



Threads of Joy

Dr. Russell Adrian, Artistic Director
2022 Concert Season



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to *Threads of Joy*, presented by The Summer Singers as our 26th season. Whether you are a first time listener or a seasoned supporter, I hope that our concert provides a refreshing dose of inspiring music to brighten your summer day.

As an educator, I am acutely aware of the increased need for mental and emotional support in our schools. Even though technology and social media platforms allow us to be more connected than ever before, I believe we actually have fewer genuine relationships. Our society has become more polarized and we struggle to cope with pressure and resolve conflicts. The feelings of stress, anxiety, and isolation have only been accelerated by the social distancing that we have experienced through the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health officials estimate that depression tripled in early 2020 and has persisted through 2021 to affect nearly one in three American adults.

We all experience low points in life. For some it may be caused by an event, such as the loss of a loved one, or for others may be a seasonal or chronic depression. This program is designed to acknowledge these struggles and encourage us to support each other in times of need. Music moves us in mysterious ways and can be a therapeutic way to deal with stress and anxiety. I hope that you find the text and imagery within this selection of music to be meaningful and thought provoking.

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, appearing to read "Russell Adrian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line at the end.

Dr. Russell Adrian, Artistic Director

Threads of Joy

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INTERMISSION

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Content Warning: This program deals with topics such as mental health, depression and death by suicide.

Deep in the Night

Lauren Piper, soprano

Jussi Chydenius (b. 1972)

Text: Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

Deep in the night the cry of a swallow,
Under the stars he flew,
Keen as pain was his call to follow
Over the world to you.

Love in my heart is a cry forever
Lost as the swallow's flight
Seeking for you and never, never,
Stilled by the stars at night.

Originally published in the collection *Sun, Moon, Sea, and Stars*, this piece sets a poem by Sara Teasdale that likens a heart seeking its love to a swallow's cry. Chydenius's rich harmonies, syncopated melodies, and modal inflections paint an image of the starry night, while the underpinning bass ostinato provides rhythmic drive.

Jussi Chydenius is a Finnish composer who combines a traditional choral sound with influences from pop and jazz to create works that are fresh, vibrant, and accessible. His interest in popular musical styles stems from his experience as a drummer in various bands, including the platinum-selling rock group Don Huonot, and he is best known as the bass singer and composer in the a cappella sextet Rajaton. Chydenius has published a number of acclaimed choral works, which are performed by choirs and vocal ensembles throughout Europe and North America.

Hope Waits

Jessi McKinnon, mezzo-soprano

Karen Marrolli (b. 1975)

Hope calls us through the silence.
Hope clings like morning dew.
Hope stands amidst the violence.
Hope waits for you.

Hope sings when night is falling.
Hope lifts the dawn anew.
Hope lives while fear is calling.
Hope waits for you.

When the world falls down and the drum beat sounds,
let us lift our eyes!
When our spirits shake and our tired hearts break,
hope will hear our cries!

Hope holds us as we're weeping.
Hope stills the churning blue.
Hope grows the bud now sleeping.
Hope waits for you.

Written during the COVID-19 pandemic, *Hope Waits* conveys the significance of hope amidst the pervasive feelings of fear and despair. As we journey throughout life experiencing sadness and pain, hope is always there waiting on us to grab hold of it. The power of hope can comfort us, steady our souls, and provide light on uncharted paths, simply if we can grab hold of it today and everyday.

Karen Marrolli is the Director of Music Ministries at Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, NM. In addition to being a classically-trained composer and conductor, Karen is a prolific singer-songwriter who can be seen performing her own songs at various events in and around Albuquerque. Called "provocative" and "powerful" by listeners, her songwriting is autobiographical and stems from influences that range from piano-driven singer-songwriters such as Tori Amos and Regina Spektor to the acoustic folk sounds of Americana and Irish Traditional Music.

See Me

Rob Redei (b. 1975)
Text: Deborah Kennedy

tell me your story
it was long ago
it wasn't often
they didn't know
it hurt me
it mattered
it never ended
my cutting doesn't bleed, it begs
see me
my terrors hold me to nightly dying
see me
the panic takes till the panic breaks

me horrified
see me
laughter loves a catastrophe
I'm hilarious
see me
See me
Open your eyes, see me fighting
Open your mind to the war that's raging in mine
Know, it's a war I'm still willing to win
See me, please
I am still here

The genesis of *See Me* began in 2015, when the music director at poet Deborah Kennedy's church died by suicide. After writing the poem *Breaking Silence* in 2015, she collaborated with composer Rob Redei to set the text to music. Eventually, Dr. Christopher B Thomas of Rowan University commissioned a larger work from the pair and a 10-movement choral work titled *Open Minds* was premiered in 2019. *See Me* is the ninth movement from this work but was the first to be composed. The text is taken from interviews with students from the Rowan University Concert Choir regarding mental health struggles. *Open Minds* aims to give voice to people with mental health challenges and the people who love and care about them.

Rob Redei is a composer, arranger, and choral director. He has written and arranged in many musical styles from modern orchestral works to children's musicals to contemporary a cappella arrangements. As a choral director, he has built top tier high school programs in both the classical choral world as well as in contemporary a cappella. His works and arrangements have been heard around the world and performed and recorded by the National Philharmonic of Ukraine, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra String Quartet, Ensemble Pi and many others.

Bend

Kyle Pederson (b. 1971)

Bend, don't break
my child
when the winds
blow wild.

Lean in,
then rest a while.

Bend, don't break
be brave, my child
when the gale and wave
rush by.

But you will never bend alone.
No one should ever bend alone.

I'm here with you,
I'm bending, too.

And when the wind subsides
you shall rise.

But for now
bend low, my child;
bend low.

Bend premiered in the 2019 Ithaca College Choral Festival. The text speaks to those in the midst of struggle, and affirms the reality of those struggles. Rather than disregard or avoid, the listener is invited to “lean into” the struggle, the hardship, the problem, the pain. The act of leaning in relieves some of the power of the struggle. Presented as a metaphor of a tree caught up in the winds and waves of its reality, the listener is reminded that the tree was made to bend and ultimately withstand the whipping wind. As the tree bends, as we bend, we are reminded that we are meant to bend alongside each other.

Kyle Pederson is a Minneapolis-based composer, lyricist, pianist, and educator. He was awarded the ACDA Genesis Prize in 2020 and the American Prize in Choral Composition in 2019. His work has been commissioned and recorded by All State/Honors choirs, and youth, church, college, and professional choirs around the world. Pederson enjoys working at the intersection of the sacred and secular; his lyrics and music invite the choir and audience to be agents of hope, grace, and compassion in the world.

Everyone's Voice

Mark Kilstofte (b. 1958)
Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967)

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields; on – on – and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;
And beauty came like the setting sun:
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror
Drifted away...O, but Everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the singing will never be done.

Siegfried Sassoon is best remembered for his poems about war, specifically World War I. At first glance, his poem *Everyone Sang* written in 1919 seems to celebrate the transformative power of communal song...but in light of Sassoon's wartime experiences, the wordless song he mentions in the poem most likely arises from the trenches while in the midst of wartime hostilities, rather than after they have ceased.

As Mark Kilstofte was completing this piece in late February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. He wrote, "Our world suddenly descended into another senseless war. And so, this most human of responses (singing) takes on an even greater meaning and touches a chord deep within us all. The singing will never be done. Slava Ukraini!" (Glory to Ukraine!). Kilstofte's piece presents a moment of musical serenity amid conflict. It reveals the enduring quality of music that connects us as humans. At the end of the piece, he brings the voices together repeating the words "the singing... will never... be done... "

This is Me

Julia Brown, soprano

Benj Pasek (b. 1985) and Justin Paul (b. 1985)

arr. Kirby Shaw

I am not a stranger to the dark
"Hideaway," they say, "Cause we don't want your broken parts"
I've learned to be ashamed of all my scars
"Runaway," they say, "No one'll love you as you are"

But I won't let them break me down to dust
I know that there's a place for us
For we are glorious

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out
I am brave, I am bruised
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me
Look out 'cause here I come
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum
I'm not scared to be seen
I make no apologies, this is me

Another round of insults hits my skin
Well, fire away 'cause today, I won't let the shame sink in
We are bursting through the barricades
And reaching for the sun
We are warriors, and that's what we've become

Written for the 2017 movie musical *The Greatest Showman*, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul wrote *This is Me* and won a Golden Globe for Best Original Song - Motion Picture. With proclamatory themes of self-acceptance, determination, and facing adversity, *This is Me* resonates with many of us as we all face uncertainty and has become an anthem sung by many across the world. Starting with a single voice, the music slowly builds and grows into a chorus of rich, thick harmonies and ends with a unison statement sung by the choir exclaiming together: this is me!

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul are a force to be reckoned with throughout the film and musical theater community. The duo has won multiple awards including Oscar, Tony, Grammy, and Golden Globe awards for their various hits including *The Greatest Showman*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, Disney's live-action *Aladdin* and *Snow White*.

Kirby Shaw boasts a prolific resume including over 3,000 choral compositions and arrangements, and creatively arranges many pop/jazz/rock tunes in a way that is accessible and fun for choruses around the world to learn.

INTERMISSION

Healing Heart

Jacob Narverud (b.1986)
Text: Robert Bode (b. 1957)

Here, time is moving
In quiet breaths and
In the long, slow turn of seasons.

Here, the pain of love's arrow,
Once scarlet,
Fades to memory.

Here, the sigh of tides
And fall's surrender into snow
Mark a white forgetting.

Here, layers of wonder
And the heart's gentle song
Call us out again
Into the morning
Into the light.

The healing power of time is beautifully represented in this tender piece for unaccompanied chorus. Narverud's gentle repetitions of the words "healing heart" and cluster chord ostinatos show us how, with each new breath and every heartbeat, the pain of life's disappointments is transformed into hope.

A native Kansan, Jacob Narverud is the Founder/Artistic Director of the Tallgrass Chamber Choir, a professional ensemble of musicians from across the Great Plains. Dr. Narverud is an American composer, arranger, and orchestrator and frequent guest conductor/clinician for choral festivals and all-state choirs across the country.

Threads of Joy

Paul Stever, tenor

Tim Brandt (b. 1975) and Amanda Quist (b. 1976)

Text: Laura Foley (b. 1957)

I have noticed joy,
how it threads below the darkness.
Have you seen it too?
And have you heard it,
how it speaks the unspeakable,
the bliss?
A kind of silence,
a light beneath pain.
Have you noticed?
It rises like fingers
and then—look!
it presses through.

Threads of Joy was written in 2020 by composers Tim Brent and Amanda Quist using text by Laura Foley. This piece reveals the joy that is all around us but can sometimes be difficult to observe or witness. It's a song of hope and revelation that even in our worst moments, joy and light will illuminate the darkness.

Dr. Tim Brent is a faculty member at the Westminster College of the Arts. He is a composer/arranger, educator, performer, and adjudicator for choral festivals in the U.S., and Central and South America. Tim has held the position of Director of Vocal Jazz studies at the University of North Texas, the University of the Arts, and Miami Dade College. Ensembles under his direction have garnered three DownBeat magazine awards, invitations to perform at the Jazz Educators National conference, and the 1st annual Choral Symposium of Costa Rica. He is currently the ACDA Eastern Division Repertoire and Resources Chair for Contemporary/Commercial music.

Dr. Amanda Quist is Director of Choral Activities at the Frost School of Music of the University of Miami. Previously, she was Chair of the Conducting, Organ, and Sacred Music Department at Westminster Choir College, where she conducted the Westminster Chapel Choir, Westminster Kantorei, and taught conducting. She is the recipient of Westminster Choir College of Rider University's 2014 Distinguished Teaching Award, and the 2018 Mazzotti Award for Women's Leadership. Choirs under her direction have performed at the ACDA Eastern Division Conference, Boston Early Music Festival, and the American Handel Festival.

Don't Worry About Me

Kristie Shaffer, alto

Peder Flaten, tenor

Words and Music by Sophie Cooke

arr. Christopher Bruerton

I'll feel the fear for you, I'll cry your tears for you,
I'll do anything I can to make you comfortable,
Even if I fall down, When you're not around,
Don't worry about me,
Don't worry about me.

Cause if I fall,
You'll fall,
And if I rise,
We'll rise together.
When I smile,
You'll smile
And don't worry about me.
Don't worry about me.

I'll climb the hills you face, I'll do this in your place.
I'd do anything to go through it instead of you.
But even if I fall down, When you're not around,
Don't worry about me, don't worry about me.

Don't Worry About Me was written by the young British singer-songwriter Frances, and released in 2016 as a single from her album *Things I've Never Said*, which came out in 2017. It was recorded by The King's Singers for their anniversary album 'Gold'. The song is a ballad about caring for someone who has previously looked out for you, at their time of greatest need. The lyrics are vulnerable and heartfelt, and reflect total selflessness on the part of the singer, who is wishing that they could take on the suffering experienced by another.

The King's Singers were founded on May 1st, 1968 by six choral scholars who had recently graduated from King's College Cambridge. Their vocal line-up was two countertenors, a tenor, two baritones and a bass, and the group has never wavered from this formation since. Celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2018, The King's Singers recorded *Don't Worry About Me* arranged by the ensemble's tenor, Christopher Bruerton, for their album, *Gold*.

I Carry Your Heart

Connor Koppin (b. 1991)
Text: E. E. Cummings (1894-1952)

i carry your heart with me(i carry it in
my heart)i am never without it(anywhere
i go you go,my dear;and whatever is done
by only me is your doing,my darling)
i fear
no fate(for you are my fate,my sweet)i want
no world(for beautiful you are my world,my true)
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

here is the deepest secret nobody knows
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life;which grows
higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

i carry your heart(i carry it in my heart)

Dedicated to Lee Nelson and the Wartburg Choir of Waverly, Iowa, Connor Koppin's setting of *i carry your heart with me* (*i carry it in* by E. E. Cummings uses only a few short lines from the source poem in a mantra-like fashion. The phrase, "i carry your heart with me" is repeated a number of times using different textures, harmonies, and voices, thus reinforcing the idea of intertwining two souls into one. Sonorities in the upper and lower voices are often at odds in this setting and come together only in moments of absolute unity.

Connor Koppin is an award-winning composer and conductor of choral music. His music is known to be "exceptionally crafted" (Melisma) and is able to closely tie music and text. His compositional output consists primarily of choral music but also includes works for instrumental ensembles, film scores, and songwriting.



GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS MUSIC SERIES

The July 31st concert is presented in partnership with the GA Music Series of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church!

In its original form, the GA Music series was designed to deliver high quality music to all people, both in the church's membership and throughout the Twin Cities community. Today's intention is no different. For more information on the GA Music Series or the music ministries of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, contact Director of Worship and Music Andrew Parr via email at andrewp@gachurch.org or phone at 651-774-5954.

Swept Away

Rachel Farhi, soprano

Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)

Blow wind, carry me on my way.
Push me, over this hill, I pray.
Always moving and always strong,
Take me where I must belong.

Grounded after the stormy wind.
Planted here at my journey's end.
Twisted roots now deep and strong
Hold me here where I must belong.

But in you I am swept away, breathless and swept away,
Leaving me happy and helpless.
Here I am swept away, caught in a current so strong.

Starting with a soft, yet rhythmic theme, *Swept Away* immediately creates a sense of energy as the catchy and syncopated rhythm gradually grows until quieting to allow the solo voice to invite the listener into the story. Quartel masterfully balances pop-inspired rhythms and harmonies in the lower voices with a flowing and legato melody in the upper voices in this piece that explores the journey of learning to ground yourself and the whimsy of being carried away by the wind.

Sarah Quartel is a Canadian choral composer known for her exciting and unique approach to choral music. Quartel has mastered the art of writing music in a way that immediately connects the listener, singers, and conductor together to experience both an individual and collective journey through music. Quartel works as a composer, clinician, and conductor throughout the world.

LISTEN TO OUR MUSIC ALL YEAR ROUND



Our latest CD is available in the lobby, as well as other classics. You can enjoy a cappella music all year long. Find our previous CDs for sale online at summersingers.org.

Purchasing CDs provides significant support to The Summer Singers and will help continue to bring music to the Twin Cities.

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

THANK YOU TO OUR SUSTAINERS AND DONORS!

The Summer Singers could not bring you exceptional a cappella concerts on a free-will donation basis without the generosity of our Sustainers. Sustainers make a three-year financial commitment to the organization allowing us some financial consistency from year to year. This continuity was especially critical in the choir's early years.

Starting in 2022, The Summer Singers will begin to evolve how we view giving. While more changes are to come, the first of these changes is how we want to emphasize our givers. We want to celebrate givers who have supported The Summer Singers by their longevity and highlight their lifetime monetary commitment to the quality and excellence of the ensemble. One-time givers will be included in the "1-4 years" category because we want to acknowledge and thank all the people who made the 2022 season possible.

If you are interested in supporting The Summer Singers, please scan the QR code on page 16 of the program, speak with a board member at intermission or after the concert, find a donation box in the lobby, or email info@summersingers.org.

10+ YEARS

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Kirk Nelson

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Pam & Dave Peat

Linda Perry

Betty & Phil Schmalz

Stephanie & John Sulzbach

Charles Upcraft

5-10 YEARS

Camille & Russell Adrian

Andrea & David Afdahl

Anne & Jim Afdahl

Kate Biederwolf

Peder Bolstad

Mary Bydlon

Carolyn Caswell

Patrick Coleman

Paul Dalton

Cam Dehlin

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DR. RUSSELL ADRIAN is in his ninth 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank the following for supporting our 2022 season:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Sandra Anderson
Ryan Currens, Church Administrator
Audition Venue

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington

Sue Gjerset, Office Administrator
Rehearsal Venue

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Minneapolis

Tor Jacobson, Director of Children’s Ministries and Performing Arts
Roger Krafve, Custodian
Rehearsal and July 23 Concert Venues

Sundin Music Hall, St. Paul

Silvester Vicic, Director of Conference and Events Management
July 24 Concert Venue

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, St. Paul

Andrew Parr, Director of Worship and Music
July 31 Concert Venue

Covenant Living of Golden Valley

Colleen Mallas, Life Enrichment Coordinator
Preview Concert Venue

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Logo design: Jennie Geiger

Jessi, Adam, Grady, Taji & Becky
Nystuen, concert notes

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Ingrid Dai, editing

David Trembley, sound recording and editing

Mark Bilyeu, Assistant Conductor
Jared Miller, Rehearsal Accompanist

The Summer Singers is excited to welcome Kaja Bingham as our first intern — she joins the team this summer to help with marketing & social media.

To all of our wonderful volunteers, Thank you!



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 26th season.

THE ENSEMBLE

Numbers indicate years in TSS

Soprano

Laurie Botes Zaepfl 1
 Julia Brown 2
 Rachel Farhi 9
 Kennedy McGarness 1
 Rebecca Nystuen 20
 Sammi Pennick 2
 Lauren Piper 2

Alto

Fabiola Aguilar 1
 Shannon Hart 4
 Jeenee Lee 1
 Jessi McKinnon 6
 Kristie Shaffer 1
 Becca Tobin 5

Tenor

Peder Flaten 4
 Logan Jacot 1
 Jordan Kleist 1
 Paul Stever 2

Bass

Peder Bolstad 17
 David Erickson 2
 Adam Irving 4
 Grady Klein 2
 Gerry Schmidt 3
 Dana Skoglund 7
 Dan Wanamaker 1

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.



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We are passionate about bringing high-quality music to the Twin Cities whether through concerts, videos, or recordings. If you'd like to stay current with the newest releases, audition schedules or concert recordings — sign up to receive our email newsletter.

VISIT [SUMMERSINGERS.ORG/#SIGNUP](https://summersingers.org/#signup) TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST.

HELP SUPPORT THE SUMMER SINGERS!

The Summer Singers are committed to performing high-quality a cappella music in our community free of charge. In order to maintain this commitment, we rely on supporters to fund operational costs. Donations large and small allow us to not only present the concerts of the current season but also are essential to ensure a stable fiscal budget for the next year. This support has been vital to fulfilling our mission from the very beginning, especially in the face of pandemic challenges over the past couple of years. We have acknowledged and celebrated our supporters in many ways throughout the years and look forward to continuing to do so.

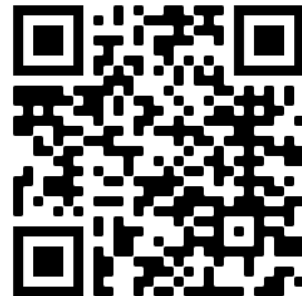
Whether you are a long-time sustainer or this is your first concert, consider making a donation to The Summer Singers today. Find the Sustaining Members' table in the lobby at today's concert, go to summersingers.org (or scan the below QR code), or send a check to: The Summer Singers — 4725 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN. 55419.

Thank you for supporting our organization.

Thank you for supporting us!

A financial gift of any size can make a tremendous difference to our organization!

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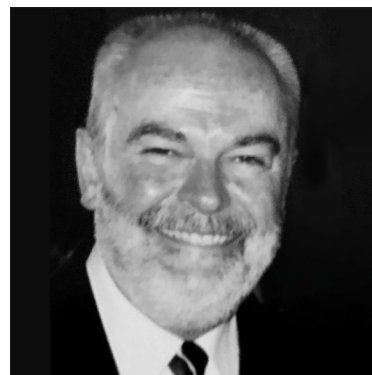
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Secretary



CHERYL FRIEDRICHS



JENNIFER JENSEN



INGRID DAI



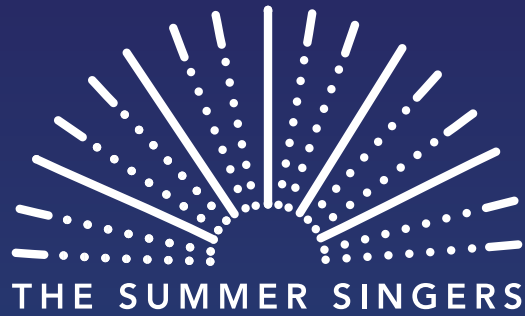
TAJI ONESIROSAN



GRADY KLEIN

Join our Volunteer Board

The Summer Singers is led and operated by our volunteer board. If you are passionate about bringing high-quality choral music to the Twin Cities, connect with a current board member or visit summersingers.org/contact.



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.

SUMMERSINGERS.ORG

