

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

**Temple University Choirs**

November 18, 2020  
Presented Virtually

Wednesday  
7:30pm

*Still We Rise*

El sol brillara otra vez (The sun will rise again)

Suzzette Ortiz

David Pasbrig, audio engineer and video editor

Temple University Singing Owls  
Rollo Dilworth, conductor  
Kim Barroso, pianist  
Ali Hodges, graduate teaching assistant

\* \* \*

*Hope and Strength: Our Light Rises*

Faith is the bird that feels the light

Elizabeth Alexander

Emma Zimmerman and Corinne Price, soloists  
Kathleen Shannon, conductor  
Andrew Alcedo, audio engineer and video editor

Still I Rise

Rosephanye Powell

Alexa Luberski, Marlena St. Jean, and Giovanna Ditro, soloists  
Hannah Grasso, conductor  
Abigail LaVecchia, piano  
Alyssa Gerold and Isaac Young, audio engineers and video editors

Temple University Voices  
Kathleen Shannon, conductor  
Abigail LaVecchia, pianist  
Hannah Grasso, graduate teaching assistant

\* \* \*

*Call and Response: Living Grief, Seeing Hope*

Hold Fast to Dreams

Joel Thompson

David Pasbrig, audio engineer and video editor  
Kim Barroso, piano

Interview with Ysaÿe Barnwell, February 2017

Video footage courtesy of Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia and Tolsma Productions

Spiritual

Ysaÿe Barnwell

**We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace**

Spiritual  
arr. Undine Smith Moore

Special Guest Choir:  
Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School Senior Chorale  
Rosemary Schneider and Kelly Wyszomierski, conductors  
Joy Vernon, conductor  
Abimelec Rubio, audio engineer  
Matthew Grimaldi, video editor

**Temple University Concert Choir**  
**Paul Rardin, conductor**  
**Kim Barroso, pianist**  
**Joy Vernon, graduate teaching assistant**

\* \* \*

**This Grass**

Jake Narverud

Benjamin Daisey, audio engineer  
Oliver Snook, video editor

**Harriet Tubman**

Rollo Dilworth

Xavier Arana, audio engineer  
Oliver Snook, video editor

**Temple University Chorale**  
**Dustin Cates, conductor**  
**Isaac Young, pianist**  
**Federico Chlopecki, graduate teaching assistant**

\* \* \*

*Magnify and Become*

**Magnificat, Op. 19, No. 10 (excerpt)**

Isabella Leonarda

Luna Dantagnan, Rosemary Pandolfo, Brady Ketelsen, and Kim Barroso, soloists  
Brady Ketelsen, recorders  
Ryan LaRocque, audio engineer and video editor

**Summer is gone**

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Ryan LaRocque, audio engineer and video editor  
Photos by Kim Barroso and Yifan Liu

**Wondrous Glow**

Mari Ésabel Valverde

Anezka Kurian, soloist  
Ryan LaRocque, audio engineer  
Photos by Temple University Singers

**Temple University Singers**  
**Mitos Andaya Hart, conductor**  
**Kim Barroso, pianist**  
**Brady Ketelsen, graduate teaching assistant**

\* \* \*

**Freedom's Plow**

Rollo Dilworth

Kim Barroso, piano  
Nathan Pence, bass  
Maria Marmarou, drums  
Paul Rardin, conductor  
Ted Latham, audio engineer and video editor

**Temple University Choirs**

## Program Notes

### **El sol brillara otra vez (The sun will rise again)**

Suzzette Ortiz (b. 1960)

*El sol brillara otra vez* (The sun will rise again) was composed by Boyer alumna Suzzette Ortiz. She is an accomplished pianist, published composer, arranger, choral conductor and music educator. In her work, Suzzette strives to use choral music as a tool to empower others and as a catalyst for social change. *El sol brillara otra vez* was written in response to the current crises we are facing around the world—particularly COVID-19, ideological division, and racial injustice. With a special dedication to the Temple University Singing Owls, Suzzette offers a song of hope, faith, perseverance, and healing.

### **Faith is the bird that feels the light (2005)**

Elizabeth Alexander (b. 1962)

Joyful early morning birdsong encourages hope in Elizabeth Alexander's setting of Rabindranath Tagore's (1861-1941) aphorism. The single line of text is excerpted from *Fireflies* (1928), Tagore's well-known book of original and collected epigrams, proverbs, and maxims. Tagore, one of India's most respected poet-playwright-novelist-composers, was the first Indian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature (1913.) He also composed the national anthems of India and Bangladesh. Dr. Alexander's bright musical setting is also a bit awe-struck. The songbirds are so confident that the sun will rise, they start singing during the last moments of darkness. The music concludes on a half cadence. The pull of this unresolved sonority is somehow comforting in the same sense that the bird expects that her singing signals the sunrise—because it always has.

### **Still I Rise**

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

We sing of inner strength in Dr. Powell's rousing, gospel-style anthem of empowerment. Commissioned by Vox Femina LA, a superior volunteer women's choir, this piece champions the mission of that choir, to "affirm the worth and dignity of every person." Recently, University Voices was honored to host Dr. Powell for a virtual visit, during which she told us she drew inspiration from the life and writings of Maya Angelou, as well as her own mother and grandmother. Dr. Powell's original text speaks of facing life's hardships and our personal fears with strength and fortitude. Our tears are not a sign of weakness but rather proof that we own our deepest feelings. Her profound words, passion and obvious connection with us in a mere thirty minutes made a powerful impression on the members of University Voices.

### **Hold Fast to Dreams**

Joel Thompson (b. 1988)

This piece is a tale of two poems. Joel Thompson has set Langston Hughes's Harlem and Dreams in almost a question-answer style, as he describes in his notes:

“...Harlem still captures the essence of disillusionment in a deceptively simple series of vivid questions. Dreams...charges the reader to “hold fast to dreams” while making plain the misery of a life without them.”

The first poem uses whole-tone scales and disjunct melodies to evoke an unsettled state that vacillates between dream and nightmare, while the second poem is grounded in a steady D minor ostinato in the piano and recurring, lilting melody in the choir. Thompson, a doctoral student at Yale University, gained widespread recognition for his *Seven Last Words of the Unarmed* in 2015, a work that sets to music the final words of seven unarmed black men killed by police.

### **Spiritual (1992)**

Ysaÿe Barnwell (b. 1946)

Known best as a co-founder and bass singer of the singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock, Ysaÿe Barnwell is also a renowned composer and one America's foremost proponents of community singing in the oral tradition. Despite its title, *Spiritual* is an original composition that represents a dialogue between an older generation that accepts its daily hardships ~ listen for the choir's low, quiet, steady refrain (“Cain't no one know at sunrise/How this day is going to

end”) ~ and a younger generation whose higher, louder, brassier voices demand change (“Troubles of the world fill our hearts with rage/From Soweto to Stonewall, Birmingham and L.A.”). The memories of apartheid in South Africa, the fight for LGBT rights in New York, and civil rights riots in Alabama and California resonate powerfully in 2020; the cities have changed (Ferguson, Louisville, Minneapolis....), but the struggle for equality is very much the same.

### **We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace**

Spiritual  
arr. Undine Smith Moore

This elegant, hymn-like setting of this African-American spiritual is a reminder of the power of simplicity. A brief introduction begins with a gently soaring soprano melody, answered in turn by the lower voices, perhaps representing “our leader,” Jesus, as sung in the refrain. Harmonies are rich and comforting, further instilling a mood of gentle calm. Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989) was dubbed the “Dean of Black Women Composers,” having achieved recognition during her lifetime for her vocal, piano, and choral works. Her 1981 oratorio *Scenes from the Life of a Martyr* was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and premiered in Carnegie Hall.

### **This Grass**

Jake Narverud (b. 1986)

Originally co-commissioned by Heartland Men’s Chorus (Kansas City, MO) and Turtle Creek Chorale (Dallas, TX), *This Grass* offers a powerful and timely message as we seek as a nation to address the results of historic, systemic inequity. *This Grass* was written in response to the tragic, racially charged events surrounding the removal of Confederate monuments that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12, 2017, when a self-identified white nationalist deliberately drove his car into a crowd of counter protesters killing one and injuring 19 others. The piece reflects the challenges endured by many who stand against injustice and oppression and offers a call to unity required for meaningful reform and lasting change.

### **Harriet Tubman**

Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)

With text by children’s author, biographer and poet Eloise Greenfield and music by world-renowned conductor, composer, and Vice-Dean of Temple’s Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts, Rollo Dilworth, *Harriet Tubman* tells the powerful story of this icon of freedom. Tubman is widely known as the “conductor” of the Underground Railroad and the “Moses” of her people. As a result, Dilworth has included instances of vocal percussion mimicking the sound of a train as well as quotations from the spirituals “If I Got My Ticket” and “Go Down, Moses” in the score. In an effort to connect legacy of Harriet Tubman with the present, the following influential and change-making women of color have been included in our virtual choir video: Rosa Parks (civil rights activist), Coretta Scott King (author, activist, and wife of the late Martin Luther King Jr.), Mae Jemison (engineer, physician, and the first black woman to travel to space), Maya Angelou (poet, author, and civil rights activist), and Andrea Jenkins (policy aide, author, and the first black transgender woman elected to public office).

### **Magnificat, Op. 19, No. 10**

Isabella Leonarda (1620-1704)

This year marks the 400th Anniversary of the birth of the most prolific convent composer of the 17th century, Isabella Leonarda. Born to a wealthy family in Novara, Leonarda may have possibly received some musical training before she entered the Collegio di Sant’Orsola at the age of 17. Over her long life, she served in several positions in the convent including, *madre*, *madre vicarial*, *superioria*, as well as music teacher. It is thought that she came to composition later in life after as most of her 200 extant works in nearly all sacred genres of the time were written after age 50.

This particular Magnificat setting comes from her *Salmi Concertati a 4 voci con instrumenti*, 1698. This collection, like her others, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, Virgin of Loreto, to whom she was devoted. Rejoicing (*exultavit*) is done so in a dance-like triple meter, and humility and mercy (*humilitatem* and *misericordia*) are in common time. Her use of suspensions in the latter stir pathos and the recurring sixteenth-notes denote undulating awe.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum;  
Et exsultavit spiritus meus  
in Deo salutari meo,  
Quia respexit humilitatem  
ancillae suae;  
ecce enim ex hoc  
beatam me dicent omnes generationes.  
Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est,  
et sanctum nomen ejus,  
Et misericordia ejus a progenie  
in progenies timentibus eum.

My soul doth magnify the Lord.  
And my spirit hath rejoiced  
in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded the lowliness  
of his handmaiden:  
For behold, from henceforth  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
And holy is his Name.  
his mercy is on them that fear him  
throughout all generations

### Summer is gone

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

One of the most famous composers of his time was Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. It was only after his death at the young age of 37, that his music became less known. His father, a physician from Sierra Leone, returned to West Africa after racial prejudice made it difficult for him to continue his career. Samuel stayed with his English mother and went on to study first as a violinist and eventually as a composer at the Royal College of Music. He was regarded as a young genius and helped by renowned composers such as Edward Elgar and Charles Villiers Stanford who conducted Coleridge-Taylor's most famous work, *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*.

In this short part-song, Coleridge-Taylor matches the text of Christina Rossetti's poem, "Bitter for Sweet" with melancholic descending lines and wistful chromaticism. While the music is strophic, his subtle harmonic changes and call for strong dynamic shifts make this a compelling work.

#### Bitter for Sweet

Summer is gone with all its roses,  
Its sun and perfumes and sweet flowers,  
Its warm air and refreshing showers:  
And even Autumn closes.

Yea, Autumn's chilly self is going,  
And winter comes which is yet colder;  
Each day the hoar-frost waxes bolder,  
And the last buds cease blowing

Text by Christina Rossetti

### Wondrous Glow

Mari É Isabel Valverde (b. 1987)

Texas-based composer, Mari É Isabel Valverde is a rising star in the world of choral music. Her music has gained recognition nationally and she has been commissioned by numerous organizations including the American Choral Directors Association, Dallas Chamber Choir, Seattle Men's and Women's Choruses, and EXIGENCE. Her work *Our Phoenix* was premiered by six collective ensembles at the 2016 Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Festival.

In her setting of Amir Rabiya's poem, "Grand Design," Valverde treats the ideas of the divine and other-worldly to the mundane through careful changes in texture - from the opening proclamation, "Today" and the title declamation, "Let your mouth be a *Wondrous Glow*" to the polyphonic threads that "stitch a crown" and fugato lines that "form the unseen into a tangible communion."

The Temple University Singers had originally planned to sing *Wondrous Glow* as part of the Spring 2020 program before the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Valverde was to be our guest. We are deeply thankful that she was able to meet with us via Zoom as our guest speaker this Fall semester.

Grand Design  
(for M81 and the rest of us)

today collect the dazzling shelter of flowers  
stitch a crown large enough for the globe  
fragrant enough for satellites to lift their noses  
take the prayer of night into your arms  
as she sleeps, breathe with her  
breathe with the night  
there are times when there is nothing  
left to do, but create  
form the unseen into a tangible communion  
of stardust, place the galaxy on your tongue  
let your mouth be a wondrous glow  
your words a beacon  
when everything is lost  
imagine yourself as more than an earth-  
quaking body a gift  
the streaking tail of a comet  
become that which holds your eye  
that which makes you gasp

Amir Rabiya

### Freedom's Plow

Rollo Dilworth

Temple's own Rollo Dilworth is one of America's most prolific composers and arrangers. As he writes:

*Freedom's Plow* was commissioned by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra to commemorate the 15th anniversary season of its IN-UNISON® Chorus. The piece is a song of freedom, hope and inspiration that celebrates the contributions of African Americans to the American musical landscape—specifically, the spiritual, ragtime, the blues, jazz, and gospel. The text for *Freedom's Plow* comes from the last 14 lines of a Langston Hughes poem bearing the same title:

A long time ago,  
An enslaved people heading toward freedom  
Made up a song:  
    *Keep Your Hand On The Plow! Hold On!*  
That plow plowed a new furrow  
Across the field of history.  
Into that furrow the freedom seed was dropped.  
From that seed a tree grew, is growing, will ever grow.  
That tree is for everybody,  
For all America, for all the world.  
May its branches spread and its shelter grow  
Until all races and all peoples know its shade.

Dilworth's music captures Hughes's optimism for America; while the oppression of the past (and the present) is heard throughout ~ mostly in the extensive use of minor mode, as befits the spiritual *Hold On*, which is musically quoted ~ it lives beside a powerful hope that America will rise to its best self.

Congratulations to our singers on Temple University's first-ever virtual choir concert!

Temple University Choirs  
Leslie Cochran, coordinator, Vocal Arts  
David Pasbrig, master engineer

Temple University Singing Owls  
Rollo Dilworth, conductor  
Kim Barroso, pianist  
Ali Hodges, graduate teaching assistant

**SOPRANO**

Germaine Brown  
Charlotte Caraballo  
Beverly Cheairs  
Sharon Chestnut  
Valerie Clayton  
Shannon Coulter  
Whitney Covalle  
Dominique DeSilva  
Naomi Dobson  
Ameenah Hankins  
Jean M. Haynes  
Betty Hohwieler  
Simone Kutler  
Tara Lake  
Fay Manicke  
Robin Muse  
Eleanor Myers  
Rupel Nargunam  
Olivia Patton  
Laura Place  
Dolores Redmond  
Elizabeth Shin  
Ozella Smith  
Leslie Tuttle  
Jennifer Wait

**ALTO**

Wealthea Adams  
Sarah Army  
Jeannine Baldomero  
Skylar Barton  
Cozette Bell-Ferguson  
Crystal Benner  
Diane Blum  
Jane Cochran  
Marlene Cooper  
Diane Dannenfelser  
Rachel Egner  
Jennifer Ferris  
Kathleen Flaherty  
Ali Hodges  
Jane Hulting  
Harriet Katz  
Hilary Klapholz  
Linda Loyd  
Manqin Luo  
Mary Malark  
Elise Malizia  
Jacquelyn Mason  
Karen Mercer  
Cheri Micheau  
Hayleigh Nash  
Suzette Ortiz  
Suzanne Passante  
Elizabeth Rappaport  
Maricor Rosales  
Valerie Rushmere  
Wilann Spiccia  
Javvieaus Stewart  
Lisa Ulan  
Helene Walsh  
Jill Zhuraw

**TENOR**

Ellis Dunbar  
Brian Gibson  
Joseph Gorman  
Joe Gorman III  
Jeffrey Harlan  
Glenn Kutler  
Reynaldo Ortega  
Helen Shoemark  
Jacob Springer

**BASS**

Douglas Barger  
David Clowney  
Timothy Flaherty  
Alexander Jarin  
David Lange  
Matthias Ohr  
Claus Petersen  
David Richards  
Peter Wolanin



**Temple University Voices**  
Kathleen Shannon, conductor  
Abigail LaVecchia, pianist  
Hannah Grasso, graduate teaching assistant

**SOPRANO**

Grace Browning  
Jessica Corrigan  
Miranda DeMott  
Kaavya Desai  
Giovanna Ditro  
Jessica Gambino  
Brittany King  
Emma Krewson  
Emily Loughery  
Alexa Luberski  
Maria Mohajir  
Alexandra Mroczko  
Grace Newell  
Maria Noboa  
Alexandria Orr  
Marlena St. Jean  
Deirdre Tobin  
Taylor Tressler  
Macy Trout  
Emma Zimmerman

**ALTO**

Sky Arthur  
Julia Baker  
Chauntae Bell  
Rachel Burke  
Isabella DiPasquale  
Kyla Edmonds  
Shiyang Fan  
Sarah Giulianti  
Capri Hill  
Ana Hughes Pérez  
Grace Ireland  
Kasey Lazan  
Keelin McLoughlin  
Taryn Murphy  
Heather Niemoeller  
Gabriella Perotti  
Corinne Price  
Yasmina Serville  
Shadia Stinney  
Kingsley Stroh  
Abigail Walton  
Keila Wong

**Temple University Concert Choir**

Paul Rardin, conductor  
Kim Barroso, pianist  
Joy Vernon, graduate teaching assistant

**SOPRANO**

Katie Hahn  
Micaela Hickey  
Noelle Horrell  
Alexis Lapreziosa  
Allison Maney  
Conway McGrath  
Hillary Rhydderch  
Lindsey Salamone  
Marissa Sterner  
Joy Vernon  
Jenna Weitman

**ALTO**

DianeMarie DiLabio  
Shannon Foley  
Hannah Grasso  
Ali Hodges  
Julia Kuk  
Alaina O'Neill  
Elizabeth Scianno  
Victoria Zamora

**TENOR**

John Denman  
Jason Garcia-Kakuk  
Marcus Huber  
Colin Kase  
Brady Ketelsen  
Benjamin Rogers-Petro  
Kyle Ryan

**BASS**

Federico Chlopecki  
Benjamin Herstig  
Peter Papadopoulos  
Baker Purdon  
Seth Wohl

**Temple University Chorale**

Dustin Cates, conductor

Isaac Young, pianist

Federico Chlopecki, graduate teaching assistant

**TENOR**

Arjin Roe Asthana  
Joshua Battisti  
Reece Betancourt  
Benjamin Carino  
Benjamin Daisey  
Thomas DalCeredo  
Gabriel Escobar  
Connor Frugoli  
Daniel Johnson  
Rowan Leggett  
Colin Mash  
Nicholas Mastrodomenico  
Evan Mayorga  
Kohl Pilgrim  
Immanuel Rimmer  
Dylan Roche  
Reid Shriver

**BASS**

Xavier Arana  
Robert Avigdor  
Peter Bond  
Harrison Cohn  
Chase Cote  
Daniel Farah  
Jacob Goldberg  
Trevor Hampson  
Matthew Hendry  
Daniel Keats  
Michael Kozloski  
Gabriel Locati  
Julian McNaul  
Rafi Mills  
Timothy Nagle  
Thomas Nichter  
Roy Nussbaum  
Wynston Peters  
Joshua Powell  
James Sheppard  
Eli Weinstein  
Jayson Williams

**Temple University Singers**

Mitos Andaya Hart, conductor

Kim Barroso, pianist

Brady Ketelsen, graduate teaching assistant

**SOPRANO**

Erin Bruni  
Lindsey Carney  
Samantha Childress  
Luna Dantagnan  
Gretchen Enterline  
Negar Ghasemi  
Erin Kuchler  
Anezka Kurian  
Rachel Miller  
Olivia Munro  
Betty Odunayo  
Madeleine Opalecky  
Rosemary Pandolfo  
Domenica Passio  
Olivia Quinn  
Celeste Rubino  
Olivia Sormaz

**ALTO**

Skylar Barton  
Carina Calvaresi  
Claire Coco  
Alexy Fitzmyer  
Christina Foye  
Gina Freshcoln  
Lyric Fritsch  
Ariana Grace  
Paige Hollenbeck  
Kyungmin Kim  
Mackenzie Lynch  
Elizabeth Racunas  
Arianna Risilia  
Hannah Solomon  
Sydney Spector  
Stella Vallon

**TENOR**

Nelson Armstrong  
Matthew Bottone  
Vincent Cavallero  
Michael Confalone  
Nguyen Dang  
Matthew Dubov  
Thomas Geiger  
John Kairis  
Matthew Levenberg  
John Rouleau  
Evan Sleppy  
Hayden Smith

**BASS**

Douglas Barger  
Joseph Callahan  
Alonzo Davis  
Matthew Garvey  
Matthew Green  
William Hornby  
Quinn Johnstadt  
William Klotsas  
Nicholas Lam  
Yifan Liu  
Suyi Zheng

**Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School Senior Chorale**  
Rosemary Schneider and Kelly Wyszomierski, conductors

Jazmin Baez  
Lucy Calbert  
Paola Calderon  
Julia Capaldi  
Decaria Carnegie  
Syncere Carney-Jacobs  
Tori-Lee Carter  
Dana Christinzio  
Nayianni Clark-Baines  
Hannah Cliett  
M'Kaiyah Commeger  
Cheryl Davis  
Dominick Dimeo  
Kayla Elliott  
Jayniah Falligan  
Paige Flatley  
Julianna Gallagher-Santiago  
Taryn Gutleber  
Shadea Hester  
Emily Manion  
Armani Martinez  
Alyssa Mascuilli  
Gianni Matteo  
Asia McAliley  
Victoria Migliarese  
Kamarah Morgan  
Anyae Mosley-Heller  
Destinee Nguyen  
Nicolette Otto  
Sophia Podgorski  
HuRiyyah Ray-Walker  
Bianca Rodriguez  
Jamal Rogers  
Patrick Sang  
Matthew Stewart  
Mia Truesdale

## Music Credits

### Singing Owls

Suzzette Ortiz *El sol brillara otra vez* (The sun will rise again)

### Photos and Video

Crystal Benner  
Nicole Reneé Brock  
Agustin Bruno  
Shannon Coulter  
Whitney Covalle  
Diane Dannenfelser  
Joseph Gorman  
Joseph Gorman, III  
Jean Haynes  
Elizabeth Hohwieler  
Hilary Klapholz  
Glenn Kutler  
Simone Kutler  
Mary Malark  
Rupel Nargunam  
Matthias Ohr  
Reynaldo Ortega  
Suzzette Ortiz  
Wilann Spiccia  
Jawieaus Stewart  
Jorge Vazquez

Temple University Choirs thanks our distinguished rehearsal guests this semester:

Michael Barrett  
Robert Bode  
Rollo Dilworth  
Dominick DiOrio  
Lillian Eyre  
Arreon Harley-Emerson  
Marianne Kim  
Donald Nally  
Jacob Narverud  
Rosephanye Powell  
Andrea Ramsey  
Rosemary Schneider  
Helen Shoemark  
Mari Ésabel Valverde  
Tesfa Wondemagegnehu  
Kelly Wyszomierski

One hundred seventh performance of the 2020-2021 season.

