

Concert Choir and Chamber Choir Concert

"This Path"

John McDonald, conductor
Sandra Geary, collaborative pianist

Sunday, November 17, 2024 - 3:00 P.M.
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Music Center

 **WashU** Arts & Sciences

Music

Program

This Path

Who can see the road ahead,
This road that brought us here?
Who can know the turn of the path,
The one that leads us home?
Is it the prophet, the priest,
The leader with her armies?
The hermit in his lonely cave?
The sparrow joins the wind in flight,
It does not hope for more;
The tide dances with the moon
And bends to the pull of the now.
The past flows away
Like rain in a stream -
It shifts from form to form;
The future marches bravely on,
And leads us toward a distant door.
The song we sing is built on this breath,
And this one. And this.
We sing our future now.
This path, this song, will lead us home.
We sing our future now.

Robert Bode (2020)

Concert Choir

Der Tanz (1828)

Franz Schubert
(1797 - 1828)

The Road Home (2005)

Tune: "Prospect" from *Southern Harmony* 1835

Stephen Paulus
(1949 - 2014)

Brittany Rogus, soloist

Temporal (2023)

Traditional Puerto Rican Plena
arr. Diana V. Sáez (b. 1962) & Suzzette Ortiz (b. 1937)

Matthew Sullivan and Jake Page, percussion

Chamber Choir

Hela Rotan (2022)

Indonesian Folk Song
arr. Ken Steven (b. 1993)

Good Night, Dear Heart (2008)

Dan Forrest
(b. 1978)

Time (2022)

Jennifer Lucy Cook
(b. 1984)

Big Yellow Taxi (1970/2023)

Joni Mitchell
(b. 1943)
arr. Matt Podd (b. 1986) & Adam Podd (b. 1986)

Matthew Sullivan, percussion

Look Back on Time (2017)

Matthew Lyon Hazzard
(b. 1989)

Wade in the Water (1997)

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Moses Hogan (1957 - 2003)

Meghan Elliott, Nicholas Chiu, and Crystal Lovato, soloists

INTERMISSION

Concert Choir

The Lighthouse Keeper (Midwest Premiere)

Jake Runestad
(b. 1986)

I. *Carve An Endless Moment* (Middle Palisade)

II. *Shifting Sand* (Joshua Tree)

III. *Beauty Is Life* (Mediterranean, Medianoche)

IV. *The Lighthouse Keeper* (Point Reyes)

V. *Mariposa* (Yosemite)

Jo Nardolillo, Noah Kennedy, violin 1
Manuela Topalbegovic, Matthew Du, violin 2
Amy Greenhalgh, Delia Zacks, viola
Kimberly Jeong, Frances Fang, cello
Timothy Weddle, double bass
Sandra Geary, piano

Der Tanz – The Dance

Karl Kolumban Schnitzer von Meerau

Youth talks and dreams so much
of dancing, capering and carousing;
then all of a sudden it reaches its illusory goal,
and we hear it sighing and complaining.

Now the pain is in the throat, now it's in the chest;
vanished are all heavenly joys.
'Give me back my health just this once!'
The imploring gaze beseeches heaven.

Temporal – Storm

Traditional Puerto Rican Plena

There comes! There comes the storm!
Storm, storm
There comes the storm
What will become of Puerto Rico
When the storm arrives
What will become of my Puerto Rico
When the storm arrives
The people arise
To the rhythm of the drums
The wind cannot bring us down
Nor ten thousand earthquakes
We are resilient
We are warriors
The wind cannot bring us down
Nor ten thousand earthquakes

Hela Rotan – Pull the Rattan

Traditional Indonesian Folksong

Pull, let us pull the cane
Accompanied by the sound of the Javanese drums
The cane is cut already
And both ends meet now
Mango, mango is young and sweet
Mango, mango comes from Nila
A girl with a sweet, sweet face
Makes me crazy

The Lighthouse Keeper

I. *Carve An Endless Moment*

If I watch the time, some of my friends will die,
If I watch the time, I shall surely die myself.
Let me then gather all my friends around me
And carve an endless moment out of stone
-Witter Bynner, adapt. Runestad

II. *Shifting Sand*

As I gaze, these narrow walls expand,
The desert stretches with its shifting sand;
Before my dreamy eye,
Its unimpeded sky.

And onward and onward, across the setting sun,
The column and its broader shadow run
Across the boundless plain,
Till thought pursues in vain.
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, adapt. Runestad

III. *Beauty Is Life*

Beauty is life when life unveils her holy face
-Kahlil Gibran

IV. *The Lighthouse Keeper*

The thickening fog, clouding your sight.
The wicked sea, tossing your boat.
My reaching light, calling you home.

The darkening sea, pulling you under.
Your broken boat.
Your battered heart.
My yearning light, calling, calling, calling...
-Jake Runestad

V. *Mariposa*

Butterflies are white and blue
In this field we wander through.
Suffer me to take your hand.
Death comes in a day or two.

All the things we ever knew
Will be ashes in that hour,
Mark the transient butterfly,
How he hangs upon the flower.

Suffer me to take your hand.
Suffer me to cherish you
Till the dawn is in the sky.
Whether I be false or true,
Death comes in a day or two
-Edna St. Vincent Millay

Choirs

Soprano

Elma Ademovic
Jennifer Barnett
Selma Becarevic
Miah Bressie^
Duyen Bui^
Roxana Cue
Shelby Elliott
Katie Furby*^o^
Serene Harris
Amirah Hurst
Julia Claire Johnson
Lily Johnson*
Viktoriiia Knyaz
Josie Kopff*+
Stella Larson
Zoë Lester
Crystal Lovato*
Shataia McIntosh
Erica Miller
Grace Philip
Brittany Rogus
Amabel Schwaiger^
Cathy Shi
Amelia Spencer
Maya Tylis*
Emma Wells
Abi Wileman*

Alto

Magdalene Aideyan
Kiersten Anderson^
Katie Beyers
Melena Braggs*^
Eva Carrasquillo-Wilkinson
Deborah Collins
Grossman^
Julianna Cool
Rachel Cundiff O'Sullivan
Joey Dickinson
Sylvia Duarte
Meghan Elliott*
Zoe Geyman
Xing Jian
Oluwatoni John
Nicole Kusi-Appiah^
Lauren Moutvic
Sophia Myers*
Ceci Osos
Aloisa Rickert
Mariel Scher+^
Ava Silverstein*
Katie Stockmann
Addis Tafesse*
Fay Wong

Tenor

Seth Alms
Jared Berger*^
Raymond Brooks
Martin Ibarra*
Hayden McAllister
Maseo Mercer*+
Andrew Parks
Sam Powell
Matthew Sullivan*
Jack Wellons

Bass

Owen Anderson
Jack Beyers
Sam Brown
Christopher Chen
Nicholas Chiu*
Reece Gray*
Oliver Gu*
Michael Hanson^
Intisar Iqbal
Joshua Kim
Daniel Marshall
Jerry Messer
Marcus Negrón*+
Eugene Park
Kevin Ramirez
Caleb Rhodes*
Tom Snider
John Speas^
Maxwell Spinner*
Ryan Williamson

* = Chamber Choir
+ = Section Leader
^o = Ensemble Manager
^ = Leadership Council

Director



Dr. John McDonald is the Director of Choir and Vocal Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, conductor of Cantus, the St. Louis Children's Choirs tenor-bass ensemble, and artistic director and founder of the St. Louis-based professional group, Continuum Vocal Ensemble. He is frequently invited as a guest conductor and adjudicator for events across the United States. An active member of the American Choral Directors Association, Dr. McDonald serves on the Education and Communication national standing committee and was selected as one of six conductors for the 2023 International Conductors Exchange Program with Germany.

Dr. McDonald earned degrees from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, East Carolina University, and Middle Tennessee State University.

Collaborative Pianist



Sandra Geary is a native of County Cork, Ireland and has received piano performance diplomas from the Royal Schools of Music, Trinity College, London; the Cork School of Music, Ireland and a Bachelor of Music degree from the St. Louis Conservatory of Music. Her teachers include John O'Connor, Joseph Kalichstein, and Carole Tafoya.

On the piano faculty of Washington University, Sandra also accompanies the WashU Concert choir. She has been the Bach Society of St. Louis accompanist for the past 25 years and is also the accompanist for Webster University Opera studio. She is a vocal coach for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis Artist-in-Training program and the Union Avenue Opera Crescendo Young Artist program.

She has collaborated in voice masterclasses given by Nathan Gunn, Stanford Olsen, Kevin Short, Erie Mills, Christine Brewer, Mary Ann McCormack, and Jennifer Johnson Cano.

Sandra regularly accompanies recitals, auditions, and competitions in the St. Louis area.

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