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CHORAL
SOCIETY

fables

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 | 7PM
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1 ABOUT ACS

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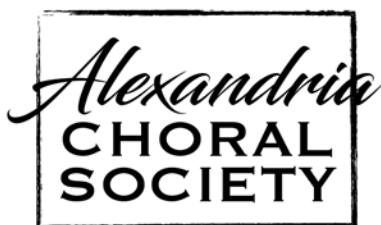
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fables

ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY

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**GEORGE WASHINGTON
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR**

JESSICA SAYLER, DIRECTOR

ANDRE LEONARD

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

fables for the daytime

MOTHER GOOSE GEMS

STEPHEN SHEWAN (b. 1962)

I. HEY, DIDDLE, DIDDLE!

II. STARLIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

III. OLD KING COLE

IV. GEORGIE PORGIE

V. SLEEP, BABY, SLEEP

CHÍU, CHÍU, CHÍU

URUGUAYAN FOLK SONG

arr. Greg Gilpin (b. 1964)

George Washington Middle School Choir

Canta, canta, pajarito.
Canta, canta tu canción.
Mira que la vida es triste
y tu cantar me alegra el
corazón.

Chíu, Chíu, Chíu.

Canta, canta, pajarito.
Que tu cantar me alegra el
corazón.

Con tus gorjeos,
con tu trinar.

Despierta el alba, la noche
ya se va.

Sing, oh, sing now, little birdie.
Sing, oh, sing your little song.
See how life can be so sad,
but your sweet song can make
my heart glad.

Chíu, Chíu, Chíu.

Sing, oh, sing now, little birdie,
and your sweet song makes
my heart glad.

With your sweet warbles
and with your trill.

Wake up the morning and let
the darkness flee!

CANTAMOS!

JAMES DESJARDINS

with the George Washington Middle School Choir

Mi vida, una canción, cumplida. [My life, a song, fulfilled.]

*Cantamos. [We sing.] Let a voice resound with a mighty
sound, swelling from the ground, we sing.*

*Rising like a storm, let a song be born. 'Till the break of
morn, we sing.*

DesJardins

5 PROGRAM

AESOP'S FABLES

BOB CHILCOTT (b. 1955)

1. THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE
2. THE MOUNTAIN IN LABOR
3. THE FOX AND THE GRAPES
4. THE NORTH WIND AND THE SUN
5. THE GOOSE AND THE SWAN

CONCERT ÉTUDE, OP. 40, NO. 1

NIKOLAI KAPUSTIN (1937–2020)

Andre Leonard

nighttime stories

HOTARU KOI JAPANESE CHILDREN'S SONG

arr. Rō Ogura (1916–90)

*Ho, ho, hotaru koi,
Atchi no mizu wa nigai zo,*

Kotchi no mizu wa amai zo,

*Ho ho hotaru koi,
Ho, ho, yama michi koi.*

*Ho, ho, ho, firefly
Come, there's some water
that's bitter to taste*

*Come, here's some water
that's sweet to your taste;*

*Ho, ho, ho, firefly,
Ho, ho, up this mountain
path.*

*Hotaru no otosan kanamochi
da,
Dori de oshiri ga pikapika da.*

*Hiruma wa kusaba no tsuyu
no kage,
Yoru wa ponpon, taka
chochin.*

Tenjiku agari shitareba,

Tsunbakura ni sarawarebe.

*An-do no hikari o choto mite,
koi.*

*Firefly's daddy struck it rich, so
he's got lots of dough,
No wonder that his rear end
sparkles in the dark.*

*In the daytime hiding 'mongst
the dewy blades of grass,
but when it's night, his lantern
burns bright.*

*E'en though we have flown all
the way from India,*

*Zoom! and those sparrows
swarm to swallow us.*

*Look! see a thousand lanterns
sparkling in the dark.*

trans. David Larson

6 PROGRAM

TRES NANAS CÁNTABRAS

CANTABRIAN FOLK SONGS

arr. Javier Busto (b. 1949)

1. EL MI NIÑO TIENE SUEÑO

El mi niño tiene sueño;	My child is sleepy,
el mi niño va a dormir;	my baby is going to sleep;
un ojín tiene cerrado	one of his little eyes is closed
y otro no lo puede abrir.	and he cannot open the other.

2. DUÉRMETE, QUE VIENE PREGUNTANDO

Duérmete, niño en la cuna	My child, go to sleep
mira que viene el cocón,	in your cradle,
preguntando por las casas	the bogeyman is coming
quién es el niño llorón.	and he's asking who is the weeping child.

3. EL MI NIÑO SE HA DORMIDO

El mi niño se ha dormido,	My child is drifting off to sleep,
cuidado no se despierte,	be careful not to wake him,
si le quieren aplaudir,	if you want to applaud him,
cuidado no lo hagan fuerte.	do it softly.
Ay, niño, no te olvido yo.	Ah, my baby, I won't forget you.
Ay, niño, te quiero yo.	Ah, my baby, how I love you.

JABBERWOCKY SAMUEL H. POTTLE (1934–78)

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the teeth that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand;
Long time the manxome foe he sought—
So rested he by the Tumtum tree
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Calloo! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.

Lewis Carroll (1832–98)

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JUST AS I AM

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ALEXANDRIACHORALSOCIETY.ORG

9 PROGRAM NOTES

This opening concert of the Alexandria Choral Society's 54th season has something for singers and listeners of every age. We open our "Fables for the Daytime" set with **Mother Goose Gems** by **Stephen Shewan**. The work is dedicated to his mother, Nancy Shewan, and the composer has provided notes (verbal as well as musical) for the singers. Here are some excerpts:

Whenever I took life too seriously, my Mom, Nancy, would offer the sage advice, "never lose your inner child." It is fitting that this musical tribute in her memory be a collection of nursery rhymes, many that she read to us as children.

"The cat and the fiddle" in Hey, Diddle, Diddle! inspired me to set the opening movement in an American hoe-down style. ... The bend in "moon" depicts the cow "mooing" while jumping. ... The piano part in Starlight, Star Bright should sparkle like stars. I tipped my musical hat to Leonard Bernstein's Tonight. Old King Cole is set for tenor, baritone, and bass sections, representing the "fiddlers three" while the piano plays fiddle tunes. ... Georgie Porgie is an eclectic mix of contemporary harmonies and Jerry Lee Lewis style piano rhythms. ... Sleep, Baby, Sleep is a pastoral lullaby that should feel like a baby being rocked gently.

Next, we welcome the George Washington Middle School Choir from Alexandria City Public Schools under the direction of Jessica Sayler. The following two selections are at least partly in the language of Spain and its descendents in the Americas. First we hear the Middle School choir in a Uruguayan folk song, **Chíu, Chíu, Chíu**, which tells of a bird whose cheery song gladdens the heart despite the troubles of the world. Arranged by **Greg Gilpin** for voices, piano, and percussion, you can hear the sound of the bird as the singers repeat the words, "chíu, chíu" in canon, thirds, and other harmonic patterns. Gilpin is a notable composer and arranger who often conducts educational choral tours for singers of all ages. He holds a degree in Vocal Music Education from Northwest Missouri State

10 PROGRAM NOTES

University.

Next, the Alexandria Choral Society joins the George Washington Middle School Choir to sing **Cantamos!** which includes both Spanish and English texts, and brings a message of solidarity among people of different nations. Both words and music are the work of choral composer and multi-talented musician **James DesJardins**, a sought-after guest conductor and presenter on the topics of music pedagogy and choral conducting.

The "Daytime" segment of the program continues with **Aesop's Fables** by British composer **Bob Chilcott**. Chilcott selected a few favorite fables from among hundreds which have been attributed to the Greek storyteller Aesop. Chilcott writes:

Aesop, supposedly a slave in ancient Greece, lived sometime during the 6th century BC, but his wisdom is timeless. ... I have used the translation by the Reverend George Fyler Townsend, and have set only five of the more than six hundred that were supposedly written by Aesop. At the beginning of each story in my setting, the title is spoken, as is the moral that comes at the end. ... The final song in the set, The Goose and the Swan, is appropriately about singing. I have underpinned this song with a wonderful harmonic progression taken from Du bist die Ruh by the king of all songwriters, Franz Schubert.

Bob Chilcott has enjoyed a lifelong association with choral music, first as a chorister and choral scholar in the choir of King's College, Cambridge, and for twelve years as a member of the King's Singers. He turned to full-time composing in 1997, and has produced a large catalog of music for all types of choirs. He has conducted choirs in more than 30 countries worldwide, and has worked with many thousands of amateur singers across the U.K. For seven years he was the conductor of the choirs of The Royal College of Music in London.

This evening's concert introduces our new ACS Collaborative Pianist, Andre Leonard, to the audience. For

11 PROGRAM NOTES

his first solo performance in our concert season, he will play **Nicolai Kapustin's Concert Étude, Op. 40, No. 1**. Born in Ukraine in 1937, Kapustin and his family moved to the Kyrgyz city of Tokmak when he was a small child. He composed his first piano sonata at the age of 13, and discovered jazz when he was 17. His interest in jazz was encouraged by his teacher, and during the 1950s he acquired a reputation as a jazz pianist, arranger, and composer, fusing the traditions of classical piano repertoire and improvisational jazz. He graduated from the Moscow Conservatory in 1961, and always thought of himself as a composer, rather than a jazz musician. This short piano solo is filled with excitement!

The second part of our concert consists of "Nighttime Stories." The first is a Japanese children's song titled **Hotaru Koi**, arranged for three-part treble choir by the Japanese composer and writer **Rō Ogura**. Born in 1916, he began his musical studies in modern (at the time) French music, then became interested in German classical music when learning to conduct Beethoven symphonies, and wrote many symphonies as a result. Subsequently he developed an interest in Bartók, which led him to start writing original music inspired by folk songs and nursery rhymes (though in Japanese, rather than Hungarian!). He was also a gifted and published writer and in later life took up painting in oils — a fascinating and full career for a composer who is represented in this program by a song about glittering fireflies lighting up the night.

Tres Nanas Cántabras is a cycle of three songs by **Javier Busto**. The text is Spanish, though Busto is Basque, and a proud speaker of the Basque language. Once asked if he remembered the day Franco died in 1975 and the ban on speaking Basque was ended, his response was, "We remember not just the year, we remember the day and the minute because after that we could speak our language again." Busto trained and worked as a medical doctor, but he was self-taught in music. He has been a choir singer since childhood. Born in 1949, he first started writing choral songs in the 1970s. The three Cantabrian lullabies in

12 PROGRAM NOTES

this cycle all have Spanish texts from the fourth century, and reflect Bustos's conviction that music should reflect feelings more than intellectual ideas.

Our concert closes with another fanciful tale from children's literature: **Sam Pottle's** musical interpretation of Lewis Carroll's *Jabberwocky*. Sam H. Pottle was an American composer, conductor, and musical director of theatrical and television productions. Born in New Haven, Conn., and a 1955 graduate of Yale, he is probably best remembered for his work on *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show*. Like Stephen Shewan and Bob Chilcott, he provided his own notes for the singers, which are excerpted here.

Jabberwocky first appeared in Through the Looking Glass (1871), the sequel to Alice in Wonderland. It was written by Charles Dodgson under his famous pseudonym, Lewis Carroll. The ultimate satire of heroic poetry in English literature, it foreshadows a major trend in twentieth-century writing in its eerie and evocative use of nonsense words. This setting emphasizes the mock-heroic aspects of the poem, and it is a parody on the musical devices and attitudes of large, traditional choral works.

Pottle adds that he hopes the performers will treat his setting of the poem with the seriousness and formality which he intended, "... exactly as if it were the sort of work which it imitates." We hope that you in the audience will be listening with the same level of appreciation, though the seriousness may be difficult at times.

How many of you have read the *Alice* books with your children or grandchildren — or in any other situation? We hope this concert inspires you to revisit these amazing fables, and others, and remember where the word "fabulous" came from.

Mimi Stevens

ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY

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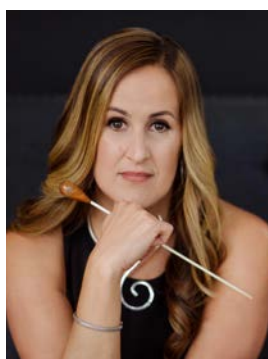
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15 ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Founded in 1970, **Alexandria Choral Society** aspires to enhance the cultural life of the city of Alexandria by presenting diverse and engaging musical programs at the highest artistic level. Alexandria Choral Society ensembles consistently offer meaningful and exciting musical experiences to both singers and audiences through diverse repertoire, education, community outreach, and performance excellence.



Interim Artistic Director **Kathryn Harsha** holds a Master of Music in Conducting from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Bachelor of Arts in Plano Performance from Bluffton University. While studying at the Sorbonne in Paris, she served as Assistant Conductor of the Chorale des Étudiants Etrangères and studied conducting at the Messiaen Conservatoire in Saint-Maurice, France.

Ms. Harsha served as Music Director of the Lakeland Civic Orchestra for eight seasons and Opera per Tutti, now the Cleveland Opera Theater. Kathryn has been the Music Director of the Sing Out! for Cleveland Rape Crisis Center Benefit since 2002, where the Visionary Voice award was named in her honor in 2018. These concerts have raised millions of dollars for the center, transforming its work and scope.

For the last four seasons, Kathryn served the Peabody Children's Chorus in various capacities, beginning as Assistant Director and Accompanist, and later adding on the role of Chorus Manager. Prior to her work at Peabody, she was on the faculty at the Opus Community Music School, and served as Executive Director for five years, overseeing a significant transformation of the organization and expansion of musical opportunities for all ages.

She has conducted choruses and orchestras across the U.S. and abroad, with notable performances in France, Italy, Austria, and Germany, recently conducting in Severance Hall and at the Kennedy Center. She currently conducts ensembles for Encore Creativity in Silver Spring, Rockville, and Annapolis.

Kathryn is honored to serve as the Artistic Director of the Alexandria Choral Society for its 54th season.

16 ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Andre Leonard is a dynamic and accomplished pianist, conductor, and music director, with a diverse range of experiences that speak to his passion for music and dedication to his craft. In 2022, Andre was honored to win the Gold Medal at the Boston International Piano Competition and, in 2017, the Gold Medal at the Aloha International Piano Competition, cementing his reputation as one of the foremost pianists of his generation.

In addition to Andre's achievements in the competitive arena, he also had the privilege of serving as Music Director for the installation of the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune statue in the U.S. Capitol, as well as an Artist-in-Residence at the Kennedy Center and the Kettering Legacy Center. Andre's work as Music Director for Adventure Theater and the CAPPA Chorale have allowed him to bring his talents to a diverse range of audiences. His role as vocal coach and pianist for the world premiere opera *On the Road to Arivaca* allowed for commitment to new and groundbreaking work in the field.

Andre's musical accomplishments have also extended to the performance world. As a recitalist for the Washington Piano Society and an Artist-in-Residence for the Friday Morning Music Club and the Alliance for New Music Theater, he has honed skills as a collaborative musician. Working as a conductor for the iconic Howard Theater production of *The Return of Jackie Mom's Mabley* allowed the showcase of unique perspective and musical voice.



Ms. **Jessica Sayler** has been an educator and school administrator for over 23 years. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the prestigious choral program at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, double majoring in Choral Music Education and Spanish, and is currently completing her Masters in Curriculum & Instruction with an ESL emphasis at UVA. During her undergraduate studies at Luther, Ms. Sayler participated in the mixed and women's choirs, musical theater, a rock opera, and served as president of the Women's Choir under the direction of renowned choral director Weston Noble. Ms. Sayler is a classically trained soprano,

17 ABOUT THE ARTISTS

having studied in the vocal studio of Dr. David Judisch at Luther.

Ms. Sayler's teaching and school administration career took her to southern Spain after college, where she lived and raised her family for 17 years. There she established a secondary school choir, directed church music, and arranged choral works for her adult a *cappella* choir. Ms. Sayler performed as a featured vocalist in De Falla's orchestral and choral work *Atlántida* in Cadiz, Spain, and as a soloist in Fauré's *Requiem* in Cordoba, Spain. As a hobby, she was also lead vocalist for a soul band and a bluegrass band during her time in Spain. Ms. Sayler returned to the U.S. in 2016 and taught K-5 Music and Choir in Spanish at Mount Vernon Community School for six years before taking over the choral music program at George Washington Middle School in 2022.



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AlexandriaSingers.com



The Virginia Chamber Orchestra Announces the 2023-24 Season!

MARCOLIVIA CLICKS WITH BARTOK

Award-winning violin and violin/viola classical music duo

Saturday, October 21, 2023, at 8:00PM

The Falls Church Episcopal,

REMEMBERING FAURE

Alexandria Choral Society

Side by Side: VCO & American University Symphony

Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 8:00PM

Capital One Hall, Tysons, Virginia.

BRIAN GANZ ENCHANTS WITH BEETHOVEN

“one of the leading pianists of his generation”

Sunday, April 12, 2017, at 4:00PM

Capital One Hall in Tysons, Virginia.

ANNOUNCING...

THE FAIRFAX CHORAL SOCIETY 2023-2024 SEASON

Celebrating Choral Art Performance, Education and Appreciation Since 1962

- **To Thee All Angels Cry Aloud**
Symphonic Chorus
Sunday, October 22, 2023 – 4:00 pm
St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Clifton, VA
- **Silent Auction Fundraiser**
Sunday, November 12, 2023 – 5:00 pm
Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, Fairfax, VA
- **Nowell! Sing Nowell!**
Youth Choruses
Tuesday, December 5, 2023 – 7:00 pm
Annandale United Methodist Church, Annandale, VA
- **Light, Love, and Peace**
Symphonic Chorus, Vocal Arts Ensemble,
Master Singers, and Concert Choir
Sunday, December 10, 2023 – 7:00 pm
Capital One Hall, Tysons, VA
- **Christmas in Fairfax**
Symphonic Chorus and Vocal Arts Ensemble
with the City of Fairfax Band
Saturday, December 16, 2023 – 7:00 pm
Fairfax High School Auditorium, Fairfax, VA
- **The Earth, The Air, The Deep: Songs of Nature and Life**
Vocal Arts Ensemble
Sunday, March 10, 2024 – 4:30 pm
Annandale United Methodist Church, Annandale, VA
- **May the Road Rise to Meet You: Songs of the British Isles**
Symphonic Chorus
Sunday, March 17, 2024 – 4:00 pm
Providence Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, VA
- **Poetry of Music**
Youth Choruses
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – 7:00 pm
Annandale United Methodist Church, Annandale, VA
- **Spring Follies!**
Youth Choruses
Friday, May 17, 2024 – 7:00 pm
Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, Annandale, VA
- **Homeland**
United States Navy Sea Chanters and
Symphonic Chorus
Sunday, May 19, 2024 – 4:00 pm
Providence Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, VA
- **VAE on Broadway**
Vocal Arts Ensemble
Sunday, June 2, 2024 – 4:30 pm
Annandale United Methodist Church, Annandale, VA





I, TOO, SING AMERICA
Church of the Epiphany

Celebrate contributions by contemporary Black American composers to the choral music canon, featuring music by Mason Byner, Ronald Walton, Marcea McGuire, and Adolphus Hailstork.

SWEET WAS THE SONG
St Ann's Catholic Church

Join us for a treasured holiday tradition of seasonal choral music featuring rarely heard old English and American carols, along with holiday favorites and audience caroling.

A BEL CANTO SALON
National Presbyterian Church

Two Steinways grace the stage to celebrate this beloved operatic style with works by Rossini, Brahms, and Liebeslieder. With contemporary work by Lori Latiman on texts from the suffragist movement.

New Dominion
CHORALE

Thomas Beveridge
Artistic Director

with

Heritage Signature Chorale
Stanley Thurston, Artistic Director

SPIRITUALS

THOMAS BEVERIDGE:

ONCE:

IN MEMORIAM

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Sunday, October 22, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

THIS CONCERT IS FREE

www.newdominion.org | 202-244-7191

