

BERKSHIRE CONCERT CHOIR &
BERKSHIRE CHILDREN'S CHORUS PRESENT

THE
SOUNDS
OF
MUSIC

FRIDAY MAY 17

7:00PM

THE COMMON ROOM AT
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, PITTSFIELD

FREE
ADMISSION

SATURDAY MAY 18

3:00PM

THE SANCTUARY AT
SAINT JAMES PLACE, GREAT BARRINGTON

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Berkshire Concert Choir

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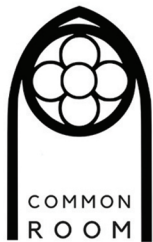


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WELCOME FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENTS

Welcome to our collaborative and intergenerational spring concert, *The Sounds of Music*. We are so proud to be combining the voices, talents, and efforts of our two organizations to create this program for our community's enjoyment.

Creating this concert for you has been a journey of cooperation. From co-writing grant proposals to organizing volunteers, Berkshire Concert Choir and Berkshire Children's Chorus board, staff, and singers have worked together with dedication, joy, and humor.

We thank our sponsors for this program, the Feigenbaum Foundation, Greylock Federal Credit Union, and the Local Cultural Councils of Alford/Egremont, Lee, Lenox, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Richmond, Pittsfield, Sheffield, and Stockbridge, local agencies that are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Additional thanks go to all of our fabulous advertisers.

Most of all, we thank you for being here! We hope that you enjoy what we have achieved, and let it inspire you to create connections, make art, and laugh together.

Suzanne W Pelton
President (2024-25)
Berkshire Concert Choir

Alice Maggio
President
Berkshire Children's Chorus

Visit
BERKSHIRECONCERTCHOIR.ORG
or
BERKSHIRECHILDRENSCHORUS.ORG

To learn more about our organizations.

Follow us on facebook or instagram to stay up to date!

Please refrain from taking photographs or video during the concert.

Thank you!



This concert has been underwritten by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



WELCOME & PROGRAM NOTES FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear family and friends,

On behalf of both Berkshire Concert Choir and Berkshire Children's Chorus, I am delighted to welcome you to our collaborative program, *The Sounds of Music*.

Today's performance represents a twist on a beloved piece of American pop culture. For more than 60 years, Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical, *The Sound of Music*, has been a staple in theaters, movie theaters, and living rooms around the country. Its songs – some of which you will get to sing today! – may represent the closest we come to a shared American canon. But, what exactly is it about this life-story-made-memoir-made-movie-made-musical-made-movie-musical-that captivates us so?

While pondering that, I'd like to draw your attention back to the cover of our concert program, so beautifully designed by Beth Carlson and Kip Beacco at Silo Media. While the wreath of flowers may seem like a simple bouquet celebrating spring, look closer. Each of the eight flowers in the wreath is the national flower of one of the countries featured in today's performance. Of course, there is edelweiss, but there is also the rose, jasmine, king protea, hibiscus, dahlia, cornflower, and thistle. Similarly, today's concert begins in Austria, but it expands to the United States, Syria, South Africa, South Korea, Mexico, Germany, and Scotland. What begins as an homage to a celebrated American musical blooms into a warm embrace of something even more truly American.

Our concert uses music from *The Sound of Music* as a springboard into exploring more global sounds of music. To begin, we find ourselves near to the abbey, as in the movie-musical, surrounded by bells tolling and treble voices singing reverently. But, channeling the

wild spirit of Maria herself, we allow ourselves to be transported to South Korea and Scotland to hear folk tunes the hills have sung "for a thousand years." Next, we travel to Villa von Trapp connecting our "favorite things" to "all the beautiful colors" of the Mexican countryside. Then, we start at "the very beginning" for music lovers, with solfège and the major scale, and see how one zany American arrangement seeks to best Maria's iconic music lesson. Lastly, once the children are all in bed, the singers of Berkshire Concert Choir romance and waltz the night away to selections from Johannes Brahms' *Liebeslieder Walzer* – a raucous piece of music featuring both of our collaborative pianists, Amy Renak and Aaron Likness – and an homage to the Trapp family's musical roots.

Following intermission, we will all sing the song at the heart of Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical, *Edelweiss*, with Berkshire Children's Chorus playing ukuleles furnished by Sheffield's The Magic Fluke. This soliloquy about love of home and saying goodbye draws us into the war-torn world of Nujeen Mustafa, a 15 year old girl with cerebral palsy forced to flee Syria in the mid 2010s. Featuring Jamecyn Morey on violin, Cecilia McDowall's *Everyday Wonders: The Girl from Aleppo* is an evocative cantata that has led to rich discussion and personal connections for both choruses, which you can read more about on page 15.

Our concert concludes with the triumphal *Climb Ev'ry Mountain* which is then amplified by the combined choirs singing *Hope for Resolution*, featuring Taz Ramos on percussion. This piece was written in the 1990s as an ode to the end of apartheid in South Africa, weaving a traditional Anglican chant together with a Zulu freedom song. Much like the wreath on our program cover, it represents a strange and harmonious mix of cultures.

Zooming all the way out and borrowing from Berkshire Children's Chorus's values statement, through this concert we seek to embrace

the true sounds of MUSIC – that is, the sounds of Music; the sounds of Understanding; the sounds of Spirit; the sounds of Inclusivity; and the sounds of Connection. What we present to you today is so much more than beautiful music. It is a living demonstration of the rich and diverse community that can coexist right here at home.



Ryan José LaBoy

Artistic Director, Berkshire Children's Chorus
Music Director, Berkshire Concert Choir

A LETTER FROM MARILYN GERHARD

Outgoing Board President of Berkshire Concert Choir



The Berkshire Hills are alive with the sounds of music! Welcome to the collaboration between the Berkshire Concert Choir and the Berkshire Children's Chorus. Thank you for your support of the concert choir as we enter our 47th season. Ryan LaBoy is completing his first year as music director, and we are delighted with his diligence, attention to detail, and creativity.

I have been associated with Berkshire Concert Choir for 25 years with 23 of those years in service to the group and 11 of those years as president. There have been many challenges to overcome, particularly the loss of my partner and husband, Michael Gerhard. He was my help mate and my best friend.

That said, this will be my last address as president of the choir. It is time for me and the Berkshire Concert Choir to move forward in different directions, and I leave the chorus in good hands.

I want to thank everyone who helped me over the years. You all made my job easier. Thank you especially to members of the Board of Directors of the Berkshire Concert Choir for their dedicated service and for their commitment to the organization as well as their participation in the various committees that keep Berkshire Concert Choir running like a well oiled machine. Thank you, too, to Reverend Joel Bergeland, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, and Ingrid Kildiss-Hallm administrator of Common Room, for providing us rehearsal space and for their ongoing support to Berkshire Concert Choir. And, a special shout out to Gene Kalish who has served the board well with patience and good humor, on his retirement from the Board of Directors; thank you for your service to this organization.

Time passes...memories linger...

Wishing you a fond farewell,
Marilyn Gerhard

"We are the music makers; we are the dreamers of dreams."
- from *Music and Moonlight* (1874) by Arthur O'Shaughnessy

CONCERT PROGRAM

♪ = Audience Sing-a-long

I. NEAR TO THE ABBEY

“Lift Thine Eyes” from *Elijah*, Op. 70 Felix Mendelssohn

♪ The Sound of Music Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

Arirang South Korean Folk Song

Ca’ the Yowes Scottish Folk Song, arr. Mary Goetze

II. DAY & NIGHT AT VILLA VON TRAPP

♪ My Favorite Things Rodgers & Hammerstein

De Colores Mexican Folk Song

♪ Do-Re-Mi Rodgers & Hammerstein

“Galop” from *Solfège Suite* Ken Berg

♪ So Long, Farewell Rodgers & Hammerstein

Liebeslieder Walzer, Op. 52 (selections) Johannes Brahms

1. Rede, Mädchen, allzu liebes
2. Am Gesteine rauscht die Flut
4. Wie des Abends schöne Röte
5. Die grüne Hopfenranke
6. Ein kleiner, hübscher Vogel
9. Am Donaustrande
11. Nein, es ist nicht auszukommen
12. Schloss auf, und mache Schlösser
14. Sieh, wie ist die Welle klar
15. Nachtigall, sie singt so schön
16. Ein dunkeler Shacht ist Liebe

INTERMISSION (10 Minutes)

III. ALONG THE PERILOUS JOURNEY

♪ Edelweiss Rodgers & Hammerstein

Everyday Wonders: The Girl from Aleppo Cecilia McDowall

1. Orphans of the World
2. Thousands milling at the border (The Journey)
3. I Had never seen the sea before
4. A lost tribe pushed from border to border
5. Everyday Wonders

IV. HOPE IN THE HILLS

♪ Climb Ev’ry Mountain Rodgers & Hammerstein

Hope for Resolution Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

MARIA VON TRAPP & NUJEEN MUSTAFA

In preparation for this concert, I was struck that both Maria von Trapp and Nujeen Mustafa’s memoirs connect to each other – a detail I did not know when I selected the concert theme of music! I was in awe witnessing these two resilient refugees’ ability to see themselves in the other. - R.JL

“Then came the big day in May when we were summoned to the courthouse in Montpelier—the five years of waiting were over. It happened to be the Feast of Corpus Christi, and since early morning we had been in a festive mood. What a mixed group it was, waiting there in the courtroom: Italians, Croatians, **Syrians**, English, Irish, Polish people, and we Austrians... After we had ended: “So help me God,” the judge bade us sit down, looked at us, and said: “Fellow citizens.” He meant us—now we were Americans.”

– from *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* by Maria Augusta Trapp

“The green meadows [of the Alps] made me think of *The Sound of Music* and Maria skipping across them in her governess pinafores. I couldn’t help imagining her as she was in the film which was annoying because I had read *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, the book of the real Maria von Trapp, and the movie ruined it... It’s like Syria and Assad, the way we are always being deceived by people at the top.

The von Trapps were refugees too... They also went by train – not fleeing over mountains as in the film... They then travelled by boat to New York, and when they arrived they had only a few dollars to their name.

That was a familiar story – though in our case of course we were fleeing to Germany not away from it.”

– from *The Girl from Aleppo* by Nujeen Mustafa and Christina Lamb

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

“Lift Thine Eyes” from *Elijah*, Op. 70 | Felix Mendelssohn

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.
Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes
to the mountains,
whence cometh help.



Cornflower (Germany)

♪ The Sound of Music ♪ | Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

SOLO:

My day in the hills has come to an end, I know.
A star has come out to tell me it's time to go.
But deep in the dark green shadows are voices that urge me to stay.
So I pause and I wait and I listen for one more sound,
For one more lovely thing that the hills might say...

ALL:

The hills are alive with the sound of music,
With songs they have sung for a thousand years.
The hills fill my heart with the sound of music.
My heart wants to sing ev'ry song it hears.

SOLO:

My heart wants to beat like the wings of the birds that rise from the lake to the trees.
My heart wants to sigh like a chime that flies from a church on a breeze.
To laugh like a brook when it trips and falls over stones in its way,
To sing through the night like a lark who is learning to pray...

ALL:

I go to the hills when my heart is lonely.
I know I will hear what I've heard before.
My heart will be blessed with the sound of music,
And I'll sing once more.

SOLO:

My heart will be blessed with the sound of music,
And I'll sing once more.

Arirang | South Korean Folk Song

아리랑, 아리랑, 아라리요...
아리랑 고개로 넘어간다.
나를 버리고 가시는 님은
십리도 못가서 발병난다.

Arirang, Arirang, Arariyo...
Going over Arirang pass,
The one who abandons me,
Your feet will be sore before going 10 miles.



Hibiscus Syriacus (South Korea)

Ca' the Yowes | Scottish Folk Song, arr. Mary Goetze

Ca' the yowes to the knowes,
Ca' them where the heather growes,
Ca' them where the burnie rowes,
My bonnie dearie.

Hark, the mavis ev'nin' sang,
Soundin' Clouden's woods amang,
Then a fauldin' let us gang,
My bonnie dearie.

We'll gae down by Clouden side,
Thro' the hazels spreading wide,
Oe'r the waves that sweetly glide,
To the moon sae clearly:

Ghaist nor bogle shalt thou fear,
Thou'rt to love and heav'n sae dear,
Nocht o' ill may come thee near,
My bonnie dearie.

Call the ewes to the hills,
Call them where the heather grows,
Call them where the river flows,
My pretty darling.

Listen, the thrush sings its song,
Echoing around Clouden's woods,
Let us go and round up the sheep,
My pretty darling.

We'll go down near Clouden's woods,
Through the hazel grove,
Nearby the gentle waves,
To the moon say clearly:

Do not be afraid of ghosts or spirits,
You are to love and heaven say dear,
No harm or ill will come near you,
My pretty darling.



Thistle (Scotland)

♪ My Favorite Things ♪ | Rodgers & Hammerstein

ALL:

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens,
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens,
Brown paper packages tied up with strings:
These are a few of my favorite things!

Cream colored ponies and crisp apple strudels,
Doorbells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles,
Wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings:
These are a few of my favorite things!

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes,
Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes,
Silver white winters that melt into springs:
These are a few of my favorite things!

When the dog bites,
When the bee stings,
When I'm feeling sad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad!

De Colores | Mexican Folk Song, arr. Donnelly & Strid/LaBoy

De colores, de colores se visten
los campos en la primavera.
De colores, de colores son
los pajaritos que vienen de afuera.
De colores, de colores es

All the colors, the fields wear
all of the colors in springtime.
All the colors, colorful are
the little birds that come from outside.
All the colors, colorful is



Dahlia (Mexico)

*el arco iris que vemos lucir.
Y por eso los grandes amores
de muchos colores me gustan a mí*

the rainbow we see shine.
And that is why the great love
Of many colors pleases me.

All the beautiful colors: red and purple and green and yellow and blue.

Fields of glorious flowers and brilliant birds with feathers of ev'ry hue.
Like a heavenly rainbow shining in the sky for all to see.
How I love them, all the colors, they're so pleasing to me (and so beautiful);
How I love them, all the colors, they're so pleasing to me!

♪ Do-Re-Mi ♪ | Rodgers & Hammerstein

CHILD SOLO:

Let's start at the very beginning!

SOLO:

A very good place to start!
When you read you begin with: A, B, C,
When you sing, you begin with: Do-Re-Mi

CHILDREN'S CHORUS:

Do-Re-Mi?

SOLO:

Do-Re-Mi!
The first three notes just happened to be: Do-Re-Mi!

CHILDREN'S CHORUS:

Do-Re-Mi!

SOLO:

Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti...
All right, I'll make it easier.
Listen...

ALL:

Doe a deer, a female deer,
Ray, a drop of Golden Sun,
Me, a name I call myself,
Far, a long, long way to run,
Sew, a needle pulling thread,
La, a note to follow sew,
Tea, a drink with jam and bread,
That will bring us back to do-oh-oh-oh!

(Repeat Chorus 2x)

Do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do, sol, do!



Galop - Rose (USA)

♪ So Long, Farewell ♪ | Rodgers & Hammerstein

CHILDREN'S CHORUS:

There is a sad sort of clanging from the clock in the hall,
And the bells in the steeple, too.
And up in the nursery an absurd little bird
Is popping out to say, "Cuckoo!" (Cuckoo! Cuckoo!)
Regretfully, they tell us, but firmly they compel us,
To say goodbye to you...

ALL:

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehn, goodnight!

CHILD SOLO:

I hate to go and miss this pretty sight!

ALL:

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehn, adieu!

CHILD SOLO:

Adieu! Adieu! To yieu and yieu and yieu!

ALL:

So long, farewell, au'voir, auf wiedersehn!

CHILD SOLO:

I'd like to stay and taste my first champagne!

ALL:

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehn, goodbye!

CHILD SOLO:

#1 - I leave and heave a sigh and say goodbye! GOODBYE!
#2 - I'm glad to go. I cannot tell a lie!
#3 - I flit, I float, I fleetly flee, I fly!
#4 - The sun has gone to bed and so must I.

ALL:

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehn, goodbye!
Goodbye; Goodbye; Goodbye; Goodbye!

Liebeslieder Wälzer | Johannes Brahms | English Translation: Emily Ezust

1

*Rede, Mädchen, allzu liebes,
das mir in die Brust die kühle,
hat geschleudert mit dem Blicke
diese wilden Glutgefühle!
Willst du nicht dein Herz erweichen;
willst du, eine Überfromme,
rasten ohne traute Wonne,
oder willst du dass ich komme?
Rasten ohne traute Wonne
nicht so bitter will ich büssen.
Komme nur, du schwarzes Auge,
komme, wenn die Sterne grüssen.*

2

*Am Gesteine rauscht die Flut,
heftig angetrieben;
Wer da nicht zu seufzen weiss,
lernt es unter'm Lieben.*

4

*Wie des Abends schöne Röte
möcht' ich arme Dirne glüh'n,
Einem, Einem zu Gefallen
Sonder Ende Wonne sprüh'n.*

5

*Die grüne Hopfenranke,
sie schlängelt auf der Erde hin.
Die junge schöne Dirne,
so traurig ist ihr Sinn!
Du höre, grüne Ranke!
Was hebst du dich nicht himmelwärts?
Was ist so schwer dein Herz?
Wie höbe sich die Ranke,
der keine Stütze Kraft verleiht?
Wie wäre die Dirne fröhlich,
wenn ihr der Liebste weit.*

6

*Ein kleiner, hübscher Vogel nahm den Flug
zum Garten hin, da gab es Obst genug.
Wenn ich ein hübscher, kleiner Vogel wär,
ich säumte nicht, ich täte so wie der.
Leimruten Arglist lauert an dem Ort;
der arme Vogel konnte nicht mehr fort,
Wenn ich ein hübscher Vogel wär,
ich säumte doch, ich täte nicht wie der.
Der Vogel kam, in eine schöne Hand,*

1

Speak, Maiden, whom I love all too much
who hurled into my once aloof heart,
with only one glance,
These wild, ardent feelings!
Will you not soften your heart?
Do you wish to be chaste
and remain without sweet bliss
or do you want me to come to you?
To remain without sweet bliss -
I would never make such a bitter penance.
So come, dark-eyes,
come when the stars greet you.

2

Against the stones the stream rushes,
powerfully driven;
those who do not know to sigh there,
will learn it when they fall in love.

4

Like the evening's lovely red,
would I, a poor maiden, like to glow,
to please one, one,
and to then radiate bliss forever.

5

The green hops vine,
it winds along the ground.
The young, fair maiden -
so mournful are her thoughts!
You - listen, green vine!
Why do you not raise yourself heavenwards?
You - listen, fair maiden!
Why is your heart so heavy?
How can the vine raise itself
When no support lends it strength?
How can the maiden be merry when her sweetheart is far away?

6

A small, pretty bird took flight
into the garden, there was fruit enough there.
If I were a pretty, small bird,
I would not hesitate; I'd do just as he did.
Malicious lime-twigs lurked in that place,
the poor bird could not escape.
If I were a pretty, small bird,
I would have hesitated, I would not have done that.
The bird came into a pretty girl's hand,



Cornflower (Germany)

da tat es ihm, den Glücklichen, nicht an.
Wenn ich ein hübscher Vogel wär,
ich säumte nicht, ich täte doch wie der.

9

Am Donaustrande, da steht ein Haus,
da schaut ein rosiges Mädchen aus.
Das Mädchen es ist wohl gut gehegt,
zehn eiserne Riegel sind vor die Türe gelegt.
Zehn eiserne Riegel das ist ein Spass;
die spreng' ich als wären die nur von Glas.

11

Nein, es ist nicht auszukommen mit den
Leuten; Alles wissen sie so giftig auszudeuten.
Bin ich heiter, hegen soll ich lose Triebe;
bin ich still, so heisst's ich wäre irr aus Liebe.

12

Schlosser auf! und mache Schlösser,
mache Schlösser ohne Zahl!
Denn die bösen Mäuler will ich schliessen,
schliessen allzumal.

14

Sieh', wie ist die Welle klar,
blickt der Mond hernieder!
Die du meine Liebe bist, liebe du mich wieder!

15

Nachtigall, sie singt so schön,
wenn die Sterne funkeln.
Liebe mich, geliebtes Herz, küsse mich im Dunkeln!

16

Ein dunkler Schacht ist die Liebe,
ein gar zu gefährlicher Brunnen;
da fiel ich hinein, ich Armer,
kann weder hören noch seh'n,
denke an meine Wonnen,
nur stöhnen in meinen Weh'n.

♪ Edelweiss ♪ | Rodgers & Hammerstein

Edelweiss, edelweiss,
Every morning you greet me.
Small and white, clean and bright,
You look happy to meet me.
Blossom of snow may you bloom and grow;
Bloom and grow, forever.
Edelweiss, edelweiss,
Bless my homeland forever.

and it caused him no pain, the lucky thing.
If I were a pretty, small bird,
I would not hesitate; I'd do just as he did.

9

On the banks of the Danube stands a house,
and looking out of it is a pink cheeked maiden.
The maiden is very well protected,
ten iron bolts have been placed on the door.
But ten iron bolts are but a joke,
I will snap them as if they were only glass.

11

No, there's just no getting along with people;
they always make such poisonous interpretation
If I'm merry, they say I cherish loose urges,
If I'm quiet, they say I am crazed with love.

12

Locksmith! get up and make your locks,
locks without number!
for I want to lock up
all the evil mouths.

14

See how clear the waves are
when the moon gazes down!
You who are my love, you love me back!

15

The nightingale, it sings so beautifully,
when the stars are twinkling.
Love me, my beloved heart, kiss me in the dark!

16

Love is a dark shaft,
a very dangerous well;
and I, poor man, fell in,
I can neither hear nor see,
I can only think about my bliss,
I can only moan in my woe.



Edelweiss (Austria)

Everyday Wonders: The Girl from Aleppo | Cecilia McDowall

1. Orphans of the World

Chorale

This wreath of words is what we have,
And flowers of song all we can give.
Singing sorrow but singing tomorrow,
Singing the song of life itself.

Nujeen, Nujeen,
New life. That's me!
But I can't walk, can't balance.
My two legs have lives of their own.
Plaster, braces, operations.
I'm stuck forever on tiptoes.
I often dream about being an astronaut.
Floating in space, your legs don't matter.

The scent of rosewater, hookah pipes,
Pistachios. That's how Aleppo used to be.
Dust, rubble. Every window broken.
Aleppo, Aleppo... like a ghost town,

We Kurds: orphans of the world.
My mother, my father, my siblings,
All ten of us in three rooms.
TV was my school, TV was my friend. I learned
soap opera English by watching TV.
Shelling, looting, bombing,
We knew we had to leave.
Just me, my sister Nasrine, and my wheelchair.
Sometimes sisters can be sweet as birds.

Chorale

Remember me? Remember.
I'm not a baby, not a girl, not a boy.
I'm just a number, an obstacle.
I'm on the wrong side.
Remember. Remember me?

2. Thousands milling at the border (The Journey)

Thousands milling at the border. Suitcases.
Bundles. Refugees - nothing!
We sold heirlooms. Family homes.
One man said he sold his kidney.
We raised money to buy life jackets,
A place on a dinghy, freedom.

3. I had never seen the sea before

I had never seen the sea before,
The mist, the spray. How beautiful it is!
Our phones we tied inside party balloons
To keep them dry on the crossing.
Of course I can't swim. I've never been in water.
None of us could swim. I became Poseidon.
That dove pebble a little Afghan boy gave me:
I held it for luck between my awkward fingers.

4. A lost tribe pushed from border to border

A lost tribe pushed from border to border.
Stampeding for a bus, swarming across fields.
In the camps children drew pictures
With colored pencils: a flower bright as blood.
The guards lobbed food at us - lawyers, doctors,
professors, businessmen. We are not animals!
The jerking, the jolting, the pain, the pain.
And Nasrine always pushing, pushing.
Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary,
Croatia, Slovenia, Austria...
'Please? Germany? Where is Germany?'
The policeman smiled.
'Wilkommen! Welcome to Germany!'

5. Everyday Wonders

My head, my heart. Skipping and singing.

What delights me are everyday wonders:
People talking to me because I'm smiling.

My head, my heart. Skipping and singing.

Happy frogs croaking, summer rain falling,
Even the ducks seem to welcome me.
A chance to brush my teeth in the morning.
Everything on time, all the strict rules,
Waking early, my first ever morning at school.
My pink and blue rucksack, red subject folders.

Sometimes in my dreams I make friends...

The animals at the zoo, some are weird as I am.
A smiling refugee. Am I an alien?
Laugh as long as you breathe. Love as long as you live.
These are my favorite sayings.



Jasmine (Syria)

My head, my heart. Skipping and singing.

Nujeen, Nujeen. New life. That's me.

Chorale

This wreath of words is our choice.

These flowers of song, they are our voice.

Singing sorrow, singing tomorrow, singing tomorrow.

Singing the song of life itself.

♪ **Climb Ev'ry Mountain** ♪ | **Rodgers & Hammerstein**

ALL:

Climb every mountain,
Search high and low,
Follow every byway,
Every path you know.

Climb every mountain,
Ford every stream,
Follow every rainbow,
'Til you find your dream!

SOLO:

A dream that will need all the love you can give,
Every day of your life for as long as you live.

ALL:

Climb every mountain,
Ford every stream,
Follow every rainbow,
'Til you find your dream!

Hope for Resolution: A song for Mandela and deKlerk | **Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory**

Of the Father's love begotten,
E'er the worlds began to be
He is Alpha and Omega
He the source, the ending he.
Of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth, forever blessed,
when the virgin full of grace
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race.
And the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven adore him,
Angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow'rs, do minions bow before him,
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on Earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.

*Thula sizwe, ungabokhala,
uJehovah wake uzokunqobela.
Inkululeko, sizoyithola,
uJehovah wake uzokunqobela.*



King Protea (South Africa)

Nation, do not cry,
Jehovah will protect us.
We will attain freedom
Jehovah will protect us.

SINGER REFLECTIONS ON EVERYDAY WONDERS:

The Girl from Aleppo

Many of our singers agree that "Everyday Wonders: The Girl from Aleppo" is a challenging piece of music; not just musically, but thematically, especially given today's geopolitical landscape. But, we believe its challenge is what makes good art 'art'. Below are a few singer reflections from members of Berkshire Concert Choir inspired by a full group conversation during rehearsal. We hope their writing helps you find your way into Nujeen's story and its universal themes of struggle, resilience, and grace. - RJL

"When I first heard *Everyday Wonders: The Girl from Aleppo*, I didn't like it. It seemed too unstructured, too discordant and just hard to find a melody to latch onto. But as we started rehearsing it and I learned more about the story that inspired it, I began liking it more and more. The lack of obvious structure and clashing chords are intentional to reflect the chaos that Nujeen and her sister Nasrine must have experienced as they joined the flood of refugees fleeing Syria. The difficult rhythms throw us off balance, giving us a hint of what Nujeen feels. Her story is a very powerful one of perseverance in the midst of hardships that I can only imagine, and now I see how the music works together with her words to convey that story beautifully." - **Tom Rogers, Bass**

"I relate to Nujeen Mustafa in several ways. She was born with Cerebral Palsy. I was born with Spastic Monoplegia, a rare, but mild form of Cerebral Palsy affecting one of my extremities. At one point in the music Nujeen talks about, "plaster, braces, operations." I had a brace when I was a child, then surgery about 8 months ago, being in a cast for a number of weeks. I have a better quality of life because of my surgery, or as Nujeen would say, "New life, that's me." I also relate to the Girl from Aleppo unease of what lies ahead for their future. I am sure feelings of isolation and being alone are felt at times by Nujeen and her family. I have Autism, which makes me feel different and alone at times. Nujeen also learns to embrace her situation despite being different, and accept who she is as a person. I, too, have learned to accept and embrace myself as well. A flower does not bloom without being planted from the seeds of change." - **Sierra Stansfield, Alto**

"Several lyrics from Girl from Aleppo resonate with my family's refugee and immigrant experience. "*Shelling...bombing, we had to leave*": In 1944, as their city was bombed, my parents threw clothes and documents into a bag and boarded one of the last trains heading from Budapest to Vienna. "*Thousands milling at the border*": Separated at the border, they reunited months later, walking for days, sleeping in haystacks, encountering thousands of others displaced by the war. They lived in five different 'displaced persons camps' in Austria, where I was born. Eventually, we were brought to the US by a military transport vessel. "*Am I an alien?*" The ship's manifest designated us as aliens. I was nine months old when we arrived in New York City, welcomed by my dad's cousin, a clergyman. "*Singing the Song of Life itself....new life*": Thus began our new, often challenging life as immigrants in America. Eight years later we became US citizens, always deeply grateful to live in a democratic and free society." - **Anonymous Singer**

ABOUT
Berkshire Concert Choir

Berkshire Concert Choir was formed in 1977 with the merger of the Stockbridge Singers, Inc. and The Cantata Choir of South Congregational Church of Pittsfield. We are a membership organization open to all who enjoy singing and are able to devote one evening a week to rehearsals. We perform choral literature from a range of musical periods at the highest standard possible for audiences in our communities and provide the choir members with a rich musical and social experience.

In the past five years Berkshire Concert Choir has made many community connections. In addition to the formal concert season, the choir has become part of the annual Yule for Fuel project at Zion Lutheran Church and the Gospel Fest at South Street Baptist Church, both having community outreach as their goals.

We proudly sponsor "Community Sings" each year for the benefit of local food pantries, and we have sung for the residents of Kimball Farms, Devonshire Estates, and Melbourne Place. Our holiday singing has included programs at the Berkshire Museum, Ventfort Hall, Naumkeag, Red Lion Inn, and Lichtenstein Center for the Arts. Some of our projects are funded by the Pittsfield Cultural Council, and other grants, as well. Berkshire Concert Choir looks forward to many more years in the Pittsfield musical community.

Membership is open to all who have the ability and desire to sing, high school age and above. No audition is required.

Berkshire Concert Choir

Ryan José LaBoy, conductor
 Amy Renak, piano

Soprano

Pamela Bachrach
 Chelsea Beatty
 Rachel Christensen
 Lynette Cornwell
 Breana Gladu
 Lesley Hertzberg
 Rosa Ipuz
 Anne Jaskot
 Linda Johnson
 Carolyn Kaufmann
 Susan Pickewell
 Stephanie Preston
 Jane Salata
 Lyndsey Wasio
 Elizabeth Wedge

Alto

Rika Alper
 Rachel Alves
 Christine Brandon
 Jody Burrows
 Brenda Crane
 Debbie Cranwell
 Hannah DeLisle-Stall
 Susan Donoughe
 Heidi Frayer
 Christa MacDonald
 Barbara Martin
 Suzanne W Pelton
 Ellen Rogers
 Eva Sereghy
 Sierra Stansfield
 Erin Wojcicki

Tenor

Bob James
 Eugene Kalish
 Jason Kittler
 Brian Litscher
 Richard Riedel
 Ralph Schorge
 Bruce Warren

Bass

Eric Christensen
 Thomas Damrosch
 Raymond Ellsworth
 John Kidd
 James Linkin
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 Tom Rogers

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Thank you to the many individuals, organizations, and businesses who support Berkshire Concert Choir. Your generosity helps us live into our mission of "creating a welcoming community where people of all backgrounds and abilities can experience the transformative beauty of choral music." Special thanks to:

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ABOUT

Berkshire Children's Chorus

Berkshire Children's Chorus uses music to spark new friendships between singers from across the region. Weekly rehearsals feature the development of individual self-confidence and teamwork skills, as well as music reading, ear training, and vocal technique. With a renewed mission to "create a place of belonging where young people grow and find their voices by singing together," Berkshire Children's Chorus has broadened its reach this season with the introduction of a new rehearsal location in Pittsfield in addition to its historic home in Sheffield. The Chorus was founded in 1990 by Nancy Loder and is currently led by Artistic Director, Ryan LaBoy.

Recent accomplishments include: *Cántame un Cuento*, a bilingual concert inspired by Meg Medina's story "Mango, Abuela, and Me"; performing as part of Berkshire Immigrant Center's Naturalization Ceremony for new Americans; *Circles*, a concert featuring mandalas by local artist Elizabeth Nelson; an interdisciplinary performance of "The Ballerina and the Clown" with Bard College at Simon's Rock Chorus and Dance programs; a Valentine's Day Teddy Bear Drive to benefit Berkshire Medical Center; a performance with Wanda Houston at The Egremont Barn; a co-commission and world-premiere performance with Stockbridge Sinfonia; and the introduction of ukulele study through a partnership with Berkshire Music School and The Magic Fluke.

Previously, Berkshire Children's Chorus was honored to perform at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City, completed two European concert tours, and has collaborated with local artistic partners including Berkshire Bach Society, Berkshire Choral International, Cantilena Chamber Choir, Chorus Angelicus, Crescendo, Berkshire Lyric, and the Norman Rockwell Museum.

Berkshire Children's Chorus

Ryan José LaBoy, conductor
Aaron Likness, piano

Sabeena Cudal
Mia Desnoyers
Sarah Ehrich
Ryleigh Fillio
Magleidy Florez Anaya
Braxton Gladu
Una Goodman
Montanna Inesta
Sophie Jadow
Cornellia Lalle
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Additional Info about Today's Performance

Guest Artists

Chelsea Beatty, soprano
Jamecyn Morey, violin
Taz Ramos, percussion

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Artist Bios

Ryan José LaBoy, Artistic Director

Praised for his collaborative spirit and eclectic programming, **Ryan José LaBoy** is an active singer, conductor, and educator currently serving as Music Director of Berkshire Concert Choir, Artistic Director of Berkshire Children's Chorus, and Choir Director at Bard College at Simon's Rock. Celebrating the power of singing in community across the lifespan, Ryan has extensive experience teaching and conducting ensembles from elementary school through college and university and beyond.

Prior to living in the Berkshires, Ryan served as Director of Choirs & Voice at North Hennepin Community College where he conducted Concert Choir

and Chamber Singers and led the Voice Studio. He also served as Founding Music Director of ComMUSICation in St. Paul, Minnesota—an after-school music program with a focus on social justice and youth empowerment. Such opportunities have led him to work with several Grammy Award-winning musicians, including the Minnesota Orchestra and Leslie Odom, Jr (Super Bowl LIII).

Ryan is also a professional singer, having recently presented recitals throughout Berkshire County with collaborator Manon Hutton-DeWys (piano) and singing with ensembles such as Border CrosSing, MPLS (imPulse), VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, and Ember Choral Artists. He has also served as an American delegate at various music programs abroad in Estonia, Iceland, and Ghana.

Ryan is a doctoral student at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City, and holds degrees in Choral Conducting and Music Education from the University of Minnesota and Westminster Choir College. He moved to the Berkshires from the Twin Cities in May 2021, with his husband, Joel, who serves as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church of Pittsfield.

Amy Renak, Piano

Amy Renak is a busy pianist and teacher in Berkshire County. She has been teaching piano at the Berkshire Music School for 35 years, and at Miss Hall's School as well, for not quite as long. She is the long-time director of music at Zion Lutheran Church, and the choir director at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, a Reform Jewish Congregation in Great Barrington. Amy enjoys accompanying singers and instrumentalists, and especially choirs like the one she accompanies today!

Aaron Likness, Piano

Aaron Likness is a pianist based in upstate New York, hailed for "superb clarity" and "effortless elegance" in performances of a wide variety of classical, avant-garde, and contemporary music. Recent seasons have included appearances across the US and Europe with Boston Musica Viva, Callithumpian Consort, International Contemporary Ensemble, Sound Icon, PROTOTYPE Opera Festival, and violinist Diamanda Dramm. A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of North Carolina, Likness serves on the music faculty of Bard College at Simon's Rock.

Guest Artists

Chelsea Beatty, Soprano

Chelsea Beatty is a recent Berkshire County transplant and proud member of Berkshire Concert Choir. During her last two decades performing on opera and concert stages around Boston and beyond, favorite roles include Anne Trulove in *The Rake's Progress*, Mimi in *La Bohème*, the title role in *Suor Angelica*, Mary Warren in *The Crucible*, and Charlotte in *A Little Night Music*. Chelsea holds degrees in vocal performance from University of Colorado Boulder and The Boston Conservatory (where she subsequently joined the voice faculty), and was a two-time district finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. www.chelseabeatty.com

Jamecyn Morey, Violin

Jamecyn Morey is an active solo, chamber and orchestral violinist residing in Albany, New York. She is currently a Faculty Fellow at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is a member of the Albany Symphony, serving as substitute Concertmaster for the past four seasons. She frequently performs and records chamber music as a member of the Copernicus Duo, the Spira Piano Quartet, and the Hyperion String Quartet, and the Dogs of Desire new music ensemble.

Taz Ramos, Percussion

Taz Ramos is a music educator proficient in Brazilian instruments like the Cavaco (cousin of the Ukulele) and diverse percussive instruments like the Brazilian frame drum, pandeiro, and the Peruvian instrument called Cajon. Taz fosters cultural connections through music, enriching schools and universities with his "Performative Lecture on Brazilian Musical Instruments" where he shares his culture through music. Fun fact: Taz showcased survival skills on the show "Alone," highlighting resilience, creativity, and adaptability. And that is also reflected in his musicality.

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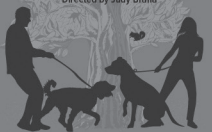







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~ Testimonials ~

We have only the highest praise and recommendation for Matt Carlino. During the sale of our home, we never felt rushed or pushed to go in any direction on any of the offers. Matt listened to our thoughts and opinions and advised accordantly and appropriately. Matt made us feel as though his schedule was completely open for us, and provided valuable input during the entire selling process. All responses to our questions and concerns were answered in a timely manner. His patience with us was beyond that of a realtor, but more resembling a friend. We wouldn't hesitate to recommend Matt Carlino to any person who is looking to buy or sell a home.

~ Omar and Maria

We LOVE Matt, and we are so lucky that we found him when we started house-hunting in the Berkshires. We were first-time buyers and pretty unfamiliar with the Berkshires... Needless to say, we needed a lot of help. Matt is from the area and understands the nuances of each town, and he knows (seemingly) every single person, entity and service that homebuyers would need or want to know upon moving here. He is also one of the nicest, most genuine people you'll ever meet, which was really important to us. We know Matt cares about us and our family, and he kept our two little children at the forefront of his mind when helping us evaluate properties. When we were trying to decide between two homes, we were struck by the fact that Matt recommended without hesitation that we place a bid on the much less expensive of the two, which meant he would get a smaller commission. We could not recommend Matt more highly!

~ Rebecca & Paul

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In grateful recognition of Marilyn Gerhard, retiring president of Berkshire Concert Choir for 11 years. We are thankful for Marilyn's years of tireless (or, as she might say, "relentless"!) work and service to benefit the chorus - her dedication, passion, patience, good humor, sensitivity, support for all singers, and active engagement with the larger community of Berkshire musicians - will be deeply missed. With her beloved husband and fellow chorus member Mike, she quietly devoted thousands of hours of work to support the chorus, striving to always be "in tune" with its needs, goals and aspirations. Thanks to Marilyn and Mike, hundreds of Berkshire singers and players have experienced the joy of making music in the accepting and encouraging community that is the Berkshire Concert Choir.

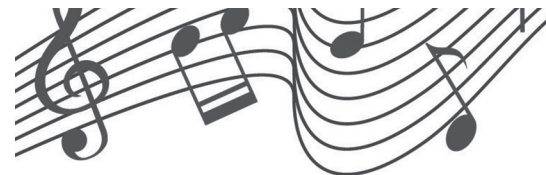


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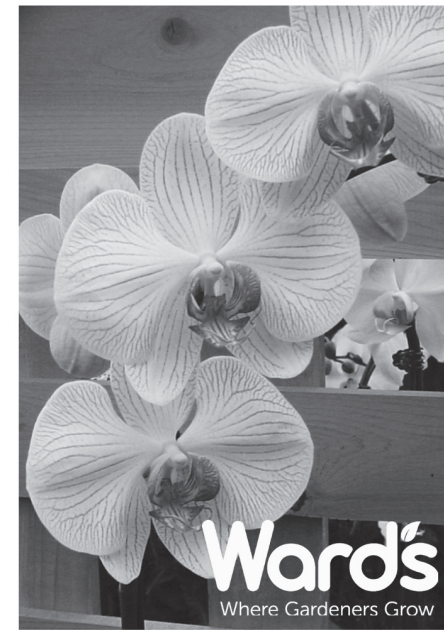


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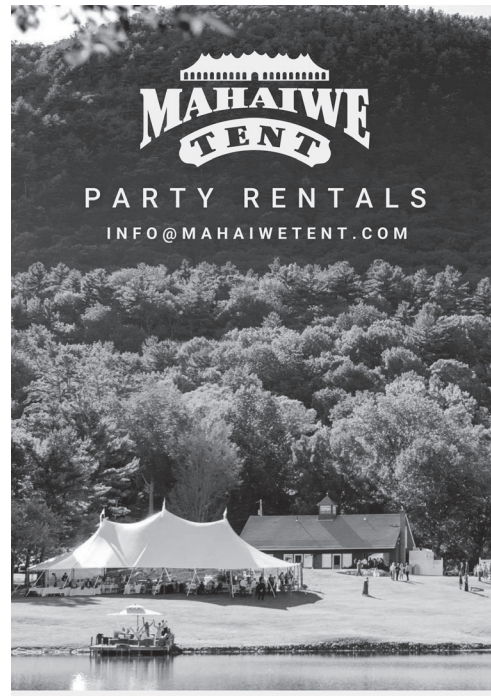
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