvernny.</i>	We pray you, one and only God, protect Ukraine for us. All Your grace, generosity, bestow upon our people.
Дай йому волю, дай йому долю, Дай доброго світа, Щастя дай, Боже, народу І многая, многая літа!	<i>Day yomu voliu, day yomu doliu, day dobroho svitu. Schastia day, Bozhe, narodu Na mnogaya, mnogaya lita!</i>	Give her freedom, give her good fate, give good light. Good fortune give, O God, to our people for many, many years!

ABOUT THE UKRAINIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

The **Ukrainian Cultural Association of Ohio**, Inc. (UCAO) is the hub of Ukrainian-American life in Columbus and Central Ohio. Since 1983, we have been committed to promoting Ukrainian culture -- language, arts, sciences, literature, and history -- among our members and in the communities in which we live. That has included supporting Ukrainian cultural institutions both in the U.S. and in Ukraine. The Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine in 2014, the annexation of Crimea, the invasion of the Donbas, and now the wholesale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has caused us to broaden our mission to include humanitarian aid to those in need in Ukraine.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

STEPHEN CARACCILO

Stephen Caracciolo is the newly appointed Chorus Director for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, preparing the CSO Chorus for appearances in the Masterworks concert series and conducting community performances of the CSO Chamber Choir. Dr. Caracciolo is a conductor recognized for his passionate artistry and creative leadership in interpreting an expansive range of the choral repertoire. For twelve years he was a professional choral bass at Washington National Cathedral where he also served as the cover conductor for masses, choral evenings, and special services. He has had the privilege to perform choral masterworks with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Juilliard Orchestra, the American Symphony, and the orchestra of Washington National Cathedral with such renowned conductors as Robert Shaw, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Kurt Masur, Erich Kunzel, Michael McCarthy, and James Levine. Known nationally as a composer and arranger, Caracciolo's choral works are performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe. He is a composer with MorningStar Music Publishers, E.C. Schirmer, Kjos Music, and Roger Dean Publishing, and is active as a consultant for various educational, ecclesiastical, and professional organizations. His publications—including commissions for the acclaimed professional vocal ensemble, Cantus—appear on numerous professional, collegiate, and cathedral repertoire lists, and may be heard on nationally distributed recordings as well as syndicated radio broadcasts including the well-known Sunday program, *With Heart and Voice*. Dr. Caracciolo concurrently serves as Artistic Director of Lancaster Chorale, Central Ohio's premier professional chamber choir. Under his leadership, the ensemble consistently garners high praise for its beauty of tone, remarkable blend, and exceptional commitment to elegant text phrasing. Previous conducting posts include the Maryland Choral Society and choral ensembles at the University of Maryland-Baltimore, Roberts Wesleyan College, the Ohio University School of Music, and Denison University. Caracciolo holds a doctoral degree in conducting from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, a master's degree in conducting from Westminster Choir College, and a bachelor's degree in music education from the Capital University Conservatory of Music.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONNECTION

Under the leadership of founder and violist Deborah Price, **Chamber Music Connection** brings together musicians of all ages and abilities to study and perform in chamber ensembles each year. Ensembles work with team coaches—including alumni, faculty, and guest artists—to expose students to multiple interpretations. CMC students also participate in side-by-side residencies with renowned touring chamber ensembles in collaboration with their local presenter, Chamber Music Columbus. CMC was founded in 1992 as a summer festival and became a year-round program in 1998. Today CMC presents over 20 concerts annually, and has a thriving gig and outreach program, a revolutionary high school fellowship program, and a jazz/alternative music seminar. CMC ensembles have medaled in prestigious competitions including the Fischhoff, Coltman, WDAV Young Artist, Chicago Chamber Music Competitions, as well as St. Paul String Quartet Competition. Groups have also been featured on NPR's *From the Top* radios and television shows, including *From the Top*, *Live From Carnegie Hall*. In 2018, Debbie and CMC were honored by The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center with their Award for Extraordinary Service to Chamber Music on the stage of Alice Tully Hall. For more information about CMC, visit cmconnection.org or The Chamber Music Connection on Facebook and Instagram.

ARKADIY GIPS

Arkadiy Gips began playing violin at the age of three and at six, he was admitted to the School for Talented Children in Kyiv. Classically trained by Vladimir Novak, who later founded Holland's leading music school, Arkadiy began performing with chamber and symphony orchestras as well as performing solo acts. Being a laureate of many national and international music competitions, he continued his education and graduated from the Rostov Music Conservatory. Gips became a well-known violinist in Eastern Europe where he played with a variety of orchestras. His performances included Ukrainian, Jewish, Gypsy, Hungarian and Polish music. In addition to ethnic music, his interests varied, among them country, folk, and jazz. In the U.S., Arkadiy has performed with many noted musicians, playing jazz and country in addition to ethnic and classical styles of music. Today, Arkadiy not only plays, but conducts, arranges and composes music.

TONY HAGOOD

Tony Hagood, a highly accomplished pianist and composer from Westerville, Ohio. A graduate of Capital University with a bachelor's degree in music performance in 2010, Tony has been enthraling audiences all over the world with his musical versatility and programming diversity, performing in China, Japan, South Korea, France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and various Caribbean nations. Alongside his average of 6 performances a week, he programs and plays for a concert series at the Columbus Museum of Art and the McConnell Arts Center and leads various musical ensembles. Tony also imparts his expertise as a lecturer, collaborative pianist, and instructor in commercial, jazz, and classical piano at Otterbein University, serves as a staff pianist at OSU, is the collaborative pianist for Hilliard United Methodist Church, and is the collaborative pianist at Teays Valley High School for their choirs. He is the Owner & Founder of Noteworthy Music, a company that teaches lessons in student's homes, and runs A Note Above the Rest Entertainment, a music entertainment and musician booking agency. Tony's partial performance experiences include playing with two time Grammy award winner Tamika Lawrence, playing for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Ne-Yo for their sold out picnic with the pops concert, Playing with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra for Home for the Holidays concerts, playing with Byron Stripling's Quintet, performing with singer songwriter and Broadway actress Shayna Steele, singer songwriter and actor Chester Gregory, R&B Singer and Songwriter who made it the final round of American Idol Michael Lynche, performing with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, performing with the New Albany Symphony Orchestra, performing regularly with Arkadiy Gips, and many more. Tony is very passionate about music and its powerful influences. He will continue to pursue diverse musical paths and share them with all who listen.

THE MAGPIE CONSORT

Founded in 1998, the **Magpie Consort** (www.magpieconsort.org) is a Columbus vocal ensemble of 16 – 20 voices that is known for its imaginative programming of a wide range of music from different historical periods and different parts of the world. The Consort usually prepares two new programs per year, often in collaboration with other artists, including poets, dancers, drummers, actors, instrumentalists, and other choirs. The Magpies have received numerous grants from Greater Columbus Arts Council, including for multi-choir events here at First Congregational Church, as well as for their own programs. Their winter concerts last year raised \$3,500 for medical relief in Ukraine, and their spring program was a collaboration with actors from Open Door Columbus, an organization that works with adults with learning difficulties. The Magpies will be performing their winter program Stars of Wonder in three Columbus venues this December and January, in collaboration with Phil Brown Dupont (piano) and other instrumentalists. These concerts will benefit Neighborhood Services Initiative. For dates and details, visit the Magpie website.

Sheena Phillips, Artistic Director, has directed choirs of many shapes and sizes on both sides of the Atlantic, and her compositions are widely performed. She is published by Boosey & Hawkes, Earthsongs, Lorenz, the National Youth Choir of Scotland, Novello, and Santa Barbara Music Press. She is editor of Canasg Music Publishing, a digital sheet music publisher carrying a wide range of folk music arrangements and original choral compositions. Sheena directs the Cardinal Singers treble ensemble at Otterbein University, and is Associate Director and Accompanist for the Columbus Women's Chorus.

MAKSYM MAHLAY

Maksym Mahlay, a Cleveland native, graduated from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with a double major in Piano and Composition. He is currently a first-year Harpsichord Masters student at the Conservatory. Maksym is involved in teaching piano, theory and bandura in private studios, as well as research and grant writing. Working with Ukrainian music, Maksym has also taught at bandura camps, including Bandura at Bobriwka (Connecticut), Cleveland Bandura Workshop (Ohio), Detroit Bandura Workshop (Michigan), and Kobzarska Sich (Pennsylvania).

NEW WORLD SINGERS OF COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Praised as “rare, radiant, and beautiful” by composer Nick Page, the **New World Singers of Columbus Children's Choir** are no strangers to the public arena. Conducted by Artistic Director Jeanne Wohlgamuth and comprising students in sixth through twelfth grade, the New World Singers possess the technique and artistry to perform with world-class ensembles such as the Columbus Symphony and Opera Columbus. They have had the honor of performing in some of the most prestigious national venues, including the White House. On the international stage, the New World Singers have performed in Germany, Russia, Italy, France, Canada, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and Spain. The New World Singers traveled to Barcelona, Segovia, and Grenada, Spain, in June 2014, where they performed at the International Festival of Music and Dance of Grenada. During the summer of 2017, the New World Singers traveled to Austria and Hungary, where they engaged in a collaboration/concert with the Vienna Boy's Choir and served as a demonstration/performance choir for the 29th International Kodály Choral Symposium. In 2021 they were awarded the Grand Prize in the Youth International Choral Competition and the Rimini International Choral Festival Competition, as well as first place in both the equal voices and children's choir divisions of the latter competition. July 2022 found them competing in an International Choral Competition in Provence, France where they placed second in their division. Closer to home, NWS has been featured on ESPN, and NBC4, singing the National Anthem for thousands of spectators. They were honored to join the Columbus Youth Symphony Orchestra for a joint concert at Carnegie Hall in June 2018. They returned to the Carnegie Hall Stage in June 2022. In 2010, 2019, and 2021 they were awarded first place in The American Prize in Choral Performance in the youth choir division. This year marks the 28th season of Columbus Children's Choir, and while much has changed since its inception, CCC's commitment to its community and artistic excellence remains the same. Columbus Children's Choir serves 500+ students and teachers with educational offerings, including educator workshops, master classes, clinics, and our longstanding programs for children in kindergarten through twelfth grade—all with the mission of fostering the personal growth of children through meaningful experiences in music education and vocal performance.

Jeanne Wohlgamuth, Artistic Director, has dedicated forty-three years to advocating for choral music education at all levels. After retiring from Dublin Jerome High School, she now serves as the Artistic Director of the Columbus Children's Choir, leading the New World Singers and overseeing the organization's artistic vision. Jeanne's school choirs have consistently achieved superior ratings at the Ohio Music Educator's Adjudicated Events. Under her direction, New World Singers have earned a multitude of awards, with their most notable achievements including the Grand Prize at the Rimini International Choral Festival and the International Youth Music Competition. Jeanne remains active in her profession, holding leadership positions in the Ohio Choral Director's Association and the Ohio Music Education Association. She has shared her expertise as a guest clinician for various honor choirs, including leading a choral festival/residency at Carnegie Hall with singers from Ohio, Connecticut, and Florida, directing the American Kodály Educator's National Women's Concert Choir, the Indiana Elementary All-State Honor Choir, and numerous district honor choirs throughout Ohio. In 2024, Jeanne will conduct the Georgia All-State Middle School Treble Choir. Throughout her career, Jeanne has been honored to receive several awards, including the 2021 Professor Veneta Vicheva International Conductor's Mastery Award and the 2021 Best Conductor Award from the Rimini International Choral Competition. She was recognized as the 2020 National Teacher of the Year by the Organization of American Kodály Music Educators. Her dedication to education has been recognized through Teacher of the Year accolades from multiple schools. She has also been honored with the Golden Shamrock Award for Excellence in Education and the Dublin Community Champion Award. In 2021, she was inducted into the Dublin Jerome High School Hall of Fame.

UKRAINIAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

As the refugee and immigrant Ukrainian community in the Columbus area began to grow significantly after February 24, 2022, the number of young children grew with it. At the first Concert for Ukraine sponsored by the Ukrainian Cultural Association of Ohio in October 2, 2022, a handful of Ukrainian children performed with the Linworth United Methodist Church children's choir. As this second Concert approached, the community decided to start its own **Ukrainian Children's Choir of Columbus** to help preserve a strong Ukrainian tradition of singing in its youngest generation. The first rehearsals coincided with the arrival of Tetiana Matviyenko in Columbus, so hopes are high for the future as the children and director begin to create a bond and repertoire.

Tetiana Matviyenko, conductor, was born in Kirovohrad (now Kropyvnytskyi) in central Ukraine. Her music studies began with piano at the local music school. She went on to study choral conducting at Kirovohrad Music College and received a degree in choral conducting from Kharkiv National University of Arts named after I. P. Kotlyarevsky. She worked as a music director in kindergartens in Kirovohrad and Bucha and as a vocal teacher in choral classes in arts schools in Kharkiv and Bucha. She has also sung in choirs, chamber choirs, and churches in Kirovohrad, Kharkiv, and Bucha. Tetiana arrived in Columbus with her family in late August 2023 and soon thereafter began working with the fledgling Ukrainian Children's Choir.

UKRAINIAN OPERA ENSEMBLE

Columbus' new **Ukrainian Opera Ensemble** is made up of pro-bono professional opera singers and musicians that are regulars in opera houses in North America and Europe, including Columbus' favorite baritone Robert Kerr. These talented singers offer their voices to bring these historically repressed and underrepresented operas in Ukrainian to new audiences in North America. This boutique ensemble began with a friendship between Mariyka Hawryluk Gordon and American Mezzo-Soprano Stephanie Durant singing together, and researching Ukrainian operas that are largely unknown outside of Ukraine. Not even the Metropolitan Opera has ever performed an opera in Ukrainian – but soon will in 2024 with a brand new Ukrainian opera commission. Our repertoire currently features fun and also incredibly moving selections from Ukraine's beloved opera *Natalka Poltavka*, by Mykola Lysenko, a tenor and soprano duet from opera *Zaporozhets za Dunayem* by Semen Hulak-Artemovsky and a selection of meaningful Art Songs and Arias. We complete each performance with Lysenko's grand and sacred *Prayer for Ukraine* in Ukrainian. Ukrainian Opera Ensemble includes Skye Johnson, soprano; Sophia Longo, soprano; Michelle Stoneburner, soprano; Stephanie Durant, mezzo soprano; Anabella Petronsi, mezzo soprano; Michael Kirkma, tenor; Matthew Mac Manus, tenor; Robert Kerr, baritone; Sean Lalik, baritone; Beth Parker, pianist; and Mariyka Gordon, diction coach.

Stephanie Durant, mezzo-soprano, graduated from Northwestern University in Voice & Opera and has an MA in Vocal Pedagogy from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. With Opera Columbus she most recently performed as Frasquita (Carmen), and in the Ensemble for Maria de Buenos Aires and Puccini's Tosca. In February 2023, she sang the Ukrainian National Anthem at the Ohio Statehouse for the 1 year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Prior to settling down in central Ohio with her four children and husband, Stephanie has performed many musical theater and operatic roles around the country, including Winnie Tate (Annie Get Your Gun), Baker's Wife (Into the Woods), Mary Ellen (Beauty and the Beast) & Mrs. Olsen (Street Scene). Stephanie co-founded the Ukrainian Opera Ensemble with Mariyka Hawryluk Gordon that performs Ukrainian operas and art songs, and works closely with The Ukrainian Cultural Association of Ohio (UCAO).

Skye Marie Johnson, soprano, is a noted storyteller and singing actor, praised for "Running a huge emotional gamut from elation to despair." (South Florida Classical Review) Most recently, she has engaged audiences as Rosina in The Barber of Seville and Violetta Valery in Verdi's La Traviata with Clyde Opera Company, Melody Caldwell in Leslie Burr's contemporary opera, Vanqui with Opera Columbus and as the title role in Massenet's Cendrillon with Miami Music Festival. As an Ohio native, she has performed with Opera Columbus, and Opera Project Columbus in numerous shows including Rigoletto, The Merry Widow, Madama Butterfly, Pagliacci, and Tosca. Skye earned her Bachelors in Music Performance with a Minor in Italian from The Ohio State University.

Anabella Petronsi, mezzo soprano, is a third-year DMA student in Voice Performance with the Singing Health Specialization at OSU under the tutelage of Dr. Blosser, where she serves as a Graduate Teaching Associate. She graduated from the National University of Arts in Argentina with a BM in Voice Performance and from The Ohio State University with an MA in Music Education. She has sung *L'Enfant* (Ravel), *Barbarina* (Mozart), *Dame 2* (Mozart), *Serpette* (Mozart), *Papagena* (Mozart), *Despina* (Mozart), *Poesie* (Charpentier), *Berenice* (Rossini), *Mrs. Webster* (Candey), *Mirror 1* (Albinarrate), *Mariquita Sanchez* (Scher), and *Heraldo* (Lambertini), *Sorceress* (Purcell), and *Giovanna* (Verdi). She worked as an Artistic Administrator, Director of Operations and Special Projects and Events for the Department of Musical Arts at the National University of Arts in Argentina. She also sang with *Enhorabuena Company*, *Ensemble Tempus*, and *Opera of Columbus*. She is a member of the *Columbus Symphony Choir*.

Sophia Longo, soprano, and a native of Columbus, is cultivating her reputation as a dynamic, genuine, and passionate vocal artist. She recently returned from Santander, Spain where she performed as *Donna Elvira* in *Don Giovanni* with *Maskarade Ópera Estudio*. This summer, she also interpreted the roles of *Clorinda* (*La Cenerentola*) and *Lucia* (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) at the *Mediterranean Opera Studio and Festival* in Caltagirone, Italy. Sophia graduated in May of 2023 from The Ohio State University's School of Music earning her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance during which time she took on roles such as *Cendrillon* (*Cendrillon*), *Little Red* (*Into the Woods*), *Second Woman* (*Dido and Aeneas*), and *Ariel* (*The Little Mermaid*). Building experience on the opera stage, Sophia has performed with *Opera Columbus* as *A Page* in *Rigoletto* and in the *Chorus* of *Tosca*.

Matthew Mac Manus, tenor, recently portrayed the role of *Le Remendado* in *Opera Columbus'* production of *Carmen* under the baton of Dr. Everett McCorvey. He received his Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the *Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM)*, where he studied with American baritone *Jesse Blumberg*. The summer of 2022 saw Matthew make his international debut in the roles of *Rinuccio* in *Gianni Schicchi*, *Bardolfo* in *Falstaff*, and *Don Curzio* in *Le Nozze di Figaro* as part of the *Festival of International Opera Italia*. Other recent engagements include singing in the chorus of *Opera Project Columbus'* production of *Verdi's Un ballo in maschera* as well as numerous performances of opera scenes at *CIM*, including: *Gabriel von Eisenstein* in *Die Fledermaus*, *Nemorino* in *L'elisir d'amore*, *Ferrando* in *Così fan tutte*, *Jaquino* in *Fidelio*, and *Banquo* in *Ernest Bloch's MacBeth*. In the spring of 2022, he created the role of the *Tenor* in *Arseny Gusev's The Blind* as part of a collaboration between *CIM's Vocal and Composition Departments*. Matthew completed his undergraduate studies at *Miami University*, where he studied with *Dr. Alison Acord* and *Dr. Christina Haan*.

Michelle Kin Stoneburner, soprano, has performed in various opera choruses, and comprimario roles around mid Ohio. Most recently, with the *Mid Ohio Civic Opera chorus* in *Beethoven's Fidelio*, and as *Il notaio* in *Gianni Schicchi*, and with *Opera Project Columbus's* opera chorus in *Donizetti's Don Pasquale*. She has also performed many musical theatre roles, some favorites being *Mrs. Sowerberry* (*Oliver!*) and *Sister Sophia* (*The Sound of Music*). Ms. Stoneburner received her education at the *New England Conservatory of Music*. She currently studies with *Jon Fredric West* and *Stephanie Henkle* and is singing in the *King Avenue Player's* production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* this fall. When not performing and singing, she runs a mobile dog grooming business with her husband, and raises their six children.

Michael Kirkman, tenor, is well known to Columbus audiences as both a soloist and ensemble singer. He most recently appeared as *Bonifacio* in *Opera Columbus' Carmen*, and previously portrayed *Spoletta* in the company's exciting production of *Tosca*, marking *Opera Columbus's* return to the *Southern Theatre* and celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Other recent *Opera Columbus* appearances were in *La Cenerentola* and the return of grand opera to the *Ohio Theatre* in *Rigoletto*, and he has performed roles and as a chorister since 1991. Michael has also worked with *Columbus Light Opera* and several professional choral ensembles, including *Lancaster Chorale*, *Cantari Singers*, and *Cecilian Singers*. His work includes several performances as soloist in the *Messiah* and the *Mozart Requiem*, as well as *Britten's Agnus Dei*; *Saint-Saens Requiem*; *Bach Magnificat*; *Dubois Seven Last Words of Christ*; and *Bernstein Chichester Psalms*. He is in his twenty-fifth year as tenor soloist and section leader with the *Broad Street Choir* at *Broad Street Presbyterian Church*. Michael studied with *Robin Rice* at *Ohio State* and more recently with *Jason Heister* at *Ohio Wesleyan University*. He is a co-founder of *Converging Arts Columbus*.

Robert Kerr, Baritone, Known for his stage savvy, Robert Kerr's foundation in opera began in musical theater. Anthony Tommasini of the New York Times wrote of his Falstaff: "He made words matter and conveyed the self-delusion of this likable laughingstock..." Recent and upcoming: He was Coline with Columbus Symphony and returns to Opera Columbus as Senator Charles E. Potter in *Fellow Travelers*; the role of Jefferson Caldwell in their production of *Vanqui*; and returned to Columbus Symphony as soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. He appears regularly with the New Albany Symphony and their annual Rose Run Fest. Most recently he was Marullo in Opera Columbus' *Rigoletto*.

Beth Parker, pianist, moved to Columbus in 2020 and has worked as music director and vocal coach at Capital U. and as pianist for the New Albany Symphony Chorus, Opera Columbus, Otterbein U., and Opera Project Columbus. Since 2016 Beth has coached on the opera faculty at AIMS, the prestigious Austrian summer program, and writes supertitles for the Festival Verdi in Parma, Italy. She also accompanies recitals and prepares singers for their auditions and recordings at her Westerville studio. Over more than four decades Beth has held many positions in opera as coach and pianist, chorus master, educator, writer, and administrator. You can find her online at <https://www.facebook.com/parkeropera/>.

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Sheena Phillips

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Joshua Stafford

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FIRST CHURCH ARTS 2023-2024 Season

October

22 | 4 p.m. Choral Evensong
26 | 4:30 p.m. First Church Choristers Launch

November

01 | 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Meditation
05 | 4 p.m. Thomas Ospital, *organ*
19 | 4 p.m. Choral Evensong

December

06 | 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Meditation:
Joshua Stafford, *organ*
17 | 4:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols

January

20 | 10 a.m. Family Organ Day
21 | 4:00 p.m. Choral Evensong

February

07 | 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Meditation:
QinYing Tan, *harpsichord*
18 | 4 p.m. Choral Evensong

March

03 | 4 p.m. Ahreum Han, *organ*
06 | 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Meditation:
Daniel Colaner, *organ*

April

14 | 4 p.m. Richard Elliott, *organ*
21 | 4 p.m. Choral Evensong

May

01 | 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Meditation
05 | 4 p.m. Silent Film:
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
19 | 4 p.m. Choral Evensong

Details of all events can be found at
www.firstchurcharts.org

FIRST CHURCH CHORISTERS OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, October 26 at 4:30 p.m.

Join us for the launch of First Church Choristers, a new program of free, world-class music education for children in grades 3-8. We'll be hosting an informal Open House on Thursday, October 26, at 4:30 p.m., including an orientation and tour of the Church and rehearsal spaces, time to sing together, and concluding with pizza! Prospective chorister families can learn more and register on the First Church Arts website, firstchurcharts.org/choristers

4:30-5:00 p.m. Orientation and Church Tour

5:00-6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal with Joshua Stafford, Minister of Music

6:00-6:30 p.m. Pizza for children and parents!



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