

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

23
24

As we gather to share sacred music, we acknowledge that the lands on which we perform are the ancestral and contemporary homelands seized from Dahkóta, Anishinaabe, and other Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge that the creation stories of the Dahkóta, Anishinaabe, and other indigenous people are rooted in this place and they were the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, cry, drum and sing upon this land. We recognize the profoundly sacred relationship that our Native siblings have with the land, and we ask for forgiveness for the ways we have violated that which is sacred to them, and that which sustains us all.

Letter from the Director

Dear friends of the National Lutheran Choir,

Welcome to the 2023 National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival! We are so grateful to have you with us today. During this holiday season, we invite you to remember the childhood excitement you had as the days turned darker, the weather grew colder, and the sights and sounds of December emerged to greet the season. This Christmas Festival, *New Hope*, provides a chance to remember our own human experience of Christmas alongside the universal story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

New Hope is an earth-changing story in the most unassuming package: a newborn baby. As we begin the performance, you will hear and see the choir emerge from darkness; the world begins in stillness and longs for change in Bradley Ellingobe's arrangement of a Norwegian folk tune set to the text "My heart is longing to praise my Savior." Hope then emerges as Randall Thompson's "Ye Were Sometimes Darkness" calls us to walk as children of light. We greet the birth of Jesus on Christmas morning with Giovanni Gabrieli's setting of "Hodie Christus natus est" (*Today Christ is Born*) performed conversationally with an antiphonal choir and brass. Finally, we all greet the Christ-child with David Willcocks' arrangement of "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

Images of human reflection and praise continue in the program through settings of familiar texts and carols. Daniel Ficarri's setting of the Canticum of Mary (*Magnificat*) and Canticum of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*) bookend the body of the program and extol the delight and hope of humanity in the birth of Jesus. All nature sings in jubilation as we call to another to "come and see" in Undine Smith Moore's "I Believe This Is Jesus." We follow the joy of the season around the globe in songs representing composers from Namibia and South Korea as well as a beloved setting of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Stephen Paulus.

The day becomes night again as we reflect on the foreshadowing of Jesus' life in B.E. Boykin's riveting setting of "Coventry Carol." Elaine Hagenberg's "My Song in the Night" answers as we call on God to comfort us in our darkest moments. Finally, we turn again to the light of hope in Kathleen Thomerson's "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light." From the apse, the choir sings pieces that reflect the light that shines in all of us.

Woven throughout the performance are reflections of the season through poetry. These are compiled, composed, and spoken by former long-time Minnesota Public Radio Host, Brian Newhouse. This poetry was curated to examine the human aspect of our lives; while our experiences may seem unconnected to the Christmas story, the poetry demonstrates how this story actually intersects with every aspect of our lives.

The final section of the program changes from reflection to action. It asks "What do we do with the hope we have been granted through this story?" The answer: We are each called to share that light with all humanity. Please enjoy *New Hope* today and then share the light with all those you touch this holiday season.

Soli Deo Gloria,



There is no intermission during *New Hope*. When possible, please only leave or enter the performance space during spoken reflections or transitional music to help preserve the concert experience of those around you.

The National Lutheran choir recognizes that God's existence cannot be limited to any one gender. Predominately masculine imagery and language for God has marginalized members of our community, especially women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. When possible, NLC strives to use inclusive language when referring to God and humanity. There are times when musical and poetic material has not been changed to preserve the intentions of the composer and/or poet. The spirit in which we offer our musical gifts is one of inclusivity for all humanity.

New Hope

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2023

This concert is programmed to provide listeners a narrative experience; please hold all applause until the conclusion of the final piece.



All Praise to Thee, My God This Night

*Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)
arr. Jennaya Robison*

All praise to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the night.
Keep me, keep me, O King of Kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,
the ill that I this day have done,
that with the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

All praise to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the night.
Keep me, keep me, O King of Kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings.

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

My Heart is Longing

Norwegian Folk Tune

arr. Bradley Ellingboe

Soloists: Katherine L. Castille, Kelvin Li

My heart is longing to praise my Savior,
and glorify his name in song and prayer;
for he has shown me his wondrous favor,
and offered me all heaven with him to share.

Rejoice, rejoice,
and glorify his name.

O Christian friends, let our song ascending
give honor, praise to him who set us free!
Our tribulations may seem unending
but soon with him we shall forever be.

What blessed joy overflows my spirit
because your wondrous grace to me was given.
Complete your work that I may inherit
eternal life at last with you in heaven.

*Princess Eugenie of Sweden (1830-1889)
tr. Peter A. Sveeggen (1881-1959)*

*Once in the Advent season
when I was walking down
a narrow street*

*I met a flock of children
who all came running up to me
saying that they were prophets
and for a penny they
would prophesy*

*It's blue, they said
blue is a holy color
blue is the color that
the mountains are
when they are far away*

I gave them each a penny

*They started out
by rummaging in trash cans
until they found
a ragged piece of silk.*

*They laid the rag
on a small fire
of newspaper and shavings
and burned it in the street*

*We stood that way
in a solemn silence
until
one of the children spoke*

*They scraped up all the ashes
and with them decorated
each other's faces
Then they ran back to me
and stood
in a circle 'round me.*

*It was the prophecy!
He said that long before
the pear tree blossoms
or sparrows in the hedges
begin to sing*

a child will be our King.

*Anne Porter (1911-2011)
from "Living Things" © Steerforth Press*

Slava (mvmt 1. from "Svyatki")

Galina Grigorjeva

Solo Octet: Mycah Lerum, Anna Streeper, Hope Kelsey, Christine Cherwien, Brad Kolstad, Dain Swanson, Will Heller, Dan Streeper

Sung in Russian

Slava Bogu na nebe, slava!	Glory to God in heaven, glory!
Gosudaryu nashemu na sey zemle, slava!	Glory to our Lord in the whole earth, glory!
Chtoby nashemu Gosudaryu ne starit'sya, slava!	May our Lord never grow old, glory!
Yego tsvetnomu plyat'yu ne iznashivat'sya, slava!	May his brilliant robes never wear out, glory!
Yego dobrym konyam ne iz"ezhivat'sya, slava!	May his beloved steed never die, glory!
Yego vernym slugam ne izmenivat'sya, slava!	May his chief servants never betray him, glory!
Chtoby pravda byla na zemle, slava!	May truth flourish in the whole world, glory!
Krashe solntsa svetla, slava!	May the sun shine over the world, glory!
Chtob tsarëva zolota kazna, slava!	May the royal treasury be ever full of gold, glory!
Vek byla polnym polna, slava!	May the great rivers run graciously unto the sea, glory!
Chtoby bol'shimto rekam slava!	
Slava byla do moray slava!	And the little streams down to the mill.
Malymto rechkam do mel'ni-tsy.	We sing to honour the grain,
Aetu pesnyu my khlebu poyëm, khlebu poyëm,	a comfort to the old,
khlebu chest' vozdayëm, starym lyudyam na	and for good people to hear!
utesheniye, dobrym lyudyam na uslyshen'ye,	Glory!
ulsyshen'ye, uslyshen'ye slava!	

Based on Russian folklore

*The huge crown of the cottonwood,
branches bare against the sky.
The hill behind heaped with snow
clean of boot prints.*

*The groundskeeper's house
sheltered by the great tree in summer,
small and alone now.*

*Other houses angle sideways
peaked roofs white
with snow. Bare tree
and evergreens, as if each yard
got an allotment.*

*From my window, a hamlet,
houses and trees, a road
out to the world.*



Norita Dittberner-Jax
from "World Enough and Time" © Nodin Press

Ye Were Sometimes Darkness (from “Requiem”)

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

Ye were sometimes darkness,
but now are ye light in the Lord.
Walk as children of light.

Ephesians 5:8

Hodie Christus natus est

Giovanni Gabrieli (c. 1555 – 1612)

Sung in Latin

Hodie Christus natus est,	Today Christ is born;
hodie Salvator apparuit;	today the Savior has appeared;
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,	today the angels sing,
laetantur Archangeli,	the Archangels rejoice;
hodie exsultant iusti dicentes:	today the righteous rejoice saying:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,	Glory to God in the highest
et in terra pax	and on earth peace
hominibus bonae voluntatis.	to all of goodwill.

From the Antiphon to the Magnificat

*Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed humans in God's own image;
long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom;
eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,
in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, and Son of God,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—
was born in Bethlehem of Judea.
Now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
God made flesh.*

Based on earlier Roman Martyrologies

O Come, All Ye Faithful

attr. John Frances Wade (1711-1786)

arr. David Willcocks

Stand as you are able after the brass fanfare.

Stanza 1 and 2: All in harmony, Stanza 3: All in unison

O Come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - umph - ant. O
Sing, choir of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
Yea, Lord, we greet, thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing, —

come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem.
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;
Je - sus, to thee be — glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold him Born the King of an - gels, O
Glo - ry to God — In — the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

come let us a - dore him, — Christ — the Lord.

Please sit.

Magnificat

Daniel Ficari

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth
all generations shall call me Blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts,
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He, remembering his mercy,
hath hopen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed, forever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Luke 1:46-55 and The Book of Common Prayer, 1662

*I part the out thrusting branches
and come in beneath
the blessed and the blessing trees.
Though I am silent
there is singing around me.
Though I am dark
there is vision around me.
Though I am heavy
there is flight around me.*

*Wendell Berry
from "Collected Poems" © North Point Press*

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Traditional English carol

arr. Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

Soloist: Stefanie Fiser Kleven

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.

His beauty doth all things excel:
by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
the glory which I now can see
in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
here I will sit and rest awhile:
under the shadow I will be,
of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be
with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Anonymous

Angel Joy

Organ Improvisation

Gregory Peterson

I Believe This Is Jesus

African American Spiritual

arr. Undine Smith-Moore (1904-1989)

I believe this is Jesus;
come and see, come and see.

The light of God shines in his face
(oh, come and see, come and see.)
He offers all his pard'ning grace;
come and see, come and see.

I believe this is Jesus;
come and see, come and see.

African American Spiritual



Ndji Raisa Ondundu

using the tune *NEAR THE CROSS*, by William Doane (1832-1915)

arr. Eslon V. Hindundu

Sung in Herero

Ndji raisa ondundu, ku me rondo kuyo, mbi
mune o murungu woye pun' enyando;
mbi ture mozondanda zohange osemba; mu
mbi tji Halleluya! Mba man' ouyenda!

Father, show me the mountain where I can
climb to see your face, show me the way
and world to dwell in your house and live in
a house of peace...

A song from the Republic of Namibia

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

arr. *Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)*

O Little Town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gather'd all above,
while mortals sleep the angels keep
their watch of wondr'ing love.

O morning stars together
proclaim the Holy Birth;
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
o come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

*Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.*

Remember the moon, know who she is.

*Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown
and the giving way to night.*

*Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother's, and hers.*

Remember your father. He is your life, also.

*Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe.*

*Remember you are all people and all people
are you.*

*Remember you are this universe and this
universe is you.*

Joy Harjo

from "She Had Some Horses" © W.W. Norton & Co.

Mary Had a Baby

African American Spiritual/Traditional
arr. James McCullough

Soloist: Seth Hartwell

Mary had a baby! O my Lord!
What did Mary name Him? O my Lord!

She named Him King Jesus! O my Lord!
For he was born to save us! O my Lord!

O tell me why was He born? O my Lord!
Born to bring us peace and joy! O my good Lord!

African American Spiritual

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella

Traditional French carol
arr. Gwyneth Walker

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella,
bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village;
Christ is born and Mary's calling;
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Mother!
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is her Son!

(Ah! Beautiful mother!)

Quiet, all, don't waken the baby;
quiet, all, and whisper low.
Silence as you gather around him,
lest your noise awaken Jesus.
Hush! Hush! Quietly now he slumbers;
Hush! Hush! Quietly now he sleeps!

(See how he sleeps!)

Softly to the little stable,
softly for a moment come;
Look and see how sweet is Jesus.
See how he smiles! With cheeks so rosy!
Hush! Hush! Quietly now he slumbers;
Hush! Hush! Quietly now he sleeps!
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the Mother!
Ah! Ah! beautiful is her Son!

(Beautiful is her son!)

Traditional French carol
alt. Gwyneth Walker

Joy to the World

George Fredrick Handel (1685-1759)

arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Organ setting, arr. David Cherwien

Please stand as you are able. All sing.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her king; let ev - 'ry -
Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em - ploy, while fields and

heart — pre - pare him room — and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
floods, — rocks, hills, and plains — re - peat the sound - ing — joy, re -

and heav'n and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing

heav'n and na - ture sing and heav'n, and heav'n — and na - ture sing.
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, — re - peat — the sound - ing joy.

sing
joy

sing
joy

sing, joy

and re - peat the sound - ing

Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Please sit.

Cum Sancto Spiritu (mvmt. 3, excerpt, from "Gloria")

Hyo-Won Woo

Sung in Latin

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest
You alone are the Holy One.
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Ordinary of the Mass

I saw a stranger yestere'en, I put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the list'ning place. And in the sacred name of the Triune, he blessed myself and my house, my cattle and my dear ones. And the lark said in her song: often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

Anonymous/Old Gaelic

Coventry Carol

Traditional carol (16th century)

arr. B.E. Boykin

Soloist: Ellie Demetrius

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
by by, lully, lullay.
Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
by by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
for to preserve this day
this poor youngling, for whom we sing,
"by by, lully, lullay?"

Herod the king, in his raging,
charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sight,
all children young to slay.

Then woe is me, poor child for thee!
and ever mourn and say,
for thy parting nor say nor sing
"by by, lully, lullay."

Traditional English carol



My Song in the Night

Traditional American Folk

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night,
come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
my comfort by day, and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, a stranger from Thee,
or cry in the desert, Thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

Traditional American Folk Hymn

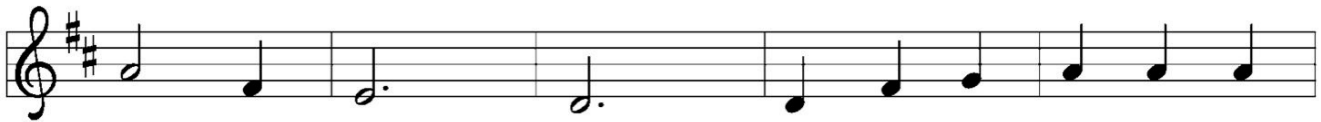
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson

Stand as you are able at the end of the introduction. All sing.



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Please sit.

*Before we kneel,
before we bow and bend
and search in the dark
for words of the heart...*

*Lifetimes ago the stars sent
their kindness:
like a hand
to graze your brow,
to raise your head,
to lay you back
and wash your eyes clean.*

*Earth ever turns,
past failure, past frost,
past shadow and harm.
Frozen fields break
each spring
and are blessed
in rain, in dawn.*

*These stars, this sun...
Before you kneel,
before you bow and bend –
see all this light.*

Brian Newhouse

Light Everlasting

Olaf Christiansen (1901-1984)

O Light everlasting, O Love never failing,
illumine our darkness, and draw us to Thee.
May we from thy spirit receive inspiration
that children together thy wisdom may see.

Make known to all nations thy peace and salvation,
and help us, O Father, thy temple to be.
O Light everlasting, O Love never failing,
illumine our darkness, and draw us to Thee;

Olaf Christiansen

*I heard voices shimmering in the hall of night
and turned to see the northern sky spin threads of light
that trembled like music on the verge of being born. For a moment
there was no difference between my soul and song.*

*Marg Walker
"For a Moment" © Marg Walker*

And Every Stone Shall Cry

Bob Chilcott

A stable lamp is lighted
Whose glow shall wake the sky
The stars shall bend their voices
And every stone shall cry
And every stone shall cry
And straw like gold shall shine
A barn shall harbour heaven
A stall become a shrine

This child through David's city
Shall ride in triumph by
The palm shall strew its branches
And every stone shall cry
And every stone shall cry
Though heavy, dull, and dumb
And lie within the roadway
To pave his kingdom come

Yet he shall be forsaken
And yielded up to die
The sky shall groan and darken
And every stone shall cry
And every stone shall cry
For thorny hearts of men
God's blood upon the spearhead
God's love refused again

But now, as at the ending
The low is lifted high
The stars shall bend their voices
And every stone shall cry
And every stone shall cry
In praises of the child
By whose descent among us
The worlds are reconciled

And every stone shall cry

Richard Wilbur (1921-2017)

*We stepped away from the fire
into the black October cold,
wove through the scrim of trees,
lifted our canoe and paddled*

*onto the lap of the lake to wait
for the Hunter's Moon. Darkness
fell upon darkness, cold upon wordless*

*cold. A birch leaf shivered in the bottom
of the Grumman. It was strange. Stars
rippling on the water's sweep of silk
merged sky, lake, time into a single sphere.*

*We felt the chill, our fragile shell afloat
between mortality and eternity.*

*When the full moon at last ascended
its crescendo filled the hall of night
and with one stroke you centered us
on its gilded path that we might glide on gold.*

*Astronomers shape their awe into science,
keeping faith with both. For me,
suspended in the womb of night,
the summons was to mystery.*

Marg Walker

"In the Anteroom of the Holy" © Marg Walker

Silent Night/Weihnachten Nacht

Franz Gruber (1787-1863)/arr. Eric William Barnum (b. 1979)

Please remain seated. All sing at the invitation of the director

Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

Choir

Sung in German

Stille nacht! heilige nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute heilige Paar.
Holder Knab im lockigten Haar,
Schlafe himmlischer Ruh!
Schlafe himmlischer Ruh!

Silent night! Holy night!
Sleeps the earth, calm and quiet;
Lovely Child, now take thy rest:
On thy mother's gentle breast,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

tr. St. 1, John F. Young (1820-1885)

*Starting here, what do you want to remember?
How sunlight creeps along a shining floor?
What scent of old wood hovers, what softened
sound from outside fills the air?*

*Will you ever bring a better gift for the world
than the breathing respect that you carry
wherever you go right now? Are you waiting
for time to show you some better thoughts?*

*When you turn around, starting here, lift this
new glimpse that you found; carry into evening
all that you want from this day. This interval you spent
reading or hearing this, keep it for life—*

*What can anyone give you greater than now,
starting here, right in this room, when you turn around?*

*William Stafford (1914-1993)
from "Ask Me: Essential Poems" © Graywolf Press*



Nunc Dimittis

Daniel Ficari

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation
which thou hast prepared
before the face of all people;
to be a light, to lighten the gentiles,
to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

Luke 2:29-32 and The Book of Common Prayer, 1662

National Lutheran Choir

SOPRANO

Allison Ackmann
Katherine L. Castille
 Angelica Imagnatcio Chair
Ellie Demitrius
 Mount Olive Chair I
Rachel Finnes
Karla Hanson
 Alumni Chair
Chelsey Kearns
Stefanie Fiser Kleven
Sara Langworthy
Mycah Lerum
 Gustavus Adolphus College Chair
Susan Mencil
Christina Myers
 St. Philip the Deacon Chair
Sarah Olson
Meredith Samuelson
Lisa Schlotterback
Gina Stutzman Toso*
 John and Priscilla Folin
 Memorial Chair
Anna Streeper
Kate Tripoli
Emily Tryggestad

ALTO

Christine Cherwien*
Emily Skoblik Diallo
Marta Edman
 Rick and Linda Glasgow
 eJay Foundation Chair
Caroline Freund
Torunn Harty
Amy M. Hoff
Zanny Johnson
Jenny Kelley
 Arthur and Elaine Halbardier Chair
Hope Kelsey
Sarah Koepp
Ali Pinto
 Generations of NLC Chair
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Delaney Breen, *French Horn*
Rick Gaynor and Karl Wiederwohl, *Trombone*
Anne Wilson, *Percussionist and Rehearsal Pianist*

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Brian Newhouse

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The 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 digital content, concert livestreams, 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 Publishers' 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.

Jennaya Robison, Artistic Director

Dr. Jennaya Robison is the Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir and is a highly accomplished conductor, educator, and vocalist. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the University of Arizona, a Master of Music in conducting and voice from the University of New Mexico, and an undergraduate degree in music (education and voice) from Luther College. Her extensive work in the field of 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 until 2023, 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; regularly 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, Germany, and an upcoming festival in Italy (2024). She is the editor of the National Lutheran Choir Series with MorningStar Music Publishers as well as the Jennaya Robison Series with Pavane Publishing and is an active composer and arranger of choral music. 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 in Worship for the American Choral Directors Association, a member of Chorus America, and has held leadership positions at Lutheran churches in Arizona, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota.

With immense gratitude, the National Lutheran Choir recognizes those who have supported its mission and programs with charitable donations from November 19, 2022 to November 18, 2023. Thank you.

\$10,000 +

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We make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this information. If you notice an error, or would like your listing changed in future publications, please call the National Lutheran Choir office at (612) 722-2301 or email info@nlca.com.

Thank you to those funding Chairs in the National Lutheran Choir!

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Brenda E. Bartz, Claudia Bartz, Rhoda Ebersole, Mary K. Sykes

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Karen and Mark Uecker

Generations of Paul and Florence Peterson Chair supporting singer Abs Trewin

Nancy JP Anderson

Gill Brothers Funeral Directors/Gwenn and Steven Branstad Chair supporting singer Daniel Streeper

Gwenn and Steven Branstad

Gustavus Adolphus College Chair supporting singer Mycah Lerum

Julie and Greg Aune, Lorna Breiter, Ty Baucum and Philip Eidsvold, Jon Kietzer

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Matt and Allana Helland

Luther College Chair supporting singer Eli Pollock

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Mount Olive Lutheran Church Chair I and II supporting singers Ellie Dundek and Kaiya Ruff

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St. Philip the Deacon Chairs I and II supporting singers Chirstina Meyers and Shaun Halland

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Curtiss L. Strom Memorial Chair supporting singer Kelvin Li

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Uecker Family Chair supporting singer Aaron Holmgren

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A chair is an annually renewable gift of \$5,000 that supports the participation of one singer in the National Lutheran Choir for one concert season. Chair pledges and donations are typically made between August and December. Our goal is to have a sponsor for each singer in the National Lutheran Choir.

Choral Legacy Society

Members of the Choral Legacy Society have honored the National Lutheran Choir by including the organization in a bequest or other estate plan.

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Judy and Walter Hinck
David and Sharron Johnson
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Jonathan Flak and Cheryl Persigehl
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Becky and Tom von Fischer
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NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

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2024 Choral Tuneup

with Jennaya Robison as featured Clinician

Connect with other church choristers, learn new music, and work with Jennaya!

Saturday, January 20th, 2024 | 9:00am - 12:00pm | Roseville Lutheran Church

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

Winter Concert: *New Journey*

Sunday, February 25th | 4:00pm | St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MN

Join us before we depart for our tour to the Carolinas for a program that explores the connections we make through the narratives of our lives, all of us one community in friendship and spirit.

Visit [NLCA.com](https://nlca.com) for tickets

2024 Southeast U.S. Tour



March 1 - Grace Chapel at Lenoir-Rhyne University
Hickory, NC | 7:30pm

March 2 - St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Lexington, SC | 3:00pm

March 3 - Duke University Chapel
Durham, NC | 3:00pm

Tickets at [NLCA.com/Tour](https://nlca.com/Tour)

Annual Gala: *New Dreams*

Mark your calendars for our annual celebration and show of support for the National Lutheran Choir. This year's event 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.

April 7, 2024 | Quincy Hall in Minneapolis, MN

Spring Concert: *New Day*

Featuring nationally recognized Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs - Treble Singers under the direction of Philip Brown, Grammy Award-winning soprano soloist Sarah Brailey, and the Midwest Premiere of Minnesota composer Jocelyn Hagen's acclaimed work *Here I Am*

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

Visit NLCA.com for tickets

Audition for the National Lutheran Choir!

Interested in singing with us? Auditions for next season will take place this Spring! Audition material will be due in April; visit NLCA.com/Auditions page for more information.



The Song Goes On



A year-end campaign to support the National Lutheran Choir

Are you one of the thousands of listeners who finds and enjoys to NLC's music online? Do you catch a livestream when you can't attend a concert? Is there someone in your life who would find meaning and beauty in an NLC concert but lives outside the Twin Cities?

NLC will invest more than \$75,000 this year to record and share our music online. Our online concert programs are offered FREE OF CHARGE to all who love the choral arts and seek the transformational power of music. Contents also add to a growing library of music on YouTube that is available on demand for singers, scholars, and seekers alike!

The Song Goes on is a year-end giving campaign to help support this important dimension of our program. We can't do it without you! Any contribution before December 31st will help support our free and widely loved digital programming.

Please visit NLCA.com or use the remit envelope in this program to Give a Gift.

Thank You!

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Christmas Festival: *New Hope*

December 8th, 2023 at 4:30pm and December 9th, 2023 at 1:30pm and 8:00pm
The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis MN