



2023-2024 SEASON

Celebrating, invigorating,  
and expanding sacred choral music

# FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Jennaya Robison

Dear friends of the National Lutheran Choir,



The 2023-2024 season, “All Things New,” was born from the words of the NLC mission to celebrate, invigorate and expand sacred choral music. As a product of the Lutheran choral tradition, I am firmly rooted in uplifting the magnificence of that tradition. At the same time, it is my goal to cultivate a welcoming space where people of all faith traditions, or no tradition at all, feel part of the NLC community. Our season includes

both celebrated works from the sacred canon as well as repertoire that will stretch our imaginations as we explore the sacred voices of secular poets, shared experiences of humanity, and diverse faith and ethnic traditions.

Our season will be a four-concert journey celebrating choral tradition while also opening up the conversation of what is sacred. We’ll explore how to create a community that truly welcomes all of God’s people. The season will begin with an All Saints concert that commemorates our saints *and* celebrates the new life of all those who have been born. At Christmas, we anticipate the new hope given to all of us in the form of a new baby. In winter, we will honor music of the sacred, Lutheran tradition alongside works of underrepresented American composers. Finally, we will end our season with the Midwest premiere of Minnesota-based composer Jocelyn Hagen’s work *Here I Am*. This concert will feature a partnership with members of the nationally recognized Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs - Treble Singers under the direction of Philip Brown and Grammy Award-winning soprano soloist, Sarah Brailey.

As we enter this first season together, let me be the first to thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the work we do as the National Lutheran Choir community:

*“For all that has been, Thank you. For all that is to come, Yes!”*

—Dag Hammarskjöld

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennaya Robison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jennaya Robison, Artistic Director



Check out our YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/NLChoir](https://www.youtube.com/NLChoir) for concert recordings, hymns, choral favorites, and more. We add new content often, so don't forget to subscribe too!"

# NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

## 2023-2024 Season: All Things New

### ALL SAINTS: New Life

November 3, 2023 - 7:30pm

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

November 5, 2023 - 4:00pm

Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina, Minnesota



*4:00pm concert on November 5 livestreamed worldwide*

### CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: New Hope

December 8, 2023 - 4:30pm

December 9, 2023 - 1:30pm **MATINEE PERFORMANCE!**

December 9, 2023 - 8:00pm

The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, Minnesota



*Christmas 1:30pm on December concert livestreamed worldwide*

### WINTER CONCERT: New Journey

February 25, 2024 - 4:00pm

St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minnesota

### GALA: New Dreams

April 7, 2024

Quincy Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota

### SPRING CONCERT: New Day

April 28, 2024 - 4:00pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, Minnesota



*Livestreamed worldwide*



Indicates a virtual offering

#### ***Get the full NLC experience with a Virtual Subscription!***

*Virtual Subscriptions include access to unique content from the National Lutheran Choir including behind-the-scenes rehearsal performances, professionally recorded live-streamed concerts, deep dives into the NLC's repertoire, singer introductions, and in-depth interviews with Artistic Director Jennaya Robison and other important figures in the national choral community.*

## ALL SAINTS: New Life

*“As winter comes, as winters must,  
we breathe our last, return to dust;  
still held in Christ, our souls take wing  
and trust the promise of the spring.”*

— from “O Blessed Spring” by Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021)

At every point in our journey through life, God meets us where we are. So it is with our connection as humans, from birth to death, we are joined as people of God. Through our annual All Saints concert, we will commemorate those who have passed beyond this world to a new life with our Creator as well as celebrate the new life of all those who have been born. This program will feature works both new and old, from J.S. Bach's *Fürchte dich nicht* and Paul Christiansen's *Children of the Heavenly Father* to Reena Esmail's *Take What You Need* and a movement from Christopher Tin's celebrated new work, *The Lost Birds*. As always, All Saints will include the singing of hymns, lighting of candles, and remembrance of our new saints.

**November 3, 2023 - 7:30pm**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

**November 5, 2023 - 4:00pm**

Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina, Minnesota



**4:00pm concert on November 5 livestreamed worldwide**



*“The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit, and always green;  
The trees of nature fruitless be,  
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.”*

— from *“Jesus Christ the Apple Tree,”* att. Richard Hutchins

In Christ’s birth we see, hear, and feel a sense of renewal. Christmas connects us to the roots of our faith, healing us in the frigid, dark months of each year. This year’s Christmas Festival will celebrate old beside new; the program will include works from the 16th century to the present, including Gabrieli’s *O Magnum Mysterium*, Thompson’s *Ye Were Sometimes Darkness*, and an arrangement by our new artistic director, Jennaya Robison. Carols, readings, and music from brass, oboe, harp, and organ will sound throughout the Basilica to ring in another Christmas.

**December 8, 2023 - 4:30pm**

**December 9, 2023 - 1:30pm**

**MATINEE PERFORMANCE!**

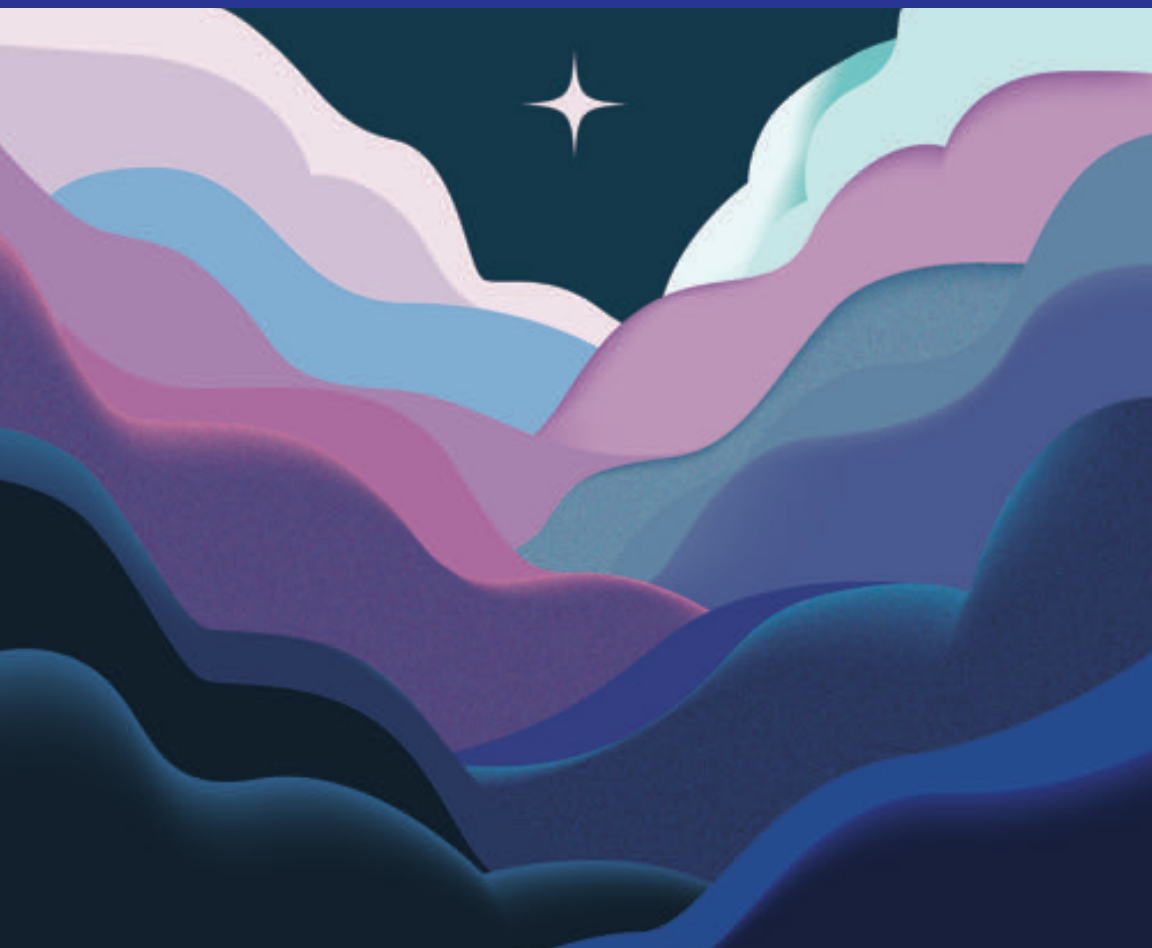
**December 9, 2023 - 8:00pm**

The Basilica of Saint Mary



*1:30pm concert on December 9 livestreamed worldwide*

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: New Hope





## WINTER CONCERT: New Journey

*“Guide our way as we travel, guide our way.  
With so many roads before us,  
where to go is hard to say.  
Guide our way as we travel, guide our way.”*

— from “Give Us Bread for our Journey” by Bret Hesla (Augsburg Fortress)

Take a journey with the National Lutheran Choir before our departure to the Carolinas to celebrate music of the Lutheran canon and works from American composers. The NLC’s tour program will explore the connections we make through the narratives of our lives, all of us one community in friendship and spirit. Works from Schütz, Gretchaninoff, and Paulus will complement newer works by Stacey Gibbs and Zanaida Robles, as well as three movements from *The Lost Birds* choral set by Christopher Tin.

**February 25, 2024 - 4:00pm**

St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minnesota

Featuring Angelica Cantanti and Sarah Brailey

*“God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.” – Psalm 46:5*

The final concert of the first season with Artistic Director Jennaya Robison will feature the Midwest Premiere of Minnesota composer Jocelyn Hagen’s acclaimed work *Here I Am*, performed with chamber orchestra, members of the nationally recognized Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs - Treble Singers under the direction of Philip Brown, and Grammy Award-winning soprano soloist, Sarah Brailey. Hagen’s work seeks the feminine, bringing to light the love and power God has bestowed on women throughout history and in our lives today. This piece will be paired with movements from *Dixit Dominus* by Mariana von Martines, an undersung, yet brilliant, Classical-era composer.

**April 28, 2024 - 4:00pm**

St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, Minnesota



*Livestreamed worldwide*

**SPRING CONCERT: New Day**



# ADDITIONAL EVENTS

## CHORAL TUNE-UP WITH JENNAYA ROBISON

**January 20, 2024 - 9:00am-12:00pm**

Roseville Lutheran Church | 1215 Roselawn Ave W, Roseville, Minnesota

Church choristers from throughout the region will join singers from the National Lutheran Choir to learn repertoire and vocal techniques that enhance services at their home churches. This season we feature our new Artistic Director, Jennaya Robison as our clinician and guide in tuning up for the liturgical season ahead.

Visit [NLCA.com/Tuneup](https://www.nlca.com/Tuneup) for more information.

## SOUTHEAST U.S. TOUR

**March 1, 2024 - 7:30pm Concert**

Grace Chapel at Lenoir-Rhyne University | 8th Ave NE, Hickory, NC

**March 2, 2024 - 3:00pm Concert**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church | 119 N Church St, Lexington, SC

**March 3, 2024 - 11:00am Worship, 3:00pm Concert**

Duke University Chapel | 401 Chapel Dr, Durham, NC

On our tours, the NLC shares artistry, fellowship, and a rich and ever-expanding heritage of sacred choral music with friends around the country. After four years away, we will revisit North and South Carolina. Listen as the NLC features repertoire new and old at Grace Chapel and Duke Chapel in North Carolina and at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in South Carolina.

## GALA: NEW DREAMS

**April 7, 2024**

Quincy Hall | Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mark your calendars for our annual celebration and show of support for the National Lutheran Choir. This year's format includes live music, cocktails and appetizers, messages from the Choir's friends and leaders, a performance by the National Lutheran Choir, and a Fund-the-Mission to support the NLC's continuing legacy in our local community and beyond under Artistic Director Jennaya Robison.

*This season's concert artwork was created by Tamila Amanzholova, a Graphic Designer from Kazakhstan who currently resides in Houston, Texas. To learn about Tamila and see more of her work, visit [tamila.design](https://www.tamila.design) online.*



# BIOGRAPHIES



## **NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR**

The National Lutheran Choir is rooted in its mission to celebrate, invigorate, and expand sacred choral music, bringing inspiration and meaning to people of diverse faiths and backgrounds. Founded in 1986 by the late Larry Fleming, grown under the direction of David Cherwien from 2002-2023, and now led by Jennaya Robison, the National Lutheran Choir sings a spiritual story through diverse repertoire including selections from early chant and simple folk anthems to complex choral masterworks and new compositions. Currently in its 38th year, the National Lutheran Choir features a roster of more than 65 volunteer singers from various backgrounds and faith traditions. In addition to concertizing in the Twin Cities and on annual tours, the choir serves a national audience through artfully produced content, concert live streams, and other releases on YouTube, as well as through a Virtual Subscription program. A discography of 36 recordings showcases the ensemble's music making over the years and presents hymns, choral classics, contemporary works, spirituals, and major new works commissioned by the National Lutheran Choir. Much of this influential new work is featured in MorningStar Music's collection, "The National Lutheran Choir Series." The National Lutheran Choir has been honored with the Wittenberg Award from the Luther Institute, Chorus America's Margaret Hillis Award, and the Dale Warland Singers Commissioning Award.



## **DR. JENNAYA ROBISON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Jennaya Robison is the Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir and is a highly accomplished conductor, educator, and vocalist. She holds degrees in conducting, voice, and music education from the University of Arizona, the University of New Mexico, and Luther College. Her work in choral conducting includes serving as the Raymond R. Neevel/Missouri Associate Professor and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory from 2020 to 2023, serving as Associate Professor of Choral Music at Luther College from 2013 to 2020, and founding Scottsdale Musical Arts in 2009.

In demand as a clinician and guest speaker, Robison frequently appears at regional and national choral conferences and seminars; leads All State and honor choirs, workshops, and festivals; and has taught courses in choral singing and global connection in the United States, Namibia, South Africa, and Germany. She is an active arranger of choral music and the editor of both the "National Lutheran Choir Series" with MorningStar Music and the "Jennaya Robison Series" with Pavane Publishing. Robison has served as soloist and chorister with the Dale Warland Singers, True Concord Voices, Spire Chamber Ensemble, the Tucson Symphony, and many other ensembles. She is the national chair of Music and Worship for the American Choral Directors Association and a member of Chorus America. Robison has also previously held leadership positions at Lutheran churches in Arizona, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota.

 **YouTube** Watch and subscribe to us on YouTube (@NLChoir)

  Follow us on Facebook (@NLChoir) and Instagram (@nationallutheranchoir)

  Listen to us on Spotify and Soundcloud

# PASSES, SUBSCRIPTIONS, AND TICKETS

**NLC offers customizable subscriptions with virtual options so anyone, anywhere can be part of the NLC community:**

- Want the full package? Purchase a complete concert pass and add on a Virtual Subscription for maximum value and investment.
- Prefer a few specific concerts? Purchase a subscription with just the concerts of your choice.
- Not able to see us in person? Purchase a Virtual Subscription to connect with us without having to leave the comfort of your home.

## LIVE CONCERT PASSES

### Live Concert Pass

Pick 4 for a complete concert pass (20% discount)

Pick 3 or 2 for added flexibility

## SINGLE TICKETS

Single tickets can be purchased by visiting [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com) or by calling the NLC office at 612-722-2301.

## VIRTUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Only \$40 for the entire season!**

Virtual Subscriptions include access to unique content from the National Lutheran Choir including behind-the-scenes rehearsal performances, professionally recorded live-streamed concerts, deep dives into the NLC's repertoire, singer introductions, and in-depth interviews with Artistic Director Jennaya Robison and other important figures in the national choral community.

## THREE WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

- ONLINE at [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com)



- CALL the office at 612-722-2301
- MAIL the attached form and payment information to  
National Lutheran Choir  
P.O. Box 4395  
St. Paul, MN 55104

## GROUP TICKETS

Groups of 10 or more are eligible for discounted tickets at every program. Call 612-722-2301 for more information.

# SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

To purchase single tickets, head to [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com) or call 612-722-2301.

## All Saints: New Life (select one)

- Friday, November 3, 2023 | 7:30pm | Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul
- Sunday, November 5, 2023 | 4:00pm | Normandale Lutheran Church | Edina

## Christmas Festival: New Hope (select one)

- Friday, December 8, 2023 | 4:30pm | Basilica of Saint Mary | Minneapolis
- Saturday, December 9, 2023 | 1:30pm | Basilica of Saint Mary | Minneapolis
- Saturday, December 9, 2023 | 8:00pm | Basilica of Saint Mary | Minneapolis

## Winter Concert: New Journey

- Sunday, February 25, 2024 | 4:00pm | St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth

## Spring Concert: New Day

- Sunday, April 28, 2024 | 4:00pm | St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

## Virtual Subscription

NLC's celebrated virtual experiences continue. Enjoy a rich variety of regular content, exclusive documentary-style deep dives, and more, all for just \$40.

- I'd like a Virtual Subscription for \$40

---

How many Pick-4 passes? \_\_\_\_\_ x \$120 = \_\_\_\_\_

How many Pick-3 passes? \_\_\_\_\_ x \$93 = \_\_\_\_\_

How many Pick-2 passes? \_\_\_\_\_ x \$65 = \_\_\_\_\_

Virtual Subscription?\* (circle one) Y / N x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

\*One per household Additional Gift \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

P.O. Box 4395

St. Paul, MN 55104

612-722-2301 · NLCA.com

## 2023-2024 SEASON

**ALL SAINTS: NEW LIFE**

November 3 & 5, 2023

 *Livestreamed worldwide*

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: NEW HOPE**

December 8 & 9, 2023

 *Livestreamed worldwide*

**CHORAL TUNE-UP WITH JENNAYA ROBISON-**

January 20, 2024

**WINTER CONCERT: NEW JOURNEY**

February 25, 2024

**SOUTHEAST USA TOUR**

March 1, 2024 - Hickory, NC

March 2, 2024 - Lexington, SC

March 3, 2024 - Durham, NC

**GALA: NEW DREAMS**

April 7, 2024 - Quincy Hall, Minneapolis

**SPRING CONCERT: NEW DAY**

April 28, 2024

 *Livestreamed worldwide*

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No.  
93923  
Twin Cities, MN