



Brooklyn Community Chorus

Winter Concert

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Brooklyn Community Chorus

Exultate

John Leavitt (1956-)
Conductor: Catherine Aks
Pianist: Steven Coburn

Dormi, Jesu

John Rutter (1945-)
Conductor: Catherine Aks
Pianist: Steven Coburn

Caedmon's Hymn

Blake Wilson (1994-)
Conductor: Steven Coburn
Pianist: Catherine Aks

Son de Camagüey

Cuban Folk Song, arr. Stephen Hatfield (1956-)
Conductor: Steven Coburn
Percussion: Sarah Hurley-Curran, Alexi Saldamando, and Samantha Vatalaro

BCC Chamber Choir

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen (1943-)
Conductor: Steven Coburn

Hodie Christus natus es

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Conductor: Catherine Aks

Brooklyn Community Chorus

Exultate Deo

Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725)
Conductor: Catherine Aks

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

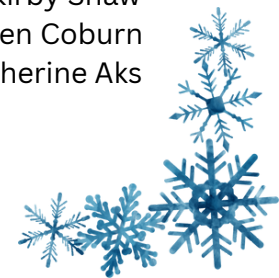
Southern American Folk Song, arr. Russell Robinson
Conductor: Catherine Aks

That Lonesome Road

Words & Music: James Taylor and Don Grolnick, arr. Kirby Shaw
Conductor: Steven Coburn

Bridge Over Troubled Water

Words & Music: Paul Simon, arr. Kirby Shaw
Conductor: Steven Coburn
Pianist: Catherine Aks



Members of the Brooklyn Community Chorus

Soprano

Skye Arnold
Sarah Benesch
Nicole Boudreau^
Jennifer Brilliant*
Delaney Broberg
Melissa Cabat
Irene Davidson
Danielle Dorter
Marisa Frey
Steph Gales^
Teneille Garton Kinnard**
Masha Gervits
Lisa Gibbs
Alyssa Greig^
Corinne Grinapol^
Helen Herbert
Emily Jackson
Sara Keller
Heather Koenig
Kate Lazar Vargas
Jessica Lee
Jennifer Lehman
Carol Lin
Susannah Matt^
Emily Merrick
Meryl Miller
Theadora Paulucci^
Sara Scott
Adina Shapiro^
Rebecca Shaughnessy^
Sarah Sladek
Jean Stevens
Nicole Stansifer
Maura Ward
Samantha Wasserman
Mariko Watt^

Alto

Catherine Aks^
Julie Baraz
Kristin Borden
Maria Carlson
Susan Clement
Marianne Clinton
Juliana Dutan
Ruby Edlin
Nancy Halfon
Liz Helbraun
Helen Hood
Lindsay Hubert
Sarah Hurley-Curran
Jennifer Johnson
Alison Koch
Carolyn Kohli
Sophie Lanier
Christin Licata
Louise Lippin
Kerri Marsteller**
Kelsey McKeon
Allie McKinney^
Jessica Miller
Ashley Moran
Emily Murdock Baker
Nora Rawn
Kathy Reiss
Nancy Sing-Bock
Emily Stowell
Vania Tseng
Jan Tuchman*
Erika Tullberg^
Stephanie Tzeng
Samantha Vatalaro
Varshaya Visvanathan
Shelley Zipper

Tenor

Tina Advocat
Hillel Azriel
Gregory Brown^
Steven Coburn^
Nathan Collins^
Zachary Covan^
Danny DiMarino
Johnathan Gibbs
Annie Hillinger
Judith Hoffmann
Sheldon Huggins
Kristoff Modeste
Alex Mulligan**
Robi Rahman
Debra Rothman
Alexi Saldamando^
Marc Schlesinger^
Sumi Soekawa

Bass

Norman Bock^
Ray Dodd
Ozzie Hamilton^
Stanley Kushel^
Christopher Lake^
Josh Lerman^
Win Lockwood^
Alan McGowan
Henry Miller
Adam Murray**
Joseph Rosta
John Siddall
Frankie Simms
Anthony Vassallo

***Section Leader**
^Chamber Chorus



Chorus Leadership

Co-Artistic Directors: Catherine Aks, Steven Coburn
President: Emily Murdock Baker
Vice President: Nicole Stansifer
Treasurer: Kate Lazar Vargas
Secretary/Music Librarian: Nicole Boudreau
Concert Manager: Adam Murray

The Brooklyn Community Chorus is a 501(C)3 organization.

<https://brooklyncommunitychorus.org>

Facebook: [facebook.com/BrooklynCommunityChorus](https://www.facebook.com/BrooklynCommunityChorus)

Instagram: @brooklyncommunitychorus

Program Notes and Texts

Exsultate

Composed by John Leavitt (1956-) in 2020, is a vibrant and joyous contemporary setting of this traditional Latin text.

*Halleluyah! Exsultate, cantate Deo, jubilate,
Halleluyah! Jubilate, cantate Deo, omnis terra,
Canticum novum. Halle, Hallelujah!
Exsultate...Halleluyah!*

*Halleluyah! Rejoice and sing to God,
Halleluyah! Shout with joy, all the earth,
Sing a new song. Halle, Hallelujah!
Rejoice...Halleluyah!*

Dormi, Jesu

Composed by John Rutter (1945-) in 1999, the Latin text of Dormi, Jesu was copied and then paraphrased into English by the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge on a trip to a German village. It is taken from a print from a collection of devotional Flemish engravings by Hieronyjus Wierix. Rutter incorporates both Latin and English into this gentle lullaby.

*Dormi, Jesu, mater ridet, quae tam dulcem
somnum videt
Dormi, Jesu, blandule.
Si non dormis, mater plorat, inter fila cantans
orat,
Blande, veni, somnule.*

*Dormi, Jesu, blandule.
Sleep, sweet baby! my cares beguiling:
Mother sits beside thee smiling;
Sleep, my darling, tenderly.
Dormi, Jesu, blandule.*

Caedmon's Hymn

Blake Wilson (1994-) composed this challenging setting of the Old English poem Caedmon's Hymn that explores a variety of dynamic sounds. The original 7th century poem is the earliest surviving English poem and is attributed to a cowherd from Northumbria. It is an alliterative poem that praises God's creation and offers a glimpse into Anglo-Saxon beliefs.

*Nu sculon herigean heofonrices Weard
Meotodes meahte and his modgepanc
weorc Wuldor-Feder swa he wundra gehwaes
ece Drihten or onstealde*

*He arest sceop ielda bearnum
heofon to hrofe halig Scyppend
da middangeard moncynnes Weard
ece Drihten after teode
firum foldan Frea almihtig.*

*Now we must honor the guardian of heaven,
the might of the architect, and his purpose,
the work of the father of glory
as he, the eternal lord,
established the beginning of wonders;
he first created for the children of men
heaven as a roof, the holy creator
then the guardian of mankind,
afterwards appointed the middle earth,
the lands for men, the Lord almighty.*

Son de Camagüey

This is a Cuban folk song from which the composer Stephen Hatfield (1956-) takes the refrain and then frames it with repeated rhythmic and melodic patterns inspired by the song and by Afro-Cuban music in general. The song's verses praise the music and scenery of Camagüey.

*Esta esta es, a-cosa linda,
Esta estao, a-costa brava*

*This is a beautiful thing
This is a wild coast*

*Cosa linda, ay linda
Cosa linda, o
Camagüey, ay linda
Son de Camagüey*

*Beautiful thing, oh beautiful
Beautiful thing, oh
Camagüey, beautiful thing
This is Camagüey*

*Esta es cosa linda
Estas tradiciones
Ay que lindas son*

*This is a beautiful thing
These traditions
Ah how beautiful they are*

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen (1943-) wrote his setting of the Christmas vigil responsory O Magnum Mysterium on a commission from the Los Angeles Master Chorale. It was first performed at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles in 1994 conducted by Paul Salamunovich. This popular setting is often performed and recorded and is one of Lauridsen's signature pieces.

*O magnum mysterium
Et admirabile sacramentum
Ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
Jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
Meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum
Alleluia*

*O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!*

Hodie Christus natus est Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) was largely self-taught as a composer. In the early 1920s he belonged to the Paris-based group of composers Les Six, a group who led the neo-classical movement that rejected the overstated emotion of Romanticism. *Hodie Christus natus est*, one of his four motets written for the Christmas season, exemplifies one of Poulenc's distinctive compositional styles: the use of short, buoyant phrases.

*Hodie Christus natus est,
Hodie salvator apparuit,
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,
letantur archangeli
Hodie exultant justi, dicentes,
gloria in excelsis deo,
Alleluia.*

*Today Christ is born;
today the savior has appeared;
today on earth the angels sing,
the archangels rejoice;
today the just exult, saying:
glory in the highest to God,
Alleluia.*

Exultate Deo Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725)

Although Baroque composer Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725) is more known for his many operas, he also made significant contributions to vocal and choral music. His motet Exultate Deo is written in an imitative style typical of the period and is in three distinct sections.

*Exultate Deo, adjutori nostro,
Alleluia,
Jubilate Deo Jacob.
Alleluia.*

*Rejoice to God, our helper,
Alleluia,
Shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
Alleluia.*

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

This song, arranged here by Russell Robinson, has been identified as both a Southern American Folk Song and a traditional Spiritual. Traced back to the early 1800s, the song could apply equally to the early American settlers as well as to the plight of the enslaved peoples in their journey to freedom.

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger, I'm trav'ling through this world of woe.
Yet, there's no sickness, toil, or danger in that bright land to which I go.
I'm going there to meet my father, I'm going there no more to roam.
I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me, I know my way is rough and steep.
Yet, golden fields lie just before me, where God's redeemed shall ever sleep.
I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger,...

That Lonesome Road

This is the final track from James Taylor's 1981 album Dad Loves His Work, co-written with Don Grolnick. Some have suggested that this sentimental folk-rock song refers to Taylor's collapsing marriage to Carly Simon at the time of the writing. It is here arranged for a cappella choir by Kirby Shaw.

*Walk down that lonesome road
All by yourself
Don't turn your head
Back over your shoulder
And only stop to rest yourself
When the silver moon
Is shining high
Above the trees*

*If I had stopped to listen once or twice
If I had closed my mouth and opened my eyes
If I had cooled my head and warmed my heart
I'd not be on this road tonight*

*Carry on, carry on
Never mind feeling sorry for yourself
It doesn't save you from your troubled mind*

*Walk down that lonesome road
All by yourself
Don't turn your head
Back over your shoulder
And only stop to rest yourself
When the silver moon
Is shining high
Above the trees*

Bridge Over Troubled Water

Released in 1970, Bridge Over Troubled Water is from the fifth and final album of the same name by Simon and Garfunkel. It is one of the most performed and awarded songs written by Paul Simon, made even more famous by Aretha Franklin's 1971 iconic performance. It is inspired by American Gospel music and is here arranged for choir by Kirby Shaw.

*When you're weary
Feeling small
When tears are in your eyes
I will dry them all
I'm on your side*

*Oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down*

*When you're down and out
When you're on the street
When evening falls so hard
I will comfort you
I'll take your part*

*Oh, when darkness comes
And pain is all around
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down*

*Sail on, silver girl
Sail on by
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way
See how they shine*

*Oh, if you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind*