

SHINE ON US

ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY WITH
THE ALFRED STREET BAPTIST TRINITY CHOIR
KATHRYN HARSHA | DR. JOYCE GARRETT



OCTOBER 5, 2024 | 7PM
ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM

ABOUT ACS

For over half a century, the Alexandria Choral Society has presented a broad spectrum of choral works, delighting audiences and fostering an inclusive environment of belonging and collaboration in the city of Alexandria and beyond. Since its founding in 1970, ACS has captivated audiences year in and year out. Most recently, ACS commissioned and presented the world premiere of "You Birth the Seeds," a work by acclaimed composer Melissa Dunphy, with text from Alexandria Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam. Under the direction of Artistic Director Kathryn Harsha, ACS is committed to enhancing the cultural life of the city of Alexandria by presenting diverse and engaging vocal music programs at the highest artistic level.

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PROGRAM

SHINE ON US

ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY

KATHRYN HARSHA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JUSTIN STRELETZ

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

FEATURING

THE ALFRED STREET BAPTIST TRINITY CHOIR

DR. JOYCE GARRETT

DIRECTOR

MELVIN BRYANT JR.

PIANO ACCOMPANIST

ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal	Alice Parker
How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place	Johannes Brahms
O Lux Beatissima	Howard Helvey
Lift Thine Eyes	Felix Mendelssohn
Where the Light Begins	Susan LaBarr
Dona Nobis	Johann Sebastian Bach
Unclouded Day	Josiah Kelly Alwood, Arr. Kirchner

TRINITY CHOIR

Spiritual Medley	Arr. Gary Hines, Paul Gatling
Great Is Thy Faithfulness	William Runyan, <i>Simone Paulwell, soprano</i>
Hallelujah Is the Highest Praise	Arr. Nathan Carter Anthony Pattin

TOGETHER

United in Purpose	Rollo Dilworth
Done Made My Vow	Nolan Williams, Jr.
A Unified Prayer	B.E. Boykin
Be the Light	Franklin J. Willis

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PROGRAM NOTES

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal - Alice Parker (1925-2023).

Composer, conductor, and teacher Alice Parker was born in Boston, MA in 1925. Her arrangements with Robert Shaw of folksongs, hymns, and spirituals form an enduring repertoire for choruses all around the world. "Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal" is from *The Southern Harmony*, a compilation of hymns, tunes, psalms, and songs published by William Walker in 1834. This music was taught and sung in the Shaped Note tradition, which became popular in the south. Ms. Parker's arrangement was originally done for the Robert Shaw Chorale. Ms. Parker passed away last Christmas Eve, 2023, at the age of 98.

*Hark I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.*

*And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away.*

*Souls have crossed before me saintly to that land of perfect rest
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.*

*Chorus: Hallelujah, praise the lamb. Hallelujah,
Glory to the great I Am!*

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), is Brahms' musical depiction of eternal bliss. The fourth piece comes from his German Requiem, a name he chose to distinguish from the traditional Requiem Mass of the Roman Catholic liturgy. This universal music is not written for the dead, but to bring solace to the living. One of the composer's few remarks concerning *A German Requiem* underlines his effort to give the work universal meaning: "I confess that I would gladly omit even the word *German* and simply put *Human*. . . ."

*How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth for the courts of the Lord.
My soul and body crieth out, yea for the living God.
O blest are they that dwell in thy house: they praise thy name
evermore.*

PROGRAM NOTES

O Lux Beatissima was written by *Howard Helvey* (b.1968), and is a lovely modern motet featuring mixed meter and gorgeous harmonic tension. Howard Helvey resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is active as a composer, arranger and pianist, and serves as organist and choirmaster of historic Calvary Episcopal Church. He is also co-founder and conductor of the Cincinnati Fusion Ensemble, a professional chamber choir.

<i>O Lux beatissima</i>	<i>O light most blessed,</i>
<i>Réple cordis íntima tuórum fidelium</i>	<i>fill the inmost heart of all thy faithful</i>
<i>Accénde lúmen sénsibus,</i>	<i>Enkindle your light in our minds</i>
<i>Infúnde amórem córdibus,</i>	<i>Infuse your love into our hearts</i>
<i>Infirma nostri córporis,</i>	<i>Strengthen the frailties of our flesh</i>
<i>Virtúte fírman pépeti.</i>	<i>by your perpetual power.</i>

Lift Thine Eyes by *Felix Mendelssohn* (1809-1847) is taken from the oratorio about the prophet Elijah. In this dramatic scene, the prophet Elijah has been cut off by a thankless and backsliding nation, and begs God to end his unworthy life before sinking into a dejected sleep. At this point, the audience takes the vantage point of the angels who surround the slumbering prophet and sing, "Lift Thine Eyes." The composer hit upon the idea for setting "Lift Thine Eyes" as an a cappella trio while walking along the Birmingham industrial canal flush from the oratorio's premiere. For Mendelssohn, the search for beauty and order was compelling even in the grittiest of surroundings.

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help.
Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved. Thy Keeper will never slumber.

Where the Light Begins - *Susan LaBarr* (b. 1981) is a composer and choral editor at Walton Music. She served as the Missouri Composer Laureate for 2012 and 2013. Susan studied composition with Alice Parker, also featured in today's concert. "Where the Light Begins" is based on a poem by Jan Richardson. Susan LaBarr wrote that "within each of us is the ability to work towards peace. It doesn't take a monumental action, just many little kindnesses that we can show to others every day ...we find that the light that the dark world so desperately needs begins in us."

PROGRAM NOTES

Perhaps it does not begin

Perhaps it is always.

Perhaps it takes a lifetime

To open our eyes, to learn to see-

The luminous line of the map in the dark

The vigil flame of the house of the heart

The love so searing; we can't keep from singing!

Dona Nobis Pacem is the final movement of *Johann Sebastian Bach's* (1685-1750) monumental B minor mass. The culmination of Bach's prolific compositions (more than a thousand pieces of music), the mass was completed in 1749, the same year that our city of Alexandria, Virginia, was founded. Featuring twenty-six individual sections in a variety of styles, it closes with this sublime plea for peace repeated throughout: "*Dona nobis pacem*" (*Grant us peace*).

Unclouded Day - The song "Unclouded Day" was written by the itinerant preacher *Josiah K. Alwood* (1829-1909) after a late-night horse ride under a striking vision: he saw a rainbow against a dark cloud which covered half the sky, while the other half was perfectly clear. He awoke in the morning with the song's chorus in his head, and spent a day and a half working out the verses. *Shawn Kirchner's* (b.1970) arrangement features traditional bluegrass vocal stylings combined with counterpoint and fugue in a crescendo of excitement that peaks in the roof-raising phrase "in the city that is made of gold."

Great is Thy Faithfulness - A native of the small Kentucky town of Franklin, *Thomas Obediah Chisholm* (1866-1960) was born in a log cabin. He became a teacher at age sixteen and the associate editor of his hometown weekly newspaper, the *Franklin Advocate*, at age twenty-one. Throughout his lifetime, he wrote more than 1200 poems, 800 of which were published. Many of these were set to music. Chisholm had sent a number of his poems to the Rev. *William H. Runyan* (1870-1957), a musician with the Moody Bible Institute and one of the editors of Hope Publishing Company in Chicago. Runyan wrote of the hymn: "This particular poem held such an appeal that I prayed most earnestly that my tune might carry over its message in a worthy way." This version is arranged by *Nathan Carter* (1936-2004).

PROGRAM NOTES

Hallelujah Is the Highest Praise - *Dr. Anthony Pattin* gave his New York debut recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 1998. Pattin has performed concerts throughout the U.S. including on the prestigious Dame Myra Hess Concert Series in Chicago. In addition to two concert tours of Japan, he has appeared in recitals throughout Europe and Central America. A prize winner in several national piano competitions, he was also a first-prize winner in the Bartok-Kabalevsky International Piano Competition held at Radford University. Dr. Pattin is now Professor Emeritus at the University of Montevallo and has recorded six compact discs on the APT label, exhibiting a command of a wide and diverse range of repertoire.

United in Purpose - *Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)* is Vice Dean and Professor of Choral Music Education in the Department of Music Education and Therapy at Temple University's Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Over 200 of Dilworth's choral compositions and arrangements appear in the catalogs of Hal Leonard, Colla Voce and Santa Barbara Music Publishing. The text for this particular piece is from Dr. Maya Angelou's book, *Rainbow in the Cloud: The Wisdom and Spirit of Maya Angelou*. The words can be found on pages 34 and 35 of the book:

The onus is upon us all to work to improve the human condition. Perform good deeds, for that is truly the way to battle the forces of entropy that are at work in our world. The composite of all our efforts can have an effect. Good done anywhere is good done everywhere. When we unite in purpose, we are greater than the sum of our parts.

Done Made My Vow - *Rev. Nolan Williams, Jr. (b. 1969)*, is an emerging voice of the new millennium. Rev. Williams is a preacher and biblical scholar as well as a composer and musician. Rev. Williams serves as the Associate Director of Church Music for the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, DC. He is also proprietor of a publishing house for sacred music, NEW-J Publishing Co. (ASCAP), and founder of a contemporary gospel ensemble, The Psalmists.

PROGRAM NOTES

A Unified Prayer - *Brittney Boykin (B.E. Boykin) (b. 1989)* is a native of Alexandria, Virginia, and comes from a musical family. At the age of seven, she began piano lessons and continued her studies through high school under the tutelage of Alma Sanford. She currently serves as Assistant Professor at the Georgia Tech School of Music, and recently led a group of young Atlanta singers to victory in the largest international choral festival and competition in the world. With Boykin conducting, the Senior Youth Choir of the Atlanta Music Project (AMP) won the Youth Choir category and earned the second highest score across all categories in the World Choir Games' Open Competition in Auckland, New Zealand. "A Unified Prayer" was written in 2020 and recommended by the composer for this concert.

Be the Light - *Franklin J. Willis*. Inspired by Amanda Gorman's poem "The Hill We Climb" ("for there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it"), this piece reminds us that when we work together, we can be the light in our communities. Author, composer, and three-time CMA Foundation Music Teacher of Excellence and with more than a decade of experience in the classroom, Franklin J. Willis is a trailblazer and catalyst for change in the music education space, as well as a rising leader within the music industry at large.

- Kathryn Harsha

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Katie Batterberry
Cienna Breen
Samantha Calkins
Christie Cameron
Sharon Collins
Jenna Dawkins
Monique Doussard
Katrina Dubee
Caroline Duchin
Diane Erbland
Ankur Garg
Celia Grove
Rasneek Gujral
Molly Haines
Dr. Doreen Hamilton
Kennedy Levinson
Shannon Maloney
Erika May
Veronica Miller
Karen Minatelli
Megan Murchie-Beyma
Brandy Reece
Nicole Thompson
Joanna Van Zeller

TENOR

Adam Comfort
Caroline Hale
Jonathan Hung
Alan Morris
Brent Schultheis
Kevin Seiger-Cottoms
Kevin Simpson
Mimi Stevens
Troy Tanner
Jacob Yeston

ALTO

Sarah Begeman
Lisl Brunner
Patricia Burson
Peggy Heiser
Heather Hurley
Allison Jones
Marion Lange
Janie Lee
Kerry McGowan
Kristina Meacham
Lina Rodriguez
Anne Simpson
Katherine Sykora
Stacy Tanner
Akosua Tuffuor
Allison Wickens

BASS

Michael Bianco
Rocky Ebener
Clifford Gay
Joshua Heit
Terry Langendoen
Charles Morrison
David Pritzker
Brian Schiff
Richard Simpson
David Smith
Wallace Wason Jr.

SINGERS

TRINITY CHOIR

SOPRANO

Desire Barrett
Kim Brown
Barbara Cottom
Barbara Daggs
Cheryl Finch
Alberta Forbes-Baker
Doreen Hamilton
Elsie Henson
Rita Jackson
Sheryl Johnson
Anita Lockett
Minnie McClure
Youner McLeod
Carol Moore
Simone Paulwell
Evelyn Robertson
Shaquita Simpkins
Stephanie Smith
Amanda Stafford
Geri Tucker
Eva Wood
Mary Touchstone
Geri Tucker
Arlene Whitlock
Margaret Wiggins

TENOR

Eric Byrd
Darius Carr
Anthony Dillard
Russell Easter
Beverly Ferguson
Robert Gentry
Sylvester Owens
David Parker
Milton Pippens
Oliver Reynolds

ALTO

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Sandra Barrett
Teresa Baskerville
Mildred Benson
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Deborah Easter
Lakisha Goldsberry
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Tiffany Latham
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ABOUT THE ARTISTS



KATHRYN HARSHA, 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 Conservatoire Messiaen in Saint-Maurice, France.

An active conductor in choral, opera, and orchestral music, Ms. Harsha has worked with ensembles across the country, conducting most recently in Severance Hall and the Kennedy Center, and in France, Italy, Austria, and Germany. Kathryn served for many years as Music Director and Conductor of the Lakeland Civic Orchestra in Cleveland, Ohio, and as the Music Director of Opera per Tutti, now the Cleveland Opera Theater. For more than 20 years, she was the Music Director of the Sing Out! for Cleveland Rape Crisis Center benefit concert, where the Visionary Voice Award was named in her honor in 2018.

Ms. Harsha enjoys working with musicians of all ages, including young people at the Peabody Children's Chorus and Opus Community Music School, and mature singers at Encore Creativity for Older Adults, where she currently conducts multiple ensembles across the Washington metropolitan area.

Kathryn is honored to serve as the Artistic Director of Pro Coro Alexandria and the Alexandria Choral Society for its 55th season.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



DR. JOYCE GARRETT, DIRECTOR, ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Joyce Garrett has enjoyed a long, honored career as a music educator and choral director. During her 30-year teaching career at Eastern High School, Washington, she received numerous notable awards, among them the Washingtonian magazine's "Washingtonian of the Year," Readers Digest "American Heroes in Education Award," and The Catholic University "Alumni Award in Music." She was awarded the Roland Carter "Living Legend Church Music Award" presented at the Hampton University Centennial Ministers Conference in 2014.

Garrett was awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees from her Alma Mater, Bennett College, Greensboro, NC, and the West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV. She served as Choral Master for two nationally televised yearly specials: "Christmas in Washington," (TNT-Cable) and "The Kennedy Center Honors" (CBS-TV) for over twenty-five years. She has served on the music staff of Alfred Street Baptist Church since 1979 and has led the Music and Worship Arts Ministry, a dynamic ministry of singers, instrumentalists, Liturgical dancers, and actors, since 2006.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



JUSTIN STRELETZ, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Justin Streletz is excited to be returning to Alexandria Choral Society for the 2024-2025 Season! He is a local collaborative pianist who has worked with many school divisions in Northern Virginia for concerts and festivals. Justin is also a music director, including a pit conductor and vocal director. During the day he is an elementary music teacher, entering his 10th year of teaching. Justin studied piano at West Chester University with Dr. Patricia Powell. In his free time, he enjoys reading, traveling, working out at OrangeTheory, and all things LEGO.



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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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The **Trinity Choir of The Alfred Street Baptist Church** serves in one of the oldest African American congregations in the United States, founded in 1803. Formerly named the Senior Choir, the melodious strains of this talented choir have been heard in anthems, hymns, spirituals, and gospel songs within the church and throughout the East Coast of the United States and abroad.

In addition to its regular church schedule, the choir's outreach has led to performances at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, the Washington Hebrew Congregation, and at the Washington DC Mormon Temple Visitors Center, among others. Acclaimed performance tours to the countries of Austria, Germany, Italy; France, Belgium, and the Netherlands took place in 2012 and 2014, respectively.

The Trinity Choir serves the 12,000-member on-site and online congregation at regular worship services and community outreach events. Joyce Garrett, Director of Music and Worship Arts, has directed the Trinity Choir since 2000. The Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, internationally known Theologian, serves as the Senior Pastor.

We are joined tonight by **Simone Paulwell**, acclaimed operatic soprano, who is a member of our congregation. She has won several vocal competitions including 1st place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition, 1st place winner of the Leontyne Price Vocal Arts Regional Competition sponsored by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, and the Next Generation Trailblazer in Fine Arts Award given by The Congressional Black Caucus.

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Opera Afternoon

In Collaboration with Partners for the Arts
Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 4 pm
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls, VA

Messiah Sing (free admission)

Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 4 PM
Fairlington United Methodist Church, Alexandria, VA

MELERensemble: Folk Impressions

Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 4 PM
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls, VA



A. Scott Wood, conductor

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New Dominion
CHORALE
Thomas Beveridge
Artistic Director

Haydn:

The Creation

In English

Danielle Talamantes, soprano
Allan Palacios Chan, tenor
Kerry Wilkerson, bass
and Orchestra

Sunday, October 27, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center
4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria, Virginia

*Alfred Street
Baptist Church
Trinity Choir*

Fifth Anniversary Gala Concert

Tema Choir USA

Saturday, October 19th

6:00PM

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

**14508 Telegraph Road
Woodbridge, VA**

MORE LOCAL MUSIC



**WASHINGTON
METROPOLITAN
PHILHARMONIC**

Anna Binneweg, Music Director
WMPAMUSIC.ORG

**2024 | 2025
SEASON ON
SALE NOW!**



FANTASTICAL EXPLORATIONS

Philip Glass' Concerto Fantasy
for Two Timpani & Orchestra
OCTOBER 6 @ 3 PM

HOLIDAY DREAMS

Duke Ellington's Nutcracker
& Alexandria Choral Society
DECEMBER 8 @ 3 PM

WAR & PEACE

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony
& Ukranian Piano Concerto
MARCH 2 @ 3 PM

DVORÁK SIDE-BY-SIDE

Amit Peled Plays Cello Concerto
& Wash Met Youth Orchestra
MAY 18 @ 3 PM

ALL CONCERTS AT GW MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL

