



Jake  
Runestad's

# Earth Symphony



Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024**

**7:30 PM**

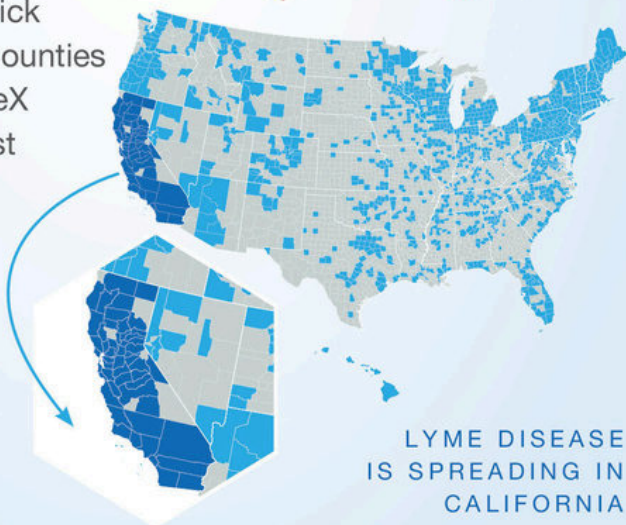
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# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

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Welcome! Our final concert of the 2023-24 season celebrates our fragile world and the role we can play in making it a joyful and harmonious place to live. We are honored to partner with a local non-profit organization, Environmental Volunteers, introduced to us by our own longtime singer, Toby Goldberg, who leads their programs and partnerships. Thank you for the amazing work this organization is doing in education and awareness.

We are also honored to be performing the work of another local artist, Steve Cardiasmenos, whose wife Leslie, one of our altos, is the artisan behind the desserts at our reception! Like the Earth Symphony's story, Peninsula Cantare has had its shares of ups and downs and this decade under the Artistic Direction of Jeffrey Benson, PhD has shown great community building and incredible works of art. He truly brings out the best in all of us, and the brings the best to us!

One of Jeffrey's many recruits during the past few years is Kira Dixon, who will be taking over from me as President of the Board over the summer. It has been such an honor to serve the past six or so years in this role as we grew, then became an important point of connection during the pandemic, followed by even greater growth the past few years! Several of the former board members will launch a legacy society to continue the efforts that started recently, and we can't wait to see where Kira and Jeffrey take the organization (musically and physically)!

We thank our advertisers, donors, ticket holders, volunteers, and Silicon Valley Creates, who have made it possible to cover our concert expenses and tuition scholarships. And we ask you, our audience, to be good stewards of our Earth.



*Ginny Grant*

Chair, Board of Trustees, Peninsula Cantare

# PROGRAM

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Franz Joseph Haydn  
(1732–1809)

## Te Deum in C Major

Jake Runestad  
(b. 1986)

## Earth Symphony

- I. Evolution
- II. Ambition
- III. Destruction
- IV. Lament
- V. Recovery

# INTERMISSION

Antonio Estévez  
arr. Alberto Grau  
(b. 1937)

## Mata del Anima Sola

*Mark Lewis, Finn G, soloists*

Steve Cardiasmenos  
(b. 1958)

## Let it Be Forgotten

*Julia Edholm, soprano*

Stephen Sondheim  
arr. Bob Page

## Our Time

from *Merrily We Roll Along*

*Simone Horne, Amy Worden, Dylan  
Platt, Rebecca Bradley, Sophia Bui,  
soloists*

*Puerto Rican Plena*  
arr. Diana Sáez &  
Suzzette Ortiz

## Temporal

*Will Schneider, guest conductor*

Bob Dylan  
arr. Adam Podd

## The Times they are a-changin'

*Neerali Shah, soloist*

Ysaye Barnwell

## Wanting Memories

*Visayan Folk Song*  
arr. George Hernandez

## Rosas Pandan

*Amy Spencer, soprano*

*Please join us for a reception after the concert!*



## ***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



# LYRICS AND TRANSLATIONS

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## Te Deum

*We praise thee, O God: we  
acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee: the  
Father everlasting.*

*To thee all Angels cry aloud: the  
Heavens, and all the Powers  
therein.  
To thee Cherubin and Seraphin:  
continually do cry,*

*Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of  
Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the  
Majesty: of thy glory.*

*The glorious company of the  
Apostles: praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the  
Prophets: praise thee.  
The noble army of Martyrs : praise  
thee.*

*The holy Church throughout all the  
world : doth acknowledge thee;  
The Father : of an infinite Majesty;  
Thine honourable, true : and only  
Son;*

*Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.  
Thou art the King of Glory : O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son : of the  
Father.*

*When thou tookest upon thee to  
deliver man : thou didst not abhor  
the Virgin's womb.*

*When thou hadst overcome the  
sharpness of death: thou didst  
open the Kingdom of Heaven to  
all believers.*

*Thou sittest at the right hand of  
God : in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come :  
to be our Judge.*

*We therefore pray thee, help thy  
servants:  
whom thou hast redeemed with  
thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with  
thy Saints: in glory everlasting.*

*O Lord, save thy people :  
and bless thine heritage.  
Govern them : and lift them up for  
ever.  
Day by day : we magnify thee;  
And we worship thy Name : ever  
world without end.*

*Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this  
day without sin.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us : have  
mercy upon us.*

*O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon  
us :*

*as our trust is in thee.  
O Lord, in thee have I trusted : let  
me never be confounded.*

# LYRICS AND TRANSLATIONS

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## Earth Symphony

*Todd Boss*

### I. Evolution

Forever alone —  
four billion years of empty  
space and dormant stone.

Then you were born:  
Humankind!  
and soon upon your face  
there dawned a trace of mind!

You scorned the odds  
to be reborn as gods of reason,

authors of wonder,  
inventors of alchemy,  
chemistry, astronomy.  
You alone unwound  
the helix of my chi. You  
mirrored me to me.

*Mirabilia!*

You were my light.

Never shall I dare to dream  
another dream so bright.



### II. Ambition

And how are you fallen so  
soon?

Do you remember Icarus,  
whose father gave him  
wings of wax and feathers  
for a toy?

There he is — in memory's eye —  
canary of a boy!

[Icarus:] O, joy — so much  
at hand! — to soar  
the strand, over sea  
and shore! Wheel! — to taste  
ambition pure!  
Two wingbeats more,

and I can see the patterns  
on the ocean floor.

O, me!  
I'm free as albatross! Stronger  
than ever with a father so

clever with beeswax and  
feather! I flap them together  
and higher and higher I rise! —

I am a dream!  
I'll touch the moon!

How small she is — the blue-  
green planet far below...  
I belong to her no longer.  
Who am I, without her?



# LYRICS AND TRANSLATIONS

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The sun.  
The sun grows.  
The sun grows ever hotter...

he tumbled, thrashing, and  
came crashing  
into the sea!

[Earth:] Yes I remember Icarus,  
who flew too near the sun.  
Waxen wings undone,

So fell humanity.  
So fell I.



## III. Destruction

Terrore atmosphaera!  
You make your mother torturer!  
Twist me against my nature,  
waste me to tinder,  
roast me under the  
torches of the sun  
till I'm undone.

strangle me,  
slaughter each other,  
set me  
on fire!

I am rage! I am war!  
Where are your gods now?

*Mirabilia!*

You dam my  
waters,  
bleach  
my corals, flood me,

What have you done,  
over-blessed one?  
Briefest of species,  
what have you done?



## IV. Lament

Sleep now, my children, now your  
days are done.  
Nevermore shall you adore the  
setting of the sun.

Sleep now, forever, lofted in time.  
No seraphim to rouse thee, no  
carillons to chime.

*Mirabilia!*

Never shall I dare to dream a  
dream so bright.

# LYRICS AND TRANSLATIONS

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Sleep now, my children, my  
wonder, my light.  
Never shall I dare to dream  
another dream so bright.

*Mirabilia!*

Sleep now, my children, though  
the cradle fall.  
You rest among the yesterdays,  
the softest place of all.

*Mirabilia.*



## **V. Recovery**

Alone forever,  
the mirror dims.

Empty space.  
Dormant stone.

No. I shall not go alone.  
Ivy shall recover every avenue,  
seaweed swallow every drain,  
and forestry sow a sorcery  
over every human stain.

None shall weep, and none shall  
witness,  
while my wordless work is done.

Slowly, in the shell of a factory,  
a gray whale, circling aimlessly,  
writes a disappearing history  
in the shadows of the deep,  
and none shall weep.

There shall come a day  
like the first day,  
so heavenly, so clear.  
*Mirabilia,*  
you would love it here.

## **Mata Del Anima Sola**

*Alberto Arvelo Torrealba*

*Tree of the lonely soul,  
Wide opening of the riverside  
Now you will be able to say:  
Here slept Cantaclaro*

*With the whistle and the sting  
Of the twisting wind,  
The dappled and violet dusk  
Quietly entered the corral*

*The night, tired mare,  
Shakes her mane and black tail  
Above the riverside; and, in its  
silence,  
Your ghostly heart is filled with  
awe.*

# LYRICS AND TRANSLATIONS

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## Let It Be Forgotten

*Sara Teasdale*

Let it be forgotten as a flower is  
forgotten,  
Forgotten as a fire that once was  
singing gold,  
Let it be forgotten forever and ever,  
Time is a kind friend, he will make us  
old.

If any one asks, say it was  
forgotten  
Long and long ago,  
As a flower, as a fire, as a hushed  
footfall  
In a long forgotten snow.

## Temporal

*There it comes, there comes the  
storm!  
A storm, a storm,  
there comes the storm  
What will become of Puerto Rico  
When the storm arrives?  
What will become of my dear Puerto  
Rico  
When the storm arrives?*

*The people will arise to the rhythm  
of drums  
The wind cannot bring us down,  
Nor can ten thousand tremors  
We are resilient, we are fighters  
The wind cannot bring us down,  
Nor can ten thousand tremors.*

## Rosas Pandan

*Here is Rosas Pandan  
Just arrived from the mountains  
To be with all of you  
To celebrate the fiesta.*

*Ayayay ayayay ayayay!  
Hey! My song  
is nice to dance to,  
Like fog on a cold day.*

*This song is my livelihood,  
An inheritance from my parents,  
A most ancient song  
The pride of our hill country.*

*Tigadong tigadong tigadong  
Look at poor Dodong!  
He's looking at the young lady.  
His drool is falling.*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Brendan Lodge, *operations manager*

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# ARTISTIC STAFF

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**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

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## **(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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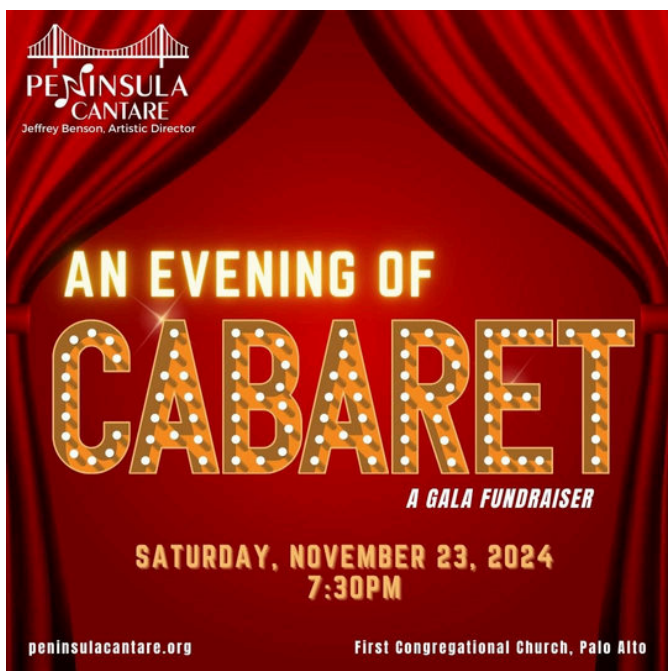


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Peninsula Cantare is proud to partner with Environmental Volunteers for our Earth Symphony concert.



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The Environmental Volunteers' mission is to promote the understanding of, and responsibility for, the environment through hands-on science education throughout the Bay Area, and beyond. We believe all children deserve to learn about the natural world through personal exploration, so they can become responsible stewards of the Earth. At the Environmental Volunteers we believe that what children appreciate and love, they will protect.

We fulfill our mission through the dedication and passion of our volunteers, and we're always seeking new volunteers who share that passion! Check us out at [www.environmentalvolunteers.org](http://www.environmentalvolunteers.org).



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