



*The North Hills Chorale would like to extend
a special thanks to Agnes Raible, CDP and the
Sisters of Divine Providence for their
kindness and support.*



The North Hills Chorale, Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit organization that serves to provide opportunities for community outreach, education, and service. Your charitable donations are greatly appreciated.

The North Hills Chorale

Presents



*“Songs of Hope
and Inspiration”*

Director - Thomas D. Koharchik

Associate Director - Megan Connelly Wodzinski

Saturday, May 2, 2015 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 3, 2015 3:00 PM

Kearns Spirituality Center

9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, Pennsylvania

Program

America the Beautiful	<i>arr. Bob Burroughs</i>
Voice of My Song	<i>David L. Brunner</i>
Cantate Domino	<i>Hans Leo Hassler</i>
Be Still	<i>Thomas Koharchik</i>
In Virtute Tua	<i>Greg Gilpin</i>
Omnia Sol (Let Your Heart Be Staid)	<i>Z. Randall Stroope</i>
Cantique de Jean Racine	<i>Gabriel Faure</i>
I Believe	<i>arr. Stan Beard & Barry Tucker</i>

INTERMISSION

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	<i>arr. Michael Braz</i>
The Music of Living	<i>Dan Forrest</i>
Prayer of the Children	<i>arr. Andrea S. Klouse</i>
Hold Fast to Dreams	<i>Andre J. Thomas</i>
Give Us Hope	<i>Jim Papoulis</i>
A Place in the Valley	<i>Don Besig</i>



Interested in joining our choir?

We are always looking for new members to join our group. We welcome people with varying levels of experience. Please come meet us and give us a try! Rehearsals for next year will begin early in September.

We rehearse every Monday from 7:30 until 9:30 P.M. at Kearns Spirituality Center. It is never too late to give us a call or send us an e-mail for membership inquiries. We'll always try our best to answer promptly!

For more information, please visit our website at www.nhchorale.com



Program Notes

North Hills Chorale Mission Statement

"The North Hills Chorale, Inc. is an adult choral ensemble dedicated to increasing the music literacy and education of its members, and increasing music awareness and appreciation in the local community. Organized on a volunteer, non-audition basis and open to all who love music, the Chorale seeks to perform technically challenging and broadening musical selections under professional direction at both concert performances and for various charitable causes."



Join us for our Holiday concert!

December 12, 2015 - 7:00 PM

December 13, 2015 - 3:00 PM

"America the Beautiful"

When Katherine Lee Bates penned the words to what is now one of America's preeminent hymns, she was moved by nature's great beauty and awe as she looked out from the top of Pike's Peak after a rigorous and exhausting ascent. The view led her to say, "I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with the sea-like expanse." Since President Hoover signed a law naming the "Star-Spangled Banner" America's National Anthem, many people have petitioned to have "America the Beautiful" take the title instead. It remains a work of inspiration to many, both as a result of the poignant text, and the memorable melodic phrasing.

"Voice of My Song"

David L. Brunner is currently the Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Central Florida. This wonderful modern work sets the text of Scott Lounsbury to a rolling triplet rhythm under a steady eighth note pattern that keeps the music moving ahead. The poetry speaks of the opportunity music presents us to find one's voice and identity, but in a way that brings people together, away from judgment, for freedom, love, and respect.

"Cantate Domino"

Hassler was a late Renaissance composer who wrote in a way that helped to push composers into the Baroque style. His use of triple meter with strong harmonic movement was typical of the German style though Italian influences can also be heard in the final cadences. With this piece, we look for hope in the Lord as we say, "O sing unto the Lord a new song, sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Praise Him and bless His name now and forever."

"Be Still"

"Be still, and know that I am God." The composer had just completed a two-week leave to the United States and was returning to his military

company in Iraq. While waiting at Camp Arifjan, he opened the Bible, pointed randomly at the page before him, and dropped his finger on Psalm 46:10. Immediately, the music flowed from his soul and he transcribed what came to him, finding great comfort in the thought of 'being still' and trusting in God for his safekeeping during the rest of his deployment.

"In Virtute Tua"

This is another work that looks to the Lord for strength and comfort. The words translate as follows: "In Thy strength, O Lord, the just man shall rejoice: and in Thy salvation he shall rejoice exceedingly. Thou has given him his heart's desire."

"Omnia Sol (Let Your Heart Be Staid)"

"Omnia Sol" goes beyond the obvious subject of a farewell or "song of parting," although it certainly has that as an integral aspect. From a deeper perspective, it is a reflection on the constant passage of events and people in life's continuum, and the human need to anchor words of love and commitment in the hearts of those who have been pillars along life's way. In that manner, the ever-changing chaos of life seems to find a piece of solid ground in the simple assurance that one is hardly alone; rather, life is a mosaic made up of visual images, conversations, laughter, love, sorrow, and experiences too numerous to count - all as a result of one's interaction with other human beings from the moment of birth. One's life has an inseparable kinship with others. The metaphor for that kinship in this piece is "Omnia sol" (or "everywhere light" [sun]), and that kinship or light is perpetuated by our daily investing and leaving a bit of ourselves in every soul we encounter. Though we mature and "move on," part of us is "staid" in the hearts and minds of those we chance to meet.

"Cantique de Jean Racine"

Gabriel Faure was barely twenty years old when he composed this short hymn setting in 1865. The original text was in Latin, taken from the Roman Breviary, but loosely translated with poetic license by Jean Racine, the 17th century French dramatist, into French. The English text of this

North Hills Chorale Membership

Millie Arnett	Sarah Hoffmann	Kathy McKenna
Wendy Aurednik	John Ignatius	Bert Murhammer
Donna Babir	Ralph Jahn	Rosemary Prager
George Bigelow	Phyllis Jones	Peggy Sapp
Jim Bradley	Ruth Ann Keen	Josephine Saya
John Coles	Susan Knight	Cheryl Smith
Nancy Conley	Thomas Koharchik	Keith Stewart
Stacy Costa	Mary Lynn Korenich	Larry Szramowski
Ralph DeStefano	Mary Jayne Kress	Betsy Thayer
Vicky Dopp	Sr. Linda Lalic	David Thayer
Linda Fry	Sharon Lang	Sara Thimons
Mary Gallagher	Richard J. Maier	Cherryl Trezza
William Ghrist	Hope McGinnis	Beth Waclawski
Suzanne Gibbon	Kathleen McGrath	Marcia Wielgus
Erica Hacker	Pat McGreal	Judy Young

North Hills Chorale Board of Directors

Marcia Wielgus, President
 Betsy Thayer, Vice President
 John Coles, Treasurer
 Phyllis Jones, Secretary
 Mary Jayne Kress, Concert Coordinator
 Kathy McKenna, Librarian
 David Thayer, Choir Manager

New York City

June, 2015

The North Hills Chorale is excited to make their first performance trip this coming June. Members of the chorale will travel to New York City for performance, a choral clinic with Judith Clurman, sight seeing, and a Broadway show!



particular arrangement was set by Harold Heiberg in 1952. The words speak to God for his heavenly gaze and protection, asking for his grace to disperse the powers of hell, and in return, to accept the gifts we offer.

"I Believe"

A quodlibet (Latin for "what pleases the taste") is a piece of music combining several different melodies, usually popular tunes, in counterpoint. This setting of "I Believe" combines, in a rather unadulterated fashion, the popular hymn of hope with Gounod's "Ave Maria," which in itself is superimposed over Bach's Prelude No. 1 in C Major, BWV 846. The two pieces are cleverly interwoven, praying the Hail Mary while declaring the hope that we believe will go on, even in the midst of great sadness. The work comes to a stirring conclusion as we understand why we believe, while praying, in Latin, "nunc et in hora mortis (now, and at the hour of our death)."

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

The hymn was written by Robert Robinson in 1758 and is most commonly set to the tune "Nettleton," composed by John Wyeth in 1813. A less common setting utilizes the "Warrenton" tune, published originally in *Southern Harmony* in 1835 using shape-notes. In 2004, while participating in a residency consortium of three churches, composer Michael Braz combined both settings of the classic Robinson text. His arrangement includes three distinct sections; the opening song of peace and tranquility, a second section of more energetic worship (reminiscent of the shape-note singing style), and a final outpouring of praise.

"The Music of Living"

Young composer Dan Forrest has already hit the music world with force and is recognized as one of the premiere composers of our day. This relatively new work is an exuberant setting of a text teeming with the joy and optimism of life. In it, we ask the "giver of life" to help us sing, feel, and move to his song, for he is "leading the dance."

“Prayer of the Children”

Written in frustration over the horrendous civil war and ethnic cleansing that took place in the former country of Yugoslavia, composer Kurt Bestor never intended the work to be published or performed by choirs. However, as more and more people heard his performances, interest grew, and eventually, arranger Andrea Klouse set the work for children’s choir. Soon after, it became a commonly performed piece for SATB choirs as well. The song is used for special occasions and to console others in various circumstances. The final cadences include Croatian text asking, “Can you hear all the children’s prayers?”

“Hold Fast to Dreams”

Langston Hughes’ famous poem comes to life in this original setting by Andre Thomas. In it, we are told to “hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.” We find that hope and inspiration can often be discovered in our own dreams.

“Give Us Hope”

Composer Jim Papoulis says, “What I have come to understand is that we must send the best part of ourselves into the future through our children. If we want society to evolve, we need to understand the importance of childhood, and how vital our role should be in doing whatever we can to nurture every child. We should all be aware of our powerful influence on their minds.” Written for a project called, “Sounds of a Better World,” this piece reminds us that we must pay attention to the hope and embrace the joy that children can bring to this world.

“A Place in the Valley”

Set in an appealing, laid back gospel style, this unforgettable sermon in song calls us to take notice of the presence of God all around us. “All the earth seems fresh and new. Nature’s song is all around me, blending peace and harmony; and I know that in the music, God is calling me.”

Our Director... Thomas D. Koharchik

Mr. Koharchik has been affiliated with the North Hills Chorale since January of 2003 and has been the Music Director since 2004. He received a BS in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Masters Degree in Music Education from Duquesne University. He teaches General Music and Junior/Senior High Choir at Freeport Area School District where he directs the Concert Choir, Mixed Chorus, Women’s Ensemble, and “Forte!” Show Choir. In addition, he directs the fall plays and spring musicals for the district and serves as the Senior High Stage Manager. He is the Director of Music Liturgy at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church in Freeport. Thomas is a member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), NAfME, and PMEA, where he holds the positions of Secretary and Treasurer for PMEA District 3. Mr. Koharchik served in the US Army for 14 years, ending his military service in July, 2012. He is married to Heather Koharchik and is a proud father of his three daughters, Abigail, Emily, and Hayley.

Our Associate Director ... Megan Connelly Wodzinski

Megan has been with the North Hills Chorale for thirteen years. She looks forward to every performance with her musical “family.” Megan is a 2001 and 2003 graduate of Duquesne University with degrees in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, and the winner of the J. Cornetti Tucci Award for Piano Performance. Through Carnegie Mellon she earned a teacher's diploma, and is currently a music substitute for the northern suburban schools. Last year, Megan established the *Megan E. Connelly Studio of Piano* in Ross Township where she teaches private lessons. On the weekends, she works for Act One Theater School as a voice teacher and music director. She is a member of the National and State music associations, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Pittsburgh Musicians' Union. Megan resides in Ross Township with her husband Michael and their rescue dog "Sid."