



the
SUMMER
SINGERS

illuminate

Dr. Russell Adrian, Artistic Director
2019 concert season

A Note From the Director

Welcome to *Illuminate*, presented by The Summer Singers as our 24th season. Whether you are a first-time listener or a seasoned sustaining member, I hope that our concert provides a refreshing dose of inspiring music to brighten your summer.

Composers have long been fascinated with setting images of light. Perhaps one of the most famous examples is by Joseph Haydn in *The Creation* as the chorus and orchestra arrive on a massive C major chord at their pronouncement of “and there was LIGHT.” The event was so inspiring that the audience broke into spontaneous applause and interrupted the concert! Choral singing has the exceptional power of invoking our emotions and imagination through incredible combinations of text and music. Throughout this program we hope to illuminate your senses with images of light found in our world.

There are many works that allude to the mystery of life. We often associate light with hope, love, and overcoming the struggles of grief and darkness. I would like to acknowledge several members of our ensemble that have lost loved ones or have close family members that are experiencing difficult health concerns. The stroke that my grandmother suffered at the end of June has brought me new and deeper meaning to many of our pieces and I am so grateful for the positive influence she has been in my life. Music can bring us great joy as well as comfort, healing and hope and I hope that we may illuminate you through our music.

I am delighted to share our fifth composition from our annual Young Composer Competition that began as a celebration of our 20th season. At age 15, Matthew Kimbley is our youngest winner and we enjoyed getting to know him through a video interview as part of our rehearsals in June. His piece, *Light of Life* begins artfully with phrases growing out of unison pitches into rich harmonies. The text Matthew wrote is a perfect match for our season theme, and he even included “illuminate” before we had announced our season title to the public! A fugue-like middle section brings the work to an exciting finale that will close our concert.

I am deeply thankful to the members of The Summer Singers and to those behind the scenes who work to bring a cappella music into our community through the summer by taking the music, but not ourselves, too seriously. Thank you for your support and I hope you will become lost in the lush textures, harmonies, and melodies that a cappella singing provides.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell Adrian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line at the end.

Russell Adrian, Artistic Director

illuminate

Verbum caro factum est	Hans Leo Hassler
Infinity	Kim André Arnesen
May it be	Enya, Nicky Ryan, Roma Ryan, arr. Warren Poquiz
Let My Love Be Heard	Jake Runestad
God Is Near	Samuel Koch
This Little Light of Mine	Traditional Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan
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O lux beata Trinitas	Andrej Makor
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You Are the New Day	John David, arr. Peter Knight
Light of Life	Matthew Kimbley

Verbum caro factum est

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

Text: John 1:14

Verbum caro factum est,
et habitavit in nobis,
et vidimus gloriam ejus,
gloriam quasi unigeniti a Patre,
plenum gratiae et veritatis.

And the Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us
and we beheld his glory
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father
full of grace and truth.

Heather J. Buchanan and Minnesota's own Matthew W. Mehaffey share in score notes that Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612), a prominent German composer and organist, studied under Andrea Gabrieli, along with Giovanni Gabrieli in Venice. He gained recognition for his compositions while based in Augsburg between 1586 and 1601. He composed *Cantiones sacrae de festis praecipuis totius anni* in 1591. *Verbum caro factum est* comes from this collection.

You will notice the singers' accent on text when introducing changes in meter. As appropriate for the time, instrumental doublings may occur in some performances, with high voices along with strings, low voices with brass ensemble. Today's expression will, of course, be a cappella!

Infinity

Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980)

Text: David Roberts

How far, how far is the furthest star we can see?
A distance that's measured in time.

What there may be beyond what we see no one knows,
a vastness that time cannot tell.

In all this space is just a trace of human race,
whose fortunes are measured in dust.

In oceans of time the story of life is cast about
in chaos
seeming futile and blind.

Our moment in time, one human race.
Choose the dark all the light to rise or to fall,
one chance for us all.

Choral enthusiasts in Minnesota will welcome this entry by Norway native Kim André Arnesen. He has composed for National Lutheran Choir and for St. Olaf, among others. Arnesen shares via his Facebook page: "*Infinity* was the last piece I wrote during my residency with Kantorei (in Denver) and Joel Rinsema. I discovered that doing something completely different became the most motivating and inspiring factor. In *Infinity*, the awe-inspiring and challenging human situation and the vastness of time and space is explored."

Arnesen is an elected member of the Norwegian Composers Society, and a full-time composer focusing on choral music. David Roberts has edited The War Poetry Website since 1999 and has also edited three anthologies of poetry of the First World War.

May it be

Rachel Farhi, soprano

Eithne Ní Bhraonáin (Enya), Nicky Ryan, Roma Ryan
arr. Warren Poquiz

May it be an evening star shines down upon you.
May it be when darkness falls your heart will be true.
You walk a lonely road.
O how far you are from home.

Mornië utúlië: Believe and you will find your way.
Mornië utúlië: A promise lives within you now.

Darkness has come.
Darkness has fallen.

May it be the shadow's call will fly away.
May it be your journey on to light the day.
When the night is overcome you may rise to find the sun.

Mornië atlantië an calima.
Auré an calima.

Darkness has fallen to light.
To light the day.

The text includes the fictional language, Quenya, created by author J.R.R. Tolkien, and used by the Elves in The Lord of the Rings trilogy. *May it be* was originally composed for the first film of the trilogy, "The Fellowship of the Ring" (2001). Irish singer Eithne Ní Bhraonáin, better known as Enya, composed the song with her artistic team, Nicky and Roma Ryan, and recorded it for the film. Its haunting melody weaves through phrases intermingled between English and Quenya. The song ends proclaiming hopefully, that although the darkness has fallen, the promise lives on within you and that darkness has fallen to light.

Let My Love Be Heard

Jake Runestad (b. 1986)
Text: Alfred Noyes (1880-1958)

Angels, where you soar
Up to God's own light,
Take my own lost bird
On your hearts tonight;
And as grief once more
Mounts to heaven and sings,
Let my love be heard
Whispering in your wings.

Jake Runestad has said that he found the text for this piece in a poetry collection which his grandfather gave him, and that he has never seen it published elsewhere. This work was given a new life after the Paris terror attacks of 2015 when Cal State Long Beach student Nohemi Gonzalez was among those killed. Cal State conductor Dr. Jonathan Talberg led his singers in a performance of the piece during her memorial service and recorded it. Runestad's website notes that it was shared in her memory, as a plea for peace: "Their musical offering is a powerful outpouring of grief but also a glimmer of light. I am honored that this piece ... has helped to provide hope in the darkness of our world."

Originally from Rockford, Illinois, and currently based in Minneapolis, Runestad studied extensively with acclaimed composer Libby Larsen for his undergraduate work at Winona State. He also obtained a master's degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins, studying with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. Runestad is a versatile composer, writing for orchestra, wind band, chorus, chamber ensembles, and opera. His music has won numerous awards, and he has worked with choirs of all types around the world. The Summer Singers also performed Runestad's work in 2015 (*I Will Lift Mine Eyes*) and 2017 (*Alleluia*), while *We Can Mend the Sky*, performed in 2016, appears on The Summer Singers' new CD, *Stand In That River*.

God is Near

Samuel Koch (b. 1991)

When the darkness lies o'er the shadowed skies
And we rest in slumber deep,
There's a Father's love watching from above
And he guards us while we sleep.

God is near 'mid the darkest scenes of life.
God is near: He alone can bring relief.
God is near: What joy this blest assurance gives,
God is near, O God is near.

When the waves roll high and clouds obscure the sky
In the storm he will always give life.
When the morning bright fills the sky with light
Still his love is very near.

God is near in the midst of deepest grief.
God is near, He can heal the broken heart
God is near: What joy this blest assurance gives.
God is near, O God is near.

Koch holds a bachelor's of music in music composition from Indiana Wesleyan University and his choral influences include Eric Whitacre, Jake Runestad, John Rutter, and Samuel Barber. He shares: "Psalm 34:18 inspired *God Is Near*: 'The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.' The hope is to bring comfort to those suffering, especially those grieving loss. Written in A-flat major, the F minor and close, dissonant harmonies contrast for times of trial and tribulation. Text painting and embellishment of 'near' emphasizes the focal message: God's comforting presence is never far away, always providing peace, healing."

This Little Light of Mine

Taylor Quinn, baritone

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

My God gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This song has seen a variety of arrangements, even being adopted by the civil rights movement. The arrangement by Moses Hogan has the soloist singing the first two verses while the choir provides a legato, subtly syncopated accompaniment. The full choir sings a more animated verse three with interjections from the soloist, building to a climax, then coming to a finish. In some ways, this piece is like Hogan himself — a man who seemed both gentle and expressive. His work and music were a beacon when he was alive, and they continue to shine brightly. Hogan's work is a frequent part of The Summer Singers programs, including *I Can Tell the World* (2013), *My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord* (2014) and *Wade in the Water* (2018). TSS also included *This Little Light of Mine* on its 2014 program.

Hymn to the Eternal Flame

Rachel Farhi, soprano

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

text: Michael Dennis Browne

Every face is in you, every voice, every sorrow in you.
Every pity, every love, every memory, woven into fire.
Every breath is in you, every cry, every longing in you.
Every singing, every hope, every healing, woven into fire.
Every heart is in you, every tongue, every trembling in you,
Every blessing, every soul, every shining, woven into fire.

The oratorio *To Be Certain of the Dawn* (2005) was commissioned by the rector of the Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, and was intended to be a gift to the Jewish community. It came as a commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the freeing of Holocaust survivors and to help teach an important lesson: The prevention of future genocide is in the hands of today's children. *Hymn to the Eternal Flame* is a part of that oratorio and specifically acts as a tribute to the approximately 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered during the Holocaust and is based on the children's memorial at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

Stephen Paulus was an American composer of classical music who made his home in Minnesota. Paulus passed away in October 2014 from complications of a stroke, but his music continues to be frequently performed and his works are treasured by Minnesota musicians particularly. The Summer Singers have performed his *The Road Home* multiple times, most recently in 2013.

INTERMISSION

In Your Light

from Three Themes of Life and Love

Daniel Elder (b. 1986)

Text: Rumi

Tr. Coleman Barks

In your light I learn how to love.
In your beauty, how to make poems.
You dance inside my chest,
Where no one sees you,
But sometimes I do,
And that sight becomes this art.

In every genre, creative masterpieces are provoked by the power of human emotion. Both the poetry and music of *In Your Light* are perfect examples as they attempt to convey the infinite wonder of the moment love is discovered.

Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi was a 13th-century Persian poet, Islamic scholar and teacher, and Sufi mystic. Rumi believed that life was a process of being restored to a union with God — the Beloved — and that music, poetry, and dance were the path. Rumi's poetry reflects all aspects of human life, including both earthly and spiritual love. *In Your Light* is one of Rumi's most joyful poems, and Daniel Elder uses music that is at times churning and ecstatic, at others quiet and introspective, to amplify the text. The syllable "la-" is a fragment of two important words — "life" and "love" — and it becomes part of a rhythmic ostinato that provides energy throughout the piece.

Elder studied music and composition at the University of Georgia and Westminster Choir College. His influences range widely from the contrapuntal roots of early sacred music through the adventurous romantic and programmatic nature of early twentieth-century music, and in particular drawing from the impressionist movement. The Summer Singers first performed *In Your Light* in 2015, and performed it as part of all three of his Themes of Life and Love in 2016. The entire set of three Themes can be found on The Summer Singers' new CD: *Stand In That River*.

Dominus Vobiscum

Gerry Schmidt, bass

Sydney Guillaume (b. 1982)

Text: Gabriel T. Guillaume

Dominus Vobiscum

The Lord be with you

Gran Mèt-la avèk nou,
Li la nan mitan nou,
Li la nan fon kè nou,

The Lord is with us,
He is among us,
He is in the depths of our hearts,

Amen, Amen, Aleluya.

Amen, Amen, Alleluia.

Depi nan tan benmbo
Nap mache, nap chèche, nap mande:

Since the beginning of time
We have been searching, seeking, asking:

Ki lè, ki tan, ki jou,

When, what time, what day,

Limiè-a va leve pou vin delivre nou?
Limiè lapè-a,
Limiè la verite-a,
Limiè la joua-a,
Limiè lespwa-a,
Limiè lanmou-a,
Limiè la vi-a.

When will the light come, at last, to deliver us?
The light of peace,
The light of truth,
The light of joy,
The light of hope,
The light of love,
The light of life.

Jodia an nou chante:
"Dominus vobiscum"

Today, let us all sing:
"Dominus vobiscum"

Gran Mèt-la avèk nou,
Li la nan mitan nou,
Li la nan fon kè nou,
Amen, Amen, Aleluya.

The Lord is with us,
He is among us,
He is in the depths of our hearts,
Amen, Amen, Alleluia.

Mache, chèche, mande:
Li la nan mitan nou;
Mache, chèche, mande:
Li la nan fon kè nou.

Search, seek, ask:
He is among us;
Search, seek, ask:
He is in the depths of our hearts.

Amen, Amen, Aleluya

Amen, Amen, Alleluia.

Sydney Guillaume, a native of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, came to the United States in 1993, at the age of 11. He has since gained recognition as one of the finest choral arrangers in the country. The *Miami Herald* praised his work as showing "impressive maturity and striking melodic distinction." Many of his choral works, including this one, feature lyrics by his father, Gabriel T. Guillaume.

Dominus Vobiscum, a song of blessing written in Haitian Creole, opens with a baritone cantor intoning phrases from the Latin Mass. Soon, the lyric choral opening takes on a decidedly rhythmic flavor, as the syncopations of Haitian drumming and folk dance are introduced. The setting ends with a quiet coda: "He is in the depths of our hearts."

O lux beata Trinitas

Andrej Makor (b. 1987)

Text: Saint Ambrose

O lux beata Trinitas,
et principalis Unitas,
Iam sol recedit igneus,
infunde lumen cordibus.

Te mane laudum carmine,
te deprecemure vespere:
te nostra supplex gloria
per cuncta laudet saecula.

Deo Patri sit gloria,
eiusque soli Filio,
cum Spiritu Paraclito,
et nunc, et in perpetuum.

O Trinity of blessed light,
O Unity of princely might,
The fiery sun now goes his way;
Shed Thou within our hearts Thy ray.

To Thee our morning song of praise,
To Thee our evening prayer we raise;
Thy glory suppliant we adore
Forever and forevermore.

All laud to God the Father be;
All praise, Eternal Son, to Thee;
All glory, as is ever meet,
To God the Holy Paraclete.

Tr.: John Mason Neale

Slovenian native Andrej Makor composed music for *O Lux Beata Trinitas* in 2013. The Latin text dates from ca. 340–397, attributed to Ambrose of Milan. Makor studied at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, then finished his master's degree in composition in 2017 at the Conservatory of music Cesare Pollini at Padua (Italy). As a composer, he works with the BBC Singers (Great Britain), the Jenaer Philharmonic Orchestra (Germany), the Vancouver Chamber Choir (Canada), the BYU Singers, the Salt Lake Vocal Artists, the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir and the Neuer Chor Berlin.

Ilus ta ei ole

Pärt Uusberg (b. 1986)

Text: Juhan Liiv

Ilus ta ei ole: lage heinamaa,
heinaküünid, kuhjad, harva puudega.

Ilus ta ei ole: kõrval karjamaa
kehvalt üle kaetud harva metsaga.

Ilus ta ei ole: mäeküljeke,
mõni vabatmaja, mõni saunake.

Järv ei ole ilus jääse katte all,
kuu ta üle valvab talvel igaval.

Aga kõik see ilus, pühaline ka
valge siidiriide – härmatisega.

Siis on ta nii ilus, ilus lõpmata:
tõusvad tema üle tähed särama.

Talveööne hämar miljon tähega –
siis sa oled ilus, minu isamaa.

It is not beautiful: a bare meadow,
Hay barns, haystacks with sparse trees.

It is not beautiful: A pasture beside it
Poorly covered with a sparse wood.

It is not beautiful: A poor slope,
An occasional freehold, an occasional cottage.

The lake is not beautiful under a glacial cover,
The moon keeping its watch during dreary winter.

Yet all this seemly, and so holy
In a silken fabric – with a hoarfrost.

Then it is so lovely, lovely without end:
Rising up above it stars to shine.

Twilight of the winter night with a million stars –
Then you are so beautiful, my native land.

Tr. Margus Särglepp

Pärt Uusberg founded and conducts Kammerkoor Head Ööd, Vend (“Chamber Choir Good Night, Brother”). He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in composition from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. Conductor Endrik Üksvärav describes Uusberg's work as using Baltic choral music's popular devices: melodies unfolding calmly over long bass lines, sustained by suspensions, piqued by mild dissonance, reflecting nature's immensity in music. Juhan Liiv (1864–1913), is one of Estonia's most well-known poets, although his work was in contrast to the style of the period.

Underneath the Stars

Kylen Glassmann, soprano

Kate Rusby (b. 1973)

arr. Jim Clements

Underneath the stars I'll meet you,
Underneath the stars I'll greet you,
There beneath the stars I'll leave you
Before you go of your own free will; go gently.

Underneath the stars you met me,
Underneath the stars you left me;
I wonder if the stars regret me.
At least you'll go of your own free will; go gently.

Here beneath the stars I'm landing,
And here beneath the stars not ending.
Why on earth am I pretending?
I'm here again, the stars befriending
They come and go of their own free will. Go gently.

Underneath the stars you met me,
Underneath the stars you left me;
I wonder if the stars regret me,
I'm sure they'd like me if they only met me.
They come and go of their own free will. Go gently.

Described as “A deceptively simple song of regret and redemption that’s almost too painfully pure,” by BBC critic Chris Jones, *Underneath the Stars* was originally composed and performed by best-selling English folk singer Kate Rusby. The English a cappella octet VOCES8 chose to feature it on their album *Eventide*. Arranger Jim Clements, born in 1983, sang throughout his childhood as a chorister in England. At age 13, he penned his first composition for symphony orchestra. In 2005, Clements was asked by the then-new VOCES8 to write a few arrangements for them. He was eventually appointed as their Arranger in Residence, and the group has since performed more than 50 of his arrangements.

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Jessi McKinnon, mezzo

Dolly Parton (b. 1946)

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

It's been a long dark night, and I've been waiting for the morning.
It's been a long hard fight, but I see a brand-new day a-dawning.
I've been looking for the sunshine 'cause I ain't seen it in so long.
Everything's gonna work out fine. Everything's gonna be alright,
It's gonna be okay.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning.

Recording artist Dolly Parton has told a number of interviewers over the years that this song came out of the pain from her break with longtime musical and business partner Porter Wagoner. Parton left Wagoner's band in 1974 to aim her career in a more mainstream pop direction. Wagoner responded by taking legal action, which was painful for both. Biographer Alanna Nash says this song was written as Parton felt the figurative clouds lifting, as the fruits of her sacrifices were becoming apparent. Craig Hella Johnson, the arranger, is the founder and artistic director of Conspirare and celebrated as one of the most influential voices in choral conducting in the U.S. This setting is infused with light and hopefulness as it gradually builds to a joyful overflowing of sound and vocal texture, then gently relaxes into a reflective conclusion.

You Are the New Day

John David (b. 1946)
arr. Peter Knight

You are the new day.

I will love you more than me and more than yesterday,
If you can but prove to me you are the new day.
Send the sun in time for dawn. Let the birds all hail the morning.
Love of life will urge me say you are the new day.

When I lay me down at night knowing we must pay,
Thoughts occur that this night might stay yesterday.
Thoughts, that we as humans small could slow worlds and end it all,
Lie around me where they fall before the new day.

One more day when time is running out for everyone,
Like a breath I knew would come I reach for a new day.
Hope is my philosophy, just needs days in which to be.
Love of life means hope for me, borne on a new day.

John David originally wrote this song for his rock group Airwaves in 1978. The song was then arranged by Peter Knight for The King's Singers in 1992. *You Are the New Day* was the traditional concert-closer for The Summer Singers during the latter decade of Grant Norum's tenure as artistic director of TSS and returned in 2013 in the ensemble's first year under Russell Adrian.

Light of Life

Matthew Kimbley (b. 2003)
2019 Young Composer Competition winner

Lord, Thou art the light of life;
Where Thou art the dark shall fade;
Thou dost illuminate the night.

Thou are the light of life, the truth, the way
The light of life, Alleluia!
Thou, light of life, dispel the night.

Thou art the Sun of Righteousness, the bright and morning star
That shines in darkness, shining brightly from afar.
And give to all that love Thy Name:
Life of Light. Light of Life.

Kimbley is the winner of The Summer Singers' fifth annual Young Composer Competition, for composers 25 years and younger. Just 15 years of age, Kimbley is a concert pianist and aspiring composer from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and was one of the winners of Southern Adventist University's 2016 Concerto Competition. He has written and arranged a number of works for varying instrumentations and wants to continue to compose. Kimbley also wrote the text himself.

Winners of The Summer Singers' Young Composers Competition:

2015: Mary Abigail Coleman, *Let's Just Sit and Swing*

2016: Michael D. Atwood, *Nunc Dimittis*

2017: Brianna Drevlow, *Eli, Eli*

2018: Ilian Lundberg, *The Lord is Risen*

2019: Matthew Kimbley, *Light of Life*

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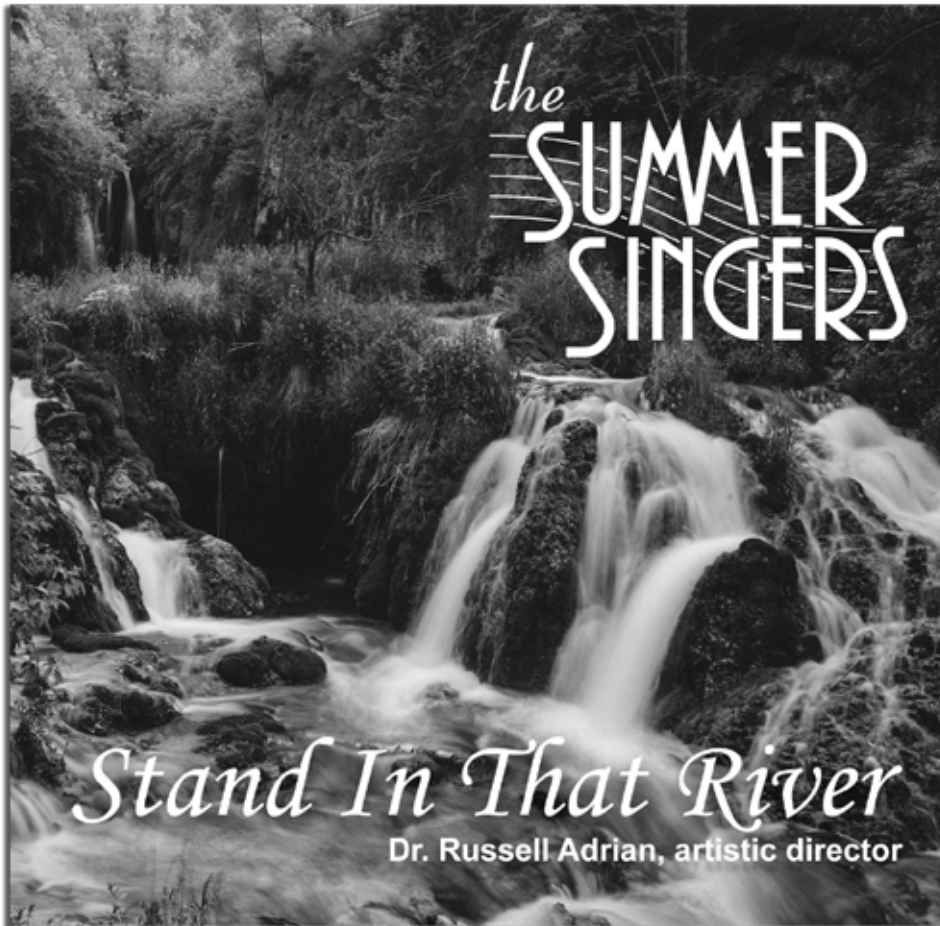
- Exclusive access to hear The Summer Singers first at an early-season rehearsal
- Recognition in our concert program
- Advance notice of upcoming events and news

Make your 3-year pledge today at the Sustaining Members' table in the lobby at today's concert, online at summersingers.org, or send it to:

The Summer Singers
4725 Aldrich Avenue So.
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Thank you for supporting The Summer Singers!

Our new CD: Stand In That River



Our latest CD is available in the lobby, as well as classics such as This is Why We Sing, Christmas with The Summer Singers and An Endless Summer. You can enjoy a cappella music at its finest all winter, spring, summer and fall. Or, find CDs for sale online at summersingers.org.

Sale of CDs provides a significant amount of support to The Summer Singers and will help us mount our 25th season in the summer of 2020.

This release includes pieces by Paul Mealor, Jake Runestad, Ola Gjeilo and more.

Acknowledgments

Matthew Abernathy, Assistant Conductor
Nathan Cicero and Mark Bilyeu,
Rehearsal Accompanists

We wish to thank the following for supporting our 2019 season:

Pryes Brewing Company, Minneapolis

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Beth Angerhofer, Office Administrator
Rehearsal venue

Episcopal Homes, St. Paul

Julie Niewald, Life+ Wellness Director
July 16 coffee concert venue

Covenant Village of Golden Valley

Colleen Mallas, Life Enrichment Coordinator
July 18 coffee concert venue

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Karl Jacobson, Senior Pastor
Laura Stein, Business Administrator
July 20 concert venue

St. Mary's Chapel

St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul
Father Tom Margevicius
Jennie McQuillan, Secretary
July 21, 28 concert venue

Jamie Ohrt, Graphic Designer
Photography: Beautiful Era Photography

Rebecca Nystuen, Ken Duvio, TSS archives
and Patrick Coleman, concert notes

Patrick Coleman, Cheryl Friedrichs,
Sandra Anderson, program design and editing

All of our volunteers. Thank you!



DR. RUSSELL ADRIAN is in his seventh season as Artistic Director of The Summer Singers. Under his leadership, The Summer Singers were named among the top ten “Best Classical Performances of 2013” by the St. Paul Pioneer Press, and featured on a “Regional Spotlight” in 2015 by Minnesota Public Radio. Russell also serves as Director of Choral Activities at Hesston College, in Kansas. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from the University of Minnesota, where he studied with Kathy Saltzman Romey and Matthew Mehaffey. He completed a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with Beverly Taylor and Bruce Gladstone. He currently resides in Hesston, Kansas, with his wife, Camille, and three children, Hannah, Micah and Elijah.



The Summer Singers is a chamber-sized vocal ensemble, rehearsing for ten weeks each summer to prepare community concerts. Founded by Grant Norum in 1986, the ensemble is in its 24th season.

The Summer Singers

Numbers indicate years in TSS

Soprano

Rachel Farhi 7
 Cheryl Friedrichs 8
 Kylene Glassmann 2
 Heather Hunt 1
 Rebecca Nystuen 19
 Sammi Penick 1

Alto

Iriah-Simone Benedict 1
 Abigail Daum 1
 Kelsey Forman 2
 Shannon Hart 2
 Jessi McKinnon 4
 Stephanie Sulzbach 18
 Rebecca Tobin 3

Tenor

Patrick Coleman 7
 Ken Duvio 4
 Peder Flaten 2
 Wayne Hulting 7
 Gustavo Rodriguez 1
 Jack Soden 1

Bass

Justin Bain 3
 Peder Bolstad 15
 Jim Bowen 1
 Adam Irving 3
 Taylor Quinn 6
 Gerry Schmidt 1
 Dana Skoglund 5

Board of Directors

David Afdahl, President
 Patrick Coleman, Vice President
 Jeff Frush, Treasurer
 Sandra Anderson
 Cheryl Friedrichs
 Jennifer Jensen
 Jessi McKinnon
 Rebecca Nystuen, Singer Liaison

Mission Statement

The Summer Singers is committed to providing our community with a variety of excellent a cappella music at the highest level of artistry. We aim to make our music accessible to all by providing concerts on a free-will donation basis.

We strive to inspire, uplift and educate the community in the history and art of choral music. Through our passion for music, we hope to bring to the greater community a similar passion and appreciation for choral music and the arts in general.

the SUMMER SINGERS

Why We Sing A Cappella Music

Not because we all majored in music,
Not because we are professional, career singers,
Not because we think it's a relaxing way to have fun.

We sing a cappella music;
Because it makes us more human,
Because it is beautiful,
Because it makes us more sensitive,
Because it brings us closer to an infinite
beyond this world,
Because it gives us something to cling to,
Because it brings into our lives more love,
more compassion, more gentleness, more good,
In short, more life.

That is why we sing a cappella music.

These words were adapted by former TSS singer and
board member, Cam Dehlin, from a poster which her father,
a music educator, had hanging in his classroom.

Saturday, July 20, 7 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
4801 France Ave S, Minneapolis

Sunday, July 21, 4 p.m.

St. Mary's Chapel
St. Paul Seminary

Sunday, July 28, 4 p.m.

St. Mary's Chapel
St. Paul Seminary

www.summersingers.org