



Department of Music  
146th Concert Season  
Concert No. 7

SOUTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY  
Sarofim School of Fine Arts

## "HOPE"

Southwestern University Chorale

Beth Everett, director

November 6, 2021 at 7:30pm | Alma Thomas Theater

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### PROGRAM

Chichester Psalms (1964)

- I. Psalm 108:2 and Psalm 100
- II. Psalm 23 and Psalm 2:1-4
- III. Psalm 131 and Psalm 133:1

Leonard Bernstein  
(1918-1990)

Aidan Zeitung, countertenor

Allison Byrom, Kaylee White, Alexis Lemus, Megan Crinklaw, Bilal Kahn,  
Will Mallick, Eric Salinas, Edu Swarts, soloists

David Polley, piano

David Utterback, piano

Francis Favis, percussion

### - INTERMISSION -

Cantata for a More Hopeful Tomorrow (2020)\*

- I. Fear: *Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen*

Damien Geter  
(b. 1980)

Grace Sexton, Bronwyn Fogarty,

Sebastian Fernandez, Brooks Taylor, quartet

- II. The Prayer: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

- III. Breathe

- IV. The Resolve: *There's a Balm in Gilead/By and By*

Lucia Cuomo, Noor Nazeer, Lauryn Vasquez,  
Logan Holmes, Cayden Couchman, Kyle Bussone-Peterson,  
Kirk Cooper, Clayton Mann, chamber singers

- V. Hope: *"Continuities"*

Katherine Altobello '99, mezzo-soprano

Hai Zheng-Olefsky, cello

\*Texas premiere

# PROGRAM NOTES, TEXTS, AND TRANSLATIONS

## A Note from the Director

Hope...we have spent nearly the last two years looking for glimmers of hope. Hope that we would survive this pandemic, hope that we could be together again, hope that we could sing again. We may never be fully back to normal, but we are surviving and singing together again. Tonight's program consists of two works meant to convey that hope is alive and well, despite the many challenges we have faced during these unprecedented times.

In early December of 1963, Leonard Bernstein received a letter from the Very Reverend Walter Hussey, Dean of the Cathedral of Chichester in Sussex, England, requesting a piece for the Cathedral's 1965 music festival. Hussey wrote, "...the sort of thing that we had in mind was perhaps, say, a setting of the Psalm 2, or some part of it, either unaccompanied or accompanied by orchestra or organ, or both." Nearly a year after this letter, Bernstein was reeling from the deaths of John F. Kennedy and his good friend and composer, Marc Blitzstein, who was murdered in January of 1964. Bernstein composed the Chichester Psalms amid a busy schedule, completing his first work since the Third Symphony, *Kaddish*, in 1963, written in memory of President Kennedy. Both pieces combine choruses singing Hebrew text, with orchestral forces, but where *Kaddish* is a statement of profound anguish and despair, Chichester Psalms is hopeful and life-affirming.

- Dr. Beth Everett, with additional information from the Leonard Bernstein Office

## Chichester Psalms

Leonard Bernstein

### I. Psalm 108:2 and Psalm 100

Psalm 108: 2

Awake, psaltery and harp!

I will rouse the dawn!

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord, He is God.

It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

And into His courts with praise.

Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.

For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting.

And His truth endureth to all generations.

## II. Psalm 23 and Psalm 2:1-4

### Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,  
He leadeth me beside the still waters,  
He restoreth my soul,  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness,  
For His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk  
Through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
For Thou art with me.  
Thy rod and Thy staff  
They comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me  
In the presence of mine enemies,  
Thou annointest my head with oil,  
My cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy  
Shall follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever.

## III. Psalm 131 and Psalm 133:1

### Psalm 131

Lord, Lord,  
My heart is not haughty,  
Nor mine eyes lofty,  
Neither do I exercise myself  
In great matters or in things  
Too wonderful for me to understand.  
Surely I have calmed  
And quieted myself,  
As a child that is weaned of his mother,  
My soul is even as a weaned child.  
Let Israel hope in the Lord  
From henceforth and forever.

### Psalm 2:1-4

Why do the nations rage,  
And the people imagine a vain thing?  
The kings of the earth set themselves,  
And the rulers take counsel together  
Against the Lord and against His anointed,  
Saying, let us break their bonds asunder  
And cast away their cords from us.  
He that sitteth in the heavens  
Shall laugh, and the Lord  
Shall have them in derision!

### Psalm 133:1

Behold how good,  
And how pleasant it is,  
For brethren to dwell  
Together in unity.

# Cantata for a More Hopeful Tomorrow

Damien Geter

## I. Fear

"Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen"

J.S. Bach - BWV 12

Text by Salomo Franck & Megan Levad

Weeping, lamentation, worry, despair,  
Fear and need  
Are the Christian's bread of tears,  
Who carry the sign of Jesus.

First we sought to tame the fire, the flood,  
the mountain and its bear.  
We worshipped where we walked,  
and praised each day.

We learned: look everywhere for danger -  
poison berry, poison charm;  
sudden precipice. The stranger.

For we are born to trouble,  
we are built for trouble.  
We seek, we seek,  
we seek and reach.

All our cares become shadows  
on a long day.  
All our cares become sorrows  
as the sparks fly.

We seek to tame the fire, the flood,  
the mountain and its bear,  
the poison, the precipice. The stranger.

Look everywhere: the deepest stars,  
your innermost,  
the farthest cry,  
the closest breath.

All our cares become sorrows  
as the sparks fly.  
All our cares become shadows  
on a long day.

For we are born to trouble,  
for we are made for trouble -  
we are made to seek,  
and try, and dream.

## II. The Prayer

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Traditional African American Spiritual

I want Jesus to walk with me.  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.  
In my trials, Lord, please walk with me.  
When my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

### III. Breathe

Text by Aminata Sei

With effortless, simple repetitions,  
No complex expectations shrouded by worry,  
No disappointments imagined,  
Just breathe.

Then interruptions,  
Devastations leaving the world feeling sorry,  
Questions, uncertainty emerge,  
Now we don't know how to breathe.

Standing in confidence of our decisions.  
Shaken, with little hope to carry,  
Movement halted, emotions stirred,  
We must continue to breathe.

Go back to the parts of you that house ambitions.  
Where you'll find your glory,  
The drive to endure.  
Learn again to just breathe.

### IV. The Resolve

"There's a Balm in Gilead/By and By"  
Traditional African American Spirituals

There is a balm in Gilead,  
To make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead,  
To heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
And think my work's in vain.  
But then the Holy Spirit,  
Revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead,  
To make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead,  
To heal the sin-sick soul.

By and by, when the morning comes.  
All of us are here together as one.  
And we will tell the story of how we've overcome.  
And we will understand it better by and by.  
There is a balm in Gilead.

### V. Hope

"Continuities"  
Text by Walt Whitman

Nothing is ever really lost, or can be lost,  
No birth, identity, form - no object of this world.  
Nor life, nor force, nor any visible thing;  
Appearance must not foil, nor shifted sphere confuse thy brain.  
Ample are time and space - ample the fields of Nature.  
The body, sluggish, aged, cold - the embers left from earlier fires,  
The light in the eye grown dim, shall duly flame again;  
The sun now low in the west rises for mornings and for noons continual;  
To frozen clods ever the spring's invisible law returns,  
With grass and flowers and summer fruits and corn.

## A Note from the Composer

This piece is modeled after J. S. Bach's Cantata BWV 12, which takes the listener on a trajectory from despair to a more hopeful state. There is a repeated bass line that Bach uses in his Cantata BWV 12 that I also use in my Cantata for a More Hopeful Tomorrow. To acknowledge that the two pieces share a similar theme I use many different permutations of that bass line. It is a fact that the pandemic has touched the Black community in a much more aggressive manner than other communities. To highlight this atrocity, I chose to pay homage to the ancestors and Black Americans by incorporating spirituals in this cantata. There are five movements. The piece begins in a deep state of despair and moves emotionally upward towards a state of hope. The movements are as follows: Fear, The Prayer (I Want Jesus to Walk With Me), Breathe, The Resolve (There's a Balm in Gilead), and Hope (Poem by Walt Whitman, "Continuities").

2020 has been a tough year, not only because of the pandemic but because of the various other traumas that have been continuously inflicted on the Black community and our world at large. The recent events that have taken place will give our nation renewed hope and direction. Even though things may seem tough in the present moment, there is a light that shines towards the future.

- Damien Geter, November 2020

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## Southwestern University Chorale

Beth Everett, director

David Polley, accompanist

### SOPRANO

Jasmine Belfield  
Abigail Bensman  
Allison Byrom  
Camryn Clegg  
Lucia Cuomo  
Trinity Denson  
Emma Duncan  
Morgan Hall  
Katherine Lunam  
Noor Nazeer  
Natasha Ndele  
Grace Sexton  
Sophia Trifilio  
Emma Williams  
Kaylee White

### ALTO

Monroe Aupperlee  
Megan Crinklaw  
Bronwyn Fogarty  
Natalie Gonzales  
Alanna Guerrero  
Logan Holmes  
Alexis Lemus  
Laurel Mulkey  
Rose Reed  
Anna Smith  
Arya Sreedharan  
Kortlyn Staub  
Micah Stanley  
Lauryn Vasquez  
Sophie Williams

### TENOR

Kyle Bussone-Peterson  
Cayden Couchman  
Sebastian Fernandez  
Bilal Kahn  
Will Mallick  
John McGuire  
Cade Thompson  
Aidan Zeitung

### BASS

Clayton Arnold  
Lucio Brunel  
Kirk Cooper  
Jacob Cruz  
Antoni Diaz  
Maxwell Klug  
Clayton Mann  
Eric Salinas  
Edu Swarts  
Brooks Taylor

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