King’s University College Chamber Choir

presents

in the stillness

Saturday, April 2, 2022
The Chapel at Windermere on the Mount

Janet Loo, conductor
Grace Yip, piano
Mikela Witjes, violin
Leah Grandmont, violin
John Wiebe, viola
Patrick Theriault, cello

PROGRAM

Prayer for Ukraine  Mykola Lysenko
Gabriel’s Oboe (from The Mission)  Ennio Morricone, arr. C. Hella Johnson
Sure On This Shining Night  Morten Lauridsen
Sicut Cervus  Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
Cantique de Jean Racine  Gabriel Fauré
Adagio for Strings  Samuel Barber
Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring  Johann Sebastian Bach
Bogoroditse Devo (from All-Night Vigil)  Sergei Rachmaninoff
Requiem  Eliza Gilkyson, arr. C. Hella Johnson
Ave Verum Corpus  Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Méditation (from Thaïs)  Jules Massenet
Flight Song  Kim André Arnesen
Ubi Caritas (with piano improvisation)  Ola Gjeilo
Meet Me Here  Craig Hella Johnson
Soloist: Iris Janssen
Ukuthula (A Prayer for Peace)  Traditional Zulu
Soloist: Teresa Benincasa-Sweeting

PERFORMER PROFILES

King’s University College Chamber Choir consists of auditioned choral singers from the King’s University College community and from the wider Western University and London communities. The choristers perform choral works in a variety of styles and genres throughout the ages. As ambassadors of King’s, the choir is dedicated to reaching out to the wider community by donating the proceeds of performances to designated charitable organizations. The choir is the proud recipient of the 2021 and 2016 Forest City London Music Awards for “Best Classical Choir.” For more information, visit www.kings.uwo.ca/kucc or find the choir on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram under the handle @kucchamberchoir. Interested in auditioning? Contact Janet at janet.loo@kings.uwo.ca.

Janet Loo, Conductor and Artistic Director
Janet is founding conductor and artistic director of the King’s University College Chamber Choir and serves as Campus Minister at King’s University College, specializing in music ministry. She is an experienced choral conductor and vocal coach, having led choirs for over 25 years from Toronto to Taizé, France. Presently, she is a faculty member at Western’s Don Wright Faculty of Music, currently teaching in the Music Education Department. She has conducted Les Choristes and Chorale in the Music Performance Studies Department. Janet serves as a member of the National Council for Liturgical Music and board member of the London Arts Council. She holds a Master of Music degree in performance and literature from Western University.

Grace Yip, Piano
Well known to London audiences, Grace Yip strives to create beautiful music with every one of her ensembles. Grace is currently a staff pianist for St. Mary Choir and Orchestral School, and is also the collaborative pianist for The London Singers, H.B. Beal Singers, London Pro Music Choir, The Karen Schuessler Singers, and Medway High School. She has also worked with other choral groups including Pride Men’s Chorus, St. Paul’s Cathedral Choir, Schola Sancti Pauli, Canadian Celtic Choir, and Catholic Central High School. Grace earned a Bachelor of Music in piano performance (University of Saskatchewan) and a Master of Music in collaborative piano with Ron Turini (Western). Grace is very happy to be playing for King’s University College Chamber Choir again for this concert, and would like to thank Janet and the singers for their warm reception this year.

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Proceeds from this evening’s performance will be directed to Development and Peace - Caritas Ukraine, a non-profit organization that is on the ground providing humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons who are desperately searching for safe shelter, both in western Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. Vital support is provided especially to women and children.

Donations can be placed in the wooden box at the back of the chapel. Thank you for your generosity.

The choir offers sincere thanks to the following people:
All volunteers and Campus Ministry staff who have helped with welcoming our audience members;
Dr. David Malloy, for his support of the choir;
Corey Cooke, for providing technical support.

NOTES, TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE - Text: O. Konysky

A Ukrainian hymn published in 1885, which became a spiritual anthem of Ukraine. The song became the regular closing hymn in services of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and other churches.

Great and Almighty Lord, protect our beloved Ukraine,
Bless her with freedom and light of your holy rays.

With learning and knowledge enlighten us, your children,
In love pure and everlasting let us, O Lord, grow.

We pray, O Lord Almighty, protect our beloved Ukraine,
Grant your people and country all your kindness and grace.

Bless us with freedom, bless us with wisdom,
Guide into a kind world, bless us, O Lord, with good fortune for ever and evermore.

Meet me here
Won’t you meet me here
Where the old fence ends and the horizon begins
There’s a balm in the silence like an understanding air
Where the old fence ends and the horizon begins

We’ve been walking through the darkness
On this long, hard climb
Carried ancestral sorrow for too long a time
Will you lay down your burden
Lay it down, come with me
It will never be forgotten held in love, so tenderly

Meet me here
Won’t you meet me here
Where the old fence ends and the horizon begins
There’s a joy in the singing like an understanding air
Where the old fence ends and the horizon begins.

Then we’ll come to the mountain
We’ll go bounding to see that great circle of dancing
And we’ll dance endlessly
And we’ll dance with the all the children
Who’ve been lost along the way
We will welcome each other coming home, this glorious day

We are home in the mountain and we’ll gently understand
That we’ve been friends forever
That we’ve never been alone
We’ll sing on through any darkness and our Song will be our sight
We can learn to offer praise again coming home to the light . . .

UKUTHULA (A PRAYER FOR PEACE) - Text: Traditional Zulu

Kulomhlaba wezono, igazi likaJesu linyenyez’ (In this sinful world, through the sacrifice of Jesus)

Ukuthula (We find peace)
Usindiso (We find redemption)
Ukubonga (We find praise)
Ukukholwa (We find faith)
Ukunqoba (We find victory)
Induduzo (We find comfort)
SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT - Text: J. Agee

Sure on this shining night
Of star-made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground,
On this shining night, this shining night.
The late year lies down the north,
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder wand’ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

SICUT CERVUS (AS THE DEER LONGS) - Text: Psalm 42

As the deer longs for running waters,
so my soul longs for you, God.

CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE (CANTICLE OF JEAN RACINE)
Text: Jean Racine, adapted from
Consors paterni luminis (Breviary hymn)

Word, equal to the Most High, our only hope,
Eternal day of the earth and the heavens,
We break the silence of the peaceful night;
Divine Saviour, cast your eyes upon us!
Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace,
That all hell may flee at the sound of your voice;
Banish the slumber of a weary soul,
Who lives forgetful of your laws.
O Christ, look with favour upon your faithful people
Now gathered here to praise you;
Receive their hymns offered to your immortal glory;
May they go forth filled with your gifts.

UBI CARITAS (WHERE THERE IS CHARITY)
Text: Attributed to Paulinus of Aquileia

Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart
Let us love one another. Amen.

MEET ME HERE - Text: Craig Hella Johnson

This song comes from a concert length work called “Considering Matthew Shepard.”
It invites all participants to be open to discovering the healing and joy which can be experienced when we lay down the “ancestral sorrow” we may have been carrying for generations and open ourselves to finding healing together, excluding no one.
JESU, JOY OF MAN’S DESIRING
Text: J.S. Bach, English translation by Bernard Dewagtere

Jesu, Joy of man’s desiring,
Holy wisdom, love most bright.
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring,
Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashion’d,
With the fire of life impassion’d.
Striving still to truth unknown,
Soaring, dying round Thy throne

BOGORODITSE DEVO (REJOICE, O VIRGIN)
Text: Luke 1.28 (Church Slavonic text)

Rejoice, O Virgin, birth-giver of God!
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you:
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.

REQUIEM - Text: Eliza Gilkyson

Eliza Gilkyson wrote this song after the devastating Asian tsunami of 2004 as
an invocation to compassion and a song of prayer and comfort. She researched
female deities of many religious and cultural traditions, but kept coming back to
Mary. She used lower case in the text to signify the universal female comforter.

mother mary, full of grace, awaken
all our homes are gone, our loved ones taken, taken by the sea
mother mary, calm our fears, have mercy
drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy
hear our mournful plea

our world has been shaken,
we wander our homelands forsaken
in the dark night of the soul
bring some comfort to us all,
o mother mary come and carry us in your embrace
that our sorrows may be faced

mary, fill the glass to overflowing
illuminate the path where we are going
have mercy on us all
in fun’ral fires burning
each flame to your myst’ry returning

in the dark night of the soul
your shattered dreamers, make them whole,
o mother mary find us where we’ve fallen out of grace,
lead us to a higher place

in the dark night of the soul
our broken hearts you can make whole,
o mother mary come and carry us in your embrace,
let us see your gentle face, mary

AVE VERUM CORPUS (HAIL, TRUE BODY)
Text: Attributed to Pope Innocent I

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
having truly suffered,
was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
from whose pierced side
water and blood flowed:
Be for us a foretaste of heaven
in the trial of death.

FLIGHT SONG - Text: Euan Tait

All we are, we have found in song:
you have drawn this song from us.
Songs of lives unfolding
fly overhead, cry overhead:
longing, rising from the song within.