

# Eastman School of Music/ **University of Rochester Treble Chorus**

Christian Bigliani, conductor

# **Bach Cantata Series**

Daniel Reid and Mengru Zheng, conductors

# **Repertory Singers**

Mengru Zheng and Soong Hong Wong, conductors

Sunday, February 13, 2022 Kilbourn Hall 3 p.m.

## ~ PROGRAM ~

# University of Rochester/Eastman School of Music Treble Chorus

Wild Embers (2017)

Melissa Dunphy

(b. 1980)

El Ave Fénix (The Phoenix Bird) (2008)

Diana Syrse (b. 1984)

Christian Bigliani, conductor Alexander Little, piano

# BWV 65: Sie werden aus Saba alle kommen

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

Cantata for the Feast of Epiphany

16'

I. Chorus

II.Chorale

III.Bass Recitative

IV. Bass Aria

V. Tenor Recitative

VI. Tenor Aria

\*VII. Chorale (please stand and sing if you are able)

Alissa Magee, soprano Andrea McGaugh, mezzo-soprano Andrés Ramírez Román, tenor Logan Dubner, bass

James Marshall, violin I Emma Milian, violin II Juliana Kilcoyne, viola Taylor Yoon, cello Andy Hankes, *flute I* Alex Lehmann, flute II Josh Bullock, English horn I Emily Hart, English horn II Ian Schneiderman, bassoon Miles Teague, horn I Jack Finlay, horn II Alexander Little, organ

Daniel Reid, conductor

~ INTERMISSION ~

BWV 7: Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam Cantata for the Feast of St. John the Baptist I. Chorus	<b>J. S. Bach</b> (1685-1750) 23'	University of 1
II. Bass aria III. Tenor Recitative IV. Tenor Aria V. Bass Recitative VI. Alto Aria *VII. Chorale (please stand and sing if you are able)  Darby Schmidt, soprano Lily Bogas, mezzo-soprano Joshua Carlisle, tenor Isaac Pendley, bass  James Marshall, concertato Andrés Carrero, violin I Emma Milian, violin II Juliana Kilcoyne, viola Cecilia Hoyt, cello Gwen Goodman, oboe I Alexander Kang, oboe II Katherine Jolliff, organ		Allyson Arenson Maria Aversano Isabella Barbagallo Alanna Beilke Hanna Berger Emily Cao Loren Cardani Clara Cherney Maya Cooper Yifan Deng Elianna Dunster Erin Escobar Caitlin Fitzpatrick Izabella Gozzo Mary Jedynak
Mengru Zheng, conductor  Eastman Repertory Singers  m stillen Friedhof, Op. 17, no. 2	Hugo Wolf (1860-1903) 3'	Soprano Alanna Beilke Mackenzie Dillenbec Abby Hanna Katherine Jolliff Lisa Ling Susanna Lo

# ~ PERSONNEL ~

# of Rochester / Eastman School of Music Treble Chorus

Philip Silvey, instructor/conductor Christian Bigliani, graduate assistant/conductor Alexander Little, pianist

Allyson Arenson	Katherine Jolliff
Maria Aversano	Freddie Kartoz
Isabella Barbagallo	Emily Kondrat
Alanna Beilke	Celia Konowe
Hanna Berger	Emily Krasinski
Emily Cao	Anastasia Maritsas
Loren Cardani	Maria Mastrosimone
Clara Cherney	Nina McGarrahan
Maya Cooper	Arabella Meacham-Sny
Yifan Deng	Mackenzie Minguillo
Elianna Dunster	Laura Mueller
Erin Escobar	Shannon Murty
Caitlin Fitzpatrick	Amanda Newell
Izabella Gozzo	Rebecca O'Dell
Mary Jedynak	Amanda Oren

Devanshi Patel Jessica Pope Tv Promreuk Eileen Scardino Ashley Schlusselberg Arianna Slupik Isabella Smith Hutton Stiller vder Zoe Sun Vahni Tagirisa Hannah Van Scoy Katharina Watzke Savannah White Heximer Abigail Wilson

Lingjia Zhang

# **Eastman Repertory Singers**

der Little, *pianist* 

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903) 3'	
Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)	
<b>Aaron Copland</b> (1900-1990) 5'	

Mackenzie Minguillo

Jihee Moon

Jessica Pope

Heximer

Mengru Zheng

Ke Tang Savannah White

Weng Chon Sou

Alexander L
Alto
Meihui An
Allyson Arenson
Rongnan Cao
Izabella Gozzo
Bo Huang
Freddie Kartoz
Emily Kondrat
Grace Leung
Emiliya Mullerman
Anastasia Maritsas
Hutton Stiller
Zoe Sun
Wendy Zeng
Lingjia Zhang
Zhuo Yue Zhang
Peiwen Zou

Tenor
Vincent Li
Andrew Liu
Jacob Lytle
Eric Meincke
Ethan Resnik
Zicong Su
XiaoYu Tang
Isaiah Williams
Soong Hong Wong
Yilin Yan
Chengyu Zhang
Jiaming Zhang
Zikuan Zhao

**Bass** Berithen Chung Yuanning Gao Ryan Greene Long Guo Sicheng Huang William Hurtz William Jae Adrian King Seungbin Lee John Phillips Zixu Qin Daniel Reid Junhao Wang Minghang Wang Peijun Wang Pusheng Wang Yingfeng Wei Heting Xia Wenbo Xing

Chris Yao Kejun Zhong

Soong Hong Wong, conductor

Mengru Zheng, conductor

Alexander Little, piano

from Quatre motets sur des thèmes grégoriens, Op. 10

Thou, O Jehovah, Abideth Forever

Ubi caritas

from Four Motets

# ~ PROGRAM NOTES, TEXTS, AND TRANSLATIONS ~

# Wild Embers

We are the descendants of the wild women you forgot We are the stories you thought would never be taught.

They should have checked the ashes of the women they burned alive. Because it takes a single wild ember to bring a whole wildfire to life.

### Nikita Gill

### El ave fénix

El ave fénix alzó sus alas hacia el sol fugaz relámpago su místico vuelo elevó.

Su juventud ansiaba la vida, vasto y bello era su reino, y entre los árboles aprendió a mirar el cielo, solitario entre corolas de nubes de algodón.

Y por conocer lo que no sabía recorrió el cielo y la tierra pero la felicidad no encontró, hasta que vio a lo lejos un ave que como él volaba hasta alcanzar el sol.

Al llegar al ave, los colores en su bello plumaje, se volvieron más luminosos, y quemado su cuerpo quedó, pero de entre las cenizas una ave más bella despertó.

Un alma que encontró el amor, un cuerpo que a otro reconoció, y unos ojos que bebían del tiempo y del espacio: sangre para su corazón. The phoenix bird raised its wings towards the sun and like a fleeting thunder he began his mystical flight.

His youth desired the power of life vast and great was his kingdom between the trees, he learned how to watch the sky lonely, between clouds like cotton flowers.

In order to learn the things he didn't know he crossed the sky and the earth but he didn't find happiness. Until one day he saw from far away a bird that wanted to reach the sun just like him.

When he reached this bird, the colors in his wings turned bright, and all his body got burned but from the ashes another beautiful bird awoke

A soul that found love, a body that recognized another body, and eyes that drank from time and space: blood for his heart.

Diana Syrse

### BWV 65: Sie werden aus Saba alle kommen

In the winter of 1724, Bach was entering his first full year as the Kantor (music director) of the city of Leipzig, which was one of the most prestigious musical positions in Germany at the time. Among his many duties was composing a cantata for each liturgy at the famous St. Thomas Church. Sie werden aus Saba alle kommen was written for Bach's first Epiphany in Leipzig. While these pieces are usually presented as concert works today, cantatas were regarded as integral pieces of the Lutheran liturgy in Bach's time. They also functioned as a kind of "musical sermon," to borrow Markus Rathey's term. Bach himself was a devout Lutheran and had a strong theological education in addition to his musical training, and he thus used many compositional techniques to present an Epiphany story to the St. Thomas congregation. The unusual orchestration – two flutes, two horns, and two oboes da caccia, whose parts are performed today with English horns – illustrates the procession of the three Magi approaching the baby Jesus' manger. The opening movement's moment of total unison after dense polyphony suggests that all creation is offering itself to Christ. The bass' solo movements introduce the idea that one does not have to be rich or powerful to offer their gifts to Jesus since he only desires our hearts, an idea that shocks even the obbligato instruments into silence at times. The tenor's solo movements expand that same idea to say that our gifts of "the gold of faith, the incense of prayer, (and) the myrrh of patience" are more acceptable gifts in Christ's eyes, and the major sixth and minor seventh leaps and rapid melismas of his final aria make palpable the joy that this message brings.

Bach may well have been writing this musical sermon for himself as much as for the St. Thomas congregation. He was neither very rich nor very powerful, but he did desire to be a faithful man through what he could offer, as evidenced by his "Soli Deo Gloria" ("only for God's glory") inscriptions with which he signed all of his compositions. Regardless of our religious or spiritual beliefs, we too may learn from this cantata's message. We need not be rich CEOs or powerful politicians to bring positive change to our broken world; rather, if we all open our hearts to the goodness in each other this new year, the world can begin to heal. Perhaps this is what Christians mean when they talk about the Reign of God on earth.

Daniel Reid

#### 1

Sie werden aus Saba alle kommen, Gold und Weihrauch bringen und des Herren Lob verkündigen.

II.

Die Kön'ge aus Saba kamen dar, Gold, Weihrauch, Myrrhen brachten sie dar, Alleluja! They will all come from Sheba, bring gold and incense and proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The kings came from Sheba brought from there gold, incense and myrrh. Alleluja!

#### III.

Was dort Jesaias vorhergesehn, Das ist zu Bethlehem geschehn. Hier stellen sich die Weisen Bei Iesu Krippe ein Und wollen ihn als ihren König preisen. Gold, Weihrauch, Myrrhen sind Die köstlichen Geschenke, Womit sie dieses Jesuskind Zu Bethlehem im Stall beehren. Mein Iesu, wenn ich itzt an meine Pflicht gedenke, Muß ich mich auch zu deiner Krippe kehren Und gleichfalls dankbar sein: Denn dieser Tag ist mir ein Tag der Freuden, Da du, o Lebensfürst, Das Licht der Heiden Und ihr Erlöser wirst. Was aber bring ich wohl, du Himmelskönig? Ist dir mein Herze nicht zuwenig, So nimm es gnädig an, Weil ich nichts Edlers bringen kann.

## IV.

Gold aus Ophir ist zu schlecht, Weg, nur weg mit eitlen Gaben, Die ihr aus der Erde brecht! Jesus will das Herze haben. Schenke dies, o Christenschar, Jesu zu dem neuen Jahr!

#### V.

Verschmähe nicht, Du, meiner Seele Licht, Mein Herz, das ich in Demut zu dir bringe; Es schließt ja solche Dinge In sich zugleich mit ein, Die deines Geistes Früchte sein. Des Glaubens Gold, der Weihrauch des Gebets, Die Myrrhen der Geduld sind meine Gaben, Die sollst du, Jesu, für und für Zum Eigentum und zum Geschenke haben. Gib aber dich auch selber mir, So machst du mich zum Reichsten auf der Erden: Denn, hab ich dich, so muss Des größten Reichtums Überfluss Mir dermaleinst im Himmel werden.

What Isaiah foretold has happened at Bethlehem. Here the wise men appear at Jesus' crib and want to praise him as their king. Gold, incense and myrrh are the precious gifts with which by them this baby Jesus is honoured in the stable at Bethlehem. when I think now of my duty, I must also turn to your crib and be likewise thankful: for this day is for me a day of joy where you, o prince of life, become the light of the gentiles and their redeemer. But what should I bring, you king of heaven? If my heart is not too little, then accept it through your mercy, since I can bring nothing more noble.

Gold from Ophir is too slight, away, away with vain gifts that you break from the earth! Jesus wants to have your heart. Give this, o Christian flock, to Jesus for the new year!

Do not scorn, you who are the light of my soul, my heart that I humbly bring to you; it includes such things within at the same time that are the fruit of your spirit. The gold of faith, the incense of prayer, the myrrh of patience are my gifts, which you will have, Jesus, for ever as your property and gift, But give yourself also to me, then you make me the richest person on earth; for if  $\hat{I}$  have you, then the abundance of the greatest wealth will one day be mine for ever in heaven.

### VI.

Nimm mich dir zu eigen hin, Nimm mein Herze zum Geschenke. Alles, alles, was ich bin, Was ich rede, tu und denke, Soll, mein Heiland, nur allein Dir zum Dienst gewidmet sein.

#### VII

Ei nun, mein Gott, so fall ich dir Getrost in deine Hände. Nimm mich und mach es so mit mir Bis an mein letztes Ende, Wie du wohl weißt, dass meinem Geist Dadurch sein Nutz entstehe, Und deine Ehr je mehr und mehr Sich in ihr selbst erhöhe. Accept that I should belong to you accept my heart as a present.
All, all that I am, what I speak, do and think should, my saviour, all be dedicated to your service.

Ah now, my God, may I fall consoled in your hands.
Accept me and so deal with me until my final end as you well know how, so that my spirit may benefit in this way and your honour ever more and more may be exalted in me.

Translation by Francis Browne

**BWV 7:** Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam (Our Savior Christ to Jordan Came) is a seven-movement cantata composed for the Feast of St. John's Day, June 24, 1724, and is part of the annual cycle of chorale cantatas which Bach began in his second year as Thomaskantor in Leipzig. The text is based on the hymn that was written in 1541 by Martin Luther, which talks about the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. The outer movements retain the original text (the first and last strophes) of Luther's poem, and verses 2-6 are transformed to arias and recitatives of inner movements, which are paraphrases of Martin Luther's verses, written by an unknown poet in a free poetic manner.

Bach combines a vocal setting with an orchestral ritornello in the first movement. The tenor sings the chorale melody in rhythmic augmentation. The orchestral ritornello, which with its distinctive dotted rhythms, takes up an element from the French overture. The second movement is a bass aria. You will hear the urgent appeal "Merkt und hört, ihr Menschenkinder" ("Listen and hear, ye humans") with numerous repetitions, during which the bass instruments, with their rushing notes sweeping downward, represent the pouring of the baptismal water. The central idea of the third movement, a secco recitative, is God's voice being heard.

This recitative also sets the theme for the following tenor aria, "Des Vaters Stimme ließ sich hören" ("The Father's voice was heard"). This aria has a gigue-like quality with two solo violins constantly imitating each other. The fifth movement cites Jesus's commandment to his disciples. Naturally, Jesus's words are given to the bass. The alto aria starts without any introduction. This can be understood as Bach wanting to emphasize the urgent idea of faith. "Menschen, glaubt doch dieser Gnade, daß ihr nicht in Sünden sterbt" ("Mankind, believe in Christ's great goodness, that you may not die in sin"). A richly harmonized chorale setting concludes the work.

Mengru Zheng

#### T.

Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam Nach seines Vaters Willen, Von Sanct Johann's die Taufe nahm, Sein Werk und Amt zu 'rfüllen. Da wollt' er stiften uns ein Bad, Zu waschen uns von Sünden, Ersäufen auch den bittern Tod Durch sein selbst Blut und Wunden, Es galt ein neues Leben.

### II.

Merkt und hört, ihr Menschenkinder, Was Gott selbst die Taufe heißt. Es muss zwar hier Wasser sein, Doch schlecht Wasser nicht allein. Gottes Wort und Gottes Geist Tauft und reiniget die Sünder.

# III.

Dies hat Gott klar
Mit Worten und mit Bildern dargetan,
Am Jordan ließ der Vater offenbar
Die Stimme bei der Taufe Christi hören;
Er sprach: Dies ist mein lieber Sohn,
An diesem hab ich Wohlgefallen,
Er ist vom hohen Himmelsthron
Der Welt zugut
In niedriger Gestalt gekommen
Und hat das Fleisch und Blut
Der Menschenkinder angenommen;
Den nehmet nun als euren Heiland an
Und höret seine teuren Lehren!

# IV.

Des Vaters Stimme ließ sich hören, Der Sohn, der uns mit Blut erkauft, Ward als ein wahrer Mensch getauft. Der Geist erschien im Bild der Tauben, Damit wir ohne Zweifel glauben, Es habe die Dreifaltigkeit Uns selbst die Taufe zubereit'.

### V.

Als Jesus dort nach seinen Leiden Und nach dem Auferstehn Aus dieser Welt zum Vater wollte gehn, Sprach er zu seinen Jüngern: Geht hin in alle Welt und lehret alle Heiden, Wer glaubet und getaufet wird auf Erden, Der soll gerecht und selig werden. Christ our Lord came to the Jordan in accordance with his father's will, he received baptism from Saint John, to fulfill his work and ministry. By this he wanted to establish for us a bath to wash us from our sins, to drown also bitter death through his own blood and wounds. This meant a new life.

Mark and hear, children of mankind, what God himself calls baptism.
There must indeed be water here but not only mere water.
God's word and God's spirit baptises and purifies sinners.

This God has clearly demonstrated with words and images, at the Jordan the Father openly made his voice heard at Christ's baptism; he said: This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. From the high throne of heaven for the world's sake he has come in lowly form and has taken on the flesh and blood of the children of mankind; now take him as your saviour and listen to his precious teaching!

The Father's voice makes itself heard, the Son, who has bought us with his blood, was baptised as a true man.

The Spirit appeared in the image of the dove so that we may believe without doubt the Trinity itself has prepared baptism for us.

As Jesus there after his suffering and after his resurrection from this world was about to go to his Father, he said to his disciples: go out to all the world and teach all the Gentiles, whoever believes and is baptised on earth will be justified and blessed.

### VI.

Menschen, glaubt doch dieser Gnade, Dass ihr nicht in Sünden sterbt, Noch im Höllenpfuhl verderbt! Menschenwerk und -heiligkeit Gilt vor Gott zu keiner Zeit. Sünden sind uns angeboren, Wir sind von Natur verloren; Glaub und Taufe macht sie rein, Dass sie nicht verdammlich sein.

#### VII.

Das Aug allein das Wasser sieht, Wie Menschen Wasser gießen, Der Glaub allein die Kraft versteht Des Blutes Jesu Christi, Und ist für ihm ein rote Flut Von Christi Blut gefärbet, Die allen Schaden heilet gut Von Adam her geerbet, Auch von uns selbst begangen. People, believe then this mercy, so that you do not die in your sins, nor perish in the pit of hell!
Human deeds and holiness never count for anything before God.
We are born in sin, by nature we are lost; faith and baptism make us pure so that we do not meet with damnation.

The eye sees only water as men pour water, only faith understands the power of the blood of Jesus Christ, and for faith it is a red stream coloured by the blood of Christ which heals well all the injuries we inherited from Adam and also those we have brought upon ourselves.

Translation by Francis Browne

# Im Stillen Friedhof

Hugo Wolf (1860-1903) was an Austrian composer of Slovenian origin. He is best known by his Lieder, his temperament and inclination leading him to more intimate, subjective, and terse musical utterances. Wolf was famous for his use of tonality to reinforce meaning. Concentrating on two tonal areas to musically depict ambiguity and conflict in the text became a hallmark of his style, resolving only when appropriate to the meaning of the song. The text is by Ludwig Pfau, a German poet, journalist, and revolutionary. Many of his poems have been used in the composition of Lieder.

# Mengru Zheng

Wenn ich im stillen Friedhof geh', Wird mir so schwer zu Herzen, Dass man die treuste Menschenbrust, Die mitgetragen Leid und Lust, So eilig kann verschmerzen.

Gras wächst darüber, ach wie bald, Das Grab wird selber heiter; Wie wenn ein Blatt vom Wipfel fällt, So geht ein Leben aus der Welt! Die Vögel singen weiter.

O Menschenherz, mit deinem Stolz. Was flüstern die Zypressen? Wir steh'n auf eine schmalen Raum, Dar unter liegt ein Herzekaum, So ist es schon vergessen. When I pass by a peaceful grave, my heart grows sad while thinking, that one so quickly can forget, Ev'n the most loyal human heart, with all the grief and joy endured.

Grass covers o'er it, oh, so soon, the grave itself becomes bright; as when a leaf falls from a tree thus does a life depart this world! Yet birds continue their song.

Oh heart of man, with your great pride! What do the cypress whisper? We stand upon the narrow ground beneath which barely lies a heart already not forgotten.

Ludwig Pfau

**Thou, O Jehovah, Abideth Forever** is one of the four motets composed by Copland in 1921. This piece is written for SATB a cappella mixed chorus in a ternary form. Adapted from the Bible scripture, the text of this motet proclaims God's faithfulness to be dwelled with mankind, and pleas for God's presence without forgetting mankind. The piece begins with a firm and proclaiming-mannered motive, "Thou, O Jehovah, Abideth Forever", and ends with the chorus singing an unending "forever" in a low register.

Thou, O Jehovah, abideth forever God reigneth over all men and nations. His throne doth last and doth guide all the ages. Why willst Thou forsake us ever? When willst Thou forget us never? Thou, O Jehovah, abideth forever and all the length of our days will ever be our Savior.

adapted from the Psalms

Composed in 1960, *Ubi Caritas* is one of the four motets composed by Maurice Duruflé that incorporated Gregorian chant into the melody. The piece is composed for SATB a cappella mixed chorus in a ternary form. The entire piece conveys a peaceful and serene message a soft and sustaining texture of sound, created with clustered and blocked chords in lower chorus. The "Ubi Caritas" motive is repeated three times before concluding with a "Amen" section that has a free flowing meter to bring an end to the piece.

Soong Hong Wong

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur. Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Amen. Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.
Where charity and love are, God is there. Amen.

from The Roman Missal

# **Upcoming Concerts**

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

# Sunday, February 27, 2022 Eastman Chorale

Music of Hannah Lash, Bach, Hailstork, Palestrina, and Georg Schumann William Weinert, *conductor* Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre • 3PM

Sunday, March 20, 2022 **Eastman Bach (and Schütz) Cantata Series**BWV 35, BWV 204, SWV 478

Anna Lenti, Eric Meincke, and Wenhao Mu, conductors
Glory House International • 3PM

Sunday, April 10, 2022

# Eastman Repertory Singers and ESM/UR Treble Chorus

Philip Silvey, Christian Bigliani, Grace Leung, Daniel Reid, Soong Hong Wong, and Mengru Zheng, *conductors* Kilbourn Hall • 7:30PM

We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the "Great Hill People" and "Keepers of the Western Door" of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people on whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

Information about upcoming Eastman concerts and events can be found at: www.esm.rochester.edu/concerts/calendar.php

Kilbourn Hall fire exits are located along the right and left sides, and at the back of the hall. In the event of an emergency, you will be notified by the stage manager. If notified, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest exit.

A fully accessible restroom is located on the main floor of the Eastman School of Music. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to this facility.

**Please note:** The use of unauthorized photographic and recording equipment is not allowed in this building. We reserve the right to ask anyone disrupting a performance to leave the hall.

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corporations. Gifts and grants to the School support student scholarships, performance and academic facilities, educational initiatives, and programs open to the greater Rochester community. Every gift, no matter the size, is vital to enhancing Eastman's commitment to excellence. For more information on making a gift, please visit <a href="https://www.esm.rochester.edu/advancement">www.esm.rochester.edu/advancement</a> or contact the Advancement Office by calling (585) 274-1040. Thank you!