



Memories
Take

Flight

—
SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023
7:30PM



Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director

First Congregational Church
Palo Alto

peninsulacantare.org

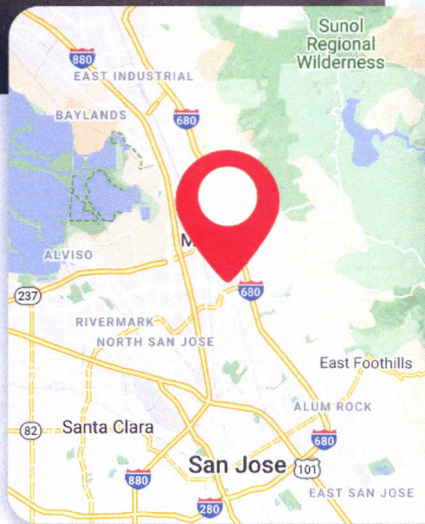
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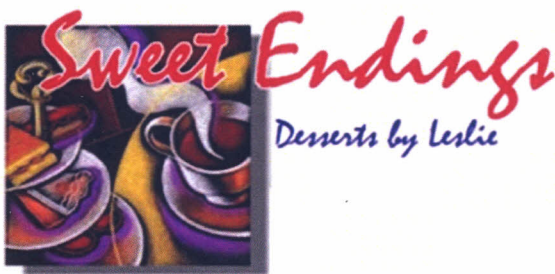
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A message from the Board

Welcome to our Memories Take Flight concert - we continue to be thankful to be here with you, sharing joy and music from around the globe, when just 3 years ago the world and live music shut down. Cantare thrived during that time through online connections and sing-alongs (muted, yet still singing our hearts out!), and recording solo clips that Jeffrey and our section leaders painstakingly stitched together to produce some amazing small and full group performances. Those memories are etched in our minds, but now we are making new memories for ourselves as singers, but especially for you, our audience.

We continue to feature composers and artists from all walks of life, and are actively working on more inclusion and diversity than ever. We are proud of the evolution that is occurring and will continue to work towards this goal - tonight, at our upcoming Fit for a Queen concert on May 20, and in the years to come. Thank you particularly to our Artistic Director, Jeffrey Benson, who embodies this goal and helps us all become more engaged in this mission.

In addition to the renewed goal for increased awareness and equity, this year we are able to evolve our patchwork of "back office systems", and are blessed with the addition of Brendan Lodge, our new Operations Manager, to our team. Brendan is tackling these systems and working with our board and concert production volunteers to bring you the best experiences possible. This new role and improvements are possible through your generous donations and grants from the California Arts Council and California Nonprofit Performing Arts Program.

We thank our advertisers, donors, and ticket holders who've made it possible to cover our concert expenses and tuition scholarships. We will be doing a "dress rehearsal" of new silent auction software tonight, in preparation for our major fundraising effort at the May concert. We will be putting out the call for auction items soon - whether you want to donate event tickets, a weekend away, a dinner party, wine, lessons, and so on, or just want to help with the event, we would so appreciate your treasure, talents and time.

May the songs we sing for you tonight touch your heart and leave you humming!

Ginny Grant
Chair, Board of Trustees, Peninsula Cantare

Program

Fern Hill

John Corigliano

Jacque Wilson Scharlach, mezzo soprano

Amy Young, Jacque Wilson Scharlach, Finn Goulart, Andrew Hathaway, quartet

Orion (World Premiere)

Andrea Ramsey

The Chariot Jubilee

Nathaniel Dett

Rebekah Burns, soprano

Intermission

Jenny Kiss'd Me

Eric Barnum

Chasing Visions

Don Macdonald

Jennifer Barnett, Simone Horne, soloists

Mangisondele Nkosi Yam

arr. Michael Barrett

Truesten Tautolo, Cody Scott, soloists

As the rain hides the stars

Elaine Hagenberg

More Waters Rising

Saro Lynch-Thomason

arr. Saunder Choi

Nächtens Op. 112 No. 2

Johannes Brahms

Never One Thing

May Erlewine

arr. Corie Brown

Neerali Shah, Barbara Saxton, Simone Horne, soloists

Andrew Hathaway, percussion

Come to Me, My Love

Norman Dello Joio

You Will Be Found from *Dear Evan Hansen*

arr. Mac Huff

Oliver Chiang, Joss Thomas, Amy Young, soloists

Program Lyrics

We're trying something new! You can find all of the lyrics and translations via this QR code:



We'd love for you to follow along during our concert, but we ask you to remain courteous to the performers and other audience members.

Please turn your cellphones on silent or "Do Not Disturb" and consider turning your screen brightness down during the performance.

We hope you enjoy our performance!

Translations

Mangisondele Nkosi Yam (Nearer My God to Thee)
traditional isiZulu, arr. Michael Barrett

Mangisondele kuwena Nkosi Noma
nguqhutshwa inhlupego Nkosi
Ngingathokoza
Ngiphinde ngithi nge
Ungisondeze Nkosi kuwe manje.

Be nearer (to me) my Lord
Even when I suffer Lord
And when in pain
I am (still) happy
Let me be nearer to you, my Lord.

Noma ngehlelwa Ngokubi Nkosi
Ngilel' etsheni ngihlupheka Nkosi
Emaphushweni
Njalo ngingathi nje
Ungisondeze Nkosi kuwe manje.
Amen!

Even if bad things happen Lord If
suffering occurs Lord
In my dreams
I will always believe, so
Let me be nearer to you, my Lord.
Amen!

Nächtens

Johannes Brahms, poem by Franz Kugler

Nächtens wachen auf die irren,
Lügenmäch't'gen Spukgestalten,
Welche deinen Sinn verwirren.

At night, the deranged
decietful specters awake
and confuse your mind.

Nächtens ist im Blumengarten
Reif gefallen, daß vergebens
Du der Blumen würdest warten.

At night in the flower garden,
frost has fallen, in vain
you would wait for the blossoms.

Nächtens haben Gram und Sorgen
In dein Herz sich eingenistet,
Und auf Tränen blickt der
Morgen.

At night, grief and sorrow
nestle in the heart,
and the morning looks on upon
tears.

Thank you for your support!

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Andrew Wilson

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Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson
Kyson Bunthuwong &
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Melanie Flint
Kerri Fox
Carla Gratta
Jan Gunderson

Victoria Hanson
Ronald Hodges
Emily Hsu
Elizabeth Matchett &
Richard Vaughan
Shirley Melen
Claudia Nadalin
Kristina Nakagawa
Barbara Saxton
Will Schneider
Janie Scott
Cion Work
Anna Zara

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Marina Box, Pia Satana, Cody Scott, & Andrew Hathaway, *section leaders*



Peninsula Cantare

Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director
Emily Hsu, piano

Sopranos

Arlie Aguirre
Michelle Backer
Amy Banks
Laura Barragán
Marina Box*
Liz Brimhall
Kira Dixon
Melanie Flint
Toby Goldberg
Carla Gratta
Shirley Gruber
Victoria Hanson
Silke Maier
Elizabeth Matchett
Emily Moore
Beth Nitzan
Anna Pickett
Ginger Piersol
Melanie Riblett
Neerali Shah
Lisa Shepherd
Colleen Vandevoorde
Amy Young
Sara Zoroufy

* Section Leader

Altos

Angela Acosta
Dee Baily
Jennifer Barnett
Barbara Bellaire
Leslie Cardiasmenos
Holly Elizondo
Ginny Grant
Ellen Hill
Simone Horne
Anna Hubel
Laura Jaques
K.K. "Kay" Johnson
Miriam Kaplan
Holly Liberatore
Laura Manno
Michelle Montoya
Robyn Peters
Pia Satana*
Barbara Saxton
Ellen Tauber Siminoff
Kristina Vetter

Tenors

Larry Baer
Joey Croft
Hamilton Fong
Patrick Fu
Finn Goulart

Tenors (cont.)

Hunter Henderson
Christopher Montoya
Jeremy Ryan
Cody Scott*
Richard Vaughan
Paul Weidler
Ruthie Wilkins
Mark Wong

Basses

Nathaniel Bergson-
Michelson
Matthew Blum
Oliver Chiang
Greg Doolittle
Andrew Ford
Geoff Hackman
Andrew Hathaway*
Ronald Hodges
Robert Janssen
Dave Peters
Branson Stephens
Truesten Tautolo
Lu Tesarowski
Joss Thomas
Julia Vetter

Guest Orchestra

Alan Chen
Erica Buurman
Tovah Keynton
Nathaniel Grohmann
Daniel Murguia

violin
violin
viola
cello
bass

Victor Villareal
Robert Scott
Rafael Maldonado
Cathleen Torres
Sean Martin
Ruthanne Martinez

flute
oboe
clarinet
horn
basson
harp

Guest Soloists

Jacque Wilson Scharlach



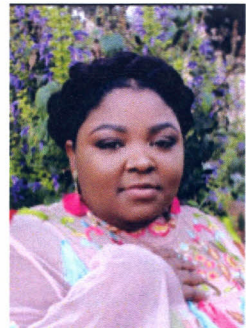
Jacque Wilson Scharlach, mezzo soprano, has been hailed in reviews as a “passionate singer with beautiful warm tones”. She was the alto soloist in Beethoven’s Choral Fantasy with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at both Symphony Hall and Carnegie Hall, under the baton of conductor emeritus, Bernard Haitink. Ms. Wilson has sung with orchestras throughout the United States in such pieces as: Bach’s Mass in B Minor, St. John’s Passion, and St. Matthew’s Passion, Handel’s

Messiah, Copland’s In the Beginning, Karl Jenkin’s An Armed Man: A Mass for Peace, John Corigliano’s Fern Hill and Haydn’s Lord Nelson Mass.

Ms. Wilson Scharlach also enjoys an active solo opera career performing lead and supporting roles with companies on both the east and west coast. Some of her favorite roles include: Meg Page (Falstaff), Meg (Little Women-East Coast Premiere), Cherubino (Le Nozze di Figaro), and Prince Orlofsky (Die Fledermaus). In addition to her performance career she also enjoys an active teaching studios at San Jose State University, West Valley College, and Chabot College. She is a member of the San Francisco Opera chorus and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale. This season she will be singing in La Traviata, Dream of the Red Chamber, and Eugene Onegin.

Rebekah Burns

Rebekah Burns is an expressive performer currently enrolled as a vocal performance major at San Jose State. Rebekah is an emotive singer who has had the privilege of performing with College of the Sequoias Orchestra, and even received first place in the NATS Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition. She continues to pursue singing to share her voice for the world and her parents, especially her mother who is a continuous reminder to her of why using your gifts to help others is so important.



Artistic Staff

Jeffrey Benson is Artistic Director of Peninsula Cantare and Director of Choral Activities at San José State University. 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 in 2016, 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 Leonard Slatkin and Marvin Hamlisch.

Choirs under his direction have performed at multiple state and regional choral conferences and have toured throughout the United States and Europe, including invited 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.

Don't miss our
next concert!

FIT
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**PENINSULA
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Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director



SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023
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