

PRO CORO ALEXANDRIA



TO THE SEA

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 | 7PM  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# 1 ABOUT ACS

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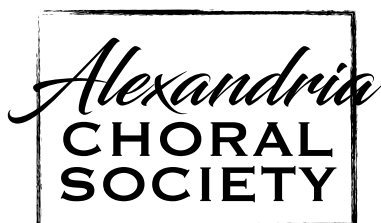
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to the following persons and organizations:*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
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*Our season is supported in part by  
the Virginia Commission for the Arts,  
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TO THE  
SEA

ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY

KATHRYN HARSHA

INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JUSTIN STRELETZ

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

AVE MARIS STELLA

GREGORIAN CHANT

Anonymous

AVE MARIS STELLA PHILIP STOPFORD (b. 1977)

AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON

MATTHIAS GREITTER (1495–1550)

arr. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

LES BERCEAUX Op. 23, No. 1

GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845–1924)

arr. Denis Rouger (b. 1961)

TO BE SUNG OF A SUMMER NIGHT

ON THE WATER Op. 91

FREDERICK DELIUS (1862–1934)

IT'S A LONG WAY

B.E. BOYKIN (b. 1989)

SAILING AWAY

MELISSA DUNPHY (b. 1980)

INTERMISSION



## 4 PROGRAM

# INTERMISSION

**SEA FEVER** **DANIEL BRINSMEAD** (b. 1988)

**THE WELLERMAN**  
**NEW ZEALAND FOLKSONG**  
arr. Roger Emerson (b. 1950)

**WHAT SHALL WE DO  
WITH A DRUNKEN SAILOR?**  
**ENGLISH TRADITIONAL**  
arr. Jens Klimek (b. 1984)

**SHENANDOAH** **AMERICAN FOLKSONG**  
arr. James Erb (1926–2014)

**LET THE RIVER RUN** **CARLY SIMON** (b. 1943)  
arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

**TAKE ME TO THE WATER**  
**ROLLO DILWORTH** (b. 1970)

**Please fill out our brief audience survey!**

Collecting this information helps us in tracking our outreach in the Alexandria community and beyond and assists us in grant applications. The survey is anonymous; however, if you choose to provide your contact information you will be entered to win a season ticket to our 55<sup>th</sup> season!

Thank you for your participation.

**SPRING2ACTION 2024**

**SUPPORT THE  
ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY**



**SUPPORT'S ACS MISSION  
TO SPREAD THE JOY OF  
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**Spring2Action**

**Alexandria's Giving Day**  
**Presented by ACT for Alexandria**



A photograph of a field of yellow flowers, likely mustard or rapeseed, with a few purple flowers in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**JUST AS  
I AM**

MORE INFO + TICKETS AT  
[ALEXANDRIACHORALSOCIETY.ORG](http://ALEXANDRIACHORALSOCIETY.ORG)



## 6 PROGRAM NOTES

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***I must go down to the seas again,  
for the call of the running tide is a wild call  
and a clear call that may not be denied.***

John Masefield, excerpt from "Sea-Fever"

Water is a central substance of life, and our devotion to it has been set to music for centuries. Water elicits expansive emotions: clear water is purifying and healing; salt water can be described as an ocean of tears, the bustling shores entice the growth of whole cities, and angry seas can sink ships, destroy communities, and topple bridges. Water beckons to us, and urges us to reflect deeply as we weep, rejoice, and sometimes even drink to excess (we're looking at you, drunken sailors). Our concert features music beginning in the 9<sup>th</sup> century celebrating the primal attraction to water and the sea.

**Ave Maris Stella** ("*Hail, Star of the Sea*") is a plainchant originating in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and has been arranged with regularity ever since. Maris Stella (or, "Our Lady, Star of the Sea," a poetic reference to Mary) is believed to intercede as a guide and protector of seafarers. Many coastal churches are named Stella Maris or "Star of the Sea." Pro Coro Alexandria will sing the original Gregorian chant from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, followed by an arrangement composed by Philip Stopford in 2015.

Ave, maris stella,	Hail, star of the sea,
Dei mater alma,	Nurturing Mother of God,
atque semper virgo,	And ever Virgin,
Felix cæli porta.	Happy gate of Heaven.
Sumens illud «Ave»	Receiving that "Ave"
Gabrielis ore,	From the mouth of Gabriel,
funda nos in pace,	Establish us in peace,
mutas Evæ nomen.	Transforming the name of "Eve."
Solve vincla reis,	Loosen the chains of the guilty,
profer lumen cæcis,	Send forth light to the blind,
mala nostra pelle,	Our evil do thou dispel,
bona cuncta posce.	Entreat (for us) all good things.
Sit laus Deo Patri,	Praise be to God the Father,
summo Christo decus,	To the Most High Christ (be) glory,
Spiritui Sancto	To the Holy Spirit
tribus honor unus. Amen.	(Be) honor, to the Three equally. Amen.

*Medieval Marian hymn, sung at Vespers*

## 7 PROGRAM NOTES

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**An Wasserflüssen Babylon** ("*By the Rivers of Babylon*") was originally composed in the early 1500s by Matthias Greitter and was printed in one of Martin Luther's widely distributed songbooks in 1545. Two hundred years later, Johann Sebastian Bach arranged the tune in three slightly different chorale settings. This somber hymn is a paraphrase of Psalm 137: "By the Rivers of Babylon, we sat down and wept," describing the Israelites who have come to the water to mourn their exile and oppression.

An Wasserflüssen Babylon,	At the rivers of Babylon,
Da saßen wir mit Schmerzen;	There we sat in pain;
Als wir gedachten an Sion,	Even when we thought of Zion,
Da weinten wir von Herzen;	We wept with all our hearts.
Wir hingen auf mit schwerem Mut	We hung up with heavy courage,
Die Orgeln und die Harfen gut	The organs and the harps,
An ihre Bäum der Weiden,	And left of all our sport and play:
Die drinnen sind in ihrem Land,	On the willow trees
Da mussten wir viel	We had to suffer from
Schmach und Schand	disgrace and shame,
Täglich von ihnen leiden.	Suffer from them every day.

*Wolfgang Dachstein (1487–1553)*

**Les Berceaux** ("*The Cradles*") was written in 1879 by French composer Gabriel Fauré, based on a poem by René François Armande "Sully" Prudhomme. The title is a play on words, referring to babies' cradles as well as the large cradle-shaped boats that rock men at sea. The accompaniment gently sways underneath the aching melody of the women and children who have been left behind for the sea, the sailors' perpetual mistress.

Le long du Quai, les grand	Along the quay, the great ships
vaisseaux,	
Que la houle incline en silence,	that the sea-swells tilt in silence,
Ne prennent pas garde au	take no notice of the cradles
berceaux,	
Que la main des femmes	rocked by the hands of women.
balance.	
Mais viendra le jour des adieux,	But the day of parting will come,
Car il faut que les femmes	because women must weep
pleurent,	
Et que les hommes curieux	and curious men must be
	tempted

## 8 PROGRAM NOTES

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Tentent les horizons qui leurrent!	toward horizons that will delude them!
Et ce jour-là les grands vaisseaux, Fuyant le port qui diminue,	And that day, the great ships, fleeing from the port that grows small,
Sentent leur masse retenue Par l'âme des lointains berceaux.	will feel their mass restrained by the soul of distant cradles.

*René François Armand "Sully" Prudhomme (1839–1930)*

English composer Frederick Delius composed ***Two songs to be sung of a summer night on the water*** in 1917, while living in Grez, France. Although most of his composing was done in Europe, Delius's music was also influenced by the spirituals he heard while working on an orange grove plantation south of Jacksonville, Florida, and later in Danville, Virginia. This ethereal piece is sung without words and evokes images of sirens luring unwary sailors onto rocks.

***It's a Long Way***, written by Alexandria, Virginia, native B.E. Boykin, is based on a poem by William Stanley Braithwaite (1878-1962). The soaring melody glides above the accompaniment, which shimmers with a relentless sea of notes (up to 24 notes per measure) until just the last few measures of the piece.

It's a long way the sea-winds blow  
Over the sea-plains blue,—  
But longer far has my heart to go  
Before its dreams come true.

It's work we must, and love we must,  
And do the best we may,  
And take the hope of dreams in trust  
To keep us day by day.

It's a long way the sea-winds blow—  
But somewhere lies a shore—  
Thus down the tide of Time shall flow  
My dreams forevermore.

*William Stanley Braithwaite (1878–1962)*

***Sailing Away*** by Melissa Dunphy is based on a poem by Nebraska-based poet Isabel Richey from her book *A Harp*

## 9 PROGRAM NOTES

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*of the West* (1895). Beginning with a drone in the bass, the melody has a hypnotic repetition of the lyrics, “Away, away, sailing away.”

Thy sails are set on the unseen sea,  
Sailing away, sailing,  
The wave are bearing thee far from me,  
Love stands wailing:  
Pale mists slowly rise between,  
Mists of parting tears, I ween,  
Wrapping thee in shadow sheen,  
Thy face veiling.  
What is this that is borne to me,  
Sailing away, sailing?  
“Thou’lt meet again, on the unseen sea;  
Cease thy wailing:  
Out where the waves of Time, shall be  
Met by the waves of Eternity,  
Light shall pierce the mists for thee  
All unveiling.”

*Isabel Richey (1858–1910)*

**Sea Fever** is based on a poem written in 1902 by John Masefield. The sea is a common theme in Masefield’s works, drawing from his early experiences on the water on a naval training school boat and a steamship. Later in life, Masefield was designated as Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom from 1930–1967. The lyrical poem “Sea Fever” has been set to music by multiple composers. Daniel Brinsmead’s 2022 arrangement uses only treble voices.

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;  
And the wheel’s kick and the wind’s song and the white sail’s shaking,  
And a grey mist on the sea’s face, and a grey dawn breaking.  
I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide  
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;  
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,  
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

*John Masefield (1878–1967)*

**The Wellerman** is a Sea shanty from New Zealand. Sea shanties were sung or chanted by a ship’s crew, often in a call and response style, to boost morale and keep energy high through long work days. A “Wellerman” was an



## 10 PROGRAM NOTES

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employee of the Welle Brothers' shipping company in Sydney, which supplied "sugar and tea and rum" to whaling stations in New Zealand. "When the tonguin' is done" refers to their work of stripping blubber from whales. The story of *The Wellerman* describes whalers on a ship named the "Billy O'Tea" and a massive whale they can't quite catch in an epic battle that never ends.

***What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor*** is another sea shanty that dates back to at least the 1830s. Rumor has it that this was one of only two shanties that was sung in the British Royal Navy (where singing at work was frowned upon). This simple sailor's tune has become so commonplace that it was recorded across genres, including the Robert Shaw Chorale in 1960. Listen for the sound of waves at the beginning of our rendition.

Whether it originated as a sea shanty or by Canadian fur traders, ***Shenandoah*** has become a lyrical and longing classic. *Shenandoah* soared in popularity in the United States in the 1960s when it was featured in *How the West was Won* (1962) and the American Civil War film *Shenandoah* (1965).

***Let the River Run*** was written by Carly Simon for the 1988 movie *Working Girl*. The song won an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, and a GRAMMY. Simon became the first artist in history to win this trio of awards for a song composed and written, as well as performed, entirely by a single artist. Simon described the piece as a hymn to New York with a contemporary jungle beat under it, to juxtapose the opposites in a compelling way.

***Take Me to the Water***, arranged by Rollo Dilworth, combines original texts with quotes from "Down by the Riverside" and "Wade in the Water" for our rousing closer. Rollo Dilworth is Professor of Choral Music Education and Chair of the Department of Music Education and Therapy at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The lyrics speak for all of us, "Take me to the water! Take me to the sea! Take me to the water! Set my spirit free!"

# ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY

## PRO CORO ALEXANDRIA

### SOPRANO

Cienna Breen  
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Jeffrey Nickeson  
Kevin Simpson  
David Smith

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Celia Grove  
Shannon Maloney  
Akosua Tuffuor-Brown  
Jacqueline Scott  
Megan Yingst

### BASS

Michael Bianco  
Zach Byers  
Siegfried Hache  
Anthony Laretto  
David Pritzker  
Richard Simpson

## 12 ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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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.

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Interim Artistic Director **Kathryn Harsha** holds a Master of Music in Conducting from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Bachelor of Arts in Piano 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 54<sup>th</sup> season.

## 13 ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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**Justin Streletz** is a local collaborative pianist, music director, and elementary music teacher. He studied piano at West Chester University with Dr. Patricia Powell. Upcoming projects include conducting *Tuck Everlasting* and music directing *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.



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Bridget Baker-White	Alison Fitzgerald	Rebecca Grisso
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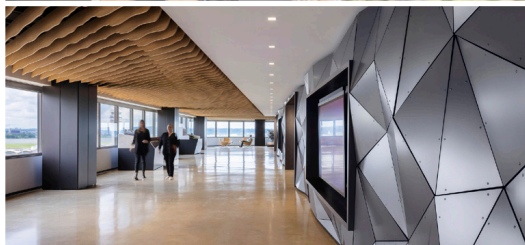


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The Jen Walker Team knows how important our community is. With over 35 years of calling this place home, Jen, Sue, Micki, Adrianna, and Nancy demonstrate their devotion to Alexandria and beyond through their involvement with over 30 charitable community organizations and leadership roles.

**For them, it's about giving back and advocating for their community.**

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(L-R) Jennifer Walker, Micki MacNaughton, Nancy Lacey,  
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## PERFORMANCES

May 31-Jun 1 "One World, Many Voices" pops concert  
Oct 2024 "Cabaret" ALXSingers variety show  
Dec 6-7 "Holiday Pops!" with special guest, Santa

## WORKSHOPS/COMMUNITY

Apr 27 "Sing for Your Life!" - Free  
Jun 8 Volunteer ALX - Arts & Crafts Fair

## JOIN US

Aug 13 Guest Night & Open Auditions  
Aug 20 Guest Night & Open Auditions

# AlexandriaSingers.com

   @ALXSingers

[info@alexandriasingers.com](mailto:info@alexandriasingers.com)





*Fauré: Requiem*

*Beveridge: Stabat Mater*

*Purcell: O Sing Unto the Lord*

Helena Colindres, *soprano*

Nathaniel Sullivan, *baritone*

and Orchestra



**Sunday, April 28, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

Saint Luke Catholic Church

7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Virginia

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## 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



# Amadeus Concerts

Concerts include a preview "prep talk" at 3:15 PM  
and a post-concert reception with the artists.

Tickets available at the door for \$45;  
youth and active-duty military admitted free of charge.



**Join Us in the New Year!**

## **Cooperstown String Quartet**

Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 4 pm, Great Falls Grange, Great Falls, VA

## **Benefit Concert & Auction**

Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 3 PM, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls, VA

## **Baumgarten Trio**

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 4 pm, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls, VA

## **Amadeus Strings**

Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 4 pm, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls, VA

**A. Scott Wood, conductor**

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