

First Unitarian Universalist Church, Omaha, Nebraska
2023 Sanctuary Singers Annual Concert

Conductors Notes –

Welcome and thank you for being a part of our year-end celebration of choral music at First Unitarian Universalist Church. As we emerge from the challenges of the past three years, it's with great excitement we are back and singing for you! Today's program is an eclectic selection of music based on poems written by Walt Whitman, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Sara Teasdale, William Wordsworth and others. One selection, "I Am Possibility," was written by Lincoln, Nebraska native David Von Kampen with words by Nebraska poet Becky Boesen. Each piece evokes a picture of nature, the mystery and resilience of life and our part of the universe.

This Jubilant Song

Music by Douglas Wagner

Words adapted from "A Song of Joys"
by Walt Whitman

We sing, we sing this jubilant song,
We sing with voices clear and strong.
That dart as lightening,
The joys of our spirits are set free!

We sing of leaves and trees,
Of rivers rushing to the sea.
We sing of rain on green hill sides,
Of flying clouds through endless skies.

We sing, we sing this jubilant song.
We sing with voices clear and strong

We sail forth on waves of song,
From tall ships bound for ports
Along the vast expanse of time
employs.
We sail on, full of joy!

Out of Stars

Music by Betsey Jo Angebrannt

Words by Robert Weston

Out of the stars in their flight, out of
the dust of eternity,
here have we come,
Stardust and sunlight,

mingling through time and through
space.

Out of the stars have we come,
up from time.
Out of the stars have we come.

Time out of time before time
in the vastness of space,
earth spun to orbit the sun,
Earth with the thunder of mountains
newborn,
the boiling of seas.

Earth warmed by sun, lit by sunlight;
This is our home;
Out of the stars have we come.

Mystery hidden in mystery,
back through all time;
Mystery rising from rocks
in the storm and the sea.

Out of the stars, rising from rocks
and the sea,
kindled by sunlight on earth,
arose life.

Ponder this thing in your heart,
life up from sea:
Eyes to behold, throats to sing,
mates to love.

Life from the sea, warmed by sun,

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washed by rain,
life from within, giving birth,
rose to love.

This is the wonder of time;
this is the marvel of space;
out of the stars swung the earth;
life upon earth rose to love.

This is the marvel of life,
rising to see and to know;
Out of your heart, cry wonder:
sing that we live.

I Am Possibility

Music by David Von Kampen
Text by Becky Boesen

I am possibility
Taken under wing
Growing roots
I raise my voice
Lifted up, I sing.
I am hope unlimited
Purple morning sky
Youthful sparrow
Learns to soar
Gliding now, I fly.
I am faithful promise
Winter into spring
Tended seeds
Yield summer gifts
Planted here, I sing.
Ascending toward the clouds,
Ascending toward the clouds,
Ascending toward the clouds,
Then back to the ground.
I am possibility
I am faithful sound
A joyful noise
Forevermore
Echoing abound.
-Becky Boesen

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The Secret

Music by Greg Gilpin
Words by Paul Laurence Dunbar
(1872-1906)

What says the wind to the waving
trees?

What says the wave to the river?
What mean the sigh in the passing
breeze?

Why do the rushes quiver?
Have you not heard the fainting cry?
Of the flowers that said "Goodbye,
goodbye"?

List how the grave love moans and
grieves
Under the woodland cover;
List to the drift of the falling leaves
List to the wail of the lover.
Have the rat caught the message
heard
Already by wave and breeze and bird?

Come, come away to the river's bank,
Come in the early morning;
Come when the grass with dew is
drink,
Then you will find the warming--
A hint in the kiss of the quickening air
Of the secret that birds and breezes
bear.

There Will Come Soft Rains

Music by Ruth Morris Gray
Words by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

(War Time)

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There will come soft rains and the
smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their
shimmering sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild plum trees in tremulous
white,

Robins will wear their feathery fire
Whistling their whims on a low fence-
wire;

And not one will know of the war, not
one
Will care at last when it is done.
Not one would mind, neither bird nor
tree
If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at
dawn,
Would scarcely know that we were
gone.

There Was a Time

Music by Elaine Hagenberg

*Words by William Wordsworth (1770-
1850). Adapted from "Ode: Intimations
of Immortality from Recollections of
Early Childhood"*

There was a time when meadow,
grove, and stream,
The earth, and every common sight,
To me did seem
Apparelled in celestial light,
The glory of a dream.

The rainbow comes and goes,
And lovely is the rose;
The moon doth with delight

Look round her when the heavens are
bare;
Waters on a starry night
Are beautiful and fair;
The sunshine is a glorious birth;
But yet I know, where'er I go,
That there hath past away a glory
from the earth.

Though nothing can bring back the
hour
Of splendor in the grass, of glory in
the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind.
The glory of a dream.

Like A River

*Arranged by Tim Osiek/Edited by Dan
Forrest*

I've got peace like a river,
Like a river in my soul.
When the world closes in,
Feel the stillness within.
I've got peace like a river,
Like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,
Like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean,
Endless ocean, deep and full.

When you're lost and alone,
Let the waves bring you home.
I've got love like an ocean,
Like an ocean in my soul.

I've for joy like a fountain,
Like a fountain in my soul.
When your hope nearly dies,
Just remember, once again you shall
rise!

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2022 – 2023 Sanctuary Singers Roster

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Kay Lynn Goldner	Barb Herring	Connie DeFazio*	Daryl Hansen
Beth Hoyt*	Clacy Olson	Daniel de Riancho	Lloyd Olson
Christina Noriega	Carol Ramsey	Grant Langdon	Gary Randall
Peg Pidgeon	Elyse Thompson*		Bill Tull
Catherine Plumlee	Elaine Wells		
Katrina Schmidt			
Marie Sedlacek			

*= debut season

William A. Miller, Conductor

J Gawf, Accompanist