

Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus

presents

Come to the Woods

Michael Lancaster, Conductor

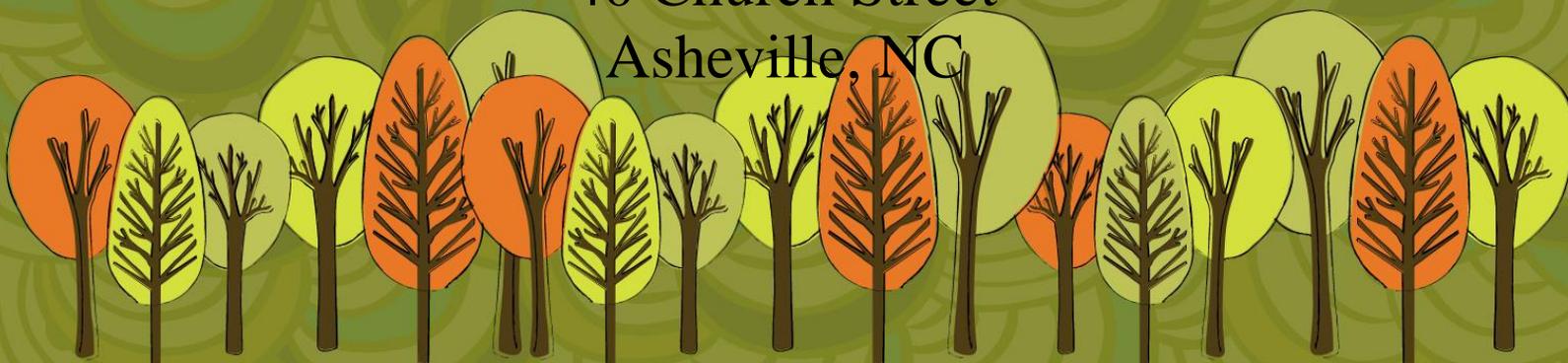
Tate Addis, Collaborative Pianist

June 10, 2022

7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Asheville

40 Church Street
Asheville, NC



Program

I

Justorum animae (1605)

William Byrd
(1543-1623)

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and there shall no torment touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die;
but they are in peace.

Wisdom 3:1-3

Justorum animae (1905)

Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)

See translation above

Justorum animae (2020)

Julianna Horton Charnigo
(b. 1976)

Stacie Howard, Alto

See translation above
This setting was composed for this performance.

II

North American Ballads

Frederic Rzewski
(1938-2021)

Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues

III

American Triptych

Jake Runestad
(b. 1986)

2. The Peace of Wild Things (2013)

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry (b. 1934)

3. Come to the Woods (2015)

Another glorious day, the air as delicious
to the lungs as nectar to the tongue.

The day was full of sparkling sunshine,
and at the same time enlivened with one of
the most bracing wind storms.

The mountain winds bless the forests with love.
They touch every tree, not one is forgotten.

When the storm began to sound,
I pushed out into the woods to enjoy it.
I should climb one of the trees for a wider look.

The sounds of the storm were glorious with
wild exuberance of light and motion.
Bending and swirling backward and forward, round and round,
in this wild sea of pines.

The storm-tones died away, and turning toward the east,
I beheld the trees, hushed and tranquil.
The setting sun filled them with amber light, and seemed to say,
“Come to the woods, for here is rest.”

John Muir (1838-1914)

IV

Seven Virtuoso Etudes on Themes by George Gershwin

Earl Wild
(1915-2010)

The Man I Love
Embraceable You

V

The Garden Hymn (2018)

David Music
(b. 1949)

The Lord into his garden comes, the spices yield a rich perfume,
the lilies grow and thrive, the lilies grow and thrive;
refreshing show'rs of grace divine from Jesus flow to ev'ry vine,
and make the dead revive, and make the dead revive.

O that this dry and barren ground in springs of water may abound,
a fruitful soil become, a fruitful soil become;
the desert blossom as the rose, when Jesus conquers all his foes,
and makes his people one, and makes his people one.

Text & tune anonymous from Walker's *Southern Harmony* (1835)

Bright Morning Stars (2005) Traditional Appalachian Song arr. Shawn Kirchner
(b. 1970)

Lyle de Vitry, Tenor

Bright morning stars are rising,
Bright morning stars are rising,
Bright morning stars are rising, day's a-breaking in my soul.

Oh, where are our dear fathers? Day's a-breaking in my soul.

They are down in the valley praying, day's a-breaking in my soul.

Oh, where are our dear mothers? Day's a-breaking in my soul.

They have gone to heaven shouting, day's a-breaking in my soul.

Oh, where are our dear children? Day's a-breaking in my soul.

They're upon the earth a-dancing, day's a-breaking in my soul.

Bright morning stars...

Anonymous

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal (2018)

Neil Harmon
(b. 1967)

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

Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the Lamb!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, glory to the great I AM!

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

Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest;
and I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest. (Refrain)

F. R. Warren in *The Olive Leaf* (1878)

Soprano

Amy Brown
Helen Geltman
Sue Gordon
Paula Hennon
Suzanne Neilson
Lauren Smith

Alto

Mattie Decker
Annie Harlow
Stacie Howard
Joellen Maurer
Donna Nelson
Imani Wilson

Tenor

Scott Coates
Doug Holt
Don Kehrberg
Ty Moser
Robert Thorpe
Lyle de Vitry

Bass

Jack Anderson
Tom Bushar
Richard Jones
Bryson Ley
Austin Loeffler
Charles Thompson

The **Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus** is a smaller group of singers selected from the larger **Asheville Symphony Chorus**. If you would like to audition to become a member of the **Asheville Symphony Chorus** and to be considered for any future openings in the Chamber Chorus, we will be holding auditions in January, 2022. To schedule and appointment for an audition, please contact our conductor, Dr. Michael Lancaster at: mlancastercond@gmail.com or visit our website at <http://www.ashevillesymphonychorus.com/audition.html> .

Future Concerts with the Asheville Symphony Chorus and Chamber Chorus

Please watch our website and Facebook page for information on upcoming **Asheville Symphony Chorus** and **Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus** concerts. Be sure to “Like and Follow” us on Facebook to get the latest information about the **Asheville Symphony Chorus** and the **Asheville Symphony Chamber Chorus** on your feed.

We welcome your personal tax-deductible donations. Your gifts will enable the Asheville Symphony Chorus to continue bringing to Western North Carolina the high-quality music for which it is known. Thought it is a member of the Asheville symphony Society family, the Asheville Symphony Chorus primarily operates as a financially independent entity. Please visit our website: <http://www.ashevillesymphonychorus.com/donate-now.html> to conveniently and securely make a donation. You may also donate by mail: Asheville Symphony Chorus, P.O. Box 1387, Asheville, NC 28802.