

Stories of Freedom & Justice

Sunday, February 28, 2021 | 4:00 pm
Streamed Live from Grace Episcopal Church



CHOIR SCHOOL OF DELAWARE
presents

Stories of Freedom & Justice

Choir School of Delaware

Arreon A. Harley-Emerson - Director of Music & Operations

Brittney L. Stanton - Director of Education & Assistant Conductor

Gabriel Benton - Collaborative Keyboardist

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. ROSAMUND JOHNSON (1873-1954)
arr. Roland Carter (b. 1942)

WHEN DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

ROLLO DILWORTH
(b. 1970)

- I. Let me Fly
- II. Soul of a Butterfly
- III. When Dreams Take Flight

Harriet and the Promised Land

ARREON A. HARLEY-EMERSON
(b. 1988)

John 3:16

B. E. BOYKIN
(b. 1989)

The Lee Shore

SAMUEL COLERIDGE TAYLOR
(1875-1912)

Invitation to Love

MARQUES L. A. GARRETT
(b. 1984)

I'm Gonna Sing 'til the Spirit Moves in My Heart

MOSES HOGAN
(1957-2003)

Say Nothing

NNAMDI CHUKWUOCHA (b. 1970)
& AL MILLS (b. 1970)

I've Been in the Storm So Long

ARREON A. HARLEY-EMERSON
(b. 1988)

Total Praise

RICHARD SMALLWOOD (b. 1948)
arr. Patrick Barrett & Doreen Rao (b. 1950)



Choir School of Delaware



SPECIAL EVENT

Fables, Folklore, & Fairytales

Sunday, April 25, 2021 | 4:00 pm
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library



TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. ROSAMUND JOHNSON

(1873-1954)

arr. Roland Carter

(b. 1942)

Text: James Weldon Johnson

(1871-1938)

Lift every voice and sing
 Till earth and heaven ring
 Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
 Let our rejoicing rise
 High as the listening skies
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
 Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
 Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
 Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod
 Bitter the chastening rod
 Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
 Yet with a steady beat
 Have not our weary feet
 Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
 We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
 We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
 Out from the gloomy past
 Till now we stand at last
 Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years
 God of our silent tears
 Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
 Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand
 May we forever stand
 True to our God
 True to our native land!
 Amen!

WHEN DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

ROLLO DILWORTH

(b. 1970)

1. Let me Fly

Text: Traditional Spiritual

Way down yonder in the middle of the field
 Angel working on a chariot wheel
 Not so particular about working at the wheel
 But I just want to see how the chariot feel.

Oh Let me fly to Mount Zion
 Lord, Lord.
 Let me fly

I got a mother in the Promised Land
 Ain't gonna stop till I shake her hand
 Not so particular about shaking her hand
 But I just want to get up in the Promised Land.

Song continues on next page

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

I. Let me Fly (continued)

Oh let me fly to Mount Zion
Lord, Lord.
Let me fly

Oh Meet that hypocrite on the street
First thing he do is show his teeth
Next thing he do is to tell a lie
And the best thing to do is to pass him by.

Oh let me fly to Mount Zion
Lord, Lord.
Let me fly

II. Soul of a Butterfly

Text: Thomas Wentworth Higginson
(1823-1911)

Over the field where the brown quails whistle,
Over the ferns where the rabbits lie,
Floats the tremulous down of a thistle
Is it the soul of a butterfly?

See! how they scatter and then assemble;
Filling the air while the blossoms fade,
Delicate atoms, that whirl and tremble
In the slanting sunlight that skirts the glade.

There goes the summer's inconstant lover,
Drifting and wandering, faint and far;
Only bewailed by the upland plover,
Watched by only the twilight star.

Come next August, when thistles blossom,
See how each is alive with wings!
Butterflies seek their souls in its bosom,
Changed thenceforth to immortal things.

III. When Dreams Take Flight

Text: Paul Laurence Dunbar
(1872-1906)

What dreams we have and how they fly
Like rosy clouds across the sky;
Of wealth, of fame, of sure success,
Of love that comes to cheer and bless;
When our dreams take flight
When our dreams take flight

And how they wither, how they fade,
The waning wealth, the jilting jade
The fame that for a moment gleams,
Then flies forever, dreams

What dreams we have and how they fly
Like rosy clouds across the sky;
Of wealth, fame, of sure success,
Of love that comes to cheer and bless;
When our dreams take flight
When our dreams take flight

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

III. When Dreams Take Flight (continued)

O burning doubt and long regret
O tears with which our eyes are wet,
Heart-throbs, heart-aches, the glut of pain,
The somber cloud, the bitter rain,

What dreams we have and how they fly
Like rosy clouds across the sky
Of Wealth, fame, of sure success
Of love to cheer and bless
When our dreams take flight
When our dreams take flight
When our dreams take flight

Harriet and the Promised Land

ARREON A. HARLEY EMERSON
(b. 1988)
Text and Art by Jacob Lawrence
(1917-2000)

Harriet, Harriet, born a slave
Work for your master from your cradle to your grave
Harriet clean, Harriet sweep,
Harriet rock the child to sleep

Harriet hear tell about the promised land
How Moses led the slaves over Egypt's sand,
How Pharaoh's heart was as cold as stone
How the Lord told Moses he was not alone.

Harriet pray to the Lord at night
For strength to free your people when the time is right
Harriet grow bigger, Harriet grow stronger
Harriet work harder, Harriet work longer

Then Harriet got the sign that the time was right
She cried "Brothers, Sisters, I'll lead you tonight!"
The North Star shone to light Harriet's way
And they marched by night and they marched by day.

Some were afraid, but none turned back
For close at their heels howled the bloodhound pack
A snake said "hiss" and an owl said "who!"
Harriet said "We are coming through"

A runaway slave with a price on her head
"I'll be free," said Harriet, "or I'll be dead"
She said "Believe in me"
She said, "Brothers, Sisters,
We're gonna be free!"

They slept in a barn with the barnyard fowl
And Harriet kept watch like a barnyard owl
Good people gave them food to eat
And a chance to rest their weary feet

They gave Harriet chickens to disguise
The runaway slaves from spying eyes

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Harriet and the Promised Land (continued) Then the north wind howled like a bloodhound pack
But none were afraid and none turned back

Harriet led them through the snow toward the promised land
As Moses led the slaves cross the burning sand
They marched through the cold, they marched through the heat
And the only sound was their marching feet

Now they marched by day, now they marched by night
Still the promised land was not in sight
Now Harriet grew weary and sick at heart
Now the Lord sent Harriet a chariot

The chariot was sent by the Lord's own hand
And Harriet rode the chariot to the promised land
Harriet, Harriet born to be free
Led her people to liberty

Led her people to liberty
Led her people to liberty

John 3:16

B. E. BOYKIN
(b. 1989)

Text: Biblical

For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,

That whosoever believeth in Him
shall not perish but have eternal life.

The Lee Shore

SAMUEL COLERIDGE TAYLOR
(1875-1912)

Text: Thomas Hood
(1799-1845)

Sleet! and hail! and thunder!
And ye winds that rave,
Till the sands there under
Tinge the sullen wave

Winds, that like a demon
Howl with horrid note
Round the toiling seaman,
In his tossing boat

From his humble dwelling
On the shingly shore,
Where the billows swelling
Keep such hollow roar

From that weeping woman,
Seeking with her cries
Succor superhuman
From the frowning skies

From the urchin pining
For his father's knee
From the lattice shining,
Drive him out to sea!

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

The Lee Shore (continued) Let broad leagues dissever
Him from yonder foam;
O, God! to think man ever
Comes too near his home!

Invitation to Love Come, o come, Love
MARQUES L. A. GARRETT
(b. 1984)
Text: Paul Laurence Dunbar
(1872-1906)

Come when the nights are bright with stars
Or come when the moon is mellow;
Come when the sun his golden bars
Drops on the hay-field yellow.
Come in the twilight soft and gray,
Come in the night or come in the day,
Come, O love, whene'er you may,
And you are welcome, welcome.

You are sweet, O Love, dear Love,
You are soft as the nesting dove.
Come to my heart and bring it to rest
As the bird flies home to its welcome nest.

Come when my heart is full of grief
Or when my heart is merry;
Come with the falling of the leaf
Or with the redd'ning cherry.
Come when the year's first blossom blows,
Come when the summer gleams and glows,
Come with the winter's drifting snows,
And you are welcome, welcome.

Come, O Love

I'm Gonna Sing 'til the Spirit Moves in My Heart I'm gonna sing 'till the Spirit moves in my heart
arr. MOSES HOGAN I'm gonna sing 'till Jesus comes
(1957-2003)

Text: Traditional Spiritual It was grace that brought me
It was grace that taught me
It was grace that kept me
And it's grace that will lead me home

I'm gonna pray 'till the Spirit moves in my heart
I'm gonna pray 'till Jesus comes
Can't you feel the spirit moving?

I'm gonna shout 'till the Spirit moves in my heart
I'm gonna shout 'till Jesus comes
I'm gonna sing till my Jesus comes

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

I've Been in the Storm So Long

ARREON A. HARLEY-EMERSON
(b. 1988)

Text: Traditional Spiritual & Arreon A. Harley-Emerson

Storm

Give me time to pray, time to pray, Lord.
Give me little time to pray.

Solo

I've been in the storm so long, children.
Oh, give me little time to pray.

Storm

Yes, Lord!

Solo

I'm so tired, so tired, Lord,
My feet are weary and my soul is too.
I need your strength, Lord, to carry through,
Won't let my soul become another victim too!

Total Praise

RICHARD SMALLWOOD
(b. 1948)

arr. Patrick Barrett & Doreen Rao
(b. 1950)

Text: Richard Smallwood

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from You
Your peace You give me in time of the storm

You are the source of my strength
You are the strength of my life
I lift my hands in total praise to You

Amen.

 Choir School of Delaware



Annual Gala: We Tell The Story

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 | 6:00 pm

Available Virtually or In-Person

On the Grounds of Christ Church Christiana Hundred

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS



The **Choir School of Delaware** is a comprehensive, multifaceted, year-round program that has a strong legacy of serving and engaging Wilmington's youth and families through music and mentoring. The Choir School of Delaware has a long tradition of excellence, training young people to lift their voices and enrich their lives for more than 135 years.

The Choir School provides professional musical training, leadership development, language skills, academic support, and college-bound and career mentoring in an intergenerational environment for youth in Wilmington, Delaware and surrounding regions.

With a history of promoting new music, the Choir School of Delaware recently premiered commissions from Tim Brent and Rollo Dilworth, and performed in master class with composer Philip W. J. Stopford. The Choir School also collaborates with internationally renowned ensembles such as The Swingles and VOCES8. Last season, the Choir School partnered with Winterthur Museum, Garden, & Library alongside Philip W J Stopford for a lecture and performance of music written by or for the British Monarchy in *A Royal Affair*. In March of 2020, The Choir School intergenerational choir was a featured performer at the American Choral Director's Association Eastern Division Conference.

For more information about the Choir School of Delaware's transformative program and 2020-2021 season, please visit www.choirschoolofdelaware.org



A native of Baltimore, Maryland, **Arreon A. Harley-Emerson** was appointed Director of Music and Operations of the Choir School of Delaware in June 2013. He is responsible for the musical components of the renowned Choir School program as well as the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Mr. Harley-Emerson began singing with Doreen Falby and the Peabody Conservatory Children's Chorus at the age of seven. He went on to sing with the Columbia Pro Cantare, under the directorship of Mrs. Frances Dawson. He later returned to the Peabody Children's Chorus, where he served as a conducting intern for three years.

Mr. Harley-Emerson graduated from Goucher College with bachelor's degrees in Music Theory & Composition and Vocal Performance (opera). There he studied piano with Dr. Lisa Weiss, voice with Mrs. Betty Ridgeway, and conducting with Dr. Elisa Koehler. He received master's of music degrees in Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance from the University of Delaware School of Music, studying Choral Conducting with Dr. Paul Head and Voice with Dr. Noel Archambeault. Mr. Harley-Emerson is a doctoral candidate and university fellow at the Boyer School of Music and Dance at Temple University in Philadelphia. He has had the opportunity to conduct in venues such as St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, The Kimmel Center for the Arts in Philadelphia, and the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore.

Mr. Harley-Emerson also contributed a chapter to *The Oxford Handbook for Choral Pedagogy* entitled "The Gang Mentality of Choirs: How Choirs Have the Capacity to Change Lives." He also has a [TEDx Talk](#) that bears the same title.

Committed to the principles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), Mr. Harley-Emerson has established a thriving consultancy, Equity Sings, to assist arts and culture nonprofit organizations in remaining relevant in the 21st century. Mr. Harley-Emerson currently serves as the National Chair of the American Choral Directors Association's Diversity Initiatives Committee. An active member of the Delaware community, Mr. Harley-Emerson is on the Delaware Arts Alliance's Board of Directors, where he serves as President of the Board.



Brittney L. Stanton studied music education with a concentration in choral arts at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, magna cum laude. Additionally, Ms. Stanton holds a Master of Science degree in Teaching, also from McDaniel College. Her experience as an educator in a variety of settings has strengthened her ability to tailor her teaching to individual student needs. As a highly-trained soprano, and a dedicated, experienced teacher, her goal is to support students of all ages and abilities in developing strong music literacy skills and a life-long love of the arts.

In 2019, Ms. Stanton began her role at the Choir School of Delaware, where she serves as Director of Education and Assistant Conductor.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS



Gabriel Benton enjoys a multifaceted career in music as an early music specialist, accompanist, church musician, and educator. Deeply passionate about music of the baroque and earlier eras, he studied harpsichord performance at Oberlin Conservatory and The Juilliard School. As a harpsichordist, he frequently performs with his group Corda Nova Baroque as well as with ensembles across the country, including American Baroque Orchestra (New England) and American Bach Soloists (San Francisco.) With the latter, he has recorded two CD's.

Past collaborations include Venice Opera Project, Juilliard415, Yale Baroque Opera Project, York Symphony Orchestra, and New World Symphony. Gabriel also has over a decade of experience as a choral accompanist and church musician. He holds a degree in organ performance from Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music, and is currently organist at Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington in addition to his role as Collaborative Keyboardist at the Choir School of Delaware.

Choir School of Delaware

CHORISTERS

Varsity (Advanced)

Sean Andrews
Vania Balogun-Victor
Briarra Barnes
Lex Bowers
Nahshon Colon

Aaliyah Griffin-Bowden
Indira Jaikaran
Makeda Livingston
Destiny Maguta
RaaYan Rollins-Walker

Junior Varsity (Intermediate)

Taiylor Nole
Jada Nganga
Arianna Walker

FUNdamentals (Beginner)

Rosalee Ayres
Khali Bailey
Khyanne Bailey
Josiah Campbell

Connie Miller
Katelyn Tedesco -Musacchio
Wilson Wardwell

SINGING MENTORS

Soprano

Gillian Booth
Mary Ott
Peggy Sacher
Brittney L. Stanton

Alto

Alice Berry
Joan Bobnick
Courtney Bopp
Linda Emerick

Tenor

Jane Bordzol
Arreon A. Harley-Emerson
Tom Hasani
Alex de Aguiar Reuter

Bass

Ross Forney
Erik Potteiger
Benjamin Rowe

Choir School of Delaware

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 Heidi Burch
 Linda Emerick
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 Tabé Masé
 Nagella Nukuna
 David L. Reichert
 Peggy Sacher
 Michael Willy

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 and
 Brandywine Collaborative Ministries

Music Library

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 Jane Bordzol
 Susan Flint

Teen Dialogue

Bobby Hoof
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GRADES 5-12

Choir School of Delaware

SISTER ACT

June 21 - July 31

\$400 Music Ed. Fee, Purchase of Care

- Math & Reading Enrichment
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- Vocal Coaching
- SAT Prep
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- And much much more!

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We make every effort to ensure that all donor information is complete and accurate. Please inform Kyra Marcin in the Development Office of any corrections at (302) 543-8657, Ext. 4, or kmarcin@choirschoolofdelaware.org

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We Tell The Story

2020-2021 Subscription Series

Choir School of Delaware



Brush Up Your Shakespeare!

Saturday, October 24, 2020 | 6:30 pm lecture,
7:30 pm concert | *Streamed Live*



Our opening night concert celebrates the genius of William Shakespeare, featuring players from the Delaware Shakespeare ensemble. Join us for a pre-concert lecture exploring the rhythmic nature of Shakespearean text.

Presented in partnership with Wilmington Public Library, Delaware Shakespeare, and Delaware Humanities.



Sounds of the Season

Sunday, December 13, 2020 | 4:00 pm
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

We are excited to be Artists-in-Residence with our friends at Winterthur! This concert is sure to warm your heart this holiday season. We will sing the tale of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens and other traditional favorites.

Admission for subscribers includes Winterthur Yuletide House Tour. Make us a part of your family's holiday tradition!

Stories of Freedom & Justice

Sunday, February 28, 2021 | 4:00 pm
Streamed Live from Grace Episcopal Church



One of Wilmington's most anticipated annual Black History Month events, our program features poetry from authors of color including Paul Laurence Dunbar, Jacob Lawrence, and Delaware's twin poet laureates.



Annual Gala: We Tell The Story

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 | 6:00 pm
Grounds of Christ Church Christiana Hundred

Our annual cabaret fundraiser features "We Tell the Story," a musical theatre revue by Tony Award-winning songwriting duo Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens. Our most anticipated performance of the year, it's a fun-filled event you won't want to miss! Proceeds benefit our Annual Fund.

SPECIAL EVENT

Fables, Folklore, & Fairytales*

Sunday, April 25, 2021 | 4:00 pm
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library



Sure to appeal to every child and child at heart, join us for our second concert as Winterthur's Artists-in-Residence. You will hear your favorite fables, fairy tales and nursery rhymes, but with a musical twist.

** Please note that this concert is not part of the subscription package.*



This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on DelawareScene.com.



This program is partially supported by a grant from Delaware Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.