2020 FALL CHORAL CONCERT

NDSU CONCERT CHOIR

AND MADRIGAL SINGERS

Jo Ann Miller and Michael Weber, conductors

PRE-RECORDED | NOVEMBER 2020
FESTIVAL CONCERT HALL
Madrigal Singers
Michael Weber, conductor
Kewen Cheng, conductor

Fair Phyllis..........................................................................................John Farmer

Fair Phyllis is an English madrigal written by John Farmer in the 16th century. This light-hearted madrigal is a joyful observation of love between a shepherdess and her suitor. The changes in texture and rhythms are reflective of the playful text.

Die Mainacht...............................................................................Johannes Brahms

Michael Weber, piano

Johannes Brahms wrote many secular works for voices on the subject of lost love. Both the voices and the piano convey the dramatic expression of the text’s emotions throughout the piece. Brahms is a master of writing beautiful lyric vocal lines that create a sense of beauty contrasted with the reality of the grief over lost love.

Pastoral Song....................................................................................arr. Qu Xixian

This song arranged by the Chinese composer, Qu Xixan, is a beautiful description of nature. The poem emphasizes the peaceful beauty that can be found in the physical gifts of the open sky and the pasture. The music portrays this tranquility through warm harmonies and a lyric melody.

Bailey Roth
Emily Paulson
Sewit Eskinder
Julie Ly
Lexi Limesand
Rachel Ulmer

Sophie Lind
Brady Ritland
Seth Brandl
Micah Nicolai
Josh Kainz
Nick Hovey
Thomas Brink
Octet One
Jesse Dunaway, conductor

Of the Fathers Love Begotten...........................................................Edwin Fissinger

In this rendition of “Of the Fathers Love Begotten”, Dr. Fissinger expands the harmonic landscape normally heard within this melody to one that is most familiar to fans of his unique harmonic language.

When I Can Read My Title Clear........................................................arr. Alice Parker

Alice Parker masterfully assures us that, despite the world against us, we can overcome life’s struggles and find peace in the hereafter. One verse even encourages us to smile in the face of such turmoil stating, “Should earth against my soul engage, and hellish darts be hurled, then I can smile at Satan’s rage, and face a frowning world.”

Marly Holmquist
Meagan Olson
Halle Shimek
Mackenzie Kelley
Nick Hovey
Austin Fitterer
Jesse Dunaway

Octet Two
Kewen Cheng, conductor

The Star That I See...........................................................................Edwin Fissinger

In “The Star That I See”, Edwin Fissinger captures the ethereal nature of the universe to demonstrate that we are all like stars with our own solar system, even if we only appear as dots in the sky to each other.

I Will be Seeing You...........................................................................Wei Cui

A 19th century British poem composed by a contemporary Chinese composer, this piece perfectly shows that music is a universal language regardless who you are and where you come from.

Emily Paulson
Madeleine White
Rachel Ullmer
Matthew Irvine

Morgen Hagerott
Patrick O’Halloran
Sebastian Sievers
Margoton va t’a L’iau………………………………………………………Francis Poulenc

The first of seven chansons by Poulenc, this piece tells the story of a young maid who fell as she was on her way to the well. A young man passing by asks, “What is my reward if I pull you out?” She replies that she will give him her love, but after she is rescued she only gives him a song.

Ich bin die Wurzel des Geschlectes David……………..Johann Hermann Schein

The early Baroque German composer Schein was a brilliant composer of sacred music. This six-part motet is typical of the new style of motet; sectional, varied textures of imitation and homophony, some text painting and vibrant rhythmic language.

Hong Liang Ng, piano

I am the root of the race of David,
A bright morning star
He says, who testifies to these things:
Yes, I will come soon, Amen.
Come indeed, Lord Jesus.
The grace of our Lord Jesjus Christ
Be with you all, Amen.

Revelation 22:16b,20-21

May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You.................................Meredith Wilson
Arr. Edwin Fissinger

Lauren Craig, soprano

This is a lovely setting of the well-known tune.

Lauren Craig  Seth Brandl
Lexi Limesand  Micah Nicolai
Jessica Livdahl  Kailer Riedman
Jennifer Nannenga  Brady Ritland
Alexis Rusch
Super flumina Babylonis……………………..........................Giovanni Palestrina
   On the Babylonian river we sat and wept
   When we remembered Thee, Zion.
   On the aspens of that land, we hung up our harps.
   Psalm 137

No Man is an Island……………………..........................Edwin Fissinger
   Taylor Krug, narrator
   Jessica Livdahl, soprano

   No man is an island entire of itself,
   Every man is a piece of the continent,
   A part of the main.
   If a clod be washed away by the sea,
   Europe is the less as well as if a promontory were,
   As well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were.
   Any man’s death diminishes me,
   Because I am involved in mankind.
   And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls.
   It tolls for thee.
   John Donne
**Octet Four**  
Casey Behm, conductor

Incline Your Ear, and Come Unto Me......................................................Edwin Fissinger

Isaiah 55:3 serves as the source of the text. Repeated parts of the text are very common in this setting. Fissinger often expands on the original chord by adding a seventh or ninth at the repeated text. Fissinger also brings focus on the change in the line of text by using staggered vocal entrances when new lines start.

Jenny..........................................................Nick Myers

This work uses original poetry by Ryan Kerr to convey the journey one goes through while mourning the loss of a loved one. The loss may not be easy. We may feel grief and sadness but can find relief in the memories made and the love that was shared. While the love may be in a different form after a loss, it is just as strong and present. Composer Nick Myers adds fluid vocal lines to help evoke the thoughts of light and ascension from the text. Color chords create tension that is eventually resolved with the final text “I love you so.”

Emma Dodds  
Natalie Harrison  
Makayla Holte  
Ashley Johnson  
Josh Kainz  
Logan Kjos  
Patrick Malnaa

Octet Five  
Isaac Lovdahl, conductor

The Seal Lullaby..............................................................Eric Whitacre

Caleb Lawson, piano

Originally written for a Disney film that was never made, Eric Whitacre’s colorful setting of Rudyard Kipling’s poem “The Seal Lullaby” is brimming with impressionistic tone painting and mystique. Its unrelenting lyricism makes for a sort of “choral art-song”, and allows each part of the choir to sing into their own distinct melodies with great expression. As the choir reaches the end of the poem, they imitate the “slow-swinging seas” with extended phrases on single vowel sounds that ebb and flow as waves in the ocean.
Dedicated to his mother, McFerrin’s setting of *The 23rd Psalm* takes an unconventional yet uniquely beautiful approach. McFerrin adapted the text to make it more accessible for a modern audience, and chooses a consistently feminine perspective when the text refers to God: “She restores my soul. She right my wrongs. She leads me in a path of good things, and fills my heart with songs.” Performed freely and unencumbered, the musical style presented by this piece is reminiscent of early Christian chant.

Hannah Overbey  
Bailey Roth  
Makayla Scherrer  
Tasha Meyer  
Thomas Brink  
Asa Lo  
Floyd Althoff

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**Octet Six**  
Michael Weber, conductor

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I Lift Mine Eyes Unto the Hills..............................................................René Clausen  
Micahel Weber, piano

I Lift Mine Eyes Unto the Hills is a setting of Psalm 121. René Clausen uses a colorful harmonic palette with lyric melodies, and well-crafted interplay between voices, to bring the text to life. The use of dynamics, contrasts in texture and the supportive piano accompaniment craft a dramatic setting of the text.

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Poor Man Lazurus.................................................................arr. Jester Hairston

Poor Man Lazrus is a spiritual set by Jester Hairston. Hairston was famous in the 20th century for encouraging the performance of spirituals in a traditional concert setting. The spiritual tells the Biblical story of Lazarus and Divies with the repeated refrain of “Dip your finger in the water, come and cool my tongue, Cause I’m tormented in the flame.”

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Sewit Eskinder  
Chloe Waterud  
Sophie Lind  
Julie Ly  
Ciara Spade  
Elijah Sullivan  
Luke Anderson  
Taylor Krug
My Heart Dances.................................................................James Fritschel

James Fritschel was director of choral activities at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA from 1968-1984. This work is an adaptation of Psalm 28 and reflects the character of the text – joy and praise.

Thomas Brink, tenor
Natalie Harrison, soprano

Over the Rainbow.................................................................Harold Arlen
Arr. Russ Robinson

How can I Keep from Singing..............................................Robert Lowry
Arr. Z. Randall Stroope

This hymn tune has been arranged countless times by American composers and arrangers. We chose it to represent our dedication to singing even as “storms shake our inmost calm”. Recorded by LiveWire Productions in September for the NDSU Bison Bidders Bowl event, it is the first piece we learned as a choir in this year of strange and difficult adjustments.
NDSU Concert Choir Fall 2020

Sopranos
Lauren Craig
Sewit Eskinder
Jessica Livdahl
Meagan Olson
Emily Paulson
Bailey Roth
Lexie Rusch
Madeleine White
Marly Holmquist
Natalie Harrison
Sophie Lind
Rachel Ullmer
Hannah Overby
Emma Dodds
Chloe Watterud
Ashley Johnson

Altos
Kewen Cheng
Lexi Limesand
Julie Ly
Tasha Meyer
Jennifer Nannenga
Makayla Scherrerr
Kenzie Kelley
Halle Shimek
Mikayla Holte
Ciara Spade

Tenors
Thomas Brink
Morgen Haggerott
Nick Hovey
Matt Irvine
Logan Kjos
Asa Lo
Elijah O’Sullivan
Kailer Riedman
Brady Ritland
Sam Wolf
Casey Behm
Austin Fitterer

Basses
Luke Anderson
Floyd Althoff
Seth Brandl
Jesse Dunaway
Lucas Jundt
Josh Kainz
Taylor Krug
Isaac Lovdahl
Patrick Malnaa
Micah Nicolai
Marshall Ziegler
Sebastian Sievers

Choir officers
Tommy Brink – President
Sewit Eskinder – VP
Seth Brandl – Secretary
Emily Paulson – Treasurer
Sophie Lind – Co-Treasurer
Sam Wolf – Public Relations
Connect with us on Facebook to stay up to date on upcoming performance and streaming opportunities.

We will not have public audiences for any indoor concerts, except for supervising faculty members and technical staff.

All performances in Beckwith Recital Hall and Festival Concert Hall will be recorded and livestreamed to the general public.

Events are subject to change.

Special thanks to the NDSU Foundation Impact Fund for generous support of Festival Concert Hall.