

The Cantata Singers Present: River Songs!

March 10, 2013, Part of the 6th Annual Festival of Women in the Arts

I've Known Rivers - - - - - Gwyneth Walker

My Soul Has Grown Deep
Troubled Water
Jump Right In!
In Time of Silver Rain
Frances McLaren - piano

There is a River - - - - - Faye Lopez

Jill Kelley - flute, Scott Kelley - trumpet

We Will Gather at the River - - - - - arr. Mary McDonald

Deep River - - - - - arr. Elizabeth Campbell

Young Performers Competition Co-Winner Jeremy Koob

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 13 - - - - - Franz Liszt

River Jordan - - - - - arr. Teena Chinn

Intermission

Young Performers Competition Co-Winner Kate Nicole Hoffman

Je Veux Vivre - - - - - Charles Gounod

Dawn Fewkes - piano

Flowers By the Sea - - - - - Nancy Bloomer Deussen

New Millennium Suite - - - - - Gwyneth Walker

Sinner Man

Peace I ask of Thee O River

Down By the Riverside

Jeff Stempien & Scott Kelley - trumpet, Linda Bergstrom - horn

Chris Mann - trombone, Nate Rinnert - tuba, Yvonne Allen - percussion

Frances McLaren - piano

The 2013 -2014 Cantata Singers are: Phyllis Bishop, Jenelle Bleiler, Loueda Bleiler, Bill Brodgerski, Ruth Bruning, Jeff DeMeritt, Robin Fitzgerald (treasurer), Robert Gilman*, Jose Jogo Gomez, Michael Hartney Susan Hartney, Cathy Hogan* (vice president), Martha Horton, Kathy Lovell (acting secretary), Tom McCloskey, Frances McLaren (piano), Joy McFarland*, David R. Mix, Stephen Nagle, Susan Nagle (president) Jean Papandrea, Richard S. Perry, Pat Peters, Joe Ponzi, Marianna Raho* (secretary), Cora Range, Dave Rappleye David Rosplock, Ruellene Seymour, Gary Tucker, Will Wickham (music director), Wendy Winnett, Mary Wynings

*(*not singing in this concert)*

The Cantata Singers are a dedicated and talented group of volunteer choristers from the Southern Finger Lakes area who rehearse in Horseheads almost every Sunday evening from early September through mid-May. We prepare and perform three programs each season with repertoire ranging from Renaissance through last week including many styles of music, sacred and secular. If you would like to sing with the group you can find information at cantatasingers.com or by calling (607)796-5034. The 2013-2014 season will be our 50th anniversary. We are seeking any and all former singers to join with us in a performance of JS Bach's Mass in B minor in May of 2014. Please call for information!

We wish to offer our heart-felt thanks to Horseheads Middle School Music Department, Lynn Dates and all the staff and volunteers at 171 Cedar Arts Center, the Zonta Club of Elmira for the reception and to Scott Kelley who all helped amazingly to make this event a reality. A special thanks to Loueda Bleiler for the inspiration for the theme of "River Music".

This concert is made possible, in part, with funds from The New York State Council on the Arts' Decentralization Program, administered locally by The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes, The Allstate Hands in the Community Foundation courtesy of Nagle Financial Services, and supported by F. M. Howell & Company and Howell, Liberatore & Associates.

The Young Performers Competition is an annual scholarship and performance program of the Cantata Singers. More information and an audition application can be found at cantatasingers.com.

This year's winners:

Jeremy Koob began piano studies with Claire Smock at 171 Cedar Arts when he was in Kindergarten, and has studied with Dr. Daniel LaBar. Jeremy currently studies with Dr. Deborah Martin at Ithaca College where he has enjoyed participating in the Summer Piano Institute. His repertoire spans the range of musical history for keyboard – from J.S. Bach to modern composers such as R. Muczynski. In addition, he has played in competitions and master classes at NYSTMA and at Ithaca College and other cities in New York. Jeremy plans to study science at the college/university level, but knows that music and the piano will always play a vital part in his life.

Kate Nicole Hoffman, a senior at Horseheads High, is very passionate about music and theater. She will sing with the Treble Choir of the All-Eastern Honors Ensemble this spring. In addition, she plays clarinet, piano and guitar. Kate began singing in the Children's Choir at St. Mary's Southside at the age of 4, currently sings with the Junior Choir and occasionally serves as cantor. On stage she has portrayed Maria in *The Sound of Music*, and is Miss Dorothy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* next weekend in Horseheads. She is a lead actress at the Old Havana Courthouse Theatre in Montour Falls and is Assistant Director for the Horseheads Youth Bureau Children's Theatre. She is also a member of the Young Actor's Workshop, and began acting at an early age with the Stage Kids and StanWyck performing groups. Kate Nicole will continue pursuing music in college through a dual major of Vocal Performance and Music Therapy.

Directors note:

Water is critical. Clear water, sparkling water, fresh, crystal, shimmering, mystical and cleansing waters. Life-giving, sweet water. Without water life as we understand it can not exist. It is not that living things would suffer and be worse off without water, the reality is that all life on our remote speck of planet-dust in the vastness of the universe would cease. Period.

Earth bound water comes to humanity contained within the banks of rivers. Since the dawn of human time we have lived by, recreated in and beside, drawn sustenance and cleanliness from rivers. Rivers always have and will continue to provide humanity with occupation, recreation and nourishment. Rivers serve as pathways and boundaries. Lifetimes have been spent lost in thought while observing the constantly changing but always constant rivers.

Since before our species can remember rivers have been part of our spiritual life. Water deities and spirits have guarded rivers for millennia and rivers have enjoyed tremendous significance in every major religion. Hinduism celebrates several sacred rivers with the Ganges serving as the mother of them all. The ancient Greeks had the river Styx separating the living from the dead, for the Israelites the Jordan served as the gateway to the Promised Land and later served the Christian

Church as the original source of the purifying waters of baptism.

It is fitting, then, to take this brief trip down the rivers of the creative minds of several women composers and arrangers. Gwyneth Walker treats us to some original music on river-related texts of the great poet Langston Hughes (*I've Known Rivers*) and fresh, 21st century settings of some traditional river-themed spiritual tunes (*New Millennium Suite*). In between we'll sing a lyrical setting by San Francisco-based contemporary composer Nancy Bloomer Deussen of poetry about ocean water, much of which flowed into the sea from rivers (*Flowers by the Sea*), an original tune (*There is a River*) by Faye Lopez, along with arrangements of a "spiritual" composed for the Broadway Stage (*River Jordan*), and a couple of more traditional Christian spiritual arrangements (*We Will Gather at the River and Deep River*).

Finally, one of the greatest joys of being a "Cantatan", is knowing that every year at this time we honor and feature the best of young musicians in our area. This year is no exception with not one but two co-winners of the Young Performers scholarship competition. With one of Juliet's arias (*Je veux vivre - I want to live*) from the pen of Charles Gounod and a not-frequently-enough performed piano work (*Hungarian Rhapsody No. 13*) by Franz Liszt.

It is our hope that the hearing of this music, the collaborative work of so many creators, teachers and performers will not only entertain you for this moment, but that these texts and the message of the music might reach deep into your heart. The message we hope you find is two-fold. First, know that the musical arts are alive and well in our community both locally and worldwide. The second, and most vital message that we and our gifted women composers want us all to know, is that no matter what sacred or secular beliefs and traditions you hold, rivers, and the water they bring us, must be cherished and protected by all.

TEXTS:

I've Known Rivers - Poetry by Langston Hughes My Soul Has Grown Deep

I've known rivers:

I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.
I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.
I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.
I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln
went down to New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy
bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers: Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

Troubled Water

Between us, always, loved one,
There lies this troubled water.
You are my sky, my shining sun
Over troubled water.

I journey far to touch your hand.
The trip is troubled water.

We see yet cannot understand
This fateful troubled water.
Deep hearts, dear, dream of happiness
Balked by troubled water.
Between us always-love, and this-
This sea of troubled water.

Jump Right In!

I went down to the river,
I set down on the bank.
I tried to think but couldn't,
So I jumped in and sank.
I came up once and hollered!
I came up twice and cried!
If that water hadn't a-been so cold
I might've sunk and died.
But it was Cold in that water! It was cold!

I took the elevator
Sixteen floors above the ground.
I thought about my baby
And thought I would jump down.
I stood there and I hollered!
I stood there and I cried!
If it hadn't a-been so high
I might've jumped and died.
But it was High up there! It was high!

So since I'm still here livin',
I guess I will live on.
I could've died for love—
But for livin' I was born
Though you may hear me holler,
And you may see me cry—
I'll be dogged, sweet baby,
If you gonna see me die.

Life is fine! Fine as wine! Life is fine!

In Time of Silver Rain

In time of silver rain
The earth puts forth new life again,
Green grasses grow
And flowers lift their heads,
And over all the plain
The wonder spreads
Of Life Of Life, Of life!

In time of silver rain
The butterflies lift silken wings
To catch a rainbow cry,
And trees put forth new leaves to sing
In joy beneath the sky
As down the roadway
Passing boys and girls
Go singing, too,

In time of silver rain When spring
And life
Are new.

There is a River - Based on Psalm 46

There is a river
whose streams make glad the city of God.
There is a river
that God provides to those who trust in Him.

God uniquely cares for His own;
He turns our fear to gladness.
Calming our hearts,
He turns our fear to Rejoicing.
God delights to strengthen His own;
He rescues us at dawning.
God intervenes;
He fills our hearts with gladness.

We Will Gather at the River - Traditional Spiritual

We will gather at the river
Where bright angel feet have trod
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God

On the margin of the river
Washing up its silver spray
We will walk and worship ever
All the happy golden day

We will gather at the river
The beautiful, beautiful river
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the Throne of God

E're we reach the shining river
Lay we every burden down
Grace our spirits will deliver
And provide a robe and crown

Soon we'll reach the shining river
Soon our pilgrimage will cease
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, beautiful river
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the Throne of God

Deep River - traditional spiritual

Deep River,
My home is over Jordan.
Deep River, Lord.
I want to cross over into campground.

Oh, don't you want to go,
To the Gospel feast;
That Promised Land,
Where all is peace?

Oh, deep River, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.

River Jordan -

... So now
Meet me by the River Jordan
Knee-deep in a risin' tide
We will climb aboard that boat called freedom
And we'll all sail over to the other side

Sail on
Just sail,
Sail on over to the other side

We'll be singin' Halleluja
When this mis'ry sure 'nough be passed
We'll be singin' Halleluja
Halleluja, we are now free at last

Hold on...
Hold on
When you live in the east of Eden you've

Got to pray
That you'll find yourself in paradise one day
Meet me by the River Jordan
Knee-deep in a risin' tide
We'll just climb aboard that boat called freedom
And we'll all sail on over to the other side

Je veux vivre - from Romeo et Juliette

Translation by Robert Glauwitz

I want to live
In the dream that exhilarates me
This day again!
Sweet flame,
I guard you in my soul
Like a treasure!
This rapture of youthfulness
Doesn't last, alas! but a day,
Then comes the hour
At which one cries,
The heart surrenders to love
And the happiness flies without returning
Far from a morose winter,
Let me slumber
And breath in the rose
Before it dies.

Flowers by the Sea - William Carlos Williams

When over the flowery, sharp pasture's
edge, unseen, the salt ocean
lifts its form—chicory and daisies
tied, released, seem hardly flowers alone
but color and the movement—or the shape
perhaps—of restlessness, whereas
the sea is circled and sways
peacefully upon its plantlike stem

**New Millennium Suite - traditional spirituals
supplemental text by Gwyneth Walker**

Sinner Man

Oh, sinner man,
Where you gonna run to
All on that day.
Run to the rock,
Rock was a melting
All on that day.
Run, run!
Run to the sea,
Sea was a-boiling
All on that day.
Run to the moon,
Moon was a-bleeding
All on that day.
Run, run!
Run to the Lord,
"Lord, won't you hide me?"
"I've run to the rock,"
Rock was a-melting.
"I've run to the sea,"
Sea was a-boiling.
"I've run to the moon,"
Moon was a-bleeding,
"I've run to the Lord,

Oh won't you hide me?"

The Lord said:

"Sinner man, you should-a been a-praying
All on that day!"

Run, run!

Peace I Ask of Thee, O River

Peace I ask of thee, O river
Peace, peace, peace
When I learn to live serenely
Cares will cease

From the hills I gather courage
Visions of the days to be
Strength to lead and faith to follow
All are given unto me.

Peace like the falling rain,
like the floating cloud,
like the flowing stream,
like the gentle breeze
as it whispers peace I ask of thee, O river

Peace like the falling rain.
like the floating cloud.
like the flowing stream.
like the gentle breeze
Peace, O river, peace.

Down by the Riverside

Gonna lay down my burden,
Down by the riverside
To study war no more.

Refrain: I ain't gonna study war no more,
Ain't gonna study war no more,
Ain't gonna study war no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more,
Ain't gonna study war no more,
Ain't gonna study war no more.

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
Down by the riverside
To study war no more.

Refrain:

Gonna talk with the words of peace,
Down by the riverside
To study war no more.

Refrain:

Gonna walk with the angels,
Down by the riverside
To study war no more.

Refrain:

Gonna lay down my burden,

Where?

Gonna lay it down,

Where?

Gonna lay it down,

Where?

Gonna lay down my burden,
gonna lay down my sword and shield,
gonna talk with the words of peace,
gonna walk with the angels

Down by riverside!