



Brooklyn Community Chorus

Winter Concert

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Catherine Aks and Steven Coburn, Artistic Directors

Brooklyn Community Chorus

Dies Irae +

Aaron Gage (b.1991)

Pianist: Steven Coburn

Beati Quorum Via *

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Zanaida Robles (b.1979)

Guest Conductor: Hee Sung Kim

Guest Pianist: Mariko Watt

Gloria *

Words & Music: Foy Vance (b. 1974) & Samuel Frederick Smith (b.1992)

arr. Roger Emerson

Soloist: Adam Murray

Autumn Leaves +

Music: Joseph Kosma (1905-1969), English Lyrics: Johnny Mercer

arr. Paris Rutherford

Pianist: Steven Coburn

Soloist: Ashley Moran

BCC Chamber Chorus

O Magnum Mysterium *

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c.1548-1611)

Time +

Words & Music: Jennifer Lucy Cook (b.1988)

Brooklyn Community Chorus

Now is The Cool of the Day +

Words & Music: Jean Ritchie (1922-2015)

arr. Kevin Siegfried

Oggun Belele +

Traditional Yoruba Song from Trinidad

arr. Brian Tate

Percussion: Steven Coburn, Lindsay Hubert, and Hee Sung Kim

Carnavalito *

Bolivian Folk Song

arr. Will Lopes

Percussion: Catherine Aks

Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat *

Words & Music: Frank Loesser (1910-1969)

arr. Mark Brymer

Pianist: Catherine Aks

Soloists: Joseph Rosta and Norman Bock

Key: + = Catherine Aks conductor

*** = Steven Coburn conductor**





Members of the Brooklyn Community Chorus

Soprano

Sarah Benesch
 Anne Bennett
 Danae Binder
 Nicole Boudreau^
 Irene (Davidson) Bray
 Alix Briggs
 Jennifer Brilliant*^
 Melissa Cabat
 Dana Cass
 Danaya Chugunova
 Laura Cox
 Marisa Frey
 Steph Gales^
 Teneille Garton Kinnard*^
 Masha Gervits
 Lisa Gibbs
 Alyssa Greig^
 Corinne Grinapol^
 Emily Jackson
 Leah Kline
 Kate Lazar Vargas
 Jessica Lee
 Jennifer Lehman
 Samantha Lockhart
 Susannah Matt^
 Emily Merrick
 Meryl Miller
 Adina Shapiro^
 Sarah Sladek
 Molly Smith
 Nicole Stansifer
 Jean Stevens
 Maura Ward
 Mariko Watt^

Alto

Catherine Aks^
 Julie Baraz
 Christalee Bieber
 Kristin Borden^
 Judith Calder
 Emmeline Cardozo
 Susan Clement
 Marianne Clinton
 Anna Gagliardi^
 Nancy Halfon
 Helen Hazelwood
 Liz Helbraun
 Lindsay Hubert
 Sarah Hurley-Curran*
 Jennifer Johnson
 Hee Sung Kim
 Alison Koch
 Carolyn Kohli
 Sophie Lanier
 Louise Lippin
 Aemilia Madden
 Samantha Maida
 Kerri Marsteller*^
 Jessica Miller
 Ashley Moran^
 Emily Murdock Baker
 Caroline Newbery
 Amanda Nicholas
 Mela Ottaiano
 Karla Pippa
 Nora Rawn
 Kathy Reiss
 Kristen Rush
 Laura Seburn
 Maia Sheinfeld
 Nancy Sing Bock
 Emily Stowell
 Vania Tseng
 Jan Tuchman
 Erika Tullberg^
 Stephanie Tzeng
 Shelley Zipper

Tenor

Tina Advocat
 Steven Coburn^
 Nathan Collins^
 Mickey Cookson
 Zac Covan^
 Judith Hoffmann
 Peter Huette
 Josh Joseph
 Kristoff Modeste
 Alex Mulligan*^
 Matt Robbins
 Debra Rothman
 Alexi Saldamando^
 Marc Schlesinger^
 John Seneris
 Sumi Soekawa

Bass

Hillel Azriel
 Jack Bales^
 Norman Bock^
 Steven Collins^
 Octavio De Leon
 Ray Dodd
 Tim Duschenes^
 Stanley Kushel^
 Christopher Lake^
 Josh Lerman^
 Alan MCGowan
 Julian Meier-Viereck
 Henry Miller
 Nicholas Miller
 Adam Murray*^
 Bennett Otten
 Joseph Rosta
 John Siddall
 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

Instagram: [@brooklyncommunitychorus](https://instagram.com/brooklyncommunitychorus)



Brooklyn Community Chorus
2026 Winter Concert - Program Notes and Texts

Dies Irae

The Dies Irae text (literally, Day of Wrath) has been set to music by composers for hundreds of years. This medieval Latin poem describes the day when all people will come before God to receive His reckoning. Aaron Gage's setting portrays the violence and terror of that coming Day of Judgement.

*Dies irae, dies illa solvet saeculum in favilla,
teste David cum Sybilla,
Quantus tremor est futurus, quando judex est venturus, cuncta stricte discussurus.
Dies irae...*

*Day of wrath, day of anger will dissolve the world in ashes,
as foretold by David and the Sybil.
There will be great trembling when all humanity faces Divine Judgement.
Day of wrath...*

Beati Quorum Via

This is the third of *Three Latin Motets*, Op. 38, for mixed unaccompanied choir by Charles Villiers Stanford. The text is a paraphrase from Psalm 119 and is set for six-part chorus in late-romantic harmony but invokes earlier Anglican church style. It was published first by Boosey & Co in 1905.

*Beati quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.*

*Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the Lord.*

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Veni, Sancte Spiritus is a heartfelt prayer invoking guidance and peace during times of hardship. Zanaida Robles structures this piece in the uneven 5/4 meter in tandem with the familiar harmonic progression of western pop music. This contemporary setting elicits a spirit of comfort and renewal in times of disquiet and uncertainty.

*Veni, Sancte Spiritus, et emitte caelitus lucis tuae radium.
Veni, pater pauperum, veni, dator munerum, veni, lumen cordium.
Consolatur optime, dulcis hospes animae, dulce refrigerium.
In labore requies, in aestu temperies, in fletu solatium.
O lux beatissima, reple cordis intima tuorum fidelium.
Sine tuo numine, nihil est in homine, nihil est innocium.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, and send from heaven Thy rays of light.
Come, father of the poor, come, giver of gifts, come, light of hearts.
Greatest comforter, sweet guest of the soul, sweet consolation.
In labor, rest, in heat, temperateness, in tears, solace.
O most blessed light, fill the inmost heart of thy faithful.
Without your presence, nothing is in man, nothing that is harmless.*

Gloria

Gloria is from the fourth studio album by English singer-songwriter Sam Smith (Samuel Frederick Smith) with words by Foy Vance, released on January 27, 2023, through Capitol Records. This was a “surprise” track from the album and is a classical-style choral work originally recorded in a Cambridge church. In an interview on the morning news program “BBC Breakfast” in November 2022, Sam explained the meaning of the song, which is also the album’s title. “‘*Gloria*’ isn’t the name of a person, but the fighting spirit within me. I am letting it loose. The album is about spiritual, emotional and sexual liberation.” The arrangement we are doing today is by Roger Emerson.

*Demons on my shoulder, monsters in my head,
Shadow in the water will you be my friend?
The world revolves around me as I lay in my bed,
Dreaming of more, more*

*Be yourself so loud tonight (So loud)
They'll hear you from the stars (And they will hear your voice)
Sparkling like dynamite (Sparkle)
If that is who you are (Is who you are)
A hymn for Gloria (For Gloria)
For Gloria, Gloria, etc.
It's all but a hymn for Gloria*

Autumn Leaves

Autumn Leaves was originally a French song written in 1945 by Joseph Kosma with lyrics by Jacques Prevert called *Les Feuilles Mortes (The Dead Leaves)*. It was first performed in a ballet and later used in the 1946 film *Les Portes de la Nuit*. Johnny Mercer wrote the English lyrics in 1947, creating a version that became a jazz standard. This choral arrangement is by Paris Rutherford.

*The falling leaves drift by my window,
the autumn leaves of red and gold.
I see your lips, the summer kisses,
the sun-burned hands I used to hold.*

*Since you went away the days grow long,
and soon I'll hear old winter's song.
But I miss you most of all, my darling,*

when autumn leaves start to fall.

Since you went away the days grow long...

O Magnum Mysterium

This is a responsorial chant from the Matins of Christmas that reflects on the wonder of the Nativity. It was composed by Tomás Luis de Victoria in 1572, the most famous composer of the Spanish Renaissance.

*O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
iacentem in praeseptio!
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 Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear
Christ the Lord. Alleluia*

Time

This whimsical piece by Jennifer Lucy Cook describes how we try to keep time, lose time, spend time, save time...as all the while time eludes us! And as “time” moves forward, it appears to become more and more fragmented as it relentlessly ticks by.

*Time, you can spend it when you spend it then you're running out of
Time, you can save it but to save it is to take a little
Time, in a minute when you're in it can you feel the passing
Time, is and illusion there's confusion when they tell you now it's
Time, to get older time to work and time to waste and there's no
Time, left to hold her time to tell him how you feel while there's still
Time, three two one, eleven thirty two AM then dinner
Time, now to kill I said I will, and still it flies and flies, oh
Time.*

Now is The Cool of the Day

Written by folk musician Jean Ritchie in 1971 and arranged for a cappella chorus by Kevin Siegfried, *Now is The Cool of the Day* was inspired by a phrase from Genesis 3:8. The song delivers a message of environmental stewardship, calling on people to care for the earth, maintain freedom, and work for justice.

*My Lord, He said unto me: "Do you like my garden so fair?
You may live in this garden if you keep the grasses green,*

And I'll return in the cool of the day"

*Then my Lord, He said unto me: "Do you like my garden so pure?
You may live in this garden if you keep the waters clean,
And I'll return in the cool of the day"*

*Now is the cool of the day,
Now is the cool of the day
O this earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord
And He walks in His garden in the cool of the day.*

*Then my Lord, He said unto me: "Do you like my garden so green?
You may live in this garden if you keep the people free,
And I'll return in the cool of the day"*

*Now is the cool of the day,
Now is the cool of the day
O this earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord
And He walks in His garden in the cool of the day.*

*Now is the cool of the day,
You may live in this garden if you keep the people free.
And we will walk in His garden in the cool of the day.*

Oggun Bebele

Oggun Bebele is a Shango song from Trinidad that reflects the Yoruba tradition of West Africa. The Yoruba word *Oggun* means god and *Bebele* is his name. In this arrangement by Brian Tate other deities (*Apamande*, *Obatala*, and *Asharoko*) are also summoned to intercede on our behalf.

*Oggun Bebele, oye,
Apamande, Obatala, oye
Apamande, Asharoko, oye
Oye, oye, oye...
Oggun Bebele!*

Carnavalito

Carnavalito is a Bolivian folk song based on the *Carnaval Quebradeño* from the Quebrada region on the border of Argentina and Bolivia. This arrangement is by Will Lopes and includes body and vocal percussion effects.

*Llegando está el carnaval
Quebradeño mi cholita
Fiesta de la quebrada
Humahuaqueña para bombo*

*Erke, charango y bombo
Carnavalito para bailar*

*Arriving is the carnival
Quebradeño my sweetheart
Party of the quebrada
Humahuaqueña for you to dance
Erke, charango and bombo
Little carnival for you to dance*

Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat (from *Guys and Dolls*)

Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat is by Frank Loesser. The song was introduced in the Broadway musical *Guys and Dolls*, which opened at the 46th Street Theatre on November 24, 1950. In the context of the show, gambler Nicely-Nicely Johnson recounts a dream about being saved from Hell in order to bring together the members of the prayer meeting. It was performed on stage by Stubby Kaye who later reprised his role as Nicely-Nicely Johnson in the 1953 London production, as well as the 1955 film version of the play. This arrangement is by Mark Brymer.

*I dreamed last night I got on the boat to Heaven
And by some chance I had brought my dice along.
And there I stood and I hollered, "Someone fade me,"
But the passengers, they knew right from wrong.*

*For the people all said, "Sit down, sit down, you're rockin' the boat"
The people all said, "Sit down, sit down, you're rockin' the boat.
And the devil will drag you under with a soul so heavy you'd never float:
Sit down, sit down, sit down, sit down, sit down, you're rockin' the boat"*

*And as I laughed at those passengers to Heaven
A great big wave came and washed me overboard.
And as I sank, and I hollered "Someone save me!"
That's the moment I woke up, thank the Lord.*

*For the people all said, "Sit down, sit down, you're rockin' the boat"
The people all said, "Sit down, sit down, you're rockin' the boat.
And the devil will drag you under with a soul so heavy you'd never float:
Sit down, sit down, sit down, sit down, sit down, you're rockin' the boat", etc.*