



## Music for Voices, Harp & Organ

Sunday 25 June 7:30 P.M.  
Boe Memorial Chapel

### A Celebration of Minnesota Composers Featuring the music of Dominick Argento, Randall Davidson, Stephen Paulus, and Jeffrey Van

Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director

Members of the Ensemble Singers of VocalEssence

Anna Christofaro, Jenny French, Anika Kildegaard, Maggie Sabin, Mari Scott, JoAnna Swantek-  
Johnson, Judith Melander, Anna Mooy, Erin Peters, Robert Graham, Erik Krohg, Bill Pederson,  
Robert Smith

Jeffrey Van, Guitar

Philip Ostrander, Carson King-Fournier & John Tranter, Trombone  
Lynne Aspnes & Randall Davidson

### Program

The Angel Israfil (*whose heart-strings are a lute*) (1989) Dominick Argento  
(b. 1927)

Stephanie Claussen & Catherine Salovich Victorsen, harps

O Little Town of Bethlehem (1979) Stephen Paulus  
Sing Hallelu! (1975) (1949 – 2014)

Emily Gerard, harp

And I Shal Syng, from *So Hallow'd is the Time* (1980) Stephen Paulus

Robert Smith, Anna Christofaro (Mary), Mari Scott (Jesus)  
Sarah Grudem, harp

Tria Carmina Paschalia, Three Latin Easter Lyrics (1970) Dominick Argento  
*Poetry by Peter Abelard, Sedulius Scottus, and the manuscript of Benedictbeuren*  
Preludium  
Good Friday: The Third Nocturn  
Interludium I  
Saturday

Interludium II  
Easter Sunday  
Postludium

Shari Latz Rothman, harp   Jeffrey Van, guitar

Divertimento for Harp and Chamber Orchestra (1984)

Stephen Paulus

I. Introduction  
II. Fantasy  
III. Petite March  
IV. Berceuse  
V. Cantilena

Sarah Grudem, harp   Philip Brunelle, piano

We Three Kings (1985)

Randall Davidson  
(b. 1953)

Bill Pederson (Gaspar), Robert Graham (Melchior), Erik Krohg (Balthazar)  
Emily Gerard, harp   Randall Davidson, psalter

Fourteen Angels (2008)

Jeffrey Van

*Old German evening prayer,  
recorded in Wilhelm Grimm's 'Wunderhorn' (1808)  
Revised translation by B.J. Bloomer*

Sarah Grudem, harp

Jonah and the Whale (1973)

Dominick Argento

V. In the Belly of the Whale  
XI. The Lesson Restated

*Texts from "Patience, or Jonah and the Whale" (anonymous Medieval English, ca. 1360)  
translated by Brian Stone; The Book of Jonah 2:2-9, Psalm CXXX, Sea Shanties and Work  
songs.*

Dan Dressen, narrator and tenor  
Lynnette Heinzen, harp  
Philip Ostrander, Carson King-Fournier, trombone  
John Tranter, bass trombone

*Please turn off cell phones and electronic devices. No photographing or videotaping allowed.*

*This concert is sponsored in part by contributions from HarpColumn, the Ivy Fund of the  
Minnesota Chapter of the AHS, and the MacPhail Center for Music*

The Angel Israfil (*whose heart-strings are a lute*)

Dominick Argento

And they say...

That Israfil's fire  
Is owing to that lyre  
By which he sits and sings—  
The trembling living wire  
Of those unusual strings.

-- *Edgar Allen Poe*

Tria Carmina Paschalia Three Latin Easter Texts

### **In Parasceve Domini: III Nocturno**

Nox ista flebilis praesensque triduum  
Quod demorabitur fletus sit vesperum  
Donec laetitiae mane gratissimum  
Surgente Domino sit maestis redditum

*Peter Abelard*

Now is that tearful night  
the three days of sorrow,  
until the morning of the risen Christ  
shall bring the longed-for dawn of joy

Veritas veritatum  
via, vita, veritas!  
Per veritas semitas  
Elimans peccatum;  
te verbum incarnatum  
clamant fides, spes, caritas;

Truth of Truths,  
Way, Life, Truth!  
By thy straight and narrow path  
our sins are taken away;  
To thee, O Word Incarnate,  
Faith, Hope and Charity cry out;

o quam mira potential,  
quam regia  
vox principis,  
cum egrotanti precipis  
'surge, tolle grabatum!'

*Benedictbeuern MS*

O what miracle of power  
how regal  
the princely voice,  
when you bade the stricken man  
'arise, take up thy bed and walk!'

### **Carmen Paschale**

Surrexit Christus sol verus  
Vespere noctis  
Surgit et hinc domini  
Mystica messis agri,

Christ, the True Sun, has risen  
from the dark of night,  
and henceforth the mystic harvest  
of the Lord's fields will arise.

Nunc chorus ecclesiae  
Cantat per cantica Sion  
alleluia suis centuplicatque tonis  
*Sedulius Scottus*

Now the chorus of the church  
sings the song of Zion,  
its allelulia multiplied a hundred fold.

The angel:

A lovely lady sat and sange, and to her son thus gan she say:

Mary:

My son, my Lord, my dere derlyng, why liggis thou thus in hay?  
Myn own dere son, how art thou cum, art thou not God very?  
But neuer the lesse, I will not sese to syng, "by, by, lulley."

The angel:

Then spake the child that was so yong and thus he thought he said:

Jesus:

I am knowen as hevyn kyng, in cribbe though I now be layd;  
Thow knowest it is no nay  
Angelis bright to me shall light; And of that sight ye may be light.  
And syng "by, by, lulley."

Mary:

Jhesu, my son, hevyn kyng, why lvest thou thus in stall?  
And why hast thou no riche beddyng in sum riche kyngis hall?  
Me thynkith by right, the Lord of might shuld lye in riche aray;  
But neuer the lesse I will not sese to syne "by, by, lulley."

Jesus:

Mary moder, queen of blis, me thynkith it is no lawe  
That I shuld go to the kyngis, and they not to me drawe;  
But you shall see That kyngis thre To me will come on the Twelfth day;  
For this behest, Geve me your brest, And syng "by by, lulley."

Mary:

Jhesu, my son hevyn kyng, Yf it be thy will, Grant thow me myn  
Asking, As reason wold, and skylle:  
What so euer they be, That can and will be Mery on this day,  
To blis them brynge, And I gan syng: "Lylley."

Jesus:

I am knowen as hevyn kyng, in cribbe though I now be layd;  
But you shall see That kyngis thre To me will come on the Twelfth day;  
Angelis bright To me shall light; And syng "by, by, lulley."  
Mary moder quene of blis syng "by, by, lulley."

V. In the Belly of the Whale

Narrator:

A wild rolling whale, by warrant of Fate  
Beaten up from the abyss, by the boat was floating.

And sensing that sea-goer in search of the depths,  
Swiftly glided with gaping gorge to gobble him up.  
Without touching a tooth, he tumbled down its throat.

The sea-monster swung away and swept to the bottom  
By the shifting surge-floor where stark rocks reared,  
With the man in his maw, amazed in dread-  
Little wonder it was woe that tortured him!

In the welter of the deep wastes the whale ever rolled.  
Sailing on the surge in safety, Jonah heard:

Chorus:

Sufferance may assuage and salve the blazing pain:  
Face woe with fortitude, and joy will follow.

Narrator:

So in the belly of the beast he breathed in safety  
Three days and three nights, ever thinking of the Lord

XI. The Lesson Restated

Patience is a princely thing,  
    though displeasing often.  
When heavy hearts are hurt,  
    Or held up to scorn.  
Face woe with fortitude,  
    And joy will follow.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath breath join with Abraham’s seed to adore him!  
Let the “Amen” Sum all our praises again  
Now as we worship before him.

Amen.

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation.

Amen.

**Dominick Argento** is considered to be America's pre-eminent composer of lyric opera. All of his works, instrumental and vocal alike, display a natural dramatic impulse combining tonality, atonality, and a lyrical use of twelve-tone writing. Argento earned both the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. His Ph.D. is from the Eastman School of Music. He joined the faculty of the Department of Music at the University of Minnesota in 1958, where he taught until 1997. He was one of the founders of the Center Opera Company, now the Minnesota Opera. Many of his fourteen operas as well as major song cycles, orchestral works, and choral pieces were commissioned for and premiered by Minnesota-based artists. Dominick Argento received the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1975 for his song cycle *From the Diary of Virginia Woolf*. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1979, and in 1997 was honored with a lifetime appointment as and the title of Composer Laureate to the Minnesota Orchestra.

Artistic director and founder of VocalEssence, **Philip Brunelle** is a conductor, choral scholar, and visionary of international renown. His lifelong mission has been to promote choral art in all its forms, through championing rarely heard works of the past and performing and commissioning outstanding new music. Mr. Brunelle has conducted symphonies, choral festivals, and operas on six continents, is a choral editor for Boosey & Hawkes, chairman of the review committee for Walton Music, and Organist-Choirmaster at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, MN. For the International Federation for Choral Music, Brunelle has led three world symposia (in Minneapolis, Seoul, South Korea, and Barcelona, Spain,) and served as Vice President of the IFCM Board. He is the recipient of multiple lifetime achievement awards and honors, holds five honorary doctoral degrees, and has been recognized for his commitment to choral music by Norway (Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit), the United Kingdom (Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire), Hungary (Kodály Medal), Sweden (Royal Order of the Polar Star) and Mexico (Ohtli Award).

When **Stephanie Claussen** was seven years old, harpist Catherine Victorsen moved in next door. Stephanie's father built a Musicmakers Gothic harp from a kit and Stephanie started harp lessons. She soon fell in love with the instrument and every piece ever written in a minor key. Stephanie went on to study harp performance with Kathy Kienzle at the University of Minnesota and now performs and teaches professionally in the Twin Cities. Stephanie plays in a harp/violin duet with her father at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival as well as with the Ravenscroft Musicke Guild. She has recorded multiple solo albums, including *Soirée à Montpellier* and *Light So Brilliant: Carols and Tunes for Christmas*, and recently released a book of harp arrangements with Mel Bay Publications. As the current president of the Minnesota Chapter of the AHS Stephanie loves organizing harp events and meeting other harpists. When not making music, Stephanie enjoys painting the walls of her house various interesting colors and drinking English Breakfast tea out of a real teacup.

**Randall Davidson's** works have enjoyed performances throughout the U.S. and Europe, attracting the attention of critics, performers, and audiences alike for their dramatic and accessible musical language. Collaborations with Garrison Keillor produced *The Young Lutheran's Guide to the Orchestra*, and a 20-year association with Philip Brunelle and VocalEssence has resulted in dozens of works for chorus and orchestra including the church parable, *The Fourth Wise Man (1995)*. Mr. Davidson's music studies were with Dominick Argento, Eric Stokes, Susan McClary and Paul Fetler at the University of Minnesota School of Music, and with Alf Houkom at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

**Emily Gerard** grew up in the Duluth-Superior area where she began studying Suzuki harp. She holds the Bachelor of Music degree from Augsburg College, studying with Kathy Kienzle, and the Master of Music degree from Carnegie Mellon University studying with Gretchen Van Hoesen. Emily performs regularly as a part of numerous musical organizations in the Twin Cities area, including the Minnesota Opera,

Exultate, the Minnesota Boychoir, the Fargo Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, the Minneapolis Civic Orchestra, the Twin Cities Masters Chorale, and the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra. In addition to her active performing and teaching schedule, Emily spends her time with her husband and three young daughters.

**Sarah** (née Worrall) **Grudem** is a freelance harpist living in the Twin Cities. She performs regularly with choral groups and with orchestras. A recent highlight was playing in the Minnesota Orchestra for the last concert conducted by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski. Of tonight's concert Sarah says it, "feels like a coming full circle moment", as she came to love the music of Stephen Paulus, thanks to the *Berceuse* from the Divertimento for Harp and Chamber Orchestra, being included in the 1996 AHS competition. The "haunting beauty" of this piece left a profound impression on her, and Mr. Paulus instantly became one of her favorite composers. She played in the premiere of his opera *Heloise and Abelard* at Juilliard, and *The Star Gatherer* with the boy choir of St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Music degree from The Juilliard School studying with Nancy Allen and the Master of Music degree from the University of Minnesota studying with Kathy Kienzle. Sarah lives with her husband and two children in Minneapolis, where she also co-owns an organic cotton clothing business.

Minnesota, harpist **Lynnette Heinzen** graduated from the University of Minnesota with the Bachelor of Music degree in harp performance, studying with Frances Miller. Additional teachers include Lynne Aspnes and Suzanne Balderston. Ms. Heinzen has devoted her career to teaching and freelancing in the Twin Cities area, playing orchestral and chamber music with members of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Minnesota Orchestra. She enjoys furthering her repertoire by playing recitals every few years, always striving to program repertoire new to her, and she has been a continually active and devoted member of the Minnesota Chapter of the AHS.

Canadian-born trombonist **Carson King-Fournier** is a freelance performer and teacher based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, performing on bass trombone, sackbut, euphonium and bass trumpet. He has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the South Dakota Symphony, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and the United States Military Academy Band, West Point. King-Fournier holds the Bachelor of Music Degree from the Juilliard School, and the Master of Music Degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

**Phil Ostrander** is Professor of Trombone at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire where he conducts the Symphony Band and teaches private trombone. Ostrander holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music, the Master of Music degree, in both trombone performance and wind conducting, from the New England Conservatory of Music, and the Bachelor of Music degree and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. Ostrander is the principal trombonist in the Minnesota Opera orchestra, and a member of the IRIS Chamber Orchestra in Memphis, TN.

A native of New Jersey, **Stephen Paulus** lived most of his life in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He earned his doctoral degree in music composition from the University of Minnesota in 1978. A passionate advocate for the works and careers of his colleagues, Paulus co-founded the Minnesota Composers Forum (now the American Composers Forum) in 1973, the largest composer service organization in the U.S. Paulus also served as the Symphony and Concert Representative on the board of ASCAP from 1990 until 2014. He wrote over 600 works, receiving premieres and performances throughout the world, as well as a 2015 Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary Classical Composition. *The New York Times* described his musical style as "lush and extravagant." *The New Yorker* described him as a "bright, lyrical inventor whose music pulsates with a driving, kinetic energy." Paulus was a recipient of both NEA and Guggenheim

Fellowships. Stephen Paulus passed away in October 2014 but his music continues to be frequently performed and often characterized as rugged, angular, lyrical, lean, rhythmically aggressive, original, often gorgeous, moving, and uniquely American.

A native of Minneapolis, **Shari Latz Rothman** has performed with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Celtic Thunder, the Los Angeles Master Chorale Sinfonia Orchestra, and Johnny Matthis. She has recorded with Prince, the National Lutheran Choir, and the Los Angeles-based rock band, The Velvet Chain. Rothman is on the faculty of the MacPhail Center for Music, where she teaches lessons, co-directs an adult harp ensemble, and leads a summer harp camp for beginners. Shari holds a Bachelor of Music degree in harp performance from the University of Michigan and the Master of Music degree in harp performance from the University of Southern California, where she was the recipient of a USC graduate teaching fellowship. Her primary teachers are Lynne Aspnes, Frances Miller and JoAnn Turovsky. Ms. Rothman is a veteran of two American Harp Society National competitions, served as competition liaison for the 1993 AHS Conference held in Ann Arbor, MI, and is a past President of the Minnesota Chapter.

**John Tranter** is an Affiliate Professor of Low Brass at the University of Minnesota School of Music. He has performed and/or recorded with Symphonia, America's first professional tuba-euphonium ensemble; Orquesta Sinfonica de Trujillo, Peru; the Palm Beach Opera, the Kansas City Symphony brass quintet, and the American Wind Symphony. Tranter holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, the Master of Music degree from Florida State University and the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Kansas.

Guitarist and composer **Jeffrey Van** has premiered over 50 works for guitar, including Dominick Argento's *Letters from Composers*, and a broad variety of chamber music. Mr. Van has performed in Carnegie Hall, NYC, Wigmore Hall, London, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and has premiered and recorded commissioned works from more than a dozen composers, including Stephen Paulus, Michael Daugherty, Libby Larsen and William Bolcom. Van is a founding member of The Hill House Chamber Players, and his compositions include works for guitar, guitar and violin, guitar and flute, chorus, chamber ensemble, and vocal solo. His music is published by E.C. Schirmer, G. Schirmer, Walton, Boosey & Hawkes, Morningstar, earthsongs, and Hal Leonard.

**Catherine Salovich Victorsen** holds the Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University, and the Master of Music degree from the University of Minnesota. Ms. Victorsen is on the faculties of Bethel University and Hamline University, and the University of Northwestern, all in St. Paul MN. From 1984-1991 Cathy was the Solo Principal Harpist for the Regensburg Philharmonic Orchestra in Regensburg, Germany. She was the 1999 Winner of the North American Welsh Eisteddfod. Her teachers have included Nancy Allen, Edward Druzinsky, Lucille Lawrence, and Frances Miller. Ms. Victorsen's recordings include *Songs of the Irish Harpers*, with tenor Fran O'Rourke, (property of West German Radio); *Beau Soir*, a collection of French Art Songs with soprano Judith Cummings; and *Christmas Blessings* and *Glorious* with cellist Sachiya Isomura, and flutist Barbara Leibundguth.

Philip Brunelle founded **VocalEssence** in 1969. The performers on tonight's concert all come from the 32 member Ensemble Singers, the professional chorus of VocalEssence, formed in 1991. The Ensemble Singers are well known to public radio listeners as the "house choir" from *A Prairie Home Companion*. Their vocal sound and ensemble characteristics have been lauded by the *Times* of London as "polished, bright and brilliantly balanced." VocalEssence strives to create perfection in their choral sound, and to engage their audiences with a vivid personality and expressive singing.