



All Creation Sings God's Praise
An Earth Day Celebration Concert

The Marble Choir & Festival of Voices
Kenneth V. Dake, *director of music*

Sunday, April 25, 2021
12:00pm, online

Dr. Michael Bos
Senior Minister

ONE WEST TWENTY-NINTH STREET, AT FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10001-4596
MarbleChurch.org 212.686.2770

All Creation Sings God's Praise

Prologue

Gratitude

Wilhelmina Smith, *cello*

Salt Bay ChamberFest, Round Top Farm, Maine

Dawn Avery

There Is Sweet Music Here

L. J. White (1831-1913)

The Marble Choir

Recorded April 22, 2018

There is sweet music here that softer falls
Than petals from blown roses on the grass,
Or night-dews on still waters between walls
Of shadowy granite, in a gleaming pass;
Music that gentler on the spirit lies,
Than tir'd eyelids upon tir'd eyes;
Music that brings sweet sleep down from the blissful skies.
Here are cool mosses deep,
And thro' the moss the ivies creep,
And in the stream the long-leaved flowers weep,
And from the craggy ledge the poppy hangs in sleep.

— Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Text: Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-1895)

Virtual Video: The Marble Choir and Festival of Voices

Nun beut die Flur from *The Creation*

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Lila Duffy, *soprano*

Sung in German; Translation:

Now verdure fills the meadows to delight the eye,
And flowers enhance the vista with their gentle, jeweled charm.
Here herbs waft their balm upon the air; here sprouts the healing grace.
Branches bend, bowed down with golden fruit;
the arching grove a shelter cool provides,
thick forests crown the mountain's steep incline.

— Gottfried van Swieten (1733-1803)

Nun scheint in vollem Glanze der Himmel from *The Creation*

Franz Joseph Haydn

David Michael Garry, *bass-baritone*

Sung in German; Translation:

How the heavens shine in all their glory,
now the Earth is splendidly adorned.
The air is filled with fluttering plumage,
the seas are swollen by the fishy host,
the earth's pressed down by the weight of beasts.
But all was not accomplished yet.
That being was still lacking from the whole,
who could look upon God's work with gratitude
and praise the goodness of the Lord.

— Gottfried van Swieten

World, I Cannot Hold Thee Close Enough

Colin Britt (b. 1985)

Virtual Video: The Marble Choir

O world, I cannot hold thee close enough!
Thy winds, thy wide grey skies! Thy mists that roll and rise!
Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag and all but cry with color!
That gaunt crag to crush, to lift the lean of that black bluff!
World, O World, I cannot get thee close enough!
Long have I known a glory in it all, but never knew I this:
Here such a passion is as stretches me apart,
Lord, I do fear Thou'st made the world too beautiful this year.
My soul is all but out of me,
let fall no burning leaf; prithee, let no bird call.

— Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950)

The Mystery Around Us Zitkala-Sa a.k.a Red Bird, Gertrude Bonnin (1876-1938)
Rhonda Musak, *reader*

Nature, the Gentlest Mother Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Tesia Kwarteng, *mezzo-soprano*

Nature, the gentlest mother
Impatient of no child,
The feeblest or the waywardest,—
Her admonition mild

In forest and the hill
By traveller is heard,
Restraining rampant squirrel
Or too impetuous bird.

How fair her conversation,
A summer afternoon,—
Her household, her assembly;
And when the sun goes down

Her voice among the aisles
Incites the timid prayer
Of the minutest cricket,
The most unworthy flower.

When all the children sleep
She turns as long away
As will suffice to light her lamps;
Then, bending from the sky,

With infinite affection
And infiniter care,
Her golden finger on her lip,
Wills silence everywhere.

— *Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)*

Õhtul (Evening)

Pärt Uusberg (b. 1986)

Virtual Video: The Marble Choir

Sung in Estonian; Translation:

The little bird grows silent as the wind blows.
The small flower falls asleep caressed by the dew.
Twilight blushes as she kisses the night.
The forest trees sleep in memory and silence.
The are wistful for my song, now a silent memory,
as it paddles far away.
The little bird grows silent as the wind blows.
The small flower falls asleep caressed by the dew.
Twilight blushes as she kisses the night.
The forest trees sleep in memory and silence.

— *Ernst Enno (1875-1934)*

Zdes' Khorosho (How Fair This Spot), Op. 21, No. 7

Shelley Mihm, *soprano*

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Sung in Russian; Translation:

How fair this spot, How peaceful,
Look there, in the distance the river shines like a flame,
The fields lie like a flowered carpet, white clouds above.
Here there are no people, here there is silence,
Here there is only God and I,
Flowers – an aging pine, and you, my dream!

— *Glafira Eynerling (1873-1942)*

Remember

Joy Harjo (b. 1951)

Sonja Johnson, *reader*

Fairest Lord Jesus

Stephen Main

Text: *Schönster Herr Jesu* from Münster Gesangbuch, 1677
Virtual Video: The Marble Choir and Festival of Voices

The Year's at the Spring

Amy Beach (1867-1944)

Max Parsons, *baritone*

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His Heaven—
All's right with the world!

— *Robert Browning (1812-1889)***It Was a Lover and His Lass**

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

Max Parsons, *baritone*

It was a lover and his lass,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
That o'er the green cornfield did pass,
In springtime, the only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding;
Sweet lovers love the spring.

Between the acres of the rye,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
Those pretty country folks would lie,
In springtime, the only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding;
Sweet lovers love the spring.

This carol they began that hour,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
How that a life was but a flower
In springtime, the only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding;
Sweet lovers love the spring.

And therefore take the present time,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
For love is crownèd with the prime
In springtime, the only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding;
Sweet lovers love the spring.

— *William Shakespeare (1564-1616)***Shenandoah***American Folk Song*, arr. James Erb (1926-2014)

The Marble Choir
Recorded April 22, 2018

Benediction

Kenneth Dake

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Dolly Parton (b. 1946), arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Lauren-Rose King, *soprano*; Mark Johnson, *recorder*
The Marble Choir
Recorded June 3, 2018



Please see next page for choir participants.

Participants

THE MARBLE CHOIR

Rachel Barg
Clark Baxtresser
Joshua Bouchard
Robbie Cowan
Ethan Crystal
Lila Duffy
Ethan Garner
Dave Garry
Phenisher Harris

Brian Hurst
Laura Inman
Marcus Jefferson
Mark Johnson
Lauren-Rose King
Tesia Kwarteng
Jonathan May
Alex McCoy
Shelley Mihm

Joan Mohre
Katherine Papa
Max Parsons
Nick Prior
Martin Schreiner
Anna Willson
Elisabeth van Os

MARBLE FESTIVAL OF VOICES

Jerome Amanquinton
Melinda Barnes
Chris Chalfant
Michelle Crichlow
Elicia Enriquez

Carol Frierson-Campbell
Africa Gray
Clay Hale
Dale Kent
Dorothy Krauss-Eisenpress

Ka Yun Lam
Ezekiel Montgomery
Mark Pottinger
Kay Wolff
Clair Zak

KENNETH DAKE, *director*

Please Meet the Artists on next page.



THANK YOU

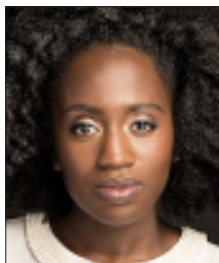
VIRTUAL CHOIR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

Jeff Kerestes, *audio-visual engineer*
Nicholas Prior, *Fairest Lord Jesus video producer*
Sam Nesbitt, *Fairest Lord Jesus audio and video engineer*

VIRTUAL CONCERT PERSONNEL

Kenneth Dake, *music director*
Jennifer Clover, *music department manager*
Christina Morano-Keiser, *director of media & communication*
Nick Giardina, *media production specialist*
Dan Finegold, *production assistant*
Rick Harper, *events and space usage manager*
Kim Sebastian-Ryan, *director of membership & connecting*
Siobhan Tull, *program leader for online community*
Greg Lum, *art director, website, publicity*
Karla Fritsch, *publications manager*

Meet the Artists



TESIA KWARTENG is a Ghanaian-American multi-faceted artist equally at home on the operatic stage, on screen and in the studio. She recently made her Austin Opera debut featured in recital as a part of their *Live from Indy Terrace* Broadcast. Tesia was also a featured soloist in the ensemble of the Grammy Award winning production of *Porgy and Bess* at The Metropolitan Opera. She will make her Off Broadway debut at Lincoln Center Theater in Ricky Ian Gordon's new opera *Intimate Apparel* understudying the role of Mayme and performing in the ensemble. She has participated in the Young Artist Programs at the Opera Theater of Saint Louis, Tri-Cities Opera, The Glimmerglass Festival, Chautauqua Opera and Virginia Opera. For more information, visit tesiakwarteng.com.

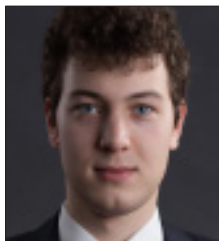


DAVID MICHAEL GARRY, bass-baritone, has made a career as a crossover artist not only between the genres of Classical and Musical Theater singing, but between singer and instrumentalist. He has been seen in over 20 productions On and Off Broadway as well as countless regional appearances. He is currently in the cast of *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway performing the roles of Joseph Buquet and Don Attilio and as the cover for Monsieur Firmin. David's television Credits include: *Godfather of Harlem*, *Prodigal Son*, *Jessica Jones*, *Flesh and Bone*, *Elementary* and many more.



SHELLEY MIHM is an American singing actor who blends "wide-ranging expressiveness," and "effortless control," to deliver compelling performances of the lyric coloratura repertoire. This season Mihm brings Nancy to life in the premier of William Zeffiro's *Truman and Nancy*. Last season she made her debut as Musetta in *La bohème* with Taconic Opera, and Orphise in *Émilie, ou la belle esclave in Paris* with Really Spicy Opera. In 2018 - 2019 Mihm debuted the roles of Soldier in *The Falling and the Rising*, Zelda in *The Ghosts of Gatsby*, and Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare* with the Seagle Music Colony. Mihm was a winner of the NC District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2018 as well as the ND District in 2015. This year Mihm

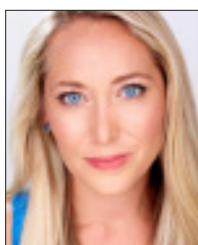
recorded with the Netflix studio for the series *The Queen's Gambit* in New York City where she resides and sings with The Marble Choir. Mihm holds B.M. from the University of Minnesota and an M.M. from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Her past roles include Micaëla in *Carmen*, Rosabella in *The Most Happy Fella*, Blanche in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Savitri in *Sāvitrī*, Margaret in *The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret*, the Vixen in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



NYC native **MAX PARSONS** is a versatile musician equally at home in art song, opera, and choral music. He regularly appears with Ghostlight Chorus and The Marble Choir. In Austin, TX, he debuted as a soloist and chorister with the Austin Baroque Orchestra, the Ars Longa ensemble, and the University of Texas New Music Ensemble. He also performed with Austin Opera and the UT Butler School of Music as a chorister, and played leading roles of Papageno in *The Magic Flute* and Masetto in *Don Giovanni* at Opera Breve Vocal Intensive. Additionally an accomplished pianist and educator, Max is the assistant conductor at Our Lady of the Miraculous Metal in Ridgewood, Queens; and accompanies chorus at Manhattan Country School.



French coloratura soprano **LILA DUFFY** is a graduate of the University of Montreal and is currently completing her studies at the Juilliard School in New York. She performed many roles such as Tytania (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Despina (*Così fan tutte*), Eurydice (*Orphée et Eurydice*), Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*), the Princess, the Fire and the Nightingale (*The Child and the Spells*) and the Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*). She's been heard at the Montreal Bach Festival and was about to make her Carnegie Hall debut in *Carmina Burana* when the pandemic hit. Passionate about contemporary music, she collaborated with composers Ana Sokolovic and José Evangelista and young Canadian composers. Soon, she will perform at the Lyric Opera of Chicago in the role of the Queen of the Night, at the Capitole of Toulouse in the role of Clarine (*Platée*), and alongside Benjamin Bernheim for a concert with the Orchestre du Capitole during the summer of 2021, where she will also be part of the Académie d'Aix-en-Provence.



LAUREN-ROSE KING received her degrees from New England Conservatory and University of Maryland's Opera Studio. Favorite roles include Musetta/*La bohème*, Queen of the Night/*Die Zauberflöte*, Catherine/*Pippin*, Yum-Yum/*The Mikado* and Johanna/*Sweeney Todd*. She has sung with critically acclaimed ensembles, Boston Baroque, The Bard Festival Chorale, Chatham Baroque, Pittsburgh Camerata and has sung at the Center for Contemporary Opera, Light Opera of New York, Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar, SongFest, and Washington National Cathedral. Awards include National Finalist in the Classical Singer Competition, 1st Place in Boston NATS, 1st Place New England Conservatory Concerto Competition and NEC Musical Theatre Scholarship. Lauren-Rose currently lives on Long Island and in addition to performing, runs a virtual voice and piano studio.