

# Masterworks Singers

## Light Beyond Shadow

Beautiful Choral Works  
Accompanied by  
Chamber Orchestra

**Sunday, November 16, 2025**

**7:30 pm**

**St. Theresa Catholic Church**

**Austin, Texas**

**With the Masterworks Chamber Orchestra**

# PROGRAM

**Sing, My Child**

Sarah Quartel

*Soloist — Katie Vukovics*

**Herself A Rose Who Bore The Rose**

Robert H. Young

**Prayer of the Children**

Kurt Bestor/arr. Mark Hayes

**The Quest**

John Rutter

*Organ — Vincent Pham*

*Oboe — Herson De la Garza*

*Intermission—Masterworks Singers String Quartet, playing early Mozart*

**Resilience**

Abbie Betinis

\* Audience participation—turn to page 6\*

**Gloria In Excelsis Deo, Mvmt 1 from Gloria in D.**

Antonio Vivaldi

**Light Beyond Shadow**

Dan Forrest

**I'll Make the Difference**

Moses Hogan

*Soloist — John Diaz*

**“One Final Wish of Hope”**

## TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

### SING, MY CHILD

Sing for the promise in each new morning.

Sing for the hope in a new day dawning.

    All around is beauty bright!

Wake in the morning and sing, my child.

Dance in the joy of the day unfolding.

Dance as you work and dance as you're  
learning. All around is beauty bright!

Take in the day and dance, my child.

Laugh in the cool and the fresh of the ev'ning.

Laugh in your triumph laugh in succeeding.

    All around is beauty bright!

Rest in the ev'ning and laugh, my child.

But when troubles come and worry is all that  
can be found, gather your strength and hear  
your voice. Sing, my child.

Sing, my child.

Dance, my child,

Laugh, my child.

Peace, my child.

### HERSELF A ROSE WHO BORE THE ROSE

Herself a rose, who bore the Rose,  
she bore the Rose and felt is thorn.

    All loveliness new-born  
    took on her bosom its repose,  
and slept and woke there night and morn.

    Lily herself, she bore the one  
    Fair Lily; sweeter, whiter, far  
    than she or others are:

    The Sun of Righteousness her Son,  
    she was His morning star.

    She gracious, he essential Grace,

He was the Fountain, she the rill.

    Her goodness to fulfill  
    and gladness, with proportioned pace,  
    He led her steps thro good and ill.  
    Christ's mirror she of grace and love,  
    of beauty and of life and death:  
    By hope and love and faith  
    transfigured in His likeness,

“Dove, Spouse, Sister, Mother,” Jesus saith.

## **TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (CONT.)**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHILDREN**

Can you hear the prayer of the children?

On bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room

Empty eyes with no more tears to cry

Turning heavenward toward the light

Crying Jesus, help me

To see the morning light-of one more day

But if I should die before I wake,

I pray my soul to take

Can you feel the hearts of the children?

Aching for home, for something of their very own

Reaching hands, with nothing to hold on to,

But hope for a better day a better day

Crying Jesus, help me

To feel the love again in my own land

But if unknown roads lead away from home,

Give me loving arms, away from harm

Can you hear the voice of the children?

Softly pleading for silence in a shattered world?

Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate,

Blood of the innocent on their hands

Crying Jesus, help me

To feel the sun again upon my face,

For when darkness clears I know you're near,

Bringing peace again

*Dali cujete sve djecje molitive?*

Croatian translation: Can you hear all the children's prayers?

## **TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (CONT.)**

### **THE QUEST**

I missed him when the sun began to bend;  
I found him not when I had lost his rim;  
With many tears I went in search of him,  
Climbing high mountains which did still ascend,  
And gave me echoes when called my friend;  
Through cities vast and charnel-houses grim,  
And high cathedrals where the light was dim,  
Through books and arts and works without an end,  
But found him not—the friend whom I had lost.  
And yet I found him—as I found the lark,  
A sound in fields I heard but could not mark;  
I found him nearest when I missed him most;  
I found him in my heart, a life in frost.  
A light I knew not till my soul was dark

(George MacDonald, 824-1905)

In paradisum deducant te angeli;	May angels lead you into paradise:
In tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres,	may martyrs receive you at your coming.
Et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.	and lead you to the holy city of Jerusalem.
Chorus angelorum te suscipiat,	May choir of angels greet you,
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere	and with Lazarus, once a pauper,
aeternam habeas requiem.	may you have eternal rest.

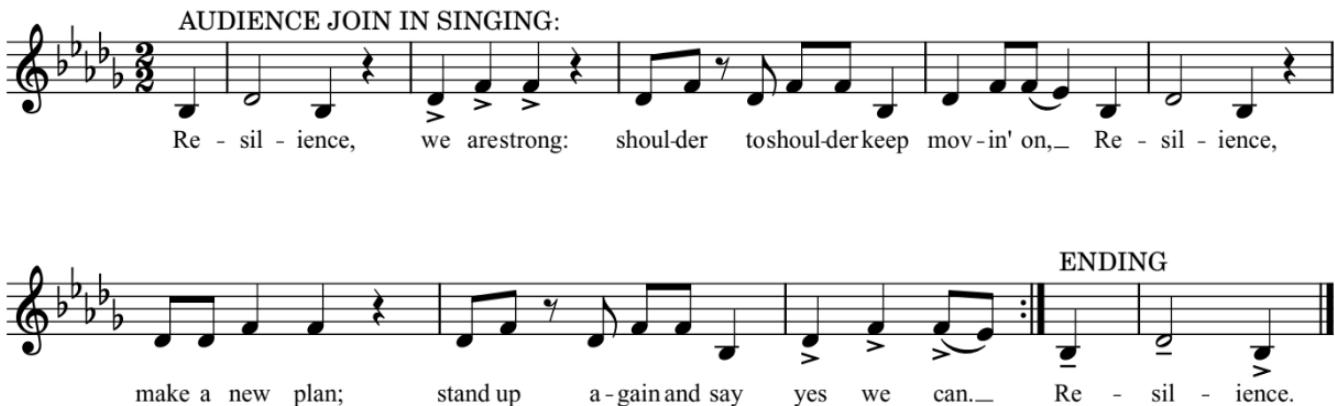
(from the Burial Service, Liber Usualis)

# TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (CONT.)

## Resilience

Words & Music by Abbie Betinis

AUDIENCE JOIN IN SINGING:



Re - sil - ience, we are strong: shoul-der to shoul-der keep mov - in' on, Re - sil - ience,  
make a new plan; stand up a - gain and say yes we can. Re - sil - ience.

ENDING

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Glory to God in the highest.

## LIGHT BEYOND SHADOW

Light beyond shadow,  
Joy beyond tears,  
Love that is greater when darkest our fears;  
deeper the Peace when the storm is around,  
nearer the Hope to the lost who is found.

Light of the world, ever shining, shining!

Hope in our pain and our dying.  
in our darkness, there is Light,  
in our crying, there is Love.,  
in the noise of life imparting

Peace that passes understanding.

## **TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (CONT.)**

### **I'LL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

I'm the one who can make the diff'rence,  
Yes, I will make the diff'rence;  
Against all odds I can live to share my love with others.  
Yes, I will make the diff'rence, I can make it!  
Take my hand as we make this journey across the land.

I'm the one who can make the diff'rence, Yes, I will make the diff'rence;  
Against all odds I can live to share my love with others.  
Yes, I will make the diff'rence, I will make it!  
Take my hand as we make this journey across the land.

I had the courage to keep goin' on.  
I had the faith when all hope was gone.  
I had the strength to keep holding on.  
I can make the difference, yes I can!

Cause I'm the one who can make the diff'rence, Yes, I will make the diff'rence;  
Against all odds I can live to share my love with others.  
Yes, I will make the diff'rence, I will make it!  
Take my hand as we make this journey across the land.

I had the courage to keep goin' on.  
I had the faith when all hope was gone.  
I had the strength to keep holding on.

I can make the difference, I can make the difference, I can make the difference,  
Yes I can!

We're the ones who can make the diff'rence, Yes we will make the diff'rence;  
Against all odds we can live to share our love with others.  
Yes, we will make the diff'rence,  
We can make it!  
Take my hand as we make this journey across the land.

We will make the diff'rence  
(Yes, we can make it)  
We will make it!  
Take my hand!

# PROGRAM NOTES

## Sing, My Child

This joyful text celebrates the beauty found all around us in everyday life.

## Prayer of the Children

Over the years, I've written many songs with melodies more memorable, lyrics more poetic, and harmonies richer. But none of my compositions has had the kind of reach and emotional effect of Prayer of the Children. Ironically, I never intended to publish the song at all. I wrote it out of frustration over the horrendous civil war and ethnic cleansing taking place in the former country of Yugoslavia.

Having lived in this now war-torn country back in the late 1970's, I grew to love the people with whom I lived. It didn't matter to me their ethnic origin - Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian - they were all just happy fun people to me and I counted as friends people from each region. Of course, I was always aware of the bigotry and ethnic differences that bubbled just below the surface, but I always hoped that the peace this rich country enjoyed would continue indefinitely. Obviously that didn't happen.

Finally, one night I began channeling these deep feelings into a wordless melody. Then little by little I added words....Can you hear....? Can you feel.....? I started with these feelings - sensations that the children struggling to live in this difficult time might be feeling. Serbian, Croatian, and Bosnian children all felt the same feelings of confusion and sadness and it was for them that I was writing this song.

— *Kurt Bestor*

## Resilience

Resilience is a mindset born in the hardest days, when you're scared or sad or tired, when progress toward your goal is slow, and the barriers seem impenetrable...and yet you keep going, because somewhere deep down you know that what you're fighting for will be so much better. As a three-time cancer survivor, I continue to learn about resilience

— *Abbie Betinis*

## Light Beyond Shadow

Written during the events of 2020, Dan's exquisite setting of Paul Wigmore's text (SATB choir, piano, and optional string quartet) invokes Light... Joy... Love... Peace... and Hope.

## I Will Make the Difference

I will make the difference. Take my hand as we make this journey across the land." Written for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, this touching gospel style ballad is a refreshing reminder of the power unleashed when individuals unite for a common cause.

# **CONDUCTOR & ACCOMPANISTS**

## **DR. H. MORRIS STEVENS, JR—CONDUCTOR**

Dr. H. Morris Stevens, Jr., is the Director of Music Ministry at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Austin, Texas. In May 2020, he retired from St. Edward's University where he served for 13 years as Head of the Music Department. While at St. Edward's University, he founded the Masterworks Project, which became a leading Community Outreach Music program consisting of a large Chorus and full Orchestra. During those 13 years, the Masterworks Singers toured every two years, and gave concerts in such countries as Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland.

Dr. Stevens is recognized as a clinician/conductor of Honor Choirs in many states and adjudicates choral competitions nationally. Throughout his career he has commissioned many new choral works from outstanding composers. The Masterworks Singers have so far, commissioned four major works with the support of the Edward D. Anderson Fund.

Dr. Stevens is most proud of his wonderful family, his wife Polly, his children, Sarah, Patrick and Rebekah, their wonderful spouses, and his seven grandchildren, Ruaridh, Evie, Birdie, Margot, Murray, Ruby Dru. & Benji

## **SUSAN NEFF, PIANIST**

Susan Neff spent 32 years in the music/choral classroom retiring from public school teaching in 2014. Her next three years she accompanied choirs in various school districts and supervised music student teachers at the University of Texas. She returned to the private school classroom for 3 years as the choral/piano teacher at Hyde Park High School. She now continues to accompany and consult for school choir programs. She is also a pianist for the 9am choir at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Austin, Tx. She lives in Pflugerville where she loves spending time with her grown sons David and Mark, daughter in law Lindsey, Ashley and special Mimi time with her grandsons Dylan & Carter.

## **VINCENT PHAM, ORGANIST**

Known as an exciting and energetic performer, Vincent Pham is currently the Associate Director of Music and Organist at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Austin. Vincent was formerly the graduate assistant of the Organ Department at Baylor University, where he graduated in 2023 with a MM in organ performance. Several of his former credentials include a BM from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Organist at First Baptist Church of Austin. Vincent has studied with a number of noteworthy organists, most notably Dr. Jonathan Moyer, Dr. Margaret Harper, Christa Rakich and Dr. Isabelle Demers. As a concert organist, he has performed in venues such as the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in San Diego, Stanford University's Memorial Chapel, Christ Church Cathedral in Houston and Bates Recital Hall at the University of Texas. He has also performed with the Baylor Wind Ensemble and the UT Concert Chorale as a featured organist in collaborative works. Known also as a vocalist, he has sung with the Oberlin College Choir, Oberlin's Collegium Musicum, the Baylor A Capella Choir and led a college a capella group. Vincent also has been a recipient of awards such as the Jack Lasher Bach Award, the J&A Carney Scholarship, and the Richard Hudson Scholarship and frequently performs in the Austin area. In his spare time, Vincent loves to disc golf, cook and bake!

# CHORAL PERSONNEL

## SOPRANO

Cheryl Alvarado  
Ann Benson  
Nancy Brady  
Marilyn Ruth Burke  
Susana Campos  
Suman Casey  
Frances Dunham  
Dr. Leonor Frierson-Stroud  
Iris Garcia  
Marett Hanes  
Victoria Hansen  
Ellie Kozan  
Martha Kuhl  
Tracy Lake  
Sharon Manaj  
Hannah Martin  
Valerie Maurer  
Mary McDaniel  
Amber-Nicole McIntire  
Rose Meyer  
Rhiannon Moore  
Harmoney Muse  
Teresa Nguyen  
Molly O'Neal  
Kay Payton  
Rebecca Peace  
Robyn Pereira  
Sara Radebaugh  
Iliana Romero  
Stephanie Rayl  
Polly Stevens  
Shannon Sutherland  
Katie Vukovics  
Martha Zornes

## ALTO

Julie Adams  
Emily Burns  
Dr. Lydia Coffman  
Barbara Colicchio  
Jillian Cordelia  
Brandi Cordero-Moore  
Pamela Dowd Bohn  
Doris Finley  
Mimi Graser  
Chacha Guerrero  
Chris Humphrey  
Anick Jackson  
Rosemary Kass  
Sue Kemp  
Dona LeBlanc  
Janet Martin  
Marty Moulthrop  
Kristy Oliver Jones  
Marliann Park  
Ann Peace  
Nancy Phillips  
Toni Powell  
Sarah Rehm  
Marni Roberson  
Megan Robinson  
Suzanne Rogers  
Mary Louise Shack  
Mary Sahs  
Marie Sullivan  
Joydene Ternus  
Virginia Volpe  
Colleen Webb

## TENOR

Earl Carter  
Guillermo De La Garza  
Michael Gianotti  
Jose Guerrero  
Tim Hissam  
Jackson King  
Jerome LeBlanc  
Roberto Napoles  
Mark Stern  
Dana Taipale  
Shane Walden  
Kenneth Weidaw  
Carl Wiseman  
  
BASS  
John Byrne  
Jim Coffman  
Michael Davis  
John Diaz  
Paul Dumas  
Colwyn Dunlap  
Gary Graser  
Trevor Heim  
Ben Johnston  
Kelan Latimer  
Reuben Martin  
Vincent Pham  
Gary Pyle  
Michael Saclobo

# **ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL**

## **PIANO**

Susan Neff

## **STRINGS**

Melissa Ruof, Violin I

Deb Weltzer, Violin II

Laura DeGraw, Violin II

Robert Radmer, Viola

John Cox, Cello

## **WOODWINDS**

Kyndra Cullen, Flute

Herson De la Garza, Oboe

Angel Lopez, Clarinet

Chuck Hazelwood, Bassoon

Amanda Aubrey, Bass

## **BRASS**

Matthew Swihart, Trumpet

Kenken Gorder, Trumpet

Adrian Teti, Trombone

Eliud Garcia, Bass Trombone

## **PERCUSSION**

Jason Russell, Timpani

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Rev. Larry Covington — Pastor, St. Theresa Catholic Church

Rev. Barry Cuba— Parochial Vicar, St. Theresa Catholic Church

The Hospitality Ministry at St. Theresa

Staff of St. Theresa Catholic Church

Dr. Don Anderson + Edward D. Anderson Foundation

Kathryn King Coleman + Jesse T. & Jodie E. King Foundation

## **OPEN INVITATION TO JOIN MASTERWORKS SINGERS**

The Masterworks Singers organization is a community of individuals who love the best of choral music. Since its beginning, it has never excluded anyone who wished to experience the joy of sharing the exploration of choral music with friends. We have the mission of peace through the beauty of music. We continually invite all individuals who wish to share in this mission and joy of music making to consider joining. To be included in the Masterworks Singers mailing list, please

email Dr. Morris Stevens at

[morris\\_stevens@masterworkssingers.org](mailto:morris_stevens@masterworkssingers.org)

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