

into the light

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

8 PM

First Congregational Church, Palo Alto

peninsulacantare.org

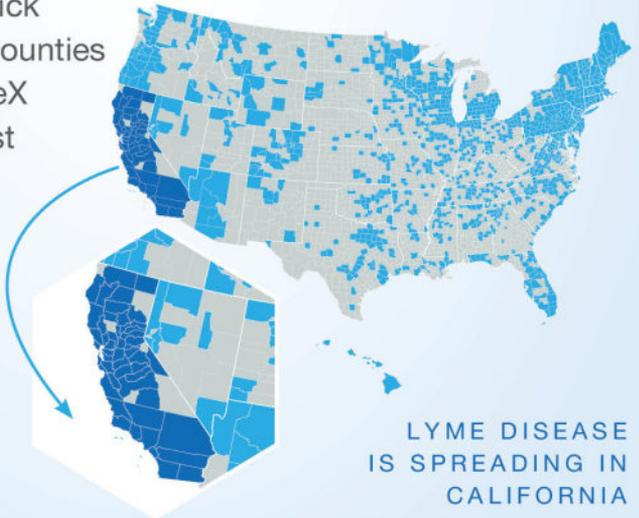


Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to Into the Light!!! This concert's theme truly celebrates light and hope in these troubled times. As we've walked out of our weekly rehearsals, that lightness is palpable and energizing, and we hope that as you leave tonight's concert you will be equally lifted and inspired. We are truly appreciative of your support through ticket sales, but also in ongoing donations and volunteer efforts that make these concerts and our program possible.

Our fall fundraising effort was incredible, making up for a major hole in funding when we did not receive a much-needed grant. We will continue to hone our grant application process, and in the meantime have also developed processes for receiving gifts of stock. Thank you to some very special donors who contributed this way, and we can honestly say now that we would be happy to accept more, if you are so moved!

We are also dreaming about how we can connect more with our community and share the talents of our singers, accompanying musicians, and of emerging and lesser-known composers and arrangers. Many of our members are taking Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* to Benaroya Hall in Seattle over the weekend, joining forces with the San José State University Choraliers and other choirs. Talk about spreading light...

And speaking of someone who amplifies joy and light, our amazing Artistic Director, Jeffrey Benson, is celebrating his 10th year with us and each year is better than the last! We are so honored to have him lead Peninsula Cantare. You will see a mini montage of photos later in this program, and we'd love to gather more over the course of this year.

We thank our advertisers, donors, ticket holders, and Silicon Valley Creates, who've made it possible to cover our concert expenses and tuition scholarships. And we thank you, our audience, for sharing our joy in performing these incredible pieces. Be the light in your world.



Ginny Grant

Chair, Board of Trustees, Peninsula Cantare

PROGRAM

Rosephanye Powell
(b. 1962)

Sorida

*Oliver Chiang, Jeremy Ryan,
Cody Scott, soloists*

Kendrick Tri Huynh
(b. 1997)

Invictus (World Premiere)

Brandon Williams

Seeking Light

Laurel Cuyle & Cody Scott, soloists

Elaine Hagenberg
(b. 1979)

Illuminare

1. Splendor
2. Caritas
3. Nox
4. Munera Pacis
Finn G, tenor
5. Illuminare his

INTERMISSION

Morten Lauridsen
(b. 1943)

Lux Aeterna

- I. Introitus
- II. In Te Domine, Speravi
- III. O nata lux
- IV. Veni, Sancte Spiritus
- V. Agnus Dei

arr. Shawn Kirchner
(b. 1970)

Bright Morning Stars

Truesten Tautolo, baritone

Dolly Parton
arr. Mac Huff

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Amy Spencer, soprano

Please join us for a reception after the concert!



LYRICS AND TRANSLATIONS

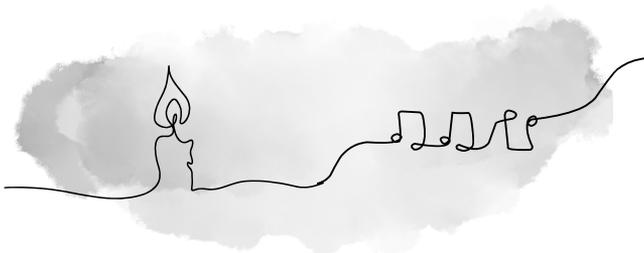
You can find all of our texts and translations by scanning this QR code:



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!





Thank you, Jeffrey, for an amazing decade!



From the moment we met you, and in every rehearsal, Board meeting, concert, and trip, you have truly brought magic to the Peninsula Cantare. While the years flew by - although you truly don't age - we've all had so many experiences growing as individual singers and as a community.

You roll off "Jeffrey's Gems" at every rehearsal, quotes that enable us to feel and then deliver on your incredible interpretations. You excite the Board and our patrons alike, encouraging us to think big. In everyday interactions, you embody the message of hope, and all being welcome.



You brought us through the pandemic via home-bound rehearsals and technical marvels of pieces that still bring a smile to our faces - and the desire to 'Dance in the Graveyard' - do check out our YouTube video... And then we were back together, and singing was even more precious.

You've taken us to places we've dreamed of singing - Carnegie Hall, Ireland, the Baltics, Lisbon & Seville, and found new, local concert locations as our numbers have swelled.



We can't wait for this next decade! Thank you....

Concert and rehearsal photos by Robyn Peters



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PENINSULA CANTARE

Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director
Emily Hsu, Pianist

Sopranos

Michelle Backer
Amy Banks
Marina Box*
Rebecca Bradley
Liz Brimhall
Clara Chan
Kira Dixon
Julia Edholm
Sandra Friesen
Toby Goldberg
Carla Gratta
Shirley Gruber
Victoria Hanson
Julie Hill
Silke Maier
Elizabeth Matchett
Gabrielle McColgan
Emily Moore
Anna Pickett
Neerali Shah
Lisa Shepherd
Kyle Sofman
Amy Spencer
Colleen Vandevoorde
Sara Zoroufy

Altos

Angela Acosta
Sophia Bui
Leslie Cardiasmenos

Altos (cont.)

Laurel Cuyle
Sophia Dai
Holly Elizondo
Sarah Epstein
Ginny Grant
Ellen Hill
Simone Horne
Anna Hubel
Laura Jacques
K.K. "Kay" Johnson
Miriam Kaplan
Holly Liberatore
Michelle Montoya
Casey Mullins
Robyn Peters
Pia Satana*
Barbara Saxton
Ellen Tauber Siminoff
Kelly Underwood Rozmus
Tori Vega
Kristina Vetter
Amy Worden

Tenors

Larry Baer
Danny Burns
Joey Croft
Elmer Downs
Marcus Edholm

Tenors (cont.)

Hamilton Fong
Patrick Fu
Finn G
Anthony Giannetti
Michael Gomez
Hunter Henderson
Mark Lewis
Andrew Lu
Christopher Montoya
Jeremy Ryan
Cody Scott*
Richard Vaughan
Paul Weidler

Basses

Ian Aseltine
Nathaniel Bergson-
Michelson
Matthew Blum
Oliver Chiang
Andrew Ford
Ronald Hodges
Robert Janssen
Konstantin Kunz
Dave Peters
Dylan Platt
Branson Stephens
Truesten Tautolo*
Joss Thomas
Stefan Waiblinger

* Section Leader

Guest Orchestra

Liana Bérubé**
Heidi Modr
Angela Schillace
Daniel Cher
Rachel Noyes*
Rebecca McCormick
Kate Wahl
Andrew Lan
Melinda Rayne*
Jill Van Gee
Ezra Costanza
Michelle Kwon*
Paul Rhodes
Paul Hale

violin I

violin II

viola

cello

Victor Ruiz
Teresa Orozco
Emily Kupitz
Ann Lavin
Karla Ekholm
Kyle Ko*
Jo Oquendo
Timmy Grabow
Divesh Karamchandani
Cassandra Firmin
Andrew Hathaway

double bass

flute

oboe

clarinet

bassoon

horn

trombone

percussion

** Concert Master

* Principal

ARTISTIC STAFF



Jeffrey Benson

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 the 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

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.

ARTISTIC STAFF

(Emily Hsu)

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.



Brendan Lodge

Peninsula Cantare is thrilled to welcome Brendan Lodge as Operations Manager. In 2014, he earned his BM in Vocal Music Education at Alma College under the tutelage of Dr. Will Nichols, where he had the opportunity to conduct multiple choirs as a student director. Brendan taught middle school choir for four years in Michigan and California before earning his MM in Choral Conducting at San José State University in May 2023.

An avid musical theatre fan, Brendan has worked as a music/pit director for multiple productions, and enjoys performing when he can. Brendan also works as an arranger and frequently arranges music for his own choirs to sing. The Alma College Choirs have repeatedly commissioned his arrangements, and he had the privilege of conducting his own works for the 2014 and 2017 Alma College Homecoming Concerts. In 2017 and 2019, his arrangements were featured at the Michigan Music Conference's Choral Hour. At SJSU, Brendan worked as an instructor in Music Appreciation, Music Fundamentals, and Ear Training, with all of the SJSU choral ensembles in various administrative and artistic capacities, and served as the director of SJSU's Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Brendan now works as the choir teacher at Livermore High School in Livermore, CA. He currently resides in San José with his fiancé, Tyler, and their two Boston Terriers, Jan and Bob.



Amy Nasci Worden
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Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director

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