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Ensemble Concerts: Civic Chorale Spring Concert, April 20, 2024

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**Illinois State University
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
School of Music**

“Seven Eight”*

**Works of Jonathan Willcocks and Nicholas
Ryan Kelly**

**Illinois State University Civic Chorale
Spring Concert**

*7-8: Refers to the numerous times composers Willcocks and Kelly use 7-8 time signatures in today's selections.

**Center for the Performing Arts
April 20, 2024
Saturday Evening
7:00 p.m.**

This is the one hundred and seventy-sixth program of the 2023-2024 season.

Program

Please silence all electronic devices for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Magnificat (based on Luke 1: 46-55)

Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953)

1. **Magnificat**

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden:
For behold, from here on all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his name.

2. **Et misericordia**

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
Hail Mary, full of grace, thou who didst bear the Savior of our race.
Hail Mary, Queen of Heaven, turn not from us your face.

Olivia Schickel, soloist
Ryan Valdivia, trumpet

3. **Fecit potentiam**

He hath showed strength with his arm:
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted
The humble and the meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich have been sent away empty.
He, remembering his mercy hath helped his servant Israel.
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

4. **There is no rose of such virtue**

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bore Jesu;
For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space.
By that rose we may well see that he is God in persons three.
The angels sang to the shepherds: Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Luke Kirby, soloist
Ryan Valdivia, trumpet

Trumpet part transcribed by Grant Dixon

5. **Gloria, Patri et Filio**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

~15 Minute Intermission~

Four Songs by Nicholas Ryan Kelly (b. 1987)

You speak violets

Words by Shannon Bramer
(from *Climbing Shadows: Poems for Children*)

Sometimes you are quiet as a trillium
Yet your eyes speak the language of wild basil
Red butterflies impatient for a buzzing loud summer
You've got a young forest inside you.
I see waterfalls beyond tall white sleeping trees,
Birches, poplars where everything is moving and alive
I see rushing water in your eyes when you get a new idea
Sun through the branches making shadows inside you
Oh, when you find it hard to say what you are feeling,
You speak violets.

Clark Street Bridge*

Words by Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)

Dust of the feet and dust of the wheels,
Wagons and people going, all day feet and wheels.
Now...Only stars and mist, a lonely policeman,
Two cabaret dancers, stars and mist again,
No more feet or wheels, no more dust and wagons.
Voices of dollars and drops of blood,
Voices of broken hearts, voices sing, singing,
Silver voices, singing, softer than the stars,
Softer than the mist.

*Carl Sandburg captures the essence and energy of Chicago's Clark Street bridge in the early 1900s, once bustling with commerce, trade and tourism. Today it is the eighth and current bridge built to span the Chicago River (built in 1929), and stands as a testament to the past, present and future.

After the Wind

Words by Marjorie Pickthall (1883-1922)

After the wind in the wood, peace and the night.
After the bond and the brood, flight.
After the height and the hush where the wild hawk swings,
Heart of the earth loving thrush, shaken with wings.
After the bloom and the leaf, rain on the nest.
After the splendour and grief, rest.
After the hills and the far glories, and gleams and gleams,
Cloud and the dawn of a star,
And dreams, dreams, dreams

Now Boarding*

Words by James Iwasuk (from *First Call. Now Boarding*)

First call! Now boarding!
Names spill out like a milk run of whistle stops.
Serving hot coffee across a well-worn torn tattered road map,
A dormitory of numbered lockers,
House packed suitcase lives,
Secured for twenty-four hours.
Ticket wickets selling dream lotteries,
Booking passage on, it's going to be better!
Redeye hasty departures,
Now boarding, unannounced arrivals,
Kind couches creased with overstayed welcome,
A one-way ticket destination,
Last call... final call... now boarding!
At the starting gate bus bays of diesel engines revving,
Like panting beasts their bellies baggage bulged, excited silver.
Intimate conversations seek lonely companions
To tell their life story.
Strangers, sweaty, silently sit, seated, reserved, weary,
Praying for a place to stretch out their feet,
And sleep, and sleep, and sleep.
As Greyhounds race full out,
Bounding into the passing night.
[down Coquihalla, Yellowhead, Trans Canada tracks.]
Pss! Air brakes releasing, pss!
Like running out of breath, like running... out... of... breath.

Grant Dixon, whistler

*This text recalls a time not long ago when Greyhound buses crossed the continent carrying passengers to new destinations, adventures, careers, and lives; their silver-bullet figures were easily recognized by homebodies and travelers alike.

Illinois State University Civic Chorale

John M. Koch, *director*
Dr. Dennis Gotkowski, *pianist*

Civic Chorale Student Members

Maylin Bacon
Miguel Vazquez-Barragan
Younhee Choi
Grant Dixon
Lawendy Gilmore
Ivan Greiner
Kissin Hou
Skylar Johnson
Yeim Kim
Sarah Kosanda
Luke Kirby
Abby LeClere
Xinyi Li
Cora Moser
Ashley Oros
Ari Rotan
Olivia Schickel
Julia Smitendorf
Aly Tocco
Yen-Tzu Tung
Shem Villacarlos
Emily Worwa
Jinyu Zhang

Civic Chorale Community Members

Macauley Allen
Brigid Aslin
Susan Burt
Lucas Dahmm
Dave Edmondson
Tom Howe
Li Huang
Jim Kalmbach
Vern Kujath
John Lieder
Bill Parli
Cindy Parli
Julie Prandi
Jim Reid
Tess Scott
Tina Sipula
Lance Sleeter
Laurie Sleeter
Roberta Smith
Sun Smith
Sandra Underwood
Kevin Vernon
Jean Wallace

Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953) Jonathan Willcocks was born in Worcester, UK, and after early musical training as a chorister at King's College Cambridge and an Open Music Scholar at Clifton College, he took an Honours degree in Music from Cambridge University where he held a choral scholarship at Trinity College. He is currently Musical Director of The Chichester Singers, Guildford Choral Society and the professional chamber orchestra Southern Pro Musica and is Festival Conductor for the Leith Hill Musical Festival. Freelance conducting and workshop engagements have taken him to many parts of the world including the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Singapore, China and most of the European countries as well as the United Kingdom. Willcocks' compositions encompass large-scale orchestral scores and chamber music in addition to many choral works. His music has been played at the BBC Proms and his choral repertoire has also been recorded by many other well-known choirs such as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the London Bach Choir. Performers and audiences alike are attracted to Jonathan's vibrantly rhythmic and tuneful compositional style. Full details of his music, including samples of recordings, can be found at www.jonathanwillcocks.com. Although his career now focuses principally on his conducting and composition work, he has in the past held major posts in general and specialist music education – most recently at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Nicholas Ryan Kelly (b. 1987) is an American-born composer studying composition at Ithaca College in New York and the University of British Columbia-Vancouver. He resides in Canada's Okanagan Valley where he and his family love to explore the vast Canadian wilderness and he admits to playing too many computer games. Visit www.nicholasryankelly.com.

Dennis Gotkowski has served as pianist/accompanist for the ISU Civic Chorale since 2020. As MIOpera's Resident Conductor, he serves in a multifaceted role as conductor, vocal coach, and pianist. Recent conducting credits include MIOpera performances of *Carmen*, *The Sound of Music*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *La Bohème*, and *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, as well as Illinois State University's 2022 production of *Legally Blonde*. He has music conducted numerous productions in the Bloomington-Normal area. In addition to singing and conducting, Gotkowski is an active performer as a collaborative pianist, harpsichordist, and organist. He passionately strives to highlight the music of women composers for modern audiences; his recitals have featured the works of Clara Wieck Schumann, Alma Maria Mahler, Gropius Werfel, Florence Price, Rebecca Clarke, Pauline Viardot-Garcia, Lili Boulanger, and Élisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, among others. Gotkowski received his doctorate in voice performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied voice with James Doing and collaborative piano with Martha Fischer. He holds a master's degree in voice performance and choral conducting from Illinois State University and a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Illinois Wesleyan University.

John M. Koch, baritone, began teaching at the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts at Illinois State University's School of Music in 1997. He has performed over 35 operatic and 50 oratorio roles throughout the world. He is General Director and Co-Founder of MIOpera, Inc. which had its inaugural season in 2011 with Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. Subsequent seasons included *Don Giovanni* in 2012, *Le nozze di Figaro* in 2013, Bizet's *Carmen* and Dan Shore's *The Beautiful Bridegroom* in 2014, *La Cenerentola* and *Hansel and Gretel* in 2015, *Falstaff* and *The Dialogues of the Carmelites* in 2016, *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and *The Pirates of Penzance* in 2018, *La bohème* and *Die Fledermaus* in 2019, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in 2021, *The Sound of Music* and *Carmen* in 2022 and *The Pirates of Penzance* in 2023. This summer opera program was created to give young emerging singers from all over the world the opportunity to stage and perform complete operatic roles. MIOpera is proud to offer this unique opportunity to central Illinois audiences. As a soloist, Koch has appeared numerous times as baritone soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, with past performances at Chicago's Orchestra Hall with the Chicago Sinfonietta, Caracas Contemporary Ballet (Venezuela), Karmi'el Dance Festival in Israel (Tel Aviv Opera and Jerusalem), The Chautauqua Institution, Cincinnati Ballet and Symphony, Princeton University Symphony and Glee Clubs, the Southwest Michigan and Green Bay Symphony Orchestras, the Montréal Philharmonic, the Canadian Ballet, and Illinois State University and performances of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in Cairo, Egypt. His world premieres of David Maslanka's *A Carl Sandburg Reader* and his *Symphony No. 9* have been released on CD by Albany Records. Another world premiere presented a Daron Hagen work based on the famous Civil War letter of Major Sullivan Ballou to his wife Sarah entitled: *The Banner of my Purpose*. Performances of the work were given at Illinois State University, Western Illinois University, and Pacific Lutheran University with Prof. Koch as featured soloist with military band. Local solo performances have included Verdi's *Requiem*, Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, Britten's *War Requiem*, Rossini's *Stabat mater*, Haydn's *Creation* and *Mass in Time of War*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Handel's *Messiah*. He maintains a full voice studio in addition to conducting the Illinois State University Civic Chorale since 2010.



THANK YOU

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Adriana Ransom, *director, School of Music*
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Sara Semonis, *associate dean of research and planning*
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