

FAURÉ REQUIEM



Conceived and directed by Barbara Pickhardt, Artistic Director

Produced by Barbara Scharf Schamest

Premiered: June 13, 2021

Ars Choralis Barbara Pickhardt, artistic director

REQUIEM, Op. 48 (1893)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Introit Brussels Choral Society

Eric Delson, conductor

Kyrie Ars Choralis

Chamber Orchestra Barbara Pickhardt, *conductor*

Offertory Ars Choralis

Chuck Snyder, baritone Eribeth Chamber Players Barbara Pickhardt, conductor

Sanctus The Dessoff Choirs

Malcolm J. Merriweather, conductor

Pie Jesu (Remembrances) Magna Graecia Flute Choir

Carlo Verio Sirignano, guest conductor Sebastiano Valentino, music director

Agnus Dei Ars Choralis

Magna Graecia Flute Choir Carlo Verio Sirignano, guest conductor

Chamber Orchestra
Barbara Pickhardt, conductor

Libera Me Ars Choralis

Harvey Boyer, tenor Douglas Kostner, organ Barbara Pickhardt, conductor

Memorial Prayers Tatjana Myoko

Evan Pritchard Rabbi Jonathan Kligler Elizabeth Lesser

Pastor Sonja Tillberg Maclary

In Paradisum Brussels Choral Society

Eric Delson, conductor

Encore Performances

Pie Jesu Ars Choralis

Amy Martin, soprano Eribeth Chamber Playersr Barbara Pickhardt, conductor

In Paradisum The Dessoff Choirs

Malcolm J. Merriweather, conductor

About This Virtual Concert

By Barbara Pickhardt

The Fauré Requiem Reimagined for a Pandemic

This virtual performance of the Fauré Requiem grew out of the need to prepare a concert while maintaining social distancing. We would surely have preferred to blend our voices as we always have, in a live performance. But the pandemic opened the door to a new and different opportunity. As we saw the coronavirus wreak havoc around the world, it seemed natural to reach out to our friends in other locales and include them in this program. In our reimagined version of the Fauré Requiem, Ars Choralis is joined, from Belgium, by the Brussels Choral Society, the Magna Graecia Flute Choir of Calabria, Italy, the Dessoff Choirs from New York City, and, from New York, instrumentalists from the Albany area, New York City and the Hudson Valley.

Unlike with most orchestral music, violins are absent except for a solo passage in two movements. Fauré's reason for omitting violins s not clearly stated, but one can imagine that he preferred the greater warmth of the lower range instruments. In our performance we have added the soulful quality of flutes in carefully chosen places to honor a young conductor we met a few years ago.

Maestro Sebastiano Valentino was founder and director of the Magna Graecia Flute Choir with which we performed on tour in Calabria, Italy. Even while gravely ill, he was thrilled to be invited to again perform with Ars Choralis. He created the arrangements for his flute choir and managed to rehearse and record them before his tragic death in April at the age of 39. In his honor, we have chosen to feature his ensemble playing alone in a unique rendition of the Pie Jesu. We have included an encore performance of the traditional version with soprano solo at the close of the concert.

A remarkable characteristic of this Requiem is that it easily lends itself to various orchestrations. Fauré himself made three different arrangements. This virtual performance provides us with the opportunity to hear the full orchestral version in an archival audio recording from the Brussels Choral Society and a smaller orchestra of 11 players in an archival

video recording from The Dessoff Choirs. From Ars Choralis, you will hear both newly recorded movements with an eight-member ensemble and an archival recording with six instrumentalists.

The organ is a fundamental voice in Fauré's orchestrations, but in "Requiem" he uses it in an unusual manner. Rather than simply supporting the other instruments harmonically, in this piece the organ essentially doubles them. We therefore thought it would be interesting to feature one movement for solo organ performed by Douglas Kostner.

With this unusual performance of the Fauré Requiem, we hope you will appreciate our heartfelt efforts on behalf of all who have suffered, as well as those who have worked tirelessly to help return our lives to normalcy.

Notes on the Program

By Mary Leonard

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) was born in the Pyrenees mountains of southwest France, the youngest son of a small-town schoolmaster. His musical ability became apparent while he was still quite young. He was sent to the Niedermeyer School in Paris at the age of nine to study church music with the goal of securing a decent job as a choirmaster and organist. His piano teacher, Camille Saint-Saëns, was a dynamic composer only ten years his senior; he encouraged Fauré to compose. The early compositions were mainly songs, church music and piano works. When war broke out between France and Prussia in 1870, Fauré joined the army. He was awarded a military honor but was horrified by the war experience. He became organist at Saint-Sulpice and later choirmaster at the Church of La Madeleine, both in Paris. He began teaching composition at the Paris Conservatory in 1896 and became its director in 1905, a position he held until poor health and deafness forced him to resign in 1920. Among his students at the Paris Conservatory were Maurice Ravel, George Enescu and Nadia Boulanger.

Fauré first achieved recognition as a composer in 1877 with his Violin Sonata No. 1. Other popular early works included two piano quartets, numerous songs, his barcarolles and nocturnes for piano, the incidental music to Maurice Maeterlinck's play Pélleas et Mélisande and his famous Requiem. After his retirement from the Paris Conservatory, Fauré was free for the first time to devote himself to composition. Late works included his Piano Trio, Second Piano Quintet, song cycles and his only String Quartet.

Fauré composed his Requiem in D Minor, Op. 48, between 1887 and 1890. He conducted the first version of five movements (Introit and Kyrie, Sanctus, Pie Jesu, Agnus Dei and In Paradisum), which he called "un petit Requiem", in January 1888 at La Madeleine. He added the Hostias portion of the Offertory in 1899 and the previously composed Libera Me in 1890. This second version, for soloists, chorus, organ and an enlarged chamber ensemble, premiered in 1893, again conducted by the composer at La Madeleine.

Church authorities allowed no female singers. When the work was later performed in concert halls, free from ecclesiastical rules, Fauré preferred female voices for the upper choral parts and the Pie Jesu solo. The score was rewritten for full orchestra in 1899-1900 and premiered at the Trocadéro in Paris in 1900. Some question exists as to whether Fauré or a pupil arranged the work for full orchestra, but this version was performed at Fauré's own funeral in 1924. Fauré had no clear religious beliefs. He wanted his Requiem to focus on the peaceful rather than the morbid aspects of death. As he himself put it:

"Everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion I put into my Requiem, which moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest."

Texts

Requiem Op. 48 (1893)

I. Introitus - Kyrie

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine et lux perpetua luceat eis

Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem

Exaudi orationem meam ad te omnis caro veniet

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison Kyrie eleison.

II. Offertorium

O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriae libera animas defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriae libera animas defunctorum de ore leonis ne absorbeat eus Tartarus ne cadant in obscurum.

O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriae ne cadant in obscurum.

Hostias et preces tibi Domine, laudis offerimus tu suscipe pro animabus illis quarum hodie memoriam facimus Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam Quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini eus.

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Grant them eternal rest, o Lord, and may perpertual light shine upon them

Thou, o God, art praised in Sion, and unto Thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.

Hear my prayer,

unto Thee shall all flesh come.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hells and from the bottomless pit. Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, Deliver them from the lion's mouth, nor let them fall into darkness, neither the black abyss swallow them up.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, neither the black abyss swallow them up.

We offer unto Thee this sacrifice of prayer and praise Receive it for those souls whom today we commemorate.

Allow them, o Lord, to cross from death into the life which once Thou didst promise to Abraham and his seed.

O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriae libera animas defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu ne cadant in obscurum. Amen. Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hells and from the bottomless pit. nor let them fall into darkness. Amen

III. Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua Hosanna in excelsis. Holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory Hosanna in the highest.

IV. Pie lesu

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem dona eis requiem sempiternam requiem Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them rest grant them rest, eternal rest.

V. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi dona eis requiem Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis O Lamb of God, that takest aways the sin of the world, grant them rest

May eternal light shine on them, o Lord, with Thy saints for ever, because Thou are merciful.

Grant them eternal rest, o Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them.

VI. Libera me

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda
Quando coeli movendi sunt et terra
Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem
Tremens factus sum ego et timeo
dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira
Dies illa dies irae
calamitatis et miseriae
dies illa, dies magna
et amara valde
Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine
et lux perpetua luceat eis

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna

Quando coeli movendi sunt et terra

Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem

Deliver me, o Lord, from everlasting death on that dreadful day when the heavens and the earth shall be moved when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire

I quake with fear and I tremble awaiting the day of account and the wrath to come.

That day, the day of anger, of calamity, of misery, that day, the great day, and most bitter.

Grant them eternal rest, o Lord, and may perpertual light shine upon them.

Deliver me, o Lord, from everlasting death on that dreadful day

when the heavens and the earth shall be moved when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire

VII. In Paradisum

in die illa tremenda

In Paradisum deducant Angeli in tuo adventu suscipiant te Martyres et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem May the angels receive them in Paradise, at they coming may the martyrs receive thee and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem **Jerusalem**

Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam habeas requiem

Aeternam habeas requiem

Jerusalem

There may the chorus of angels receive thee, and with Lazarus, once a beggar, may thou have eternal rest.

May thou have eternal rest.

Memorial Prayers

A (Zen) Buddhist Dedication Tatjana Myoko von Prittwitz und Gaffron

The Buddha turns the dharma wheel and so reality is shown in all its many forms.

They liberate all suffering sentient beings and bring(s) them to great joy.

We sincerely dedicate the merits of this concert to all those who have passed away in this pandemic and all those who dedicated their lives to support those in need.

We especially dedicate these merits to the interconnection of all human beings and to all beings on our Mother Earth.

May penetrating light dispel the darkness of ignorance and the mind flower bloom in endless spring.

May we all enter the path of enlightenment and realize the Buddha's way together.

All Buddhas throughout space and time.

All Bodhisattvas, Mahasattvas,

Maha Prajna Paramita.

Upnamooltess, a Mi'kmaq Prayer for the Dead

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Upnamooltessnen!

Donn Kitchi Manitou-hakee!

Geenoo moo-gaydoo-sup wenit nebpt muwelodaygn madnach mu donn ent-nebpt,

Ees Upnamooltessnen!

Donn gess-gwee byeen kee-to-chwaine kitchi wasoowy

Ach nauqt-negwow oot-si-ga-moo ich-tuk

Ach geenoo sasee-eh-wy emkodem.

Sasee-eh wy elaweestaget

Sasee-eh wy och-dtupk

Geenoo muhwa sasee-eh-wy ent-kamalamun.

Ach ent geesalk muwha sasee-eh-wy.

Geesalk Tchai nai damee wuskotay

ootsitgamoo damee geenoo ala-eel.

We will all see each other again!

When in the land of the Great Spirit!

We don't know who will die of sickness or in

war, or when they will die,

But we will all see each other again!

When sitting in the council circle of the great

white light.

And also some day on this earth here as well,

Though we will have changed our clothes

Changed our way of speaking

Changed our minds

We will not have changed our hearts

And our love will still be unchanged.

Love will be waiting for us patiently in the new world we go to.

Ach geenoo gaydoo donn Nemeedoo And we will recognize each other as old meegamooatchk! friends. Ees Muwha gaydoo damee ach donn, dame ach donn! Donn Kamalamunk seh-weeskay-eek Geezkook pachat missalagoo, ach The day of parting, of missing, of sadness muwelodaygo Ees geezkook kitchi wuntaktek, kitchi

wuntaktek! Geenoo gaydoo ent-wel-needapk Wenit ala-eesup Bemien wasowadoo,

Bdemakseen alsutumai geetpooog alta-eegen nagooset muwha maldooeesup, Geenoo otch-tchi-tcha-hau-mitch ma-djai-

dech welleh Weygadex

Nemeetdhun mu-metcheegheh

Gaxamee geenoo amooshpa oochtabaygeeeh ach ahl-soo-tu-my Geezoolgh

Geezoolgh, eganamook melxeegun.

Ach abowkun welneedapk nebpk nemeedo

gwelahk Wasowadoo Daho

No'o'go'mach

But we won't know from where or when, where or when! When our hearts fall into a million pieces-

But also a day of great peace, of great peace!

Because we know that our good friends Who have gone on before us

Are walking in the light,

They fly like eagles, arrows to the sun, without any sorrow,

We ask that our spirits will go to someplace good too

The timeless world

Where we will see clearly.

For now we must sing and pray (as one with)

the Creator.

Loving Creator make us strong.

And help our departed friends find what they are looking for in Heaven.

So be it!

All my relations

"El Malei Rachamim" ("God Filled with Compassion") Rabbi Jonathan Kligler

Chanted at funerals and all memorial services, praying that the souls of the deceased are dwelling in divine light.

God filled with mercy, dwelling in the heaven's heights, bring proper rest beneath the wings of Your Holy Presence amid the ranks for the holy and the pure, illuminating like the brilliance of the skies the souls of our beloved and our blameless who have gone to their eternal place of rest. Source of compassion, shelter them beneath your wings eternally, and weave their souls and their memories among the living, that they may rest in peace. And let us say: Amen.

El malei rachamim
Shochen bamromim
Hamtzei menucha nechonah
Tachat kanfei haSchechinah
Im kedoshim u'tehorim
K'zohar ha'rakia mazhirim
L'nishmot yakireinu
She'halchu l'olamam
Ba'al harachamim
Yastireim b'seiter k'nafav l'olamim
U'tzror bi'tzror ha'chayim
Et nishmatam
Adonai hu nachalatam
V'yanuchu b'shalom al mishkavam
V'nomar: amen

אַל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים,
שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְרוֹמִים.
הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה
תַּמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה
תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה
כְּזְהַר הָרָקֵיעַ מַזְהִירִים,
לְנִשְׁמוֹת יַקִּירֵינוּ
בָּעַל הָרַחֲמִים,
בַּעַל הָרַחֲמִים,
יַסְתִּירֵם בְּסֵתֶר כְּנָפִיו לְעוֹלָמִים,
יְיָהוּא נַחֲלָתִם,
יְיָ הוּא נַחֲלָתִם,
יְיָ הוּא נַחֲלָתִם,
יְיָ הוּא בִּשְׁלָתִם,
יִי הוּא בִּשְׁלָתִם,

PRAYER FOR THE DEAD

by Hazrat Inayat Khan

Elizabeth Lesser

From the Sufi tradition, the mystical dimension of Islam. This prayer is used after a loved one has died, in a ceremony, or privately as a way to grieve, to move through the loss, to stay connected.

O Thou the cause and effect of the whole universe,

The Source from which we have come
And the Goal towards which all are bound,
Receive these souls which now
are enfolded in Thy parental arms.
May Thy forgiving Glance heal their heart.
Lift them from the denseness of the earth,
surround them with the light of Thine own Spirit,
Raise them up to heaven which is their true
dwelling-place.

We pray Thee, grant them the blessing of Thy most exalted Presence.

May their life on earth become as a dream to their awakening Soul,

And let their thirsting eyes behold the glorious vision of Thy Sunshine.

– Amen

Prayer of Committal Pastor Sonja Tillberg Maclary

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ We commend to almighty God, our brothers and sisters

And commit their bodies to their final resting place.

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, May the Lord bless them and keep them. May the Lord's face shine upon them And be gracious to them.

May the Lord look upon them with favor And give them peace, Amen

Rest eternal grant them o Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Meet the Artists



Offertory
Chuck Snyder, baritone
Pie Jesu
Amy Martin, soprano
Eribeth Chamber Players
Recorded at Holy Cross Church
March 1&2, 2008

Kyrie*

Ars Choralis Chamber Orchestra Barbara Pickhard, *conductor* Recorded virtually April 2021

Agnus Dei*
Ars Choralis
Magna Graecia Flute Choir
Carlo Verio Sirignano, conductor
Chamber Orchestra
Barbara Pickhardt, conductor
Recorded virtually April 2021

Libera Me*
Harvey Boyer, tenor
Victor Songarian, horn
Douglas Kostner, organ
Ars Choralis
Barbara Pickhardt, conductor

Recorded virtually April 2021

*Recorded, mixed and edited by Chris Andersen at Nevessa Production Woodstock January, 2021 & April 2021

Woodstock-based **Ars Choralis**, formed in 1965, is a chorus of singers from all walks of life, drawn together by a mutual love of singing and a belief in the power of music to create harmony among people. The chorus is known for its diverse programming, from classical



concerts to "message concerts" composed of music, readings, dance and visuals. Ars Choralis was named Organization of the Year by the YWCA of Ulster County in 2015 for the chorus's extraordinary service, dedication and contributions to the community. In May 2017 the Arts Society of Kingston honored Ars Choralis with its Artistic Excellence and Innovation Award for Music. www.arschoralis.org

Barbara Pickhardt, artistic director, has had a multifaceted career involving teaching, conducting, composing, arranging and performing as a pianist and harpsichordist. Pickhardt has been associated with Ars Choralis for over 50 years, first as a singer and since 1976 as its

Artistic Director and conductor. She was affiliated with the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra as harpsichordist, pianist and supporting choral conductor for over 20 years, led the choral music and piano music departments at SUNY Ulster and was the assistant music director and pianist for the Overlook Lyric Theater. She founded the Hudson Valley Youth Chorale and was its artistic director for 13 years, during which time the group performed throughout the Northeast and abroad. Pickhardt maintains a piano studio in her home in Woodstock, where she continues to compose and arrange choral music, creating her uniquely thoughtful and inspiring choral programs.



Barbara Schamest (producer) is a life-long choral singer who joined Ars Choralis in 2019. A retired marketing executive, she brings a strong artistic sense as well as her musical and organization skills to executing Barbara's vision for this program.



Harvey R. Boyer (tenor) received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ithaca College School of Music with a concentration in Voice and Music Education. For the past 25 years, he has directed Band and Chorus at the Onteora Central School District.

As soloist, Mr. Boyer has performed most recently in selections of Falstaff, Tosca, and La Bohème for the Phoenicia Featival of the Voice. He has also performed numerous times as soloist for Ars

Choralis, most notably in Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* (2017), and Ariel Ramírez's *Misa Criolla* (2016.) In 2011, he performed as featured soloist with the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra in Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*.

As conductor, he has been selected as guest clinician over a dozen times in 7 counties throughout the Hudson Valley, and Central New York. Under his direction, his school ensembles have been awarded multiple gold, and gold with distinction ratings at NYSSMA Majors Festivals. They have performed at Lincoln Center, and live on the radio stations WKZE and WDST.

Currently, Mr. Boyer is Director of Education for the Phoenicia Festival of the Voice and has directed the Children's chorus in the operas La Bohème, Carmen, and Tosca.

Additionally, Mr. Boyer is an accomplished jazz pianist, and highly sought out as a session recording artist. He enjoys performing with numerous ensembles such as Fishbowl, Circus Of Wolves, Blue Gardenia, The Will Smith Trio, and D-Squared Blues Band, all of which feature him on recorded albums. In all of these ensembles, Mr. Boyer performs as lead singer and pianist.



Chuck Snyder (baritone) has just celebrated his Silver Anniversary with Ars Choralis as a tenor, bass, baritone, lacking any formal training beyond the Temple University marching band (Go Owls!). Chuck wishes to remember his junior high band director, Ken Matthews, who left us tragically this past year. Thank you, Mr. Matthews for your mentoring, your sharing, and your friendship. To all the music educators in the chorus, thank you. You truly make a difference.



Amy Martin (soprano) has been singing with Ars Choralis since 2005 and has been featured as a soloist many times. She was selected by audition to perform at Carnegie Hall under the direction of esteemed composer and choral conductor Eric Whitacre. Martin is the choral director and director of the spring musical at FDR High School in Hyde Park.

Ars Choralis Chamber Orchestra Barbara Pickhardt, *conductor*



Luke Baker (bass) has been Principal Bassist of the Vermont Symphony since 2000 and a member of the bass section of the Albany Symphony since 1987. He attended Northwestern University studying with former Chicago Symphony Principal Bassist Joseph Guastafeste and New England Conservatory studying with Boston Symphony Assistant Principal Bassist Lawrence Wolfe. He currently teaches bass at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY and has taught bass at College of St. Rose in Albany, NY and Williams College in Williamstown, MA, as well as maintaining an active teaching studio in the Albany, NY area. He

has coached the bass sections of the Empire State Youth Orchestra, Vermont Youth Orchestra and Boston Youth Symphony. He lives in Albany, NY with his wife Karen and cat. He enjoys gardening, travel, hiking, backgammon and cooking.



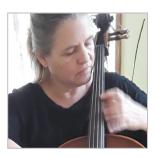
Tina Chang-Chien (viola) is an active violist and teaching artist based in New York City. Born in Taiwan, she came to New York City at the age of 12 when she was accepted into Juilliard School's Pre-College Division. She performed as principal viola under the batons of the late Kurt Masur and George Manahan and performed with members of the New York Philharmonic. She is a violist in the Albany Symphony Orchestra, where she performed as principal viola for ASO's Carnegie Hall concert in 2013. Ms. Chang-Chien is a graduate of the Orchestral

Performance Master's Program at Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with

Irene Breslaw and Issac Malkin. Presently, she is a faculty member of Lucy Moses School at Kaufman Music Center in New York City.



Elizabeth Handman (viola) is currently one of the Arlington High School's award-winning orchestra program directors [LaGrangeville, NY]. She is a member of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Orchestra (1996-present) and principal violist of the Woodstock Symphony Orchestra. Her freelance experience in New York City included the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra, City Opera Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic, American Composers Orchestra and numerous Broadway shows.



Erica Pickhardt (cello) is assistant principal cellist with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Hudson Valley Philharmonic and Schenectady Symphony. She performs frequently throughout New York as a guest performer with numerous choral and chamber ensembles and is a founding member of the Eribeth Piano Trio. Pickhardt has been the featured soloist with the Schenectady and Woodstock orchestras. She teaches cello at Emma Willard School in Troy and maintains a private studio outside of Albany, where she lives with her

husband and four cats.



Kelsey Sheldon (cello) was already an accomplished cellist, pianist, and vocalist by the time of her high school graduation. After studying with Natasha Farny at SUNY Fredonia, Kelsey transferred to Queens College, in Queens, NY, where she studied with Marcy Rosen. While at Queens College, Kelsey was honored with the Larry Eisman scholarship award, and was given service awards for her frequent extracurricular participation in a variety of ensembles. Since graduating from Queens College with a Bachelor of Music cum

Laude in cello performance, Kelsey has been teaching cello and piano, and been actively freelancing in the NYC area. She has also added organist to her list of musical proficiencies and has worked at churches in a variety of roles, ranging from leading a gospel choir to her current position as organist and cantor. Kelsey lives in Kew Gardens, Queens, with her partner and her wonderful rescue dog, Winston.



Elizabeth Silver (viola) joined the Albany Symphony in 1985. She has appeared as soloist with the Albany Symphony, Siena College Orchestra and St. Cecelia and Lake George chamber orchestras. She is also a member of the Glimmerglass Opera Orchestra and a founding member of the Eribeth Chamber Players. Silver holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Syracuse University and has done postgraduate study with Burton Kaplan

and Samuel Kissel. She is a music faculty member at the Emma Willard School and teaches privately.



Victor Sungarian (horn) began his music studies with piano and voice lessons at the age of 5. Through the years of study at the Plovdiv City Music School (Bulgaria), Mr. Sungarian won two Young Talent competitions and the First Prize at the Golden Diana chamber music competition in Yambol City (Bulgaria).

Once in the United States, Mr. Sungarian was accepted as a scholarship student at the Juilliard School pre-college division,

where he won their annual Wind Instrument Competition. Subsequently Mr. Sungarian was accepted into the college division at Juilliard on full scholarship and completed both his bachelors and masters degrees. He was the recipient of the James Chambers Scholarship for outstanding achievements in French Horn performance.

As a professional musician, Mr. Sungarian has actively performed with orchestras in Japan, Korea, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Brazil, as well as throughout the United States. He is currently a member of the Albany Symphony, and performs as Principal Horn with the Schenectady Symphony, Catskill Symphony, Glens Falls Symphony, Hudson Valley Philharmonic, and the Berkshire Symphony orchestras. Victor regularly performs chamber music with the Williams Chamber Players, the St. Rose Camerata, and the Empire Brass. Mr. Sungarian is on the music faculty at College of St. Rose and Williams College and resides in Latham, New York.



Kristen Tuttman (organ) has degrees in both music and accounting from Vassar College and SUNY Albany. She is currently the pianist with the Schenectady Symphony, has performed with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, and is the organist/pianist at Christ's Lutheran Church in Woodstock. Her love of musical theater is expressed as a member of pit orchestras with touring companies at Proctors Theater and as an accompanist/assistant music director in high school music productions.

She is a founding member of the Eribeth Chamber Players and is in constant demand as a recital and competition accompanist.

Distinguished Guests



Rabbi Jonathan Kligler has been the spiritual leader of the Woodstock Jewish Congregation in Woodstock, New York since 1988. The congregation's Hebrew name is Kehillat Lev Shalem, the Congregation of a Full Heart. Rabbi Jonathan holds ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.



Elizabeth Lesser is a bestselling author and the cofounder of Omega Institute, the renowned conference and retreat center located in Rhinebeck, New York.

A student of the Sufi master, Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan for many years, Elizabeth has also studied with spiritual teachers, healers, psychologists, and philosophers from other traditions. In 2008 she

helped Oprah Winfrey produce a ten-week online seminar based on Eckhart Tolle's book, *A New Earth*. The webinar has been viewed by over 40 million people worldwide. She was a guest on the Oprah Show, a frequent host on Oprah's Soul Series, a weekly radio show on Sirius/XM, and is one of the Super Soul 100, a collection of a hundred leaders who are using their voices and talent to elevate humanity.

In 2011, she gave a popular TED talk called "Take The Other to Lunch," a call for civility and understanding as we negotiate our differences as human beings. She gave her second TED talk in 2016, about the power of truth-telling. Besides writing and her work at Omega Institute, Elizabeth lends her time to social and environmental causes, and is an avid walker, cook, gardener, friend, mother, grandmother, and homebody. She and her husband live in New York's Hudson River Valley.



The **Rev. Sonja Tillberg Maclary** has been pastor of Christ's Lutheran Church in Woodstock since 1998. The congregation is also the home of the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, a ministry of the church, and of the mural, "Woodstock Visual Peace," which is located on the parish hall of the church campus. Recently, during the COVID 19 pandemic, the church has hosted "In Memoriam," a project to honor those who have died during this difficult time by placing a cross on the front lawn of the church. An on-line prayer service for bereaved families

and friends was held in June 2020. Pastor Maclary is delighted to be a member of Ars Choralis when her busy schedule permits it.



Tatjana Myoko von Prittwitz und Gaffron is monastic Buddhist Chaplain and Visiting Assistant Professor of the Humanities at Bard College, NY. She holds a PhD in comparative literature and an MA in Curatorial Studies and Contemporary Culture. Her interdisciplinary research combines spirituality, the arts, and ecology, and her aesthetical practices include chanoyu tea ceremony, haiku, baika chanting, and sumie painting. She recently completed a three-year residency at Toshoji, Okayama, a Soto Zen training monastery in Japan.



Evan Pritchard is proud to be a descendant of the Mi'kmaq of Maine and the Maritimes and is known to his Mi'kmaq people as "Abachbahametch," (Chipmunk). The language council published his Introductory Guide to Micmac Words and Phrases in 1990 which was used on 19 reserves. His classic "No Word For Time" was based on the stories about how that book came about, and how he learned the language and has been in print ever since. His

website www.algonquinculture.org.



Brussels Choral Society

Eric Delson, musical director

Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra David Navarro Turres, conductor

Introit, In Paradisum

Performed and recorded at Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels March 10, 2018

The Brussels Choral Society, founded in 1979, is the largest amateur symphony choir in Belgium. Truly an international ensemble, the choir consists of about 90 members, representing more than 20 different nationalities. BCS singers come from all walks of life and share a common passion for choral music. Our singers have a wide variety of occupations, and many are professionally associated with the European institutions and international organizations.

The Brussels Choral Society aims to perform to professional standards with internationally known soloists and orchestras. Our diverse repertoire includes everything from high baroque masses to lesser-known modern works, and everything in between. The choir is serious about its craft, but also likes to have fun and create community along with music.

The BCS is an evolving, modern choir that is bolstered by years of tradition, a combination that promises to deliver high-quality choral artistry for years to come. Find them at

www.brusselschoralsociety.com

Eric Delson has been involved in musical composition, conducting and music education for more than 20 years. Dr. Delson has studied composition with Lukas Foss, Marjorie Merryman, Thomas Wells and Marshall Barnes, instrumental conducting with Craig Kirchoff and Harvey Benstein, and choral conducting with Lorna Cooke DeVaron and Constantina Tsolainou, among others.

Prior to moving to Belgium, he taught Music Theory, History, Composition and Choral Music at the New

England Conservatory, Boston University and several other private institutions in Boston and New York.



The Dessoff Choirs

The Dessoff Orchestra
Malcolm J. Merriweather, conductor

Sanctus, In Paradisum

Performed and recorded at Union Theological Seminary New York, NY October 26, 2019

The Dessoff Choirs, one of the leading choruses in New York City, is an independent chorus with an established reputation for pioneering performances of choral works from the Renaissance era through the 21st century. Since its founding in 1924, Dessoff's mission is to enrich the lives of its audiences and members through the performance of choral music. Its concerts, professional collaborations, community outreach, and educational initiatives are dedicated to stimulating public interest in and appreciation of choral music as an art form that enhances the culture and life of our times.

During this past season, in lieu of live performances, Dessoff has presented Dessoff Dialogues, online discussions hosted by Maestro Merriweather and presenting topics ranging from race and choral music to a musical exploration of Dessoff's long history. Our final Dialogue of the season is Dessoff Strong - The Song Continues, airing on May 24, 2021 at 7pm. It will premiere newly recorded videos of members of the choir in small ensembles, masked and socially distanced, singing a few Dessoff classics. Register to attend, at www.dessoff.org. Connect with them: @dessoff on Facebook and @dessoffchoirs on Twitter and Instagram.



Conductor Malcolm J. Merriweather is Dessoff's ninth music director. Recent highlights included the release of two major recordings. With Dessoff, Merriweather conducted and performed selected songs on MARGARET BONDS: The Ballad of the Brown King & Selected Songs released by AVIE Records in November 2019; this project is the premiere recording of the composer's magnum opus. In this new arrangement, Merriweather scored Bonds' 1954 work for orchestra for strings, harp, and organ. He is also featured as the baritone soloist in the Oratorio Society of New York's recording of Paul Moravec and Mark Campbell's Sanctuary Road released on the Naxos label.

An Associate Professor, he is Director of Choral Studies and Voice Department Coordinator at Brooklyn College of The City University of New York, Artist-in-Residence at Union Theological Seminary, and Artistic Director of Voices of Haiti, a 60-member children's choir in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, operated by the Andrea Bocelli Foundation. He is a recipient of the Lotus Foundation Prize and the Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Teaching Award from Brooklyn College. Dr. Merriweather has earned degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, and Syracuse University (summa cum laude). Please visit malcolmjmerriweather.com for more information. Connect with him on Twitter and Instagram @maestroweather.



Douglas Kostner Organist

Libera Me

Recorded at Larchmont Avenue Church Larchmont, NY February 8, 2021

Douglas Kostner is the Director of Music Ministry at the Larchmont Avenue Church and Music Director of the Westchester Chorale. He hails from a long line of butchers and plumbers, a lineage which perfectly suits him for his chosen

profession as an organist since he is often working in cold buildings with lots of pipes. He received the Bachelor and Master of Music in Organ Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. He is a Fellow of Trinity College of Music, London, and an Associate of the American Guild of Organists. He is a published composer of choral music and active performer. He plays a little piano on the side but hopes someday to turn it right side up.

https://www.lacny.org/douglas-kostner-director-of-music-ministry

The Magna Graecia Flute Choir

Carlo Verio Sirignano, guest conductor Sebastiano Valentino, music director

Pie Jesu, Agnus Dei

Recorded live at the Church of the Holy Spirit Vibo Valentia, Calabria, Italy February 21, 2021

C Flutes:	Alto Flutes:	Bass Flutes:
Luigi Tassone	Veronica Romeo	Verio Carlo Sirignano
Asia Guerrisi	Mattia Fulciniti	Simone Mauro
Giulia Curcio		
Maria Antonietta Fabiano		Contrabass Flute:
Marta Restuccia		Lorella Esposito

The Magna Graecia Flute Choir was founded by Sebastiano Valentino in 2009. The group has toured ten different regions of Italy including a 2014 trip to Rome for a performance in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. In 2016 they traveled to England for a series of concerts sponsored by the Italian Consul General and performed live on a BBC radio broadcast. They have collaborated in concerts with numerous international artists, both instrumental and vocal. Their repertoire spans various musical styles including sacred, classical, movie

soundtracks, operatic and music for ceremonies and celebrations. Most arrangements are made by Maestro Valentino. www.magnagraeciaflutechoir.it

In June 2018, Ars Choralis had the unforgettable experience of sharing a program in Calabria, Italy with the Magna Graecia Flute Choir. We are indebted to Maestro Valentino for hosting us then and for now providing us with this opportunity to make music together.

We were saddened to learn that Maestro Valentino recently passed away at the age of 39. A talented musician, teacher and conductor, the world will surely miss him.



Sebastiano Valentino (music director) first demonstrated his interest in music by playing the drums. He began studying the flute at the age of 16 and completed his degree four years later at the Conservatory of Music "F. Cilea" in Reggio Calabria, Italy. He continued his studies with the internationally known flautist Carlo Tamponi. In 2000, with other professional musicians, he helped establish the Beethoven Academy of Borgia, Calabria for advanced training in music. In 2009 he founded the Magna Graecia Flute Choir. Valentino has performed on the flute and

piccolo with numerous orchestras and chamber ensembles, collaborating with such international artists as the soprano Katia Ricciarelli. His teaching career included students from the middle school to conservatory levels. He held masterclasses and directed the orchestra of the Craco (Matera) International Flute Festival in 2018. Also, in 2018 he founded the Aulos Quintet. The group performed many concerts in various regions of Italy until the coronavirus halted these activities.

In Memoriam

Musicians in this concert dedicate their performances to the memory of beloved family and friends who lost their lives during the time of the pandemic.

John Anselmo Accord, NY

Adored his daughter, his soon-to-come grandchild, his dogs, his motorcycle and Italian cooking

Helene Aylon, 89 New York City

Internationally known pacifist and eco-feminist artist/activist

Todd Baker Florida

An antiques dealer who enjoyed life and liked to say that he never met a man that he didn't like

Seta and Neto Barberena California

My cousins in Los Angeles who passed away a week apart due to complications related to the Covid virus

Stanley Curtis, 86 Monroe, NY

A music educator, a wonderful tenor soloist, and director of the Warwick Valley Chorale until the time of his death

Neil Fisher, 63 Delray Beach, FL

Loving son, brother, cousin

Gene Glickman, 86 Brooklyn, NY

A dedicated fighter for peace and justice, a friend and mentor who shared his original choral arrangements in the struggle for a better world

Airman Jake T. Gustafson, 29

Denver, CO

Taken too soon. Our sweet boy.

Roger Haener New Hampshire

Loved inspiring and teaching music to many students

Eric Hansen, 64 New York City

Loved Tom Waits, "The Residents", and NYC

Joyce Hellenschmidt, 69 New York

Extraordinary teacher. Her first graders taught us all that it's a wonderful world.

Mary Clerkin Higgins, 66 New York

Respected internationally as a stained-glass artist, adored by family and friends

Maureen Houtrides, 77 Brooklyn, NY

Plant and bird enthusiast, devoted wife, mother and grandmother, overall mensch

Rev. Amanda lahn, 41 North Carolina

Former Methodist pastor, a creative and beautiful spiritual leader

LaVerne Turner James, 68 and Eric G. James, 69

New York

We miss you Boss Lady, everyday. Give Eric a hug and kiss from us. It's been so quiet without you

Rev. Emmett Johnson, 94

Waldwick, NJ

A strong, joyful, and loving man

Petia Kassarova Bulgaria

A fellow cellist, my best friend who believed in me far more than I ever have, a gift I will treasure always

Cecelia Keehn New York

An amazing musician, devoted wife and mother, wonderful friend

Barry Kerr, 79 Saugerties, NY

Dedicated theater and film lover with a wicked sense of humor

Jodi Kohli New York

Loved her family and worked tirelessly for her community. She is deeply missed

Steve Lanser, 75 Rhinebeck, NY

Music was his passion

Amy Lawlor, 70 Warwick, NY

A wonderful pianist and accompanist, longtime organist, and a good friend

Barbara Melcer, 79 Somerset, NJ

Mets fan who loved spending time with her grandchildren and cheerleading her extended family

Alan Miller, 78 Armonk, NY

A childhood friend with a lifelong friendship

Kenneth Elliot Linden Millington, 45

Guyana / Virginia

Honorably discharged from the US Navy as a Petty Officer Third Class. "Kenny, you are forever in our hearts."

Leigh Fitler Wood Murphey, 87

Island Heights, NJ

Artist, sailor, patron of the arts, social activist, and groundbreaking feminist

Fr. Hilary Rodgers, 83

Delaware

An incredible organist and director whose infectious laugh radiated throughout his being

Erika "E" Rohrbach, 52

Hawthorne, NJ

A good friend and lifelong choral singer, she gave tirelessly of herself to all who knew her

New York Kathy Schoonmaker Exemplified grace and shared her love with her family and community Edward Scully, 74 Ponteix, Saskatchewan Loving and beloved family man and friend Niki Slobin Wake Forest, NC Best dog trainer and dog woman ever, and super loyal friend Frank Spina, 68 Phoenicia, NY, and Hoboken, NJ A brilliant clothing designer who baked a mean batch of cookies Janet Stinson New York Enjoyed sharing her creativity and love of art with her students Tim Stroup, 77 Saugerties, NY Lover of opera, books, travel, ethics and justice, and world cuisines; husband to Alice and dog dad to Bella Gregory Suskind, 87 New York A great mind, a gentle man Jean Blatter Sweitzer, 56 Wallkill, NY She made sure to make the best possible memories between her and her loved ones John Szakmary New York An amazing husband, father, and educator Isabel Tur, 82 and Raul Tur, 90 Florida Devoted and loving parents and grandparents who passed three days apart of Covid-19 Sebastiano Valentino, 39 Borgia, Italy Founder and conductor of the Magna Graecia Flute Choir. Brilliant and inspiring musician. Loved by all

Robert Wogan New York

The true embodiment of love. He was the different drum beat other people marched to

Carolyn Wolz New York

A delightful person, sorely missed and a positive spirit and musical partner in many concerts, near and far

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Thank You

Thank you to all who made this presentation possible.

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