

## PROGRAM NOTES

QUINCY SYMPHONY CHORUS

November 5, 2022 Quincy, Illinois

Dr. Phyllis Robertson and Doris Sanders

**HARK I HEAR THE HARPS ETERNAL** – American composer Alice Parker (b. 1925- ), is famed for her choral arrangements for the Robert Shaw Chorale. This piece is from a period dating back to the mid-1850's. It was most likely originally written in shape note style which didn't specify pitches, but rather indicated the direction of the pitches, up or down. It would have been taught by someone who actually knew the melody. In this piece, the speaker is approaching the end of their life. Death is often symbolized by a cross over the river to the Promised Land. Rachel Zimmerman is our soprano soloist.

**THE CHOIR INVISIBLE** is from the poem of the same name by George Eliot which incidentally was a pseudonym of Mary Anne Evans. The poem describes the speaker's hope for the afterlife and what impact her life will have on those left behind. It was set to music by Ron Harris.

**SALVATION IS CREATED** - Russian Composer Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944) is one of his most famous compositions. It is a communion hymn based on a Ukrainian chant melody. By the age of 30, Pavel had composed over 400 sacred choral works. At the time of the Russian Revolution, under Communist rule, no one was permitted to produce any form of sacred art, so Chesnokov completed an additional 100 secular works and continued to teach at the Moscow Conservatory of Music. He was so distraught when, in 1933 under orders from Stalin, the Russians destroyed the Cathedral of Christ the Savior where he was choirmaster, that he stopped composing. Pavel Chesnokov died of a heart attack caused by malnutrition while in a bread line in Moscow.

**COME, THOU HOLY PARACLETE** – David Hurd (b.1950- ) is recognized as a foremost church musician/organist in the U.S. and concertizes throughout North America and Europe. The text of *Paraclete, the Holy Spirit*, is from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, translated by John Mason Neale.

**TENDER LOVE** is a Cajun folk song lullaby from the Canadian Arcadias arranged by Norman Luboff (1917-1987).

**THREE MADRIGALS** – Emma Lou Diemer (b.1927- ) lives in Kansas City, Missouri. She set three madrigals from three different Shakespeare plays.

1. "O Mistress Mine, where are you roaming?" from *12<sup>th</sup> Night* asks where she is roaming as her true love is coming for a planned rendezvous. One needs to live each moment of love while we can as "love is not hereafter".
2. "Take, O take those lips away" from *Measure for Measure* asks the lover not to kiss their lips as they would be the ones they use to perjure themselves...but they are "Seals of Love" as you may love a person but not wish to pledge yourself to them.
3. "Sigh no more ladies" from *Much Ado About Nothing* is a song to soothe all women who have been hurt by a man's cheating. Don't get depressed by these cheaters!

**THE BLUE RIDGE** by Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979- ) is a chorus favorite. It is an ethereal look at the majesty of the Blue Ridge Mountains through the clear melodies and the lush harmonies that give the listener the view of the mountains through music. The poem was written by Harriet Monroe.

**THE PROMISE OF LIVING** is from the opera *The Tender Land* written by Aaron Copland (1900-1990). The opera is an introspective look at the harvest and the traditions that surrounded life in the Midwest during the depression era and premiered in 1954 at the New York City Opera.

**A LITTLE JAZZ MASS** - This fusion of Jazz and Classical music was first performed in 2004,. Bob Chilcott, a former singer with the King Singers, worked with many jazz luminaries during that time. It was this background that inspired him to write *A Little Jazz Mass*. Chilcott successfully brought together two very diverse traditions - the Latin mass and the Jazz idiom. Utilizing a blend of jazz, blues and swing, he set a traditional mass frame, and made *A Little Jazz Mass* an expressive,

accessible composition. The chorus is accompanied by Becky White on piano, Alex Waters on bass, and Bill Machold on drums.

YEA THOUGH I WANDER is a setting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm by German composer/conductor Georg Schumann (1866-1952) and arranged by Paul Christiansen (1914-97), developer/conductor of the Concordia College Choir, Moorhead, MN.

MORNING TRUMPET is a traditional hymn arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw, questioning “when shall I see Jesus and hear that trumpet sound?” Kar’Mel Brewer is our baritone soloist.

JUBILATE DEO – This sacred choral setting was composed in 1961 by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) at the request of Prince Philip for St. George’s Chapel in Windsor Castle. It was performed at Prince Philip’s 80<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays and his funeral in 2021. The song text is Psalm 100 taken from the Book of Common Prayer and written in English, though the title is in Latin.

IT WAS A LOVER AND HIS LASS is a celebration of young love in Springtime - the exchange of rings, new life, dancing for joy in a Mayday frolic. The text comes from a Shakespeare (1564-1616) play, *As You Like It*. The original sheet music by Thomas Morley (1557-1602) used for the play, has survived from the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Our arrangement is by Sir John Rutter (b.1945 - ), a prolific composer of choral and orchestral works.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARMED FORCES is a medley of the official songs and hymns of the branches of the United States Military. It culminates in a moving rendition of America the Beautiful. Tonight, we honor all those who have served in the military. Thank you.