



A Video Concert Event

Released on Thursday, October 15, 2020

Venue: First Baptist Church of Forsyth

Dr. Stephen J. Mulder, conductor

Kitty Grubbs, accompanist

Marcus Reddick, percussion, and Jayne Widener, flute



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To the Nines

PROGRAM

* Designates Platoon leaders

Song of Ruth
Al Shlosa D'Varim

David N. Childs
Allen E. Naplan

Platoon 1- Women's Ensemble

Debby Daniel-Bryant*
Peggy Carroll
Gay Fortson
Jean Gregory
Tricia Ivey

Kate Lenhard
Kay McWatters
Patti Morrow
Dotty Murray

Like a River in My Soul
Praise the Lord

Tim Osiek
Arr. Ralph Johnson

Marcus Reddick, percussion

Platoon 2- Mixed (SATB)

Emory Schroeter*
Travis Graham
Art Hammond
Bailey Harvil

Amy Huffer
Susan Landry
Katrina Lazenby

You Do Not Walk Alone
Give Me Jesus

Elaine Hagenberg
Howard Helvey

Jayne Widener, Flute

Platoon 3- Mixed (SATB)

Valerie Gill*
Ric Calhoun
Valerie Calhoun
Jackie Clark
Justin Evans

Kate Evans
Adam Grubbs
Ross Iddings
Susie Whatley

Show Us How to Love
We Walk in the Light

Mark A. Miller
Hoogenhout/Potter

Marcus Reddick, percussion

Platoon 4- Mixed (SATB)

Bruce Reid*

Jennifer Durham

Justin Evans

Adi Smith

Brandon Smith

Madison Smith

John Strickland

Come to Me
Deep River

Dan Forrest
Arr. Lloyd Larson

Platoon 5- Mixed (SATB)

Kit Benson*

Alan Benson

George Brown

Christopher Davis

Sylvia Hollums

Margie King

Ken VanHoy

Patsy VanHoy

Our Next GCA Concert:



*Christmas celebrations will almost certainly be different this year, but the message is the same.
Join us as we embrace the beauty of choral music and sing "tidings of comfort and joy."*

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Texts and Translations

Song of Ruth

Entreat me not to leave you, or to return from following you.

Where you go I will go and where you lodge I will lodge;

Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God.

Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried, where you lie.

May the Lord do so to me and more also, if anything but death parts me from you.

Al Shlosa D'Varim

(sung in Hebrew)

*Al shlosa d'varim haolam kayam
al haemet v'al hadin v'al hashalom.*

The world is sustained by three things:
by truth, by justice, and by peace.

Like a River in My Soul

I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.

I've got peace like a river, soothing river,
calmly flow.

When the world closes in, feel the stillness within.

I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, endless ocean, deep and full.

When you're lost and alone, let the waves bring you home.

I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.

When your hope nearly dies, just remember once again you shall rise!

I've got joy like a fountain,

Love like an ocean,

Peace like a river

In my soul.

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!

(sung in French)

Louez le Seigneur!

Louez son saint nom, Alleluia!

Praise the Lord!

Praise his holy name, Alleluia!

You Do Not Walk Alone

Traditional Irish Blessing

May you see God's light on the path ahead
when the road you walk is dark.

May you always hear, even in your hour of
sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.

When times are hard, may hardness never turn
your heart to stone.

May you always remember when the shadows
fall, you do not walk alone.

Give Me Jesus

I heard my mother say... give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus.

You may have all the world, give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry... Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus.

You may have all the world, give me Jesus.

Oh, when I come to die... give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus.

You may have all the world, give me Jesus.

We Walk in the Light

We walk in the light of God!

Show Us How to Love

Hearts open, minds awake,

Change us now, for heaven's sake.

Leave us not alone in hatred's wake.

Show us how to love.

Hearts open, souls awake,

Rules we made we now must break.

With our very own lives at stake

We must learn to love.

Eyes open, shocked awake,

Much to learn from our mistakes.

Draw us closer in our heartache.

Show us how to love.

Come to Me

"Come to me, all you who labor,

Come to me and I will give you rest.

Come to me, all who are worried and
burdened,

and you will find rest for your souls."

"Come, my child, learn my heart,

For I am gentle and lowly.

See how great my love for you,

That I have called you my child."

Deep River

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.
Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace?
Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Program Notes

In a cruel irony, communal singing is one of the most dangerous activities in which to participate during the current health crisis, and yet singing and making music is needed now more than ever to maintain mental health, to transcend fear, and to keep hope alive.

The Griffin Choral Arts Board met over the summer to have a serious conversation about how to approach our 14th Season. All options were on the table, including cancelling the season. As Artistic Director, I felt strongly that we should demonstrate resilience and try to come up with a creative solution. "Even one voice singing to an audience of one, outdoors or virtually, is better than nothing at all and keeps us focused on our mission."

From that starting point, the Board crafted a strategy based on what we could do safely, recognizing that no activity is absolutely risk-free. The result of the first phases is on display this month, as GCA presents its first ever

recorded concert presentation: "To The Nines."

The theme itself is descriptive of our safety measures, as each ensemble is comprised on 9 or fewer singers. Our 5 ensembles (we call them "platoons") met each Monday for 30 minutes only in the Sanctuary of Griffin First UMC, masked and physically distanced. The platoons remained outside until it was their designated time and sanitized their hands upon entering the space. After each platoon, the pews were sanitized and the air was circulated in preparation for the next platoon. The singers tolerated these limitations and guidelines, accepting them as a temporary necessity until the glorious day that we can again sing shoulder to shoulder, together, inspiring the same air.

The Music of "To The Nines"

The music performed for this program is a little less "serious" and the styles are a little more contemporary than our usual offerings. The selections fall loosely into three categories: heart songs, spirituals, and songs of hope.

Song of Ruth is a beautiful arrangement for women's voices that captures the ardent loyalty of the Old Testament hero, Ruth.

In this time of sickness and mounting deaths, our family relationships become more vital and the pain of loss is magnified. We weep with those who have lost loved ones and have not been able to properly celebrate their lives in community. We sympathize with those that are unable to visit their sick and aging relatives.

Al Shlosha D'Varim is a song of hope calling us to truth, justice, and peace. It is a "partner song" with each melody line of text being presented alone and then combined into a lovely counterpoint.

Like a River in My Soul gently leans into the old Sunday School song "I've got peace like a river..." without quoting it completely. The familiar lines "peace like a river," "love like an ocean," and "joy like a fountain" alternate with commentary text of resilience, hope, and resurrection ("Once again you shall rise!")

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord is a Cameroon Processional song typically used on communion Sundays. It is sung in French because of the influence of French-speaking missionaries from the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

You Do Not Walk Alone is a setting of a Traditional Irish Blessing. The gorgeous melody is presented three times in ever more dramatic form each time. The text echoes the sentiments of Psalm 23:4 ("Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil for you are with me.")

The text of the spiritual *Give Me Jesus* encourages us to find solace in the comfort of the Savior. From earliest family memories, through dark midnight, and even in death, we can rest in a surety that the world cannot provide.

The South African song *We Walk in the Light* is also a processional. Accompanied by African drums and simple movements, we can imagine a South African celebration involving all ages.

Show Us How to Love by Mark Miller is a heartsong that is a prayer ("show us how to love") and perhaps also a challenge ("we must learn to love"). With so much hatred and division in the streets, on the news, and saturating social media, this is an urgent message for us all.

Come to Me by Dan Forrest was commissioned

by the First United Methodist Church of Athens, GA. It combines verse fragments from Matthew 11, 2 Corinthians 6, and 1 John 3 into a message of restoration and comfort.

The spiritual *Deep River* (incorporating the hymn *Shall We Gather at the River*) carries the water themes of the program's other selections to a final conclusion in this serene depiction of the "promised land" of heaven.

There will come a day when we return to choral masterworks and we will again be able to focus our efforts on purely musical and artistic achievements. But, here in October 2020, it will have to be enough that we are singing and that there are people listening. We continue to send the messages of resilience and hope, through our performances and through our actions.

With gratitude to the GCA Board of Directors, Griffin First United Methodist Church, our dedicated singers, our donors and advertisers--thank you for your continued support as we strive to use inspiration and beauty to create community.

Stephen J. Mulder

Artistic Director

Griffin Choral Arts





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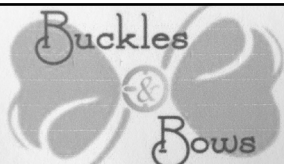
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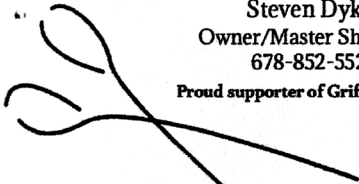
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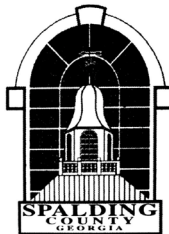
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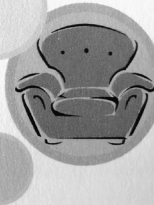
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