# To Gatch the World's Desire



SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022 7:30pm First Congregational Church, Palo Alto peninsulacantare.org

**Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director** 



AWARD WINNING PROGRAM

# GROW THEIR PASSIONS



Ages 2-18 Pre-School Ballet Pointe Jazz Contemporary Lyrical Hip Hop Acrobatics Competition Team

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#### li The Forgotten International



Some of us have realized that we have far more than we need and wish to share some of what we have with those around the world who have so little and often suffer so much.

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WELCOME BACK!!! It is truly a joy to make music together again and for a live audience, as this 2021-22 season ushers Peninsula Cantare into its next 50 years! Thank you for all of the support you've given us during the pandemic so that we are able to mark this momentous occasion.

We formed in 1971 as the Peninsula Master Chorale at Cañada College under founder, Carl Sitten, followed by Janice Gunderson as Artistic Director. During her tenure, we became the non-profit, Peninsula Cantare, and then were extremely fortunate to have caught the attention of the talented Jeffrey Benson, who took over as Artistic Director in 2014. Dr. Benson rebuilt the ensemble, taking us to new heights and new places, and encouraging more diversity in the singers and composers represented in our repertoire. Through his energy and ability to switch into the digital world, we kept on singing through this Covid-19 pandemic. We again number approximately 65 singers, of all ages and demographics, and our patrons come from San Jose to San Francisco to the East Bay! We are also proud to say that we paid our Artistic Director, Accompanist and Section Leaders throughout the pandemic, even though we could not hold concerts – they carried us through these challenging times and we are grateful. As a non-profit, we run a tight budget and are regularly fundraising, including tonight's raffle! We thank our advertisers, donors, and ticket holders who've made it possible to cover our concert expenses and tuition scholarships. Please do keep us in mind as you consider your end-of-year or longer-term giving decisions.

We hope that you will enjoy tonight's performance, followed by a small reception in the breezeway. Stay safe and we will all celebrate the end of these times, and the next 50 years of bringing music to the community.

*Ginny Grant* Chair, Board of Trustees, Peninsula Cantare

## Program

Wild Forces from *The Hope of Loving* 

#### Dixit Dominus

Marianna Martines

Jake Runestad

Marina Box, soprano Jennifer Barnett, mezzo soprano Jeremy Ryan, tenor Andrew Hathaway, bass

I. Dixit Dominus II. Virgam virtutis III. Tecum principium IV. Juravit Dominus V. Dominus a dextris VI. Gloria Patri VII. Et in saecula saeculorum

Luminous Night of the Soul

Ola Gjeilo

Marina Box, soprano

#### INTERMISSION

Fire

from *Elements* 

Chris Pun, percussion

I Love You/What a Wonderful World arr. Craig Hella Johnson Cody Scott, tenor

But a Flint Holds Fire

I Dreamed of Rain

Earth Song

When Thunder Comes

Chris Pun, percussion

Turn the World Around

Andrea Ramsey

Katerina Gimon

Jan Garrett arr. Larry Nickel

Frank Ticheli

Mari Esabel Valverde

Harry Belafonte & Robert Freedman arr. Larry Farrow

## Texts & Translations

#### Dixit Dominus (Psalm 110)

#### I. Dixit Dominus

Dixit Dominus Domino meo: sede a dextris meis, donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.

#### II. Virgam virtutis

Virgam virtutis tuae emittet Dominus ex Sion, dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

#### III. Tecum principium

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae in splendoribus Sanctorum: ex utero, ante luciferum, genui te.

#### IV. Juravit Dominus

Juravit Dominus, juravit et non poenitebit eum: "Tu es sacerdo in aeternum, secundum ordinem Melchisedech." The Lord said to my Lord: sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.

The rod of your power the Lord shall send out of Zion: rule in the midst of your enemies.

With you is the principality in the day of your power: in the brightness of the saints: from the womb, before the daystar, I begot you.

The Lord has sworn, has sworn and will not repent: "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchisedech."

#### V. Dominus a dextris

Dominus a dextris tuis, confregit in die irae suae reges.

Judicabit in nationibus; implebit ruinas, conquassabit capita in terra multorum. De torrente in via bibet propterea exaltabit caput.

#### VI. Gloria Patri

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,

#### VII. Et in saecula

et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. The Lord, at your right hand, has broken kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the nations; he shall fill the ruins; he shall crush the heads in the land of many. He shall drink of the torrent in the way: therefore shall he lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.



#### Easter Celebration

Sunday, April 17, 2022 ~ 10:30am



#### But a Flint Holds Fire

poem by Christina Georgina Rossetti

An emerald is as green as grass; A ruby red as blood; A sapphire shines as blue as heaven; A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone, *To catch the world's desire*; An opal golds a fiery spark; But a flint holds fire.

#### A Note from the Composer...

"I have never felt so nervous, yet utterly compelled to write a piece of music as this one. Having lived in Michigan from 2010-2013, I watched closely as the Flint Water Crisis unfolded after I left the state. I felt sadness, anger, and frustration; but mostly, I felt like there was nothing I could do... When I came across Christina Rossetti's poem, I was struck that something written in the 1800s could be so exquisitely haunting in its relevance to the current situation in Flint, and I knew what I had to do.

"The humanitarian crisis of over 100,000 people without clean drinking water from 2014 until now, paired with the environmental crisis of the daily waste from so many plastic water bottles is overwhelming. Much of the media has abandoned Flint, and many of the last media optics we viewed would lead us to believe the crisis is over.... For the residents on the ground who are still living with toxic water and eroded pipes, this is far from over. ...[T] his work is not intended to be a political statement, but rather to serve as a musical response to an ongoing humanitarian crisis in the hope that citizens with the means to help will do so. Together, we can affect change for a community that thas been wronged, overlooked, and left to tend to a mess they did not create. No one should be without clean drinking water.

"One Flint student shared gut-level advice for me at the outset of the project. She wrote, 'I think you should include the facts: corrupt government who think little of the residents, paying for water we can't use...there is no cure for lead poisoning. No need to sugar coat it. You can make it poetic and artistic, but include the facts."

"Galvanized by her request, I tried to create an honest work--presenting the facts and harsh realities, yet also honoring the rugged and persistent optimism of this community of caring, intelligent people who still hope and believe in the best for their city. A Flint holds fire."

To learn more about the ongoing crisis in Flint and how you can help, visit www.flintrising.com.

### Earth Song

Sing, Be, Live, See...

This dark stormy hour, The wind, it stirs. The scorched earth cries out in vain:

O war and power, You blind and blur. The torn heart cries out in pain. But music and singing Have been my refuge, And music and singing Shall be my light.

A light of song Shining strong: Alleluia! Through darkness, pain and strife, I'll Sing, Be Live, See...

Peace.

### When Thunder Comes

poem by J. Patrick Lewis, 2011-2013 United States Children's Poet Laureate

The poor and dispossessed take up the drums For civil rights--freedoms to think and speak, Petition, pray, and vote. When thunder comes, The civil righteous are finished being meek. Why Sylvia Mendez bet against long odds, How Harvey Milk turned hatred on its head, Why Helen Zia railed against tin gods, How Freedom Summer's soldiers faced the dread Are tales of thunder that I hope to tell From my thin bag of verse for you to hear In miniature, like ringing a small bell, And know a million bells can drown out fear. For history was mute witness when such crimes Discolored and discredited our times.

#### A Note from the Composer...

"When Thunder Comes' is a celebration of American civil rights heroes: Sylvia Mendez, who challenged California's justice system in a fight for racial desegregation of schools; Helen Zia, Chinese-American lesbian feminist author, journalist, Fulbright scholar, and activist for peace; Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in California's history, remembered as a vocal gay rights advocate; and Freedom Summer's 'soldiers,' who risked their lives in their movement to enfranchise black voters in Mississippi of the 1960s."

## Peninsula Cantare Board of Directors

Ginny Grant, *chair* Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson, *secretary* Ron Hodges, *treasurer* Claudia Nadalin Laura Natta Nancy Winningham

## Acknowledgements

Rev. Margaret Boles & Covenant Presbyterian Church Linda Sodos & First Congregational Church Larry Baer, *choir manager* Ruthie Wilkins, *librarian* Neerali Shah, *fundraising* Liz Matchett & Richard Vaughan, *hospitality* Jeremy Ryan, *stage manager* Robyn Peters, *photographer* Lauren Culley, *program* 



In Memoriam

John Buchanan (1942 — 2021)

"He who sings, prays twice." St. Augustine

John Buchanan, tenor

#### Peninsula Cantare

Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director Emily Hsu, piano

#### Sopranos

Altos

Arlie Aguirre Michelle Backer Marina Box\* Liz Brimhall Lauren Culley Kira Dixon Melanie Flint **Toby Goldberg** Carla Gratta Shirley Gruber Victoria Hanson Silke Maier Elizabeth Matchett **Emily Moore** Beth Nitzan Neerali Shah Lisa Shepherd Laura Sunseri

Angela Acosta Dee Baily Jennifer Barnett Simone Horne Anna Hubel K. K. (Kay) Johnson Miriam Kaplan Michelle Montoya Robyn Peters Kristen Redaniel\* Ellen Tauber Siminoff

#### Tenors

Larry Baer Elmer Downs Hamilton Fong Robbie Jacobs Christopher Montoya Jeremy Ryan Cody Scott\* Richard Vaughan Paul Weidler Ruthie Wilkins

#### Basses

Andrew Ford Geoff Hackman Andrew Hathaway Ronald Hodges Robert Janssen Quentin Lewis Dave Peters Noah Rulison Will Schneider Kevin Schoenfeld\* Branson Stephens Lu Tesarowski Peter Venter

\*section leader

### Guest Instrumentalists

Catalina Barraza, violin Alan Chen, violin Tovah Keynton, viola Paul Hale, cello Daniel Murguia, double bass Cindy Thorp, oboe Robert Scott, oboe Matt Ebisuzaki, trumpet Alia Kuhnert, trumpet Chris Pun, timpani

## Thank you for your support!

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## Artistic Staff

JEFFREY BENSON is currently Director of Choral Activities at San José State University and Artistic Director of Peninsula Cantare. The Washington Post hails his choirs for singing "with an exquisite blend, subtlety of phrasing, confident musicianship and fully supported tone."

Dr. Benson made his international conducting debut with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the SJSU Choraliers in Limerick, Ireland, and he made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 2015 with the SJSU Choirs and the New York Festival Orchestra. He has served as cover conductor for the Grammy award-winning Washington Chorus, where



he helped to prepare the ensemble for Maestros Julian Wachner, Leonard Slatkin and Marvin Hamlisch.

Choirs under his direction have toured throughout the United States and Europe, including performances at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The White House and Washington National Cathedral. Recently Dr. Benson's choirs have been invited to perform with the Rolling Stones, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, Sarah Brightman, the Los Angeles Festival Orchestra and the Skywalker Orchestra.

Dr. Benson is a published composer and arranger, and is editor of the Jeffrey Benson Choral Series with Gentry Publications. He has compositions published with Colla Voce Music and Santa Barbara Music Publishing, under the Charlene Archibeque Choral Series.



EMILY HSU began her piano and musical training at the age of three and had won several prestigious accolades by the age of ten. After moving from Taiwan to the Bay Area in 1996, she studied with renowned pianist Rebecca-Sen Chan. Since then, she's won numerous competitions including the U.S. Open Competition, Young Pianist's Beethoven Competition, and San Jose Jazz Society Piano Competition. Emily is a graduate of the University of California, Davis where she studied music and computer science.

In addition to having an extensive and accomplished solo career, Emily is a collaborative musician by nature. In addition to her work with Dr. Jeffrey Benson and the San Jose

State University Concert Choir, Emily has served as the accompanist for the California All-State Choirs. She has arranged numerous choral repertoire for the Tzu Chi Foundation and Bo-Ai Chorus. She has also aided Dr. Jennifer McDowell on the completion of her songbook The Women's Basketball Songbook, performed with the Cambrian Symphony under the direction of Maestro Scott Krijnen, and worked closely with distinguished music educator Jim Yowell for over a decade.

## Join us for a celebration two years in the making!

## BEETHOVEN BIRTHDAY BASH

## SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022 7:30PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PALO ALTO

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY CHOIRS DR. JEFFREY BENSON & DR. CORIE BROWN DIRECTORS

PENINSULACANTARE.ORG



## Hope through community

When we work together to address food insecurity, there is hope through community.

Fletcher, 61, is always the first one to arrive at his local drive-thru distribution in San Mateo. After 15 years as a Muni bus driver, he's used to getting up early: "I'm usually the first one in line and I like that!"

Right before the pandemic started, Fletcher had knee replacement surgery which left him out of work for about a year. That was the first time he worried about how he would get food for himself and his wife, Kesoan, who is unable to work due to a disability. Once he heard about Second Harvest, he realized he would always have somewhere to turn for help.

Read the rest of Fletcher's story



Fletcher, San Mateo



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