



NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

23
24

National Lutheran Choir

Jennaya Robison, *Artistic Director*

SET 1

(without pause)

O Frondens Virga Dixit Dominus

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Marianna Martines (1744-1812)

- I. Dixit Dominus*
- II. Virgam virtutis tuae*
- III. Tecum principium*
- IV. Juravit Dominus*
- V. Dominus a dextris tuis*
- VI. Gloria Patri*
- VII. Et in saecula*

SET 2

Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs – Treble Singers

Philip Brown, *Conductor*

Storm Comin' Refuge To Sit and Dream

Ruth Moody of The Wailin' Jenny's

Elaine Hagenberg

Rosephanyne Powell

– 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION –

SET 3

(without pause)

Here I Am

Jocelyn Hagen

- 1. There is a Girl*
- 2. The Other Side*
- 3. Voting for Ourselves*
- 4. Write the Story*

Special funding for the production and performance of the New Day program is provided by Nancy JP Anderson and Rick and Linda Glasgow's eLJay Foundation.

New Day

SPRING CONCERT

O Frondens Virga

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Sung in Latin

O frondens virga,
in tua nobilitate stans
sicut aurora procedit:
nunc gaude et letare
et nos debiles dignare
a mala consuetudine liberare
atque manum tuam porrige
ad erigendum nos.

O blossoming bough,
standing in all your nobility,
just as the morning awakens:
so now rejoice and be glad,
though we are frail deem us worthy,
keep us from falling into habitual wickedness
and also extend your hand out
to help us stand upright.

Hildegard of Bingen

Dixit Dominus

Marianna Martines (1744-1812)

Sung in Latin

Soloists: Sarah Brailey, Soprano; Karen Wilkerson, Alto; Seth Hartwell, Tenor; Tim Takach, Bass

I. Dixit Dominus - Chorus

Dixit Dominus Domino meo: sede a dextris meis, donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.	The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
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II. Virgam virtutis tuae - Soprano, Alto Duet

Virgam virtutis tuae emittet Dominus ex Sion; dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.	The Lord will send forth the scepter of your power out of Zion, saying, "Rule over your enemies round about you.
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III. Tecum principium - Alto Solo

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae, in spendoribus sanctorum: ex utero, ante luciferum, genui te.	Princely state has been yours from the day of your birth; in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you, like dew from the womb of the morning."
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IV. Juravit Dominus - Chorus

Juravit Dominus et non poenitebit eum: tu es sacerdos in aeternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech.	The Lord has sworn, and will not recant: "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
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V. Dominus a dextris tuis - Quartet and Chorus

Dominus a dextris tuis, confregit in die irae suae reges. Judicabit in nationibus; implebit ruinas, conquassabit capita in terra multorum. De torrente in via bibet propterea exaltabit caput.	The Lord who is at your right hand, will smite kings in the day of his wrath; he will rule over the nations. He will heap high the corpses; he will smash heads over the wide earth. The king will drink from the brook beside the way; therefore he will lift high his head.
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VI. Gloria Patri - Chorus

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper.	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
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VII. Et in saecula - Chorus

Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.	World without end. Amen.
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Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs - Treble Singers

Storm Comin'

Ruth Moody of The Wailin' Jennys

When that storm comes, don't run for cover
Don't run from the comin' storm, cause there ain't no use in runnin'

When that rain falls, let it wash away
Let it wash away, that fallin' rain, the tears and the trouble

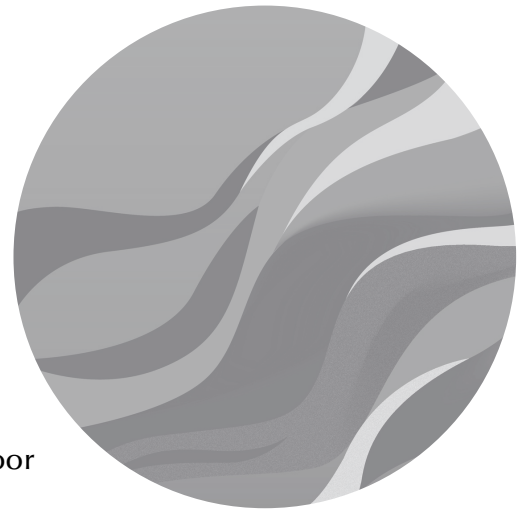
When those lights flash, you hear that thunder roar
Will you listen to that thunder roar and let your spirit soar?

When that love calls, will you open up your door?

You gotta stand on up and let it in, you gotta let love through your door

When that storm comes, don't run for cover
Don't run from the comin' storm, 'cause it can't keep a storm from comin'

Ruth Moody



Refuge

Elaine Hagenberg

From my spirit's gray defeat,
From my pulse's flagging beat,
From my hopes that turned to sand
Sifting through my close-clenched hand.
From my own fault's slavery,
If I can sing, I still am free.

For with my singing I can make
A refuge, for my spirit's sake,
A house of shining words, to be
My fragile immortality.

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

To Sit and Dream

Rosephanye Powell

To sit and dream, to sit and read,
To sit and learn about the world
Outside our world of here and now—
Our problem world--
To dream of vast horizons of the soul
Of dreams made whole,
Unfettered, free--help me!
All you who are dreamers, too,
Help me make
Our world anew.
I reach out my hand to you.

To sit and dream, to sit and read,
To sit and learn about the world.

Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

10 Minute Intermission

Here I Am

*A multimedia symphony for SATB choir, soprano soloist, treble choir,
chamber orchestra, and illuminated portraits*

Jocelyn Hagen

"I am here as a soldier who has temporarily left the field of battle in order to explain...what civil war is like when civil war is waged by women...I am here as a person who, according to the law courts of my country, it has been decided, is of no value to the community at all: and I am adjudged because of my life to be a dangerous person, under sentence of penal servitude in a convict prison...I do not look either very like a soldier or very like a convict, and yet I am both.



Emmeline Pankurst

You won your freedom in America when you had the Revolution, by bloodshed, by sacrificing human life. You won the civil war by the sacrifice of human life when you decided to emancipate the negro. You left it to women in your land, the men of all civilized countries have left it to women, to work out their own salvation...Human life is sacred, but we say if any life is to be sacrificed it shall be ours; we won't do it ourselves, but we will put the enemy in the position where they will have to choose between giving us freedom or giving us death.

...So here am I. I come to ask you to help to win this fight. If we win it, this hardest of all fights, then, to be sure, in the future it is going to be made easier for women all over the world to win their fight when their time comes..."

Emmeline Pankurst

"Women were the wombs of society. Through thousands of years of biblical interpretation, law and custom, women, especially married women, simply were not considered entities with rights separate from men's. It was as if women were part of the furniture in men's lives. They were expected to remain silent on public matters, and the vast majority of women stayed in their place.

As a young woman who went to school from the mid-1950s to the late 1970s, grade school to grad school, I knew little of the suffrage movement and the women behind it. Women received almost no mention in our history books, and women's studies courses were not in our college catalogs. Even as a feminist, voracious reader, and often reviewer of books in general and history in particular, I had rarely stumbled upon books about women's roles and contributions."

Angela P. Dodson, "Remember the Ladies"

*"For most of history,
Anonymous was a woman."*

Virginia Woolf

*"Women need not always keep their
mouths shut and their wombs open."*

Emma Goldman

*"If we want to know who we were meant to be before the world told us who to be –
If we want to know where we were meant to go before we were put in our place –
If we want to taste freedom instead of control –
Then we must relearn our soul's native tongue."*

Glennon Doyle

1. There is a Girl

let me tell you a sad story

there is a girl who
sings only when
every window
is shut.

like most girls,
she's been learning
the trait of silence
since birth.

everyone
underestimates
how important
her voice is,

& the greatest
tragedy of all is
that she does,
too.

Amanda Lovelace

"The unspoken assumption is that women are different. They do not have executive ability, orderly minds, stability, leadership skills, and they are too emotional. It is obvious that discrimination exists. Women do not have the opportunities that men do. And women that do not conform to the system, who try to break with the accepted patterns, are stigmatized as 'odd' and 'unfeminine'. The fact is that a woman who aspires to be chairman of the board, or a Member of the House, does so for exactly the same reason as any man. Basically, these are that she thinks she can do the job and she wants to try."

Shirley Chisholm



Shirley Chisholm

"Bias has to be taught. If you hear your parents downgrading women or people of different backgrounds, why, you are going to do that."

Barbara Bush

"Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them."

Sarah Breedlove

"I feel I must fight for [my music], because I want women to turn their minds to big and difficult jobs; not just to go on hugging the shore, afraid to put out to sea."

Ethel Smyth

"Any great change must expect opposition, because it shakes the very foundation of privilege."

Lucretia Mott

"It is not the intelligent woman vs. the ignorant woman; nor the white woman vs. the black, the brown, and the red, it is not even the cause of woman vs. man. Nay, 'tis woman's strongest vindication for speaking that the world needs to hear her voice."

Anna Julia Cooper

2. The Other Side



Blanca Varela

Nobody will open the door for you.
Keep banging on it.
On the other side is music. No. It's
the phone.
You're wrong.
It's a noise of machines, electric panting,
hissing, lashes.
No. It's music.
No. Someone is crying very slowly.
No. It's a stabbing siren, a huge, steep tongue
licking the empty, colorless sky
No. It's fire.
.....
You're not alone on the other side.
They don't want to let you in.
Look, again, climb, yell. Useless.
You can't go in. They say.

Blanca Varela
(translated by Willis Barnstone and edited by J.H.)

"I hear your voice calling to me in my sleep. I feel your hands at my shoulder, pushing for me to wake. You are afraid. You are angry. You are desperate that I rise. You say my name again and again. When I open my eyes, it is me I see. When I open my ears, it is me I hear. When I am on my feet, it is our journey that I continue."

Kao Kalia Yang

"We must tell and retell, learn and relearn, these women's stories, and we must make it our personal mission, in our everyday lives, to pass these stories on to our daughters and sons. Because we cannot – we must not – ever forget that the rights and opportunities that we enjoy as women today were not just bestowed upon us by some benevolent ruler. They were fought for, agonized over, marched for, jailed for and even died for by brave and persistent women and men who came before us...And if we are to finish the work begun here – we must, above all else, take seriously the power of the vote and use it to make our voices heard."

Hillary Rodham Clinton

"The moment we begin to fear the opinions of others and hesitate to tell the truth that is in us, and from motives of policy are silent when we should speak, the divine floods of light and life no longer flow into our souls. Every truth we see is ours to give to the world, not to keep for ourselves alone, for in so doing we cheat humanity out of their rights and check our own development."

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

"You should not be afraid to offend anyone, to question everything, to reinvent yourself and to rethink the world."

Maya Lin

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."

Audre Lorde

"Humanity, take a good look at yourself. Inside, you've got heaven and earth, and all of creation. You're a world – everything is hidden in you."

Hildegard of Bingen

"It is never too late to mend... We women who are in the background today may be in the lime light tomorrow."

Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti

"I am fighting for my future. I am here to speak for all generations to come. In my anger, I am not blind, and in my fear, I am not afraid of telling the world how I feel."

Severn Cullis-Suzuki

"Don't let anybody convince you this is the way the world is and therefore must be. It must be the way it ought to be."

Toni Morrison

"Never limit yourself because of others' limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination."

Mae Jemison

"A lot of young girls have looked to their career paths and said they'd like to be chief. There's been a change in the limits people see."

Wilma Pearl Mankiller



Malala Yousafzai

"So here I stand, one girl among many. I speak not for myself, but so those without a voice can be heard. Those who have fought for their rights. Their right to live in peace. Their right to be treated with dignity. Their right to equality of opportunity. Their right to be educated."

Malala Yousafzai

"Don't just hope for a better life. Vote for one."

Margaret Thatcher

3. Voting for Ourselves

How dare they they they
say say say
anything we can or cannot do with
our own
red and blue
We are voting for ourselves.

Naomi Shihab Nye

*"Do not think your single vote does not matter much. The rain
that refreshes the parched ground is made up of single drops."*

Kate Sheppard

*"Women, wake up; the tocsin of reason sounds throughout
the universe; recognize your rights."*

Olympe de Gouges



"Truth is powerful and it prevails."

Sojourner Truth

*"You will hear thunder and
remember me, and think:
she wanted storms."*

Anna Akhmatova

"With your strength, my lady, teeth can crush flint."

Enheduanna

Anna Akhmatova

We are voting for our pride and our freedom.
We are voting for our children and our rights.
We are voting for the loves of our lives.
We are voting our insight.

Here I am.

See what we can do with our red and blue.

We are voting for ourselves.

Jocelyn Hagen

“One of the functions of art is to give people the words to know our own experience...Storytelling is a tool for knowing who we are and what we want.”

Ursula K. Le Guin

“When we deny our stories, they define us. When we run from struggle, we are never free. So we turn toward truth and look it in the eye. We will not be characters in our stories. Not villains, not victims, not even heroes. We are the authors of our lives.”

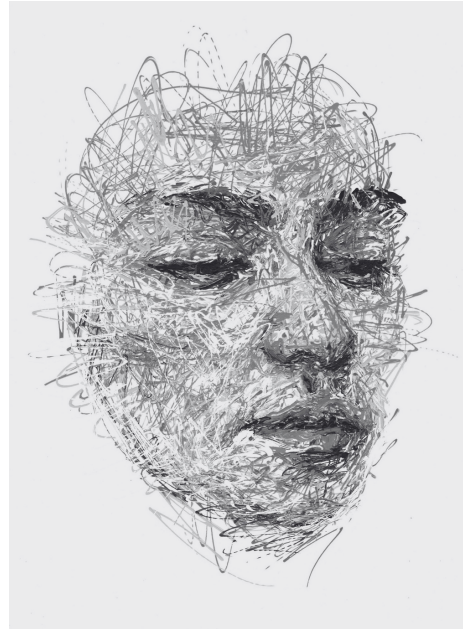
Brené Brown

“When you know someone’s story, it becomes much harder to hate them.”

Sarah McBride

*“I never paint dreams or nightmares.
I paint my own reality.”*

Frida Kahlo



Frida Kahlo

“To the girls, to the women, to the mothers, to the daughters who hear the music bubbling within – speak up. We need to hear your voice.”

Hildur Gudnadottir

“What I want young women and girls to know is: You are powerful and your voice matters. You’re going to walk into many rooms in your life and career where you may be the only one who looks like you or who has had the experiences you’ve had. But you remember that when you are in those rooms, you are not alone. We are all in that room with you applauding you on. Cheering your voice. And just so proud of you. So you use that voice and be strong.

Kamala Harris

“I was born with a song on my tongue.”

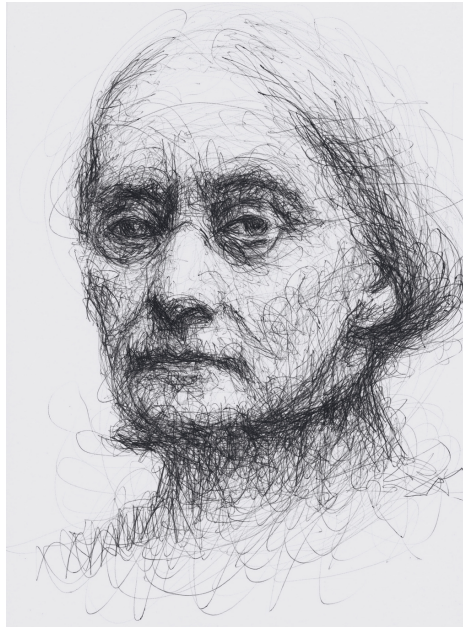
Marina Tsvetayeva

“Just don’t give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don’t think you can go wrong.”

Ella Fitzgerald

“Forget conventionalisms; forget what the world thinks of you stepping out of your place; think your best thoughts, speak your best words, work your best works, looking to your own conscience for approval.”

Susan B. Anthony



Susan B. Anthony

*“Courage calls to courage everywhere,
and its voice cannot be denied.”*

Millicent Fawcett

*“Devote today to something so daring
even you can't believe you're doing it.”*

Oprah Winfrey

*“My emotions
My intuition
My imagination
My courage
Those are the keys to freedom.
Those are who we are.
Will we be brave enough to unlock ourselves?
Will we be brave enough to set ourselves free?
Will we finally step out of our cages and say to ourselves, to our people, and to the world:
Here I Am.”*

Glennon Doyle

“The world has to be ready to listen, and we have to be ready to sing.”

Jocelyn Hagen

4. Write the Story

Trio: Alison Ackmann, Anna Streeper, Martha Sather

I have so many stories to tell...
and when you listen to my story
you give birth to my song.

Freya Manfred

write the story.

push
your hands
into the dirtiest
parts of yourself.

take the
rot & decay
& turn it into
nourishment & life.

water it
& sing to it
& show it
sunlight.

grow a beautiful garden
from our aching
& teach yourself
how to thrive from it.

write your story.

Amanda Lovelace



Kao Kalia Yang

We are the keepers of the stories
We are the ones who march across the years,
We are the grandmothers, the mothers, the daughters
who rise against the odds,
who persevere against the fears.

We will be the ones standing together with words the world
won't hear from our lips, raised high in our hands.
We will be the ones marching down the ragged roads of history,
paving it for generations to come,
So that women, all women, may discover that words silenced
do not die and feet halted do not fall.

Kao Kalia Yang

We are made of hope, we are made of song.

Julia Klatt Singer

Remarks from the Artistic Director

When I began to dream about my first season as Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir, I dreamed of a program that pushed us to think about the role of women in sacred spaces and our concert programs. This afternoon's concert journey is the culmination of a season of all things new. This is my first season with the National Lutheran Choir, and for many of us, this may be the first concert you have experienced where women write the music entirely. We begin and end the concert program this afternoon with only treble voices, highlighting women's sacred societal role.

Soli Deo Gloria,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennaya Robison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and elegant curves.

Program Notes

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, *JENNAYA ROBISON*

Considered the patron saint of musicians and writers, Medieval philosopher, mystic, and composer Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) was a German Benedictine abbess. Also known as "Saint Hildegard," her two treatises on medicine and natural history were revolutionary during that time period. She experienced visions early on, which informed much of her literary and musical work. She was canonized by Pope Benedict in 2012 and is only one of four women named by the Catholic Church as a "doctor of the church."

"O frondens virga" is one of Hildegard of Bingen's best-known chants. Sung by the treble voices of the National Lutheran Choir and Angelica Cantati Treble Singers, the chant beckons us to connect the divine feminine with earthly fertility. This Marian antiphon describes Mary as the blooming branch who will "free us and lift us up aright." Mary's actions and attributes connect humanity to salvation—for it is through her that salvation is born.

The daughter of nobility, Marianna von Martines (1744-1812), was a composer, pianist, and singer well-known for her accomplishments during her lifetime. Her talents were recognized early in her life, and she studied keyboard lessons from Franz Joseph Haydn and singing lessons with Nicola Popora. As a developing composer, she studied composition with Johann Adolf Hasse and Imperial court composer Giuseppe Bonno. In 1773, Martines was the first woman admitted to the Accademia Filarmonica of Bologna. She was frequently asked to perform at court and was a favorite of Empress Maria Theresa.

Her music and skill were known throughout Europe, and it is thought that Mozart may have modeled his 1768 Mass, KV139, after portions of Martines's Mass No. 1 in D Major. Mozart was so taken with Martines that he composed four-hand piano sonatas for the two of them to perform together. Martines's skill and fame would have typically warranted an appointment at court or in a church - yet for women and women of her social class; it would have been unacceptable for her to seek these accolades.

Dixit Dominus (1774) is scored for SATB chorus, a quartet of soloists, and orchestra. Writing sacred music to be performed by mixed forces would not have been typical for women of her time, and the performance of her work was likely possible because of her noble status. The extent of her compositional output includes oratorios, masses, motets, psalm cantatas, secular cantatas, keyboard sonatas and concertos, and one symphony. Recent interest in her work has prompted the performance and publication of several of her works.

Today, we celebrate the beauty and power and hope that future generations will realize the unique, divine power that each human holds inside themselves. The concert ends with Jocelyn Hagen's "Here I Am" as a call to action - to recognize the importance and dignity of all humanity and that the voices of women, young and old, are essential members of society. The work is a celebration and commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which afforded the women of the United States the right to vote.

COMPOSER OF *HERE I AM*, JOCELYN HAGEN (January 2023)

It all began with the libretto.

Artistic Director Eric Holtan asked me to compose a piece for True Concord that would be in honor of the centennial anniversary of the formal adoption of the 19th Amendment into the U.S. Constitution. A worthy reason. I also knew that several other women composers had been invited to create pieces inspired by the very same historical achievement: Julia Wolfe, Andrea Ramsey, and Melissa Dunphy, to name a few. So I knew that I needed a unique spin on the idea to truly make it my own.

I started researching. Lots and lots of books were purchased and perused (but never finished ~ a bad habit of mine). I realized that I knew so little of the suffrage movement. Sure, it was mentioned in my U.S. History course in high school, but other than the fact that "it happened," I didn't remember any details.

I was immediately inspired by how hard these women worked for their voices to be heard, to have a say in government and the policies that affected them directly. They broke windows, allowed themselves to be arrested, and refused to eat. Many men stood by their side. Many other women did not. The movement was also deeply flawed because of segregation. And it took decades of protest to finally win the right to vote.

I also knew that the fight for women's rights is far from over, in our own country and across the world. Here in the U.S. we are fighting over the control of our own bodies. In Iran, women are fighting over their dress code. In Afghanistan, women were just stripped of the right to attend University.

How do I honor **all** these women?

I expanded my research, including women from different countries, different moments in history. I deliberately sought out voices of diversity, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community and women who are leaders in professions mostly associated with men. And then I took all my favorite bits and pieces and started puzzling them together, creating a story that spoke to me. I even decided to create a time-lapse video of the process. You can watch it on my YouTube Channel: JocelynHagenComposer.

I was incredibly inspired by a speech entitled "Freedom or Death" by Emmeline Pankhurst (English suffragist) in 1913.

"I am here as a soldier who has temporarily left the field of battle in order to explain....what civil war is like when civil war is waged by women.... I do not look either very like a soldier or very like a convict, and yet I am both."

And the words of Glennon Doyle, American Author and Activist, from her book "Untamed:"

"My emotions

My intuition

My imagination

My courage

Those are the keys to freedom.

Those are who we are.

Will we be brave enough to unlock ourselves?

Will we be brave enough to set ourselves free?

Will we finally step out of our cages and say to ourselves, to our people, and to the world: Here I Am."

I thought about how, in this career, I have struggled to raise my voice and see my value. I watched the stars of my male peers rise faster and higher, while I continued to fight for similar opportunities and commission fees. My name has been left off of CD descriptions, grant applications, concert announcements, and programs. After a while you start to wonder and take it personally.

I realized that it wasn't enough to hear these words of the women. I wanted to spend an entire 30 minutes "seeing" them. Looking at their faces, acknowledging their existence and validating their words and opinions. So I decided to commission portraits.

There are 46 women represented in the libretto for *Here I Am*, and 50 portraits created. (Some women are represented twice). I found female portrait artists from around the world to paint and draw portraits of these fine women. You will see their faces during the performance, illuminated above the choir and orchestra.

You will hear the power of the female voice when it is truly unleashed, through a virtuosic soprano soloist. You will hear the voices of young women, the next generation, joining the throng. You will see the importance of protest, and you will see the faces of women you don't agree with, but have a voice that needs to be heard all the same.

Here I Am. Look at me. See me. Acknowledge my existence and my fight. Validate this voice inside me. And don't be afraid to let the light inside of yourself shine. Speak up. Give words to your pain. Say it out loud. Write your story.

About the *Here I Am* Portrait Artists

Cecile Yadro

"I'm a French artist that paints mainly portraits in a bright and bold style, gouache, oil or digital. When it comes to traditional painting, my favorite medium is gouache. This is such a versatile medium, the possibilities are almost endless. What I love about gouache is the opacity, and as well the transparency, the velvet soft touch of it, the ability to layer and create textures... I love everything about it! I love experimenting in art, either with new mediums, or with new way to use one, maybe not conventionally but creatively. I'm fascinated by the treatment of light and shadows, human face and underwater are my favorite subjects."

Portraits: Emmeline Pankhurst, Angela P. Dodson, Virginia Woolf, Emma Goldman, Glennon Doyle, Amanda Lovelace

Jessika Lavren

Jessika Lavren is a Ukrainian artist who has experimented with multiple styles before finding her place in painting. Jessica was born in 1988 into the family of a mathematics professor and theater actress. And so she analyzes the environment and embodies it in painting. She used to be a photographer, but photography cannot convey all the emotions as painting. Her studio, where she passionately toiled away, became the embryo for an exciting artistic journey. Her work is anthropological and personal, ponderings on the great themes of life, love and leisure.

Portraits: Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Bush, Ethel Smyth, Sarah Breedlove, Lucretia Mott, Anna Julia Cooper

Lauren Ashley (Super Baddie Creative)

Lauren Ashley is a self-taught, figurative portraiture artist based in Las Vegas, NV. She began creating art as a means of coping with the stresses of being a critical-care nurse during the 2020 pandemic. She utilizes traditional and digital mediums to render her subjects as graphic illustrations which often appear ghostly or glitchy. She is inspired by technology, neon, and women's liberation.

Portraits: Blanca Varela, Kao Kalia Yang, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, May Lin

Lisa Kröger

Lisa Kröger is a German artist born in 1989. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in "Expressive Arts in Social Transformation" in 2016. Her passion is to paint people, and since 2019 she is working as a full-time artist. Most of her portraits are made in watercolors. Lately, she discovered her fascination for gouache and is creating a whole new body of work. Her desire as an artist is to make this world a little bit better, and in her artwork, she speaks about love, kindness, peace, and joy. Lisa also shares her skills and experiences on her new YouTube channel and is working on building a community of self-taught artists.

Portraits: Audre Lorde, Toni Morrison, Hildegard of Bingen, Mae Jemison, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, Wilma Pearl Mankiller, Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Margaret Thatcher, Malala Yousafzai

Rosso Emerald Crimson

Rosso is an award-winning portrait artist who brings intimacy and character to her colourful paintings. Italian born, Rosso lives and works in London since 2004. She graduated in Political Science in Italy then obtained an MA in International Communications and Human Rights at City University in London (UK). She worked in marketing and advertising before changing her career direction to the visual arts. Rosso is primarily a self-taught artist. Her artistic accolades include being a finalist in the "Beautiful Bizarre Art Prize" 2021; winning the "Jackson Open Painting Prize 2019 (JOPP2019)" for the Portrait/Figure category; the "The Harbour Gallery Award" and "The Artist's Exhibition Award" (TALP Open 2019); "The Holly Bush Emerging Woman Painter Prize 2017" and the "Emerald Winter Pride Art Award" in 2016.

Portraits: Naomi Shihab Nye, Kate Sheppard, Olympe de Gouges, Sojourner Truth, Anna Akhmatova, Enheduanna, Jocelyn Hagen

Liz Y Ahmet

Liz Y Ahmet is a highly acclaimed self-taught artist, whose career has spanned over 2 decades. She considers her style as being experimental - each line, dot, mark, pattern, and texture expresses her current mood and is created with passion. Liz considers her self-portraits to be works of self-expression. Liz's work is now viewed internationally and has been featured on celebrity walls, album covers, and billboards.

Portraits: Ursula K. Le Guin, Brené Brown, Sarah McBride, Frida Kahlo, Hildur Guðnadóttir, Kamala Harris, Marina Tsvetayeva, Ella Fitzgerald, Susan B. Anthony, Millicent Fawcett, Oprah Winfrey, Glennon Doyle, Jocelyn Hagen

Dimitra Milan

Dimitra's artwork is layered with symbolism, often provoking deep emotions. She expresses love, hope, authenticity, and beauty through her brushstrokes. She often finds inspiration from her dreams she has at night. Like Van Gogh once said, "I paint my dreams, and I dream my paintings," she also lives by this. "I'm inspired to paint beauty, and to bring more beauty into this world. The world desperately needs more light and truth. I hope my art inspires people to follow their own dreams and pursue their passions. I want my art to touch a deep place in people, and bring them into a higher mindset."

Portraits: Freya Manfred, Amanda Lovelace, Kao Kalia Yang, Julia Klatt Singer

Justin Schell ~ Visuals & Animations

Justin Schell is a documentary filmmaker, visual artist, and podcast producer. He also is the Director of the Shapiro Design Lab, a peer and engaged learning community at the University of Michigan Library. His work in the Lab revolves around facilitating learning and project development in areas such as publicly-engaged scholarship, community and citizen science, accessibility and disability justice, media production, and more. He has a PhD from the University of Minnesota's Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society program, where he completed a multimodal dissertation on immigrant hip-hop in Minnesota and is also the founder of the Minnesota Hip-Hop Collection.

The Women of *Here I Am*

Enheduanna, 23rd c. BCE Sumerian Poet (earliest known poet whose name has been recorded)
Anna Akhmatova, Russian Poet
Susan B. Anthony, American Social Reformer & Women's Rights Activist
Hildegard (of) Bingen, 11th c. German Mystic, Visionary, & Composer
Sarah Breedlove, American Entrepreneur & Philanthropist (first self-made female millionaire)
Brené Brown, American Professor & Author
Barbara Bush, Former First Lady of the United States
Shirley Chisholm, American Politician (first Black Woman to be elected to the United States Congress)
Hillary Rodham Clinton, American Politician, Former First Lady of the United States
Anna Julia Cooper, American Scholar, Author, & Speaker
Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Canadian Environmental Activist & Television Host
Olympe de Gouges, 18th c. French Playwright & Political Activist
Angela Dodson, American Author & Editor
Glennon Doyle, American Author & Activist (wrote "Untamed")
Millicent Fawcett, English Suffragist & Politician
Ella Fitzgerald, American Jazz Singer
Emma Goldman, Russian/Canadian Writer & Political Activist
Hildur Gudnadottir, Icelandic Composer
Jocelyn Hagen, American Composer (composed "Here I Am")
Kamala Harris, American Politician (Vice President of the United States, & the highest-ranking female official in U.S. History, as well as the first African American and first Asian American Vice President)
Mae Jemison, American Engineer & Astronaut (first Black Woman to travel into space)
Frida Kahlo, Mexican Painter
Ursula K. Le Guin, American Author
Maya Lin, American Designer & Sculptor (designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial)
Audre Lorde, American Writer & Civil Rights Activist
Amanda Lovelace, American Poet
Freya Manfred, American Poet
Wilma Pearl Mankiller, American Cherokee Activist & Cherokee Chief
Sarah McBride, American Politician (first openly transgender state senator in the U.S.)
Toni Morrison, American Novelist & Professor
Lucretia Mott, American Abolitionist & Women's Rights Activist
Naomi Shihab Nye, American Poet
Emmeline Pankhurst, English Suffragist
Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, Nigerian Educator & Suffragist
Kate Sheppard, New Zealand Suffragist
Julia Klatt Singer, American Poet
Ethel Smyth, English Composer & Suffragist (composed "The Women's March")
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, American Suffragist & Writer
Marina Tsvetayeva, Russian Poet
Margaret Thatcher, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
Sojourner Truth, American Abolitionist & Women's Rights Activist
Blanca Varela, Peruvian Poet
Oprah Winfrey, American Talk Show Host, Producer, Actress, & Philanthropist
Virginia Woolf, English Writer
Kao Kalia Yang, American Writer
Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani Activist for Female Education & Winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize



Jocelyn Hagen, *Composer*

Jocelyn Hagen composes music that has been described as “simply magical” (Fanfare Magazine) and “dramatic and deeply moving” (Star Tribune, Minneapolis/St. Paul). She is a pioneer in the field of composition, pushing the expectations of musicians and audiences with large-scale multimedia works, electro-acoustic music, dance, opera, and publishing. Her first forays into composition were via songwriting, still very evident in her work. The majority of her compositions are for the voice: solo, chamber and choral. Her melodic music is rhythmically driven and texturally complex, rich in color and deeply heartfelt. In 2019 and 2020, choirs and orchestras across the country premiered her multimedia symphony *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci* that includes video projections created by a team of visual artists, highlighting da

Vinci’s spectacular drawings, inventions, and texts. Hagen describes her process of composing for choir, orchestra and film simultaneously in a Tedx Talk given at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, now available on YouTube. Hagen’s commissions include *Conspirare*, the Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Orchestra, Voces8, the International Federation of Choral Music, the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota, Georgia, Connecticut and Texas, the North Dakota Music Teachers Association, Cantus, the Boston Brass, the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and the St. Olaf Band, among many others. Her work is independently published through JH Music, as well as through Graphite Publishing, G. Schirmer, EC Schirmer, Fred Bock Music Publishing, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and Boosey and Hawkes.



Sarah Brailey, *Soprano*

GRAMMY Award-winning soprano Sarah Brailey enjoys a versatile career that defies categorization. Praised by The New York Times for her “radiant, liquid tone,” and by Opera UK for “a sound of remarkable purity,” she is a prolific vocalist, cellist, recording artist, and educator.

Sarah’s numerous career highlights include performing Handel’s *L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* with the Mark Morris Dance Group, serenading the Mona Lisa with John Zorn’s *Madrigals* at the Louvre in Paris, and recording the role of The Soul on the world premiere album of Dame Ethel Smyth’s *The Prison*, for which she received the 2020 GRAMMY Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album. Other notable recent and

upcoming projects include the Angel in Handel’s *La Resurrezione* with Haymarket Opera; Julia Wolfe’s *Her Story* with the Lorelei Ensemble and the Boston, Chicago, Nashville, National, and San Francisco Symphony Orchestras; the Strauss *Four Last Songs* with The Experiential Orchestra; and David Lang’s *Song of Songs* at the Barbican Centre.

Sarah is a member of Beyond Artists, a coalition of artists that donates a percentage of their concert fees to non-profit organizations. Through Beyond Artists, she supports the Natural Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, and the Animal Welfare Institute. Sarah is the Director of Vocal Studies at the University of Chicago and serves on the voice faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. www.sarahbrailey.com



Karen Wilkerson, *Alto*

Karen Wilkerson, Mezzo Soprano, enjoys a diverse musical career as a conductor, soloist, clinician and teacher. As an active recitalist and oratorio soloist, recent performances include Mozart *Requiem* with Fresno Master Chorale in 2022. In 2017 Wilkerson premiered a new sacred oratorio by Charles Forsberg entitled *Cantica in Laude Sacri* with the St. Olaf Chapel Choir and the St. Olaf Orchestra. Wilkerson was a featured recitalist, and clinician for the Conference for Theology and Worship at St. Olaf College. Wilkerson appeared with the Bloomington Symphony in their Concert of Wagner classics.

For over 6 years she was a member of the Ensemble Singers of Vocal Essence, touring England, Korea and China, singing in over 30 professional concerts and operas. Summer of 2022 she performed in Trondheim Norway with the Together in Hope Choir. She performed, toured and recorded for four years with The Dale Warland Singers. She performed in over 14 productions with the Minnesota Opera, and the Ordway Music Theater.

Currently, at St. Olaf College, Wilkerson is a fulltime instructor of voice and co-director of the Lyric Opera program, recent productions include: *Into the Woods*, *Impresario*, and *Cendrillon (Cinderella)*. Her students have had broad success as winners of competitions, and many have gone on to professional careers in classical music and in music theater. Her students have become award winning teacher-artists in all levels of music education.

A lifelong church musician, Wilkerson directs the adult choir at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Roseville MN. She is co-director of Roseville Festival Singers who have toured and performed all over Europe in multiple concert tours. She is a frequent leader/lecturer for St. Olaf alumni Study Tours in Europe. She has served the faculties of Lutheran Summer Music, University of Northwestern, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

Wilkerson holds degrees in Music from California State University, Northridge, and Westminster Choir College, Princeton New Jersey. She studied extensively in Italy with Rita Patanè, and most recently with Audrey Stottler.



Seth Hartwell, *Tenor*

Seth Hartwell, tenor, is a church musician, teacher, and accomplished opera and oratorio artist. He has performed Baroque oratorio with such groups as VocalEssence, Santa Fe Pro Musica, New Mexico Bach Society, New Mexico Philharmonic, Lutheran Summer Music, and the Valparaiso University Chorale under the baton of world-renowned Bach scholar Helmuth Rilling. He has also appeared with The Santa Fe Opera, Opera Southwest, The Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Quintessence: Choral Artists of the Southwest, Polyphony Voices of New Mexico, National Lutheran Choir, and the Royal Norwegian Opera. Seth has a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of New Mexico and a bachelor's degree in music education from Valparaiso University (Indiana). An Iowa native, Seth is the Director of Worship & Music at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis, and serves as Summer Academy Director of Lutheran Summer Music. He lives in the Twin Cities with his wife and two children.



Timothy Takach, *Bass*

Bass, Timothy C. Takach enjoys a thriving career as a composer and singer. As a co-founder of the ensemble Cantus, Takach sang upwards of 70 concerts each season during his tenure. He has performed with Bobby McFerrin, Doc Severinsen, Trio Mediaeval, Minnesota Orchestra, and James Sewell Ballet. Takach has been a soloist with the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, St. Catherine Choral Society, Schubert Club, Madison Bach Musicians, and has also sung in Seraphic Fire, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, VocalEssence, the Bach Society of Minnesota, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Chorale, and the Minnesota Beethoven Festival Chorale. An active composer, Takach has received commissions and premieres from GRAMMY Award-winning ensembles Roomful of Teeth and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus, Lorelei Ensemble, VocalEssence, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, The Rose Ensemble, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, nationwide on PBS, many All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. Takach graduated from St. Olaf College with degrees in Composition and Studio Art and lives in Minneapolis with his wife and sons.

Orchestra

Marc Levine, *Concert Master/Violin 1*

Zachary Saathoff, *Violin 2*

Kirsti Petraborg, *Viola*

Charles Asch, *Cello*

Mark L. Kausch, *Double Bass*

Alyssa Jermiason, *Oboe*

Sarah Erickson-Lume, *Oboe*

Paul Shimming, *Clarinet/Bass Clarinet*

Justin Windschitl, *Bassoon/Contrabassoon*

Lynn Erickson, *Trumpet*

Daniel Fretland, *Trumpet*

Will Kemperman, *Percussion*

Eri Isomura, *Percussion*

Joshua Wahlstrom, *Percussion*

James E. Bobb, *Organ Continuo*



Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs - Treble Singers

Philip Brown, Conductor
Jamie Schmidt, Collaborative Pianist
Audrey Riddle, Executive Director
Andrea Dittmer, Choir Manager

Elise Albrecht
 Victoria Marie Biggs
 Anne Carr
 Clare Cook
 Sarah (Spirit) Cordes
 Elizabeth Couling
 Mariella Elm
 Jayla Ferguson
 Grace Galbus
 Sophia Gardner
 Noah Glode
 Anya Gronseth

Carmen Olivia Hanson
 Elizabeth Hersey
 Arianna Huss
 Bianca Ivanov
 Julia Jackson
 Alma Jacox
 Audrey Jakopin
 Evangeline Johnson
 Ana Johnson
 Melina Kannankutty
 Ash Kansara
 Seanna Kluzak

Cate Koehmstedt
 Alyssa Kopischke
 Molly Krohn
 Dianna Lenz
 Isabella Mantilla
 Lydia Matson
 Payten Miller-Zarambo
 Ella Moore
 Anna Ninow
 Avery Patterson
 Frances Patton
 Philesha Pfeifer

Annabel Raney
 Cilo Rieke
 Olivia Rocha
 Anya Seppala
 Holleigh Stockton
 Carmel Swanson
 Omera Syed Asif
 Ella Takalo
 Emily Thompson
 Anne Whalen
 Anna Woods

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs is one of the oldest children's choir programs in the Twin Cities. Founded in 1980, Angelica Cantanti is dedicated to providing consistent, high quality choral music education with excellence in performance. Members include singers in Kindergarten through grade 12, representing communities and schools across the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area. The Treble Singers is made up of soprano and alto voices in grades 9-12 with members that come from 34 high schools and communities all over the Twin Cities. The group rehearses once a week, September-May in Bloomington. www.angelicacantanti.org.



Philip Brown, Conductor, Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs - Treble Singers

Philip Brown is the conductor of the Treble Singers and the Cantanti Singers and is the Director of Choral Activities at Totino-Grace High School. He graduated summa cum laude from Bethany College (KS), majoring in K-12 music education and has his M.M. degree in music education from Northern Arizona University. Choirs under his conducting have collaborated with the Minnesota Oratorio Society, Minnesota Choral Artists - The Singers (Morten Lauridsen Festival), Great Northern Union, VocalEssence (!Cantare!), Northern Lights Chorale, Cantus, and the National Lutheran Choir. Philip was honored as the 2011 ACDA-MN Young

Director of the Year. He was selected as the Director of Note for Minnesota by Choral Director Magazine in 2012. In 2013 he received the VocalEssence/ACDA-MN Creative Programming Award for his repertoire philosophy and programming. He conducted the Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs - Treble Singers at the 2019 National ACDA in Kansas City, MO and the Cantanti Singers this past February at the 2024 ACDA Midwestern Regional Conference in Omaha, NE. Philip is currently serving as the guest conductor of Singers in Accord, based in the Twin Cities. Philip is an active clinician and professionally affiliated with ACDA and NAFME. Recently he was named the ACDA Repertoire and Resource Chair for Senior High School choirs.



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.



Shaun Halland, *Assistant Conductor*

Shaun Halland (he/him) is the Director of Music and Worship at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Shoreview, MN. There, he leads all facets of the music and worship life and curates a concert series that features a wide range of musical offerings. He has served many churches as a worship and music leader throughout the Twin Cities as well as taught high school vocal music for 18 years. He also works as a freelance collaborative pianist and choral clinician. Shaun has sung with The National Lutheran Choir since 2002 and assumed roles as Tenor Section Leader and Assistant Conductor in 2021. He has also sung with The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Chorale, Invocation, Pop-Up Choir and The Summer Singers. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for ACDA-MN and is a member of ALCM and AGO. He holds a Bachelor Degree from Luther College in Vocal Music Education and a Master of Sacred Music in Choral Conducting from Luther Seminary.

National Lutheran Choir

Jennaya Robison, *Artistic Director*

Shaun Halland, *Assistant Conductor*

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
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Lisa Schlotterback
Gina Stutzman Toso*
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Anna Streeper
Kate Tripoli
Emily Tryggestad

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Ali Pinto
 Generations of NLC Chair
Jill Maltrud Reid
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Katie Roehm
Kaiya Ruff
 Mount Olive Chair II
Martha Sather
Abs Trewin
 Generations of Paul and
 Florence Peterson Chair
Anne Zielske
 Bartz-Schreiber Chair

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Nathan Baker-Trinity
 Lutheran Church of
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Logan Combs
Joseph Crippen
 Ebersole Memorial Chair
Shaun Halland*
 St. Philip the Deacon Chair II
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Aaron Holmgren
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Brad Kolstad
Travis Karstad
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Brian Lensch
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Caleb Poissant
Dain Swanson
 John and Priscilla Folin Chair
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* **Section Leader**

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Kai Oelschlager
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Eli Pollock
 Luther College Chair
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Seth Quam
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 Gill Brothers
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2024-2025 Season **Healing for the Soul**

November 2nd and 3rd
All Saints
Healing: A Sacred Place

December 13th and 14th
Christmas Festival
Healing: For the Nations
With Brian Newhouse, Narrator

February 1st
Tuneup
Healing: Through Community
*With Clinicians Brandon Boyd
and André Thomas
Joined by the U of M Gospel Choir*

February 28th, March 1st and 2nd
Winter Concert and Tour
Healing: Body, Mind, Spirit

May 4th
Spring Concert
Healing: For Our Future
*With Guest Artists Cantus and the
St. Michael - Albertville High School
Concert Choir*



Access free-to-all NLC music on



Explore our page at [YouTube.com/NLChoir](https://www.youtube.com/NLChoir) to hear music from the National Lutheran Choir, view past concerts, watch interviews with composers and our director, and more!

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National Lutheran Choir



@NationalLutheranChoir

Spring Concert: *New Day*

April 28th, 2024 | 4:00pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (Mahtomedi, Minnesota)