



To Sit and Dream: Songs of Reflection and Resilience

Conspirare Symphonic Choir Treble Voices

Courtney Aguilar, Conductor

Program to be selected from:

Light of a Clear Blue Morning Dolly Parton/arr. Craig Hella Johnson and Richard Gabrillo
Soloist: Adrienne Pedrotti Bingamon

Landslide Stevie Nicks/arr. Adam Anders, Peer Astrom, Ed Lojeski

Breakaway Bridget Benenante, Avril Lavigne, Matthew Gerrard/arr. Alan Billingsley

Lift Thine Eyes Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Sigue Ivette Herryman Rodriguez

Voice on the Wind Sarah Quartel

Soloist: Cassidy Wallace

La Lluvia Stephen Hatfield

To Sit and Dream Rosephanye Powell

How Can I Keep From Singing? Robert Lowry/arr. Matt & Adam Podd

Lift Every Voice and Sing James Weldon Johnson/Justice Choir Songbook

A Choice to Change the World Kevin Phillip Johnson

Soloist: Krystina Speegle

Poetry and Quotes *The following readings and quotes will be read as part of today's program.*

"Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou
Read by Lee Ashlee Fletcher/Luisa Apolaya Torres

"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou
Read by Andrea Pobanz

Becoming (quote), Michelle Obama
Read by Emily Chandler

"This Sacred Scene" by Amanda Gorman
Read by Kellie Bledsoe

Texts & Translations

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

It's been a long dark night, / And I've been waiting for the morning.
It's been a long hard fight, / But I see a brand new day a-dawning.
I've been looking for the sunshine / 'Cause I ain't seen it in so long.
Everything's gonna work out fine. / Everything's gonna be all right, / It's gonna be okay.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning. / I can see the light of a brand new day.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning. / Everything's gonna be all right,
It's gonna be okay.

I can see the light, / Brand new day. / Clear blue morning.
- *Dolly Parton*

Landslide

I took my love and I took it down. / I climbed a mountain and I turned around.
And I saw my reflection in the snow-covered hills, / When a landslide brought me down.

Oh, mirror in the sky, what is love? / Can the child within my heart rise above?
Can I sail through the changing ocean tide? / Can I handle the seasons of my life?

(Uh-oh, uh-oh, uh-oh)

Well, I've been afraid of changin' / 'Cause I built my life around you.
But time makes you bolder; / Children get older, and I'm getting older too. / Well.

So, take this love and take it down. / Yeah, if you climb a mountain and you turn around.
And if you see my reflection in the snow-covered hills
When a landslide brought me down. / And if you see my reflection in the snow-covered hills,

Well maybe, / Well maybe, / Well maybe, / The landslide will bring you down.
- *Stevie Nicks*

Breakaway

Grew up in a small town and when the rain would fall down, / I'd just stare out my window.
Dreamin' of what could be and if I'd end up happy, / I would pray.

Tryin' hard to reach out but when I tried to speak out, / Felt like no one could hear me.
Wanted to belong here but something felt so wrong here.
So I'd pray. / I could break away.

I'll spread my wings and I'll learn how to fly. / I'll do what it takes 'til I touch the sky.
And I'll make a wish. / Take a chance. / Make a change, / And break away.

Out of the darkness and into the sun. / But I won't forget all the ones that I love.
And I'll take a risk. / Take a chance. / Make a change, / And break away.

Wanna feel the warm breeze. / Sleep under a palm tree. / Feel the rush of the ocean.
Get on board a fast train. / Travel on a jet plane far away, / And break away.

Building with a hundred floors. / Swinging 'round revolving doors.
Maybe I don't know where they'll take me. / But gotta keep movin' on.
Fly away, break away.

I'll spread my wings and I'll learn how to fly. / Though it's not easy to tell you goodbye.
And I'll make a wish. / Take a chance / Make a change, / And break away.

Out of the darkness and into the sun. / But I won't forget the place I come from.
I gotta take a risk. / Take a chance. / Make a change, / And break away.

- *Avril Lavigne*

Lift Thine Eyes

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.

- *Psalms 121*

Sigue

Spanish:

Camina, caminante,
Sigue;
Camina y no te pare,
Sigue.

English:

*Walk traveler,
Continue walking;
Walk and do not stop,
Continue walking.*

Cuando pase po su casa
No le diga
Que me bite,
Camina, caminante,
Sigue.

*When you pass by her house
Do not tell her
That you saw me,
Walk traveler,
Continue walking.*

Sigue y no te pare,
Sigue.

*Continue and do not stop,
Continue walking.*

No la mire si te llama,
Sigue.

*Do not look if she calls out for you,
Continue walking.*

Acuérdate que ella es mala,
Sigue.

*Remember that she is bad,
Continue walking.*

- *Nico Guillén*

Voice on the Wind

I heard a voice on the summer wind, / Who she is, I can't explain.
I heard a voice on the summer wind, / Blowing free and blowing wild.
I heard a voice on the summer wind, / Strength and spirit in her song.
I heard a voice on the summer wind, / With a song I seem to know.
I heard a voice on the summer wind, / Sounds familiar like my own.
I heard a voice on the summer wind, / Moves me like she knows me well.
I heard a voice on the summer wind, / Strong and sure where'er I stand.
I am the voice.

- Sarah Quartel

La Lluvia

"La Lluvia" means "The Rain." Based on a panpipe folk melody from Ecuador, this piece is sung entirely on the syllables "doo," "lie," "li," "la," and "loo," and paints a tonal picture of falling rain.

To Sit and Dream

To sit and dream, / To sit and read. / To sit and learn about the world.

Outside our world of here and now, / Our problem world.

To dream of vast horizons of the soul, / Of dreams made whole. / Unfettered, free.
Help me, / All you who are dreamers too. / Help me make our world anew.
I reach out my hand to you.

- from the poem "To You" by Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

How Can I Keep From Singing?

My life flows on in endless song above Earth's lamentations.
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love prevails in heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth it liveth.
And though the darkness 'round the close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love prevails in heaven and earth.
How can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it.
And day by day, this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, I hear the music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? KEEP SINGING!

Rev. Robert Lowry

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” Justice Choir Songbook

Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring,

(This land is your land, this land is my land)

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

(From California to the New York island)

Let our rejoicing rise

(From the redwood forest, to the Gulf Stream waters)

High as the list'ning skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

(Is this land made for you and me?)

- James Weldon Johnson and “This Land is Your Land,” text by Woody Guthrie

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,

Bitter the chast'ning rod,

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat,

Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past,

Till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, / God of our silent tears,

Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; / Thou who hast by Thy might,

Led us into the light, / Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;

Shadowed beneath Thy hand, / May we forever stand,

True to our God, / True to our native land.

- James Weldon Johnson

A Choice to Change the World

It's my choice and I choose to change the world.

It's my voice and I speak with pride and courage. / I'll be the change I want to see.

I'll scream out loud and say, / "It's my choice and I choose to change the world."

Why put off for tomorrow what I can do today? / Why wait for another when I can pave the way?

No matter how young or old, I hold the power of change. / Whether large or small, few or all,

My choice remains the same!

Since the founding of our nation, / We've been people of change.

Some shoulders that we stand upon / Never received applause or fame.

But in their honor I will live each day better than before

To show just how it takes a choice to change yourself and so much more!

The change begins today with every choice that we make.

Let us look around and see where the changes need to be.

Let's end poverty, fighting overseas, another dies from a disease.

Let's end hypocrisy, starving on the streets and no one does a single thing!

Make a choice! / What's your choice? / It's my choice and I choose to change the world!

- Sarah Stephens

Conspirare Symphonic Choir Treble Voices

Courtney Aguilar, Conductor

SOPRANO

Alison Acton

Adrienne Pedrotti Bingamon

Kellie Bledsoe

Lee Ashlee Fletcher

Amy Harris

Melissa Huebsch-Stroud

Jordan Sanchez

Luisa Apolaya Torres

ALTO

Ali Carraher

Emily Chandler

Nancy Lesch

Andrea Pobanz

Linda Blair Ramsey

Deborah Rupp

Krystina Speegle

Cassidy Wallace



INSTRUMENTALISTS

Alison Acton, Guitar

Thomas Burritt, Percussion

Joseph Choi, Pianist

CREW

John Diaz and Jonathan Fritzlen

*Thank you to the Blanton Museum team
and Palladium Production Services.*

**Sign up for Conspirare's newsletter for upcoming events
and behind the scenes stories.**



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