

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS
Boyer College of Music and Dance

Graduate Conductors Chorus
Vinroy D. Brown, Jr., and
Alexander Nguyễn, and
Mitos Andaya Hart, conductors

Monday, December 4, 2023 • 7:30PM
Rock Hall Auditorium
1715 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122



Program

Requiescat

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)
ed. Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.

Vinroy D. Brown, Jr., conductor

Những Giọt Lệ

Kendrick Trí Huỳnh (b. 1997)

Alexander Nguyễn, conductor

Smile Thy Shores (2023)

Andrea Clearfield (b. 1960)

Jeffrey Solow, cello
Mitos Andaya Hart, conductor

We are grateful to Professor Emeritus and former Director of Choral Activities Alan Harler, in whose name the Alan Harler Endowed Choral Fund supported the commissioning of the editions of the Huỳnh and Coleridge-Taylor pieces on tonight's program.

The use of photographic, audio, and video recording is not permitted.
Please turn off all electronic devices.
One hundred twenty-seventh performance of the 2023-2024 season.

Notes on the Program

Requiescat

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
ed. Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was an Afro-British composer and conductor known for his over 75 compositions that included works for solo voice, choir and instruments. His most notable work is *The Song of Hiawatha*, Op. 30, a prelude and set of three cantatas based on the epic poem of the same name by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. He was a celebrated composer during his lifetime for his ability to connect his Black roots to European part-writing. In the decades after his death, he has earned even more recognition as his works are performed throughout the world, some being published posthumously. His life is chronicled in a documentary, *Samuel Coleridge Taylor and His Music in America, 1900–1912* released in 2012 and an animated film, *The Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Story* released in 2013. More information on this composer can be found at the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Foundation and the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Network.

Requiescat is the first song in a two-cycle set titled “Two 4 part songs.” This edition was created from the holograph manuscript MS 5006, housed at the Royal College of Music Library. While the manuscript notes two songs, the first, *Requiescat*, is the only one that remains. The text is by English poet and literary critic Matthew Arnold (1822-1888). Coleridge-Taylor sets the text in its original form except for two moments in the composition.

Note by Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.

Strew on her roses, roses,
And never a spray of yew.
In quiet she reposes:
Ah! would that I did too.

Her mirth the world required:
She bathed it in smiles of glee.
But her heart was tired, tired,
And now they let her be.

Her life was turning, turning,
In mazes of heat and sound.
But for peace her soul was yearning,
And now peace laps her round.

Her cabin'd, ample Spirit,
It flutter'd and fail'd for breath.
To-night it doth inherit
The vasty hall of Death.

Những Giọt Lệ

Kendrick Trí Huỳnh

Những Giọt Lệ is a piece commissioned by the conductor, Alexander Nguyễn, with assistance from the Alan Harler Endowed Choral Fund. In the current choral ecosystem, there are essentially no Vietnamese choral works readily available to the everyday choir. This commission is the first step in reshaping what representation means in the rehearsal room.

The piece is an original composition based on the styles of Vietnamese popular music of the 20th Century. Those familiar with Vietnamese music and the Vietnamese language will find characteristics such as natural leaps following the diacritic markings of the language, minor v chords, and triplet figures that all are used often in vernacular styles. It features text from the poet Hàn Mặc Tử (1912-1940), one of Vietnam's most celebrated poets, known for his French Symbolism. The text speaks of a love lost and abandoned hopelessly. The poem is set with soloistic and dramatic piano playing underneath the choir's homophonic lament.

Kendrick Trí Huỳnh (b. 1997) is a California based composer and pianist. He is a graduate of San Jose State University and is published with Gentry under the Voices Without Borders series. His compositional style takes inspiration from the French impressionists, Claude Debussy and Gabriel Faure.

Note by Alexander Nguyễn

Trời hỡi, bao giờ tôi chết đi?
Bao giờ tôi hết được yêu vì,
Bao giờ mặt nhật tan thành máu,
Và khối lòng tôi cứng tựa si?

Oh God, when do I die?
When can I no longer love,
When does the sun melt into blood,
And my soul hardens like steel?

Họ đã xa rồi khôn níu lại,
Lòng thương chưa đã, mến chưa bừa...
Người đi, một nửa hồn tôi mất,
Một nửa hồn tôi bỗng dại khờ.

They have left without a trace,
Love not satisfied, adoration not tired...
They have gone, half of my soul is lost,
The other half is suddenly dumb.

Tôi vẫn còn đây hay ở đâu?
Ai đem tôi bỏ dưới trời sâu?
Sao bông phượng nở trong màu huyết,
Nhỏ xuống lòng tôi những giọt châu?

Am I still here or elsewhere?
Who abandons me under the deep sky?
Why blooms the flowers in the color of blood,
Dripping down my soul the teardrops?

-Hàn Mặc Tử

-Translated by the composer

Smile Thy Shores was commissioned by The Presser Foundation in honor of Dr. Jeffrey Cornelius. At Temple, we know Dr. Cornelius as a much-beloved Professor Emeritus of the Boyer College of Music and Dance and former conductor of the Temple University Singers, but he continues to generously serve our community and beyond. The Presser Foundation commissioned this work to recognize and honor Dr. Cornelius for his longtime service to The Board of Trustees of The Presser Foundation as a board member, committee chair, officer, and President from July 2003 through June 2023. Starting in 2017, he presided over an historic administrative and strategic transformation keeping in mind the wishes of Theodore Presser and recognizing the necessity of adapting his vision to contemporary needs and realities.

Smile Thy Shores originally for vocal octet and cello, was premiered on November 1, 2023 by an octet from the Graduate Conductors Chorus and is presented here with the full chorus. The composer chose to set this poem by Isaac McLellan as it describes a place that Dr. Cornelius treasures, traveling annually to Maine with his family each autumn.

Note by Mitos Andaya Hart

Maine

by Isaac McLellan

(excerpt from a longer poem)

Far in the sunset's mellow glory,
Far in the day-break's pearly bloom,
Fringed by ocean's foamy surges,
Belted in by woods of gloom,
Stretch thy soft, luxuriant borders,
Smile thy shores, in hill and plain,
Flower-enamelled, ocean-girdled,
Green bright shores of Maine.
Bright from many a rocky headland,
Fringed by sands that shine like gold,
Gleams the light-house, white and lonely,
Grim as some baronial hold.
Bright by many an ocean valley
Shaded hut and village shine;
Roof and steeple, weather-beaten,
Stained by ocean's breath of brine.

Graduate Conductors Chorus

Kim Barroso, pianist

SOPRANO

Angela Bui
Luna Dantagnan
Kayla Elliott
Jessica Gambino
Emily Loughery
Victoria Lumia

ALTO

Elizabeth Beavers
Alison Crosley
Carmelina Favacchia
Tatiyanna Hayward
Sadie Roser

TENOR

Zachary Alvarado
Ben Bian
Roberto Guevara
Blake Levinson
Corey Price
Reid Shriver

BASS

Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.
Benjamin Chen
Daniel Jackson
Alexander Nguyễn
Roy Nussbaum
Joshua Powell
Kylar Sprenger
Andrew Stern