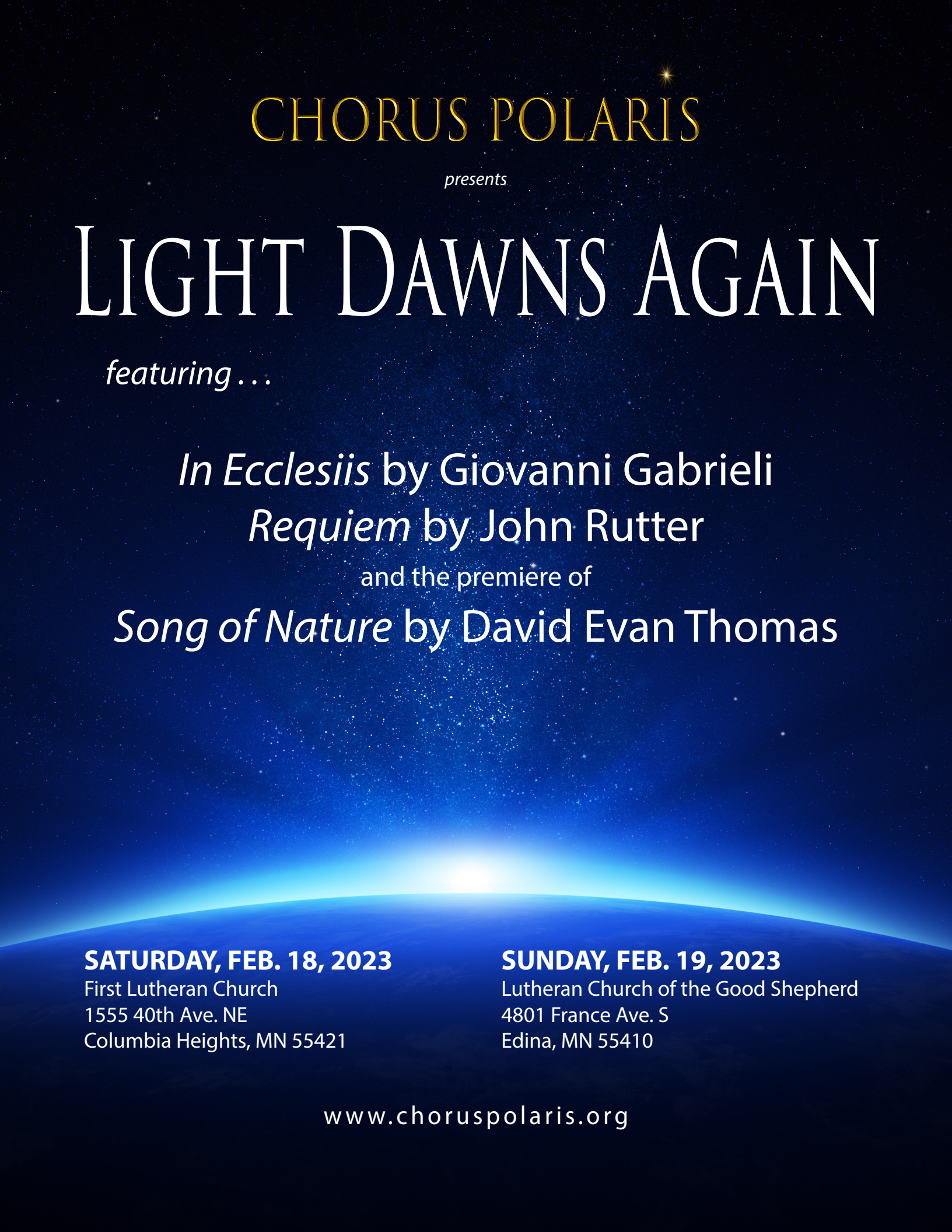




CHORUS POLARIS

presents

LIGHT DAWNS AGAIN

featuring...

In Ecclesiis by Giovanni Gabrieli

Requiem by John Rutter

and the premiere of

Song of Nature by David Evan Thomas

SATURDAY, FEB. 18, 2023

First Lutheran Church
1555 40th Ave. NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

SUNDAY, FEB. 19, 2023

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
4801 France Ave. S
Edina, MN 55410

www.choruspolaris.org

LIGHT DAWNS AGAIN

~ program ~

Song of Nature

David Evan Thomas (b. 1958)

I. Night and Morning

II. A Thousand Summers

III. O, Listen to the Undersong

IV. Time and Tide

In Ecclesiis

Giovanni Gabrieli (1554 - 1612)

Requiem

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Requiem Æternam

Out of the Deep

Pie Jesu

Sanctus

Agnus Dei

The Lord is My Shepherd

Lux Æterna

PROGRAM NOTES

Song of Nature

David Evan Thomas (b. 1958)
(notes by David Evan Thomas)

American poet-philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882) was born the same year as Hector Berlioz, and he occupies a similar searching, norm-questioning, myth-busting position in letters as Berlioz does in music. Emerson's ideas about nature are expressed in the 1836 essay of that name. "Nature, in the common sense," he writes, "refers to essences unchanged by man: the air, the river, the leaf. Art is applied to the mixture of this wheel with the same things, as in a house, a canal, a statue, a picture." Nature is a divine intelligence, according to Emerson, but the human and the divine are not separate: "I am part or parcel of God," he declares. Neither are the scientific and the spiritual mutually exclusive. The exercise of reason in relation to nature, Emerson calls "spirit," proclaiming: "Nature always wears the colors of the spirit."

When Bill Mathis requested a work to pair with John Rutter's Requiem on a program by Twin Cities-based Chorus Polaris, I sought a text vibrant with life. I found it in two early Emerson poems, "Song of Nature (1836)," and "Woodnotes II" (1840). My work calls for the same forces as Rutter's: mixed chorus, flute, oboe, cello, percussion, harp, and organ.

Movements 1, 2 and 4 are excerpted from "Song of Nature." Movement 3 comes from "Woodnotes II," where the words are spoken directly by the "Pine tree." The notion of "undersong" is key here. Your roots—your past, your family's past, your people's past—are your undersong, and the ways of nature will guide you in finding and expressing it.

Robert Frost was a dedicated Emersonian, advising the American Academy: "One of the beautiful things about Emerson's things, they're so gnomic, there's so many, quotable lines. How anybody can think he wasn't a poet—that he's just an essayist—they're wrong there."

Song of Nature was composed in the summer of 2022 for Chorus Polaris.

In Ecclesiis

Giovanni Gabrieli (1554-1612)

Giovanni Gabrieli was an Italian composer and organist. Born in Venice, he became principal organist and principal composer at St. Mark's Basilica. San Marco had a long tradition of musical excellence and Gabrieli's work there made him one of the most noted composers in Europe.

In Ecclesiis is one of Gabrieli's most famous single works. It's an example of polychoral techniques, which take advantage of the several singing balconies around the church. Although the text is sacred, it is not liturgical.

Requiem

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Though he is perhaps best known for his carols and other short pieces, British composer John Rutter also has a number of large-scale works for chorus and orchestra to his name. Most of these received their first performances in the United States, where Rutter has been a frequent visitor, writing regularly for American choirs and conducting performances of his own music.

The Requiem, completed in 1985, does not adhere strictly to the conventional Catholic liturgy, but combines texts from the Requiem Mass and the Book of Common Prayer. This is by no means unusual; Cherubini, Brahms, and Faure, among others, followed their own individual preferences when selecting appropriate texts to set.

The first movement comprises the Requiem æternam and Kyrie eleison. This is followed by a setting of Psalm 130, "Out of the deep have I called unto thee O Lord," which begins darkly with an unaccompanied cello solo in C minor, later giving way to a more positive C major at the words "for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption." As with the requiems of both Fauré and Duruflé, the Pie Jesu focuses on the soprano soloist, though in this case with the addition of a subdued choral commentary. The Sanctus and Benedictus are followed by an exhilarating Hosanna. In the Agnus Dei the Latin text alternates with verses from the Burial Sentences, taken from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. At this point Rutter inserts a setting of the 23rd Psalm, notable for its plaintive oboe solo, delicate orchestration and sensitivity to the text. The last movement opens with another verse from the Burial Service, sung by the soprano soloist, which leads seamlessly into the Lux Aeterna, finally returning to the opening Requiem æternam theme for the peaceful conclusion.

The Requiem was first performed in its entirety on 13 October 1985 at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, conducted by the composer. Since then it has become a favorite with choirs and audiences the world over. Though it necessarily has its dark moments, Rutter's Requiem is unmistakably optimistic in its message of hope and comfort, expressed through the beauty of the chosen texts and Rutter's uplifting music. It is not entirely surprising that after the tragic events of 9/11 it was this setting of the Requiem that was the preferred choice of music at the many memorial services which followed across the US.

###

Song of Nature (Thomas)

I. Night and Morning

Mine are the night and morning,
The pits of air, the gulf of space,
The sportive sun, the gibbous moon,
The innumerable days.
I hid in the solar glory,
I am dumb in the pealing song,
I rest on the pitch of the torrent,
In slumber I am strong.
No numbers have counted my tallies,
No tribes my house can fill,
I sit by the shining Fount of Life,
And pour the deluge still;
And ever by delicate powers
Gathering along the centuries
From race on race the rarest flowers,
My wreath shall nothing miss.

II. A Thousand Summers

And many a thousand summers
My apples ripened well,
And light from meliorating stars
With firmer glory fell.
And thefts from satellites and rings
And broken stars I drew,
And out of spent and aged things
I formed the world anew;

III. O, Listen to the Undersong

O, listen to the undersong,
The ever old, the ever young; . . .
These echoes are laden with tones
Which only the pure can hear;
Thou canst not catch what they recite
Of Fate and Will, of Want and Right,
Of man to come, of human life,
Of Death and Fortune, Growth and Strife.

IV. Time and Tide

Must time and tide forever run?
Will never my winds go sleep in the west?
Will never my wheels which whirl the sun
And satellites have rest?
No ray is dimmed, no atom worn,
My oldest force is good as new,
And the fresh rose on yonder thorn
Gives back the bending heavens in dew.

Text by Ralph Waldo Emerson

*I, II, IV from "Song of Nature"; III from "Woodnotes II." Edited
by the composer*

In Ecclesiis (Gabrieli)

In ecclesiis benedicite Domino. Alleluia!
In omni loco Dominationis benedic anima mea, Domi-
num. Alleluia!
In Deo salutari meo et Gloria mea.
Dominus auxilium meum et spes mea in Deo est. Alleluia!
Deus noster, te invocamus, te adoramus;
Libera nos, vivica nos. Alleluia!
Deus adjutor noster in aeternam. Alleluia!

Bless the Lord in the congregation. Alleluia!
In every region of his power, may my soul bless the Lord.
Alleluia!
In God are my salvation and my glory.
The Lord is my aid and my hope is in God. Alleluia!

Our God, we call up you, we adore you;
liberate us, revive us. Alleluia!
God, our Helper forever. Alleluia!

(Psalm 26:12)

Requiem (Rutter)

Requiem Aeternam

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion,
et tibi reddetur votum in Ierusalem;
exaudi orationem meam,
ad te omnis caro veniet.
Kyrie, eleison!
Christe, eleison!
Kyrie, eleison!

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may light eternal shine upon them.
A hymn should be raised unto Thee in Zion
and a vow paid to Thee in Jerusalem;
give ear to my prayer, O Lord,
unto Thee all flesh shall come at last.
Lord, have mercy!
Christ, have mercy!
Kyrie, eleison! Lord, have mercy!

Out of the Deep

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice.
O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it?
For there is mercy with thee, therefore shalt thou be feared.
I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him; in his word is my trust.
My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.
O Israël trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption; and he shall redeem Israël from all his sins.

Pie Jesu

Pie Jesu Domine,
dona eis requiem æternam.

Pie Jesu Domine,
dona eis requiem sempiternam.

*Blessed Lord Jesus,
grant them eternal rest.*

*Blessed Lord Jesus,
grant them eternal rest*

Sanctus

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cœli gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis!
Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of power and majesty.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.*

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
grant them rest.*

Man that s born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery.
He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow.
In the midst of life, we are in death; of whom may we seek for succor?
I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord; He that believeth in me, though
he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall
never die.

The Lord is My Shepherd

The Lord is My Shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod
and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me; thou hast anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord forever.

Lux Æterna

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from
their labors; even so saith the Sprit."

Lux æterna luceat eis, Domine;
Cum sanctis tuis in æternum, quia pius es.
Requiem æternam dona eis Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

*Let eternal light shine upon them, O Lord;
with Thy saints for ever, for art merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may light perpetual shine on them.*

William H. Mathis
Artistic Director & Principal Conductor, Chorus Polaris

William H. Mathis is a graduate of Westminster Choir College, He has served churches and colleges in the Midwest, New Jersey, California, and Oklahoma.

Bill is an active clinician, leading workshops or guest conducting in 35 states, including national events for the American Choral Directors Association, Choristers Guild, the American Guild of Organists, and teaching conferences. He is noted for a rehearsal style which leads to vocal and musical understanding.

He has served on state boards of ACDA in California, Oklahoma, and Minnesota. His compositions are found in the catalogues of 15 music publishers. He is married to Carolynne Mathis, also a recently retired church musician. They have six children.

David Evan Thomas
Composer

The music of David Evan Thomas has been praised for its eloquence, power and craft. A recipient of two McKnight Foundation Artist Fellowships, an Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Möller-A.G.O. Award in Choral Composition, Thomas has received commissions from the Minnesota Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the American Composers Forum and the American Guild of Organists. His music is published by ECS, MorningStar, Augsburg Fortress, Jeanné, Fatrock Ink, Cherry Classics, Classical Vocal Reprints, Tritone-Tenuto, North Star Music and VocalEssence Press.

David Evan Thomas was the first composer-in-residence for the Schubert Club, which recognized him with the An die Musik Award for outstanding service in 2016. He served Westminster Presbyterian Church (Minneapolis) and the Cathedral of Saint Paul through a FaithPartners residency. Other residencies have taken him to the Ucross and Brush Creek Arts Foundations in Wyoming, and to California's Villa Montalvo.

Recent honors include the VocalEssence Welcome Christmas Carol Contest and the Renée B. Fisher Composer Awards. In 2018, Thomas was initiated into Sigma Alpha Iota Fraternity as a National Arts Associate.

Born in Rochester, New York in 1958, David Evan Thomas received degrees from Northwestern University, Eastman School and the University of Minnesota. His teachers included Dominick Argento, Samuel Adler and Alan Stout, with further study at the Aspen Festival and with David Diamond at the Atlantic Center for the Arts.

Thomas lives in Minneapolis, where he is also active as a program annotator for the Schubert Club. More: www.davidevanthomas.com.

CHORUS POLARIS

William Mathis, Artistic Director

Chantalle Falconer, rehearsal pianist

Sopranos

Hailey Barry
Carolyn Caswell
Julie Crawford
* Janine Emerick
Becky Flory
Josephine Fritsch
Adrienne Harrison
Esther Hope
Kristen Husby
Joy Jacobson
Cheryl Joseph
Ije Omeoga
Linda Ribbach
Christine Sanderson
Delores Schmidt

Tenors

Neil Bolkcom
Ralph Jacobson
Fred Jensen
Brett Johnson
* Keith Liuzzi
Warren Moe
Bill O'Brien
Frank Petersen
* Ben Polach

Soloist:

Janine Emerick, soprano

Guest musicians:

Barbara Leibundguth, flute
Michael Dayton, oboe
Reid Kennedy, percussion
Jim Buxton, harp
Ben Osterhouse, cello
Jeffrey Patry, organ

Altos

* Laura Coale
Gail Gordon
Andrea Kircher
Carol Lacey
Eddy Li
Grace Maunula
Robin McCormack
Nancy Petersen
Alice Ressler
Barb Ruble
Carol Stoops
Kathy Welte
Carole White
Cecilia Wirth

Basses

Shawn Connor
Jeffrey Gordon
* Steve Hodulik
Jon Lahann
Paul John Martin
Jaakob Maunula
John McDonald
* Ryan Nattrass
Steve Pratt
Dick Reiersen
Ryan Slusher
Brian Tamminen
Bill VanSchyndel

** denotes Section Leader*

DONORS

Benefactor (\$5,000 - \$10,000)

Bob Ostlund

Don Ostlund

Season Sponsor (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Neil Bolkcom

William and Carolyn Mathis

Carol Lacey

William & Julianne O'Brien

Advocate (\$250 - \$999)

Kristen Husby

Richard & Jeanne Reiersen

Ralph Jacobson

Wells Fargo

Supporter (\$100 - \$249)

Anonymous

Alice Ressler

Shawn Connor

Linda Ribbach

Steven Hodulik

Barb Ruble

David Hood & Elaine Harkess

Brian & Mary Ann Tamminen

Fred Jensen

Kathy Welte

Contributor (Up to \$99)

Anonymous

John McDonald

Mary Busch

Warren Moe

Carolyn Caswell

Frank & Nancy Petersen

Becky Flory

Ben C. Polach

Jeff & Gail Gordon

Julianne Smendzuik-O'Brien

Adrienne Harrison

Carol Stoops

Esther Hope

Kristin Velicer

Merrill Jacobson

Carole White

Paul Martin

Cecilia Wirth

Robin McCormack

Thank you for being here!

Board of Directors

Jeff Gordon, President
Carol Lacey, Vice President
Julie Crawford, Secretary
Brian Tamminen, Treasurer

Neil Bolkcom
Joy Jacobson
Ralph Jacobson
Linda Ribbach

Artistic Director

William H. Mathis

Executive Director

David W. Hood

Audience Survey

We certainly hope you enjoyed the concert because we enjoy having you! Please scan the QR code below to complete a short survey. The information we collect from the survey is used to provide our grant funders information on who, and how many people attend and benefit from our concerts.



Get Involved!

Scan the QR code below to learn more about volunteering with Chorus Polaris or to make a tax-deductible contribution.*

** Chorus Polaris is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent they are permitted by law. The deductibility of any given donation is subject to your specific circumstances. Please consult your tax advisor to determine the deductibility of your donation.*



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.