

Dr. Ingrid Lestrud | Artistic Director

We Stand Together

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023



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The Arlington Chorale We Stand Together

Dr. Ingrid Lestrud, Artistic Director

A Chain is Broken

Music: Dominick DiOrio (b. 1984) Text: Khashayar Tonekaboni Devin Mercer, soloist Sonya Hayes, violin, Rebecca Ehren, piano

We Are...

Music and Text: Ysaye Barnwell (b. 1946) Kobe Brown, conductor

In Meeting We Are Blessed

Music: Troy Robertson (b. 1978) Text: R. Gatsnahos and John Donne Jakob Moberly, percussion

Refuge

Music: Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979) Text: Sara Teasdale Christopher Fiore, cello, Rebecca Ehren, piano

Song for Justice

from *Tuvayhun - Beatitudes for a Wounded World* Music: Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980) Text: Charles Anthony Silvestri Ava Rissetto, soloist Sonya Hayes and Pam Lassell, violin, Kate Cinelli, viola, Christopher Fiore, cello, T. Alan Stewart, bass, Jakob Moberly, percussion, Rebecca Ehren, piano

Song of Exile

Music: Saunder Choi (b. 1988) Text: Sholeh Wolpé Hamid Habib Zada, tabla Sonya Hayes and Pam Lassell, violin, Kate Cinelli, viola, Christopher Fiore, cello, T. Alan Stewart, bass World premiere performance Commissioned by The Arlington Chorale

Christine Dunn, Director of Community Engagement Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area

I Am a Voice That Sings

Music: Michael Bussewitz-Quarm (b. 1971) Text: Ronald W. Cadmus Tiffany Jesteadt, Lesly Dume, and Kobe Brown, soloists Rebecca Ehren, piano

Never One Thing

Music and Text: May Erlewine (b. 1983) Arrangement: Corie Brown (b. 1986) Performers with Purpose Jakob Moberly, percussion, Rebecca Ehren, piano

Undivided

Music and text: Karen Marolli (b. 1975)

Caitlin McCarthy Schmid and Kristen Abaquin Potter, soloists Sonya Hayes, violin, Christopher Fiore, cello, Rebecca Ehren, piano

Let the River Run

Music and text: Carly Simon (b. 1943) Arrangement: Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962) T. Alan Stewart, bass, Jakob Moberly, percussion Rebecca Ehren, piano

Join us for a post-concert reception with refreshments from local restaurants founded by immigrants from around the world.

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Meet the Chorale



Soprano	Izzy Arbetter Glenna Bradley Cindi Charles Cindy Fagnoni Tiffany Jesteadt Ellen Keating Betsy Keenan	Teresa Wedding Kloster Mayarí Loza Kristen Abaquin Potter Katherine Sargent Laura Smith	Amanda Steadman Trishana Thomas Christine Wegman Sandra Winkler Michele Zaragoza
Alto	Elizabeth Allen Ariel Braunstein Karen Carey Ramona Carey Diane Carrier Courtney Chenault Laurlee Coady Heather Dinwiddie	Martha Duggan Stephanie Gagnon Susan Kelly Roberta Kilduff Lauren Levenstein Karen McAndrews Sandra Mori Carol M. Sparhawk	Lynn Robinson Teresita Schaffer Caitlin McCarthy Schmid Mia Spare Katherine Sullivan Miranda Willson Stacey Zumo
Tenor	Andrew Alexander Kobe Brown Luke Fisher	Daniel Gray Philip C. Hart Anna-Maija Litvak	RC McShane Troy Palma Kevin Splane
Bass	Patrick Dougherty Lesly Dume Dave Froman Douglas Gage Vic Glasberg	Jeremy Hesketh Justin Htay Webb Naas David Permut	James Reed Nareg Seferian Brian Thomas Chris Tscharner
Performers with Purpose	Avery Chen Sarah Eichorn Layla Eisenberg Alannah Hjelm Ela Patel-Euler	Esperanza Piechowski Mackenzie Rau Ava Rissetto	Sidney Schweigart Ava Yi Matteo Zanini

Artist Bios

Saunder Choi | Composer

Saunder Choi is a Los Angeles-based Filipino composer and choral artist whose works have been performed internationally by various groups including Conspirare, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Pacific Chorale, World Youth Choir, Brightwork New Music, People Inside Electronics, and many others. As an arranger and orchestrator, Saunder has written for Tony-Award winner Lea Salonga, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, Orquestra Filarmónica Portuguesa, Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, etc.

As a choral artist, he sings with Pacific Chorale, L.A. Choral Lab, HEX Vocal Ensemble, as well as in film scores such as the soundtrack of Disney's *The Lion King* (2019), *Mulan* (2020), *Turning Red* (2022), *Nope* (2022), *Avatar: The Way of the Water* (2022), among others.

Saunder believes in music as advocacy, using the media as a platform for diversity, equity, inclusion, justice. His compositions are focused on narratives and conversations surrounding immigration, racial justice, LGBTQ+ advocacy, climate justice, and representations of his identity as a Filipino-Chinese. He is currently Director of Music at Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica and a teaching artist with the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Learn more at <u>www.saunderchoi.com</u>



Hamid Habib Zada | Tabla

Hamid Habib Zada was born in 1997 in Herat, Afghanistan. He plays the tabla, a percussion instrument originating from India similar to bongos. It is a principal element of Hindustani classical music and also an essential part of Bhakti devotional traditions in Hinduism and Sikhism during bhajan and kirtan singing.

Hamid began playing tabla when he was nine years old, learning from his brother who is a professional musician in Herat. He studied at the Agha Khan Music School in Herat and received additional training in the tabla at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul in 2018-2019. Along with his performances, Hamid taught music with his brother for over six years in Herat. He played at two music festivals in Turkmenistan in 2018.

Hamid arrived in the United States in August, 2021 and quickly became very active in the Afghan music community. He performed at Lincoln Center in New York City as part of the Summer for the City festival in 2022.



Rebecca Ehren | Piano

Rebecca Ehren is a pianist, organist, music director, and soprano from Ottawa, Canada. She currently serves as Organ Scholar at Washington National Cathedral, where she plays for services that reach over 10,000 people, works with the choristers and professional choir, and assists in all aspects of the music program. Before relocating to D.C. this year, Rebecca was based in New York City, where she performed as a soloist and collaborated with numerous vocalists, instrumentalists, and ensembles and held organist positions at notable Catholic and Episcopal Churches. As a soprano, she was a member of numerous professional church choirs and other ensembles and sang with the Experiential Orchestra and Chorus on their Grammy-winning recording of Ethyl Smyth's The Prison.

Rebecca completed her undergraduate degree in piano performance with honors from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where she was awarded the Premier Young Artist Award and the Wennerstrom-Phillips Scholarship. She more recently obtained a Master's in Organ Performance from Yale's Institute of Sacred Music. She is also an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto) in piano. Beyond performing, Rebecca has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors for C4: The Choral Composer Conductor Collective and holds a second undergraduate degree from Indiana University in cognitive science and mathematics/economics.





Dr. Ingrid Lestrud | Artistic Director

Dr. Ingrid Lestrud enjoys an active career as a conductor and educator. Drawn to music and singing at an early age, she studied vocal performance as an undergraduate and discovered a passion for conducting choral and orchestral music. She went on to study conducting at the graduate level, eventually completing her Doctor of Music degree at Northwestern University, where she studied with Victor Yampolsky. While living in Chicago, Dr. Lestrud sang with the Chicago Symphony Chorus for several seasons under the baton of Riccardo Muti, performing in the Grammy award-winning recording of Verdi's Requiem. She spent three years as the Voice Department Chair of the Merit School of Music, a community music school that serves over six thousand students with a focus on underserved communities. Collaborating with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, she worked with Renée Fleming to develop curriculum for Merit's Solo Voice Program, and her choir performed for and with Ms. Fleming for special events.

Dr. Lestrud has served on the faculty of several colleges in the midwest and on the east coast, leading choral and orchestral programs. Formerly the Principal Associate Conductor of the Grammy award-winning National Children's Chorus, she worked with some of the finest young singers in the nation, preparing them for concerts at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Kennedy Center. In 2019, she performed as a member of the Living Arts Collective at the National Gallery of Art, conducting several movements of Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire in an event that showcased both musicians and dancers, highlighting an exhibition of lunar photographs and commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the moon landing. Dr. Lestrud is also a conductor with Encore Creativity, a choral organization for older adults that focuses on preparing high quality performances while also fostering a sense of community through singing.



Kobe Brown | Joseph And Karen Luquire Conducting Fellow Kobe Brown is a multi-talented graduate student pursuing a master's degree in choral conducting at the University of Maryland. Growing up in Huntsville Alabama, he has been interested in several contrasting career paths, such as graphic design, nursing, photography, and pharmacy. However, since joining the world-renowned choir the Aeolians of Oakwood University, he has fully committed himself to pursuing a career in choral conducting. He has performed in choirs nationally all over the United States, and internationally in many countries including the Dominican Republic, England, and South Africa. Kobe has achieved many high honors both chorally and individually. In 2022, he was awarded the Katherine & Richard Lester Emerging Arts Award for outstanding young musicians that have had a dramatic impact in the community. He strives to continue instilling an appreciation of choral music in youth and young adults.

About the Chorale

Choral singing builds community, providing a space for members to work toward a common artistic goal as they create, connect, and sing together.

The Arlington Chorale is a multi-generational chorus composed of members from Virginia, D.C., and Maryland. Singers come from a diverse range of professions and musical backgrounds, and members form strong connections with each other through musical rehearsals and fun social events. The Chorale also sponsors a youth outreach group called Performers with Purpose (PWP) that connects young singers ages 10-18 to other nonprofits in the community, focusing on service through choral music.

Building on over fifty years of choral art, the Chorale continues to present ambitious programming, rehearsing and performing primarily in Arlington.

Texts & Translations

A CHAIN IS BROKEN

Gham daaram, Maadar Kojayee, Pédar? Gharibeh-am keh dar Beyneh gharibeh-haast

Deerooz, baa ham boodeem Deerooz, khandeh Chehreh-ye Maadar, keh feda kardeh Khaterehi tanha beyneh sedaahaast

Cheh meegooyand? Cheh meeporsand? Beh cheh meekhandand? Gom-shodeh injaa tanhaast

Do they understand? A smile and A nod and A barrier is crossed

And I see unity Of ideas, of thoughts that brings Laughter at laughable things Together, engendering trust

A new world is at hand New faces, new expressions Together in diverse collections An ocean of love and lust

For freedom stands Facing me, embracing me Carrying, chasing me From maybe to must I'm sad, Mother Where are you, Father? I'm a stranger Among strangers

Yesterday, we were together Yesterday, there was laughter Mother's countenance and her sacrifice Are but memories among the voices

What are they saying? What are they asking? What makes them laugh? He who is lost is here alone Certainty replaces Trepidation and fear Friends and lovers are here Laughing, crying, their faces embossed

With joy, with pain Still, a chain is broken And moods are spoken But with freedom, comes a cost

Dear to bear the burden of Standing on both feet and Shouting to the world, taking a stand I am no longer tossed

On the waves of will Of others. I'll speak For me and mine, no longer meek And for the globe whose crust

Is baked the love of all Sometimes hidden Some forbidden But never is Mother thrust

In the dark of hate For long when all the I's Proclaim Earth's anthem never dies Singing the stories of each of us.

WE ARE...

For each child that's born a morning star rises and sings to the universe who we are.

We are our grandmothers' prayers. We are our grandfathers' dreamings. We are the breath of our ancestors. We are the spirit of God. We are Mothers of courage Fathers of time Daughters of dust Sons of great vision. We are Sisters of mercy Brothers of love Lovers of life and the builders of nations. We are Seekers of truth Keepers of faith Makers of peace and the wisdom of ages.

We are our grandmothers' prayers. We are our grandfathers' dreamings. We are the breath of our ancestors. We are the spirit of God

For each child that's born a morning star rises and sings to the universe who we are.

WE ARE ONE.

IN MEETING WE ARE BLESSED

We are met together and in meeting we are blessed. Peace in coming and in going, peace in labor and in rest.

Hold on dear brother! Hold on dear sister! Hold on to me, hold on to me, hold on to me.

You're not alone and you never more will be. I will be with you and I will carry you with me. Friendship endures and surely we will prove It's not ourselves, but our bodies that move.

REFUGE

From my spirit's gray defeat, From my pulse's flagging beat, From my hopes that turned to sand Sifting through my close-clenched hand, From my own fault's slavery, If I can sing, I still am free.

For with my singing I can make A refuge for my spirit's sake, A house of shining words, to be My fragile immortality.

SONG FOR JUSTICE

In all that we are, It is better by far To follow our star, And sing out our truth.

When things can't get worse, We hunger and thirst For the last to be first; And so we sing out our truth.

We sing for the poor, We sing for the weak, We sing for the helpless, The hopeless, the meek. We sing out the truth Against hunger and hate. We sing out for justice Before it's too late!

And in all that we do For these, and for you, The whole dark night through We're gonna sing out our truth!

SONG OF EXILE

Song of Exile is a setting of text by Iranian-born poet, playwright, and librettist Sholeh Wolpé. Poetry and music have the capacity to carry our histories, longings, and dreams. Together, they can create a bridge between people and cultures where we can meet and truly see one another. Through this collaborative creation, we are able to create a space where we encounter the pain of loss (represented by the adult choir) dissolving into hope (represented by the youth choir) and culminating in pride in the cultural heritage immigrants contribute to their adopted communities.

We who left home, ran towards blackthorn walls, children who crossed boundaries, torn by its thousand serrated tongues; we who bear scars that bloom and bloom beneath healed skins who have we become? Beh keh bá-dál sho-deh-eem? (إبه كه بدل شيد طيم؟)

Khäneh dán-däneest ghäyeb (خانه دندانیست غایب) Home is a missing tooth. The tongue reaches for hardness but falls into absence.

Absence.

Will we go back one day? Rub our cheeks against our old house door. Will it open its timber arms widen its wooden jaw? Let us in. Or will it creak shut, slam, betray?

Loss is a language we all speak well, a body-moan that echoes between ribs.

Home is a missing tooth.

Home is the beat of your heart. Khäneh dár tápesh-eh ghálb ást (خانه در تیش قلب است) Carry seeds from home in your mouths. Plant turmeric, cardamom, and saffron. Water them with your grandmothers' songs. They will grow, they will, against these blackthorn walls.

We are shoreless lakes, skirt-less mountains. Our scars bloom and bloom beneath healed skin. Hours fall backward into our eyes, into our souls. The sun will burn us in exile.

The sun will give you daisies. It will give you groves of pear.

Our scars bloom and bloom beneath healed skin.

Your downfall is your windfall.

Home is the beat of your heart. Khäneh dár tápesh-eh ghálb ást (خانه در تیش قلب است)

Carry seeds from home in your mouths. Plant turmeric, cardamom, and saffron. Water them with your grandmothers' songs. They will grow, they will, against these blackthorn walls.

Against these blackthorn walls. Our downfall is our windfall. We will root into fields with our grandmother's songs.

What is a transplanted tree but a *time being* who has adapted to adoption.

We are seeds in the wind. Turmeric, cardamom, and saffron. We sing our grandmother's songs.

Loss is a language we all speak well. It is a downfall that becomes windfall.

Seeds in the wind. We will grow against blackghorn walls. *Khäneh dár tápesh-eh ghálb ást* (خانه در تپش قلب است) We carry home in the beat of our hearts.

I AM A VOICE THAT SINGS

In the dark of night In shades of fear I'll reach within Deep in my soul To find the promised light A dream to keep in sight I am a voice that sings!

When all hope seems gone On your path unknown Feeling alone I'll keep right on And blend my voice with yours To lift and reassure I am a voice that sings!

I'm resolved to love To be a force for change My hand will hold Your tender wounds Together we will find Something of grace and peace I am a voice that sings!

When the flowers fade When the stars grow dim When the smile leaves And tears appear From deep within the heart The song of life draws near I am a voice that sings! I am a voice that sings! Together we will sing!

NEVER ONE THING

I'm the underbelly, I am the claw, never one thing, no not one thing at all. I'm a street fighter, I'm a prayer for peace, I'm a holy roller, I'm a honey bee.

I am the truth, I am the lie, I'm the ground, I am the sky. I am the silence, I am the call, never one thing, no, not one thing at all.

I am hope, I am defeat, I am broken, I am complete, I am the grace, I am the fall, never one thing, no, not one thing at all.

I am the beggar, I am the queen, I am the end, I am the means, I am the hammer, I am the wall, never one thing, no, not one thing at all.

I am a victor, I am the loss, I am a profit, I am a cost, I am the salve, I am the sting, never, no, never, no, never one thing.

I am a mother, I am the child, I am the meek, I am the wild, I am the witch, I am a saint, I am alive, never one thing.

I am the lion, I am the swan, I am the bull, I am the fawn, I am a woman, I am the ring, I am my own, never one thing.

UNDIVIDED

When darkness drops an anchor In the fearful oceans of our minds, And when the world is preaching rancor, I can choose to be kind. And maybe more will find the quiet rivers, Where we'll lift a peaceful melody, And undivided we will stand, Stand together, hand in hand. And when hatred shatters silence, And each one clings to each one's will, And when the world bows down to violence, I can refuse to kill. And maybe more will join in sweet resistance, Singing chords in gentle harmony, And undivided we will stand, Stand together hand in hand.

And when anger breeds division, We can choose to stand side by side, And when the world exalts derision, We can choose to lift each other high. And maybe then we'll join in one big chorus, Singing songs of peace and unity, And undivided we will stand, Stand together, hand in hand.

LET THE RIVER RUN

Coming to the edge, running on the water, Let the river run, let all the dreamers wake the nation. Silver cities rise; the morning lights the streets that meet them. And sirens call them on with a song.

It's asking for the taking, trembling, shaking. Oh, my heart is aching. We're coming to the edge, running on the water, Coming through the fog, your sons and daughters.

Coming to the edge, running on the water. Come!



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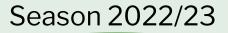


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This project was supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

arlington arts

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