




NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

23
24

Letter from the Director

Dear friends of the National Lutheran Choir,

New Journey explores the intersectionality of our lives with the lives of others. We're delighted that you've joined us today for this program, designed to be a musical experience that juxtaposes the Lutheran choral tradition with stories of immigrants, refugees, and enslaved Africans.

Poet and hymn writer Susan Palo Cherwien described in her hymn "We Sing the One God" that "we journey in story, profound as the sea, descendants and friends of a great company." The picture of descendants and friends bound together in one story captivated me. It was this idea around which I've constructed *New Journey*. What binds us together - as humans - though our paths through life are so different?

Historically, texts of the Lutheran choral tradition have included both biblical verse and evocative poetry of the personal faith journey. These texts set to music have served many purposes; it has unified worshippers, served as an extension of teachings, and allowed all people to take part in worship through congregational singing. Music became a hallmark of Protestant worship through the works of composers such as Heinrich Schütz, J.S. Bach, and even Martin Luther himself.

New Journey combines this tradition with music that gives a voice to those who tell stories of immigration, enslavement, and refugee experiences to tell a greater narrative of the human journey through struggle. Alongside traditional Lutheran works, we present African American Spirituals; a morning prayer for peace from the Sephardic and Ashkenazi traditions; a call for redemption based on an autobiography of Omar ibn Said, a Muslim American slave; and stories of immigration as told by American Dreamers.

As a choir rooted in the Lutheran tradition, the NLC often asks how our work impacts the lives of those who experience it. My hope is that *New Journey* and the stories it shares lifts us up and encourages us to see that we all have more in common than we realize.

As Maya Angelou wrote in her poem "Continue," "My wish for you is that you continue to be who and how you are to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness...To remind the people that each is as good as the other and that no one is beneath nor above you...and look with favor upon the lost and the least and the lonely...and let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good."

We welcome you, our audience and a part of our musical experience, to join us today as a part of our collective journey and to leave refreshed for your own.

Soli Deo Gloria,

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

There is no intermission during *New Journey*. 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, the NLC strives to use inclusive language when referring to God and humanity. There are times when musical and poetic material has not been changed in this program to preserve the intentions of the composer and poet or because copyright laws prohibit changes. The spirit in which we offer our musical gifts is one of inclusivity for all humanity.

New Journey

WINTER CONCERT 2024

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

Keep Marchin' 'Til I Make It Home

Raymond Wise

Soloists: Katherine Castille, Anna Streeper, Ali Pinto, Abs Trewin, Seth Hartwell, Brad Kolstad, Josh Vidervol, Jacob Kunkel, Kelvin Li, Dave Michel

Marchin' on this journey up to glory
I must fight to reach my goal.
But no matter how hard the journey
I'll keep marchin', 'til I make it home.

Marchin' as a pilgrim on this journey
I must fight for my soul.
Doesn't matter how hard the journey
I'll keep on marchin' 'til I make it home.

Marchin' with King Jesus as my Savior,
and His Spirit, as my guide.
Doesn't matter how hard the journey,
cause He's walking right by my side.

Marchin', I'm gonna make it to that city,
to that city bright and fair.
But no matter how hard the journey,
I'll keep marchin' 'til I make it there.

Marchin, I'm gonna make it home to that city
I'll make it home to that land.
I'll keep marchin' to that city,
I'll keep marchin' 'til I get there.

Raymond Wise

Praise the Lord

Florence B. Price (1887-1953)

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, all ye nations.
Praise the Lord, all ye people.

Praise the Lord
for His merciful kindness is great toward us;
and the truth of the Lord, endureth forever.

Praise the Lord!

Based on Psalm 117

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

*From "Canticle of the Turning"
by Rory Cooney; based on the Magnificat*

Unser Wandel ist im Himmel (SWV 390)

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)

Sung in German

Unser Wandel ist im Himmel
von dannen wir auch warten des Heilands,
Jesu Christi, des Herren.
Welcher unsern nichtigen Leib verklären wird
daß er ähnlich werde seinem verklärten Leibe,
nach der Wirkung,
damit er kann auch alle Ding
ihm untertänig machen.

Our pilgrimage is to heaven
from whence we also wait for the Savior,
Jesus Christ the Lord;
Who shall glorify our worthless body,
so that it will be like his glorious body,
according to the power
with which he can make everything
subservient to himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

Don't Be Weary Traveler

arr. Alice Parker (1925-2023)

Soloists: Logan Combs, Josh Vidervol

Don't be weary, traveler,
Come along home to Jesus.

I was a mourner jes' like you,
I prayed in the valley all night through.
My head got wet wid de midnight dew,
The mourning star was a witness, too;

Don't be weary, traveler,
Come along home to Jesus.

Then I looked at the world and the world was new;
The angels bear me witness, too.

Don't' be weary traveler,
Come along home to Jesus.

Traditional Spiritual

*We should have a land of sun,
Of gorgeous sun,
And a land of fragrant water
Where the twilight
Is a soft bandanna handkerchief
Of rose and gold,
And not this land where life is cold.*

*We should have a land of trees,
Of tall thick trees
Bowed down with chattering parrots
Brilliant as the day,
And not this land where birds are grey.*

*Ah, we should have a land of joy,
Of love and joy and wine and song,
And not this land where joy is wrong.
Oh, sweet, away!
Ah, my beloved one, away!*

*"Our Land: Poem for a Decorative Panel"
Langston Hughes (1901-1967)*

Be Not Afraid

Knut Nystedt (1915-2014)

**Be not afraid I am with thee,
Tremble not for I am thy God!
I strengthen thee for I am thy help,
I uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.**

**By redemption thou art saved, you are mine!
Fear not for you are called and named.
Fear not, you are mine!**

Isaiah 41:10, 43:1

We Sing the One God

David Cherwien

Stanza 3, Choral Arrangement by David Cherwien © 2024

Stanza 1 - Choir

Stanza 2 - High Voices

Stanza 3 - Choir

Stanza 4 - Low Voices

Stanza 5 - All



1 We sing the one God, whose jour - ney we claim as
2 To emp - ti - ness, void, God's en - er - gy came— a
3 To ex - iles of old, God's mes - sen - ger came— a
4 To faith - ful of old, God's hur - ri - cane came— a
5 O God, the one God, un - name - a - ble Name, who



chil - dren of sto - ry and heirs of the flame: God
burst of i - de - a, a great ball of flame: fused
pil - lar of cloud and a col - umn of flame, to
roar - ing, a ting - ling, and bright tongues of flame that
formed us in wis - dom and sparked us to flame, we



mold - ed us, mar - ried us, called us to come, and
beau - ty and or - der and fired us of clay. Cre -
lead them to prom - ise, a cov - e - nant's dawn. And
filled them with pas - sion, the Spir - it of God. And
join in pro - ces - sion a - cross time and space and



set in us yearn - ing to find our way home. We
a - tion cre - a - tor cre - ates yet to - day: the
now in this peo - ple, the jour - ney goes on: hand
now in that Spir - it, the church burns a - broad: so
share in your sto - ry in this age and place. All



jour - ney in sto - ry, pro - found as the sea, de -
can - yons, the crea - tures, the day - light, the dark, all
vis - i - ble clasp - ing in - vis - i - ble hand, as
loved in - to be - ing, the church then a - vows a
praise be to you, for you call us to come: our



scen - dants and friends of a great com - pa - ny:
spi - ral - ing out from the same ho - ly spark.
count - less as stars and un - num - bered as sand.
life lived a - fire as Christ's pas - sion - ate Spouse.
Mak - er, De - liv - er - er, Lov - er, and Home.

Sim Shalom

Jennaya Robison

Sim shalom tova uv'rachah
Aleinu v'al kol Yisrael amecha.

Grant peace, goodness and blessing
To us and to all Israel, your people.

*Hebrew morning service (Ashkenazic)
All services (Sefardic)
adapted by Jennaya Robison*

Amen (from the opera "Omar")

Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels

Soloists: Ellie Demitrius, Abs Trewin, Seth Hartwell

Amen.

I ask forgiveness for my sins from God who is my Lord and I turn towards Him.

Rhiannon Giddens

His Eye is on the Sparrow

arr. Zanaida Stewart Robles

"Let not your heart be troubled."
his tender words I hear.
And, resting on his goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears.
Though, by the path he leads me,
though one thing I may see,
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart feel lonely
and long for heav'n and home,
when Jesus is my portion?
A constant friend is he.
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free.
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.



Civilla D. Martin (1866-1948)

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Les Petite Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community

Soloist: Jenny Kelley

Stanza 1 - Solo, in French

Stanza 3 - All in Harmony

Stanza 2 - All in Unison, Stand as you are able

Stanza 4 - All in Unison

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non-cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

*Les Petite Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
tr. Stephen Sommerville*

Please sit.

Guest Artist Selections

February 25th – Aaron David Miller, Organist

Gigue Fugue Chorale Fantasy on EIN FESTE BURG

Aaron David Miller

March 1st – Lenoir-Rhyne A Cappella Choir

The Word Was God

Rosephanye Powell

I Am the Alpha and Omega

Michael D. Costello

March 2nd and 3rd – Chad Fothergill, Organist

Instrumental Meditation

All That Could Never Be Said (from “The Lost Birds”)

Christopher Tin

Soloists: Will Heller, Ellie Demitrius

All that could never be said,
All that could never be done,
Wait for us at last
Somewhere back of the sun;

All the heart broke to forego
Shall be ours without pain,
We shall take them as lightly as girls
Pluck flowers after rain.

And when they are ours
in the end Perhaps after all
The skies will not open for us
Nor heaven be there at our call.
After all that was never done.

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

I Lift My Lamp

Gwyneth Walker

*Soloists: Josh Vidervol, Steve Branstad,
Brian Lensch, Logan Combs, Chris Cherwien,
Hope Kelsey, Anna Streeper, Katie Roehm*

When I was hungry, did you feed me?
When I was shivering, did you bring me clothes?
When I was thirsty, did you bring me water?
When I was homeless, did you give a home?
When I was fearful, did you give protection?
When I was injured, did you offer care?
When I was threatened, did you stand for justice?
And when imprisoned, keep a vigil there?

O my sisters! O my brothers!
If you do this for the least of these,
you do this for me...
with God in your heart...

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddles masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

O my sisters, with God in your heart.

*Matthew 25:35-40 and Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)
adapt. Gwyneth Walker*

#UnitedWeDream

(from “American DREAMers”)

Melissa Dunphy

Aqui estamos. (*Here we are.*)

This is where we found our home away from home.

This is where we belong.

Mother Earth, who feeds us all,
takes our roots,

their roots,

no matter how long,

how short—

she’s whisp’ring:

this is where you belong.

Resist!

Palea con diente y madre! (*Fight with tooth and mother!*)

This is where you belong, Dreamer!

Claudia D. Hernández

My God is a Rock

arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

*Soloists: Katherine Castille, Kate Tripoli, Chris Cherwien,
Anna Streeper, Hope Kelsey, Abs Trewin*

My God, he is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in the time of storm.

Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter one,
When the Lord God’s work had just begun,
Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter two,
When the Lord God preached the Bible through,
Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter three,
When the Lord God died on Calvary,

Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter four,
When the Lord God walked among the poor,
Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter five,
When the Lord God brought the dead alive,
Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter six,
In Jerusalem he healed the sick,

Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter seven,
When the Lord God rose and went to heaven,
Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter eight,
When the Lord God stood at the pearly gates,
Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter nine,
When the Lord God turned the water to wine,

Stop, let me tell you ‘bout chapter ten,
When John saw the Lord coming back again,
Stop let me tell you ‘bout chapter eleven,
When God showed wonders in the heavens,
Stop let me tell you ‘bout chapter twelve
God sent Satan straight to hell!

Traditional Spiritual

Great is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Maureen Howell

Stanzas 1 and 2, Refrains - Choir

Stanza 3 and Final Refrain - All



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



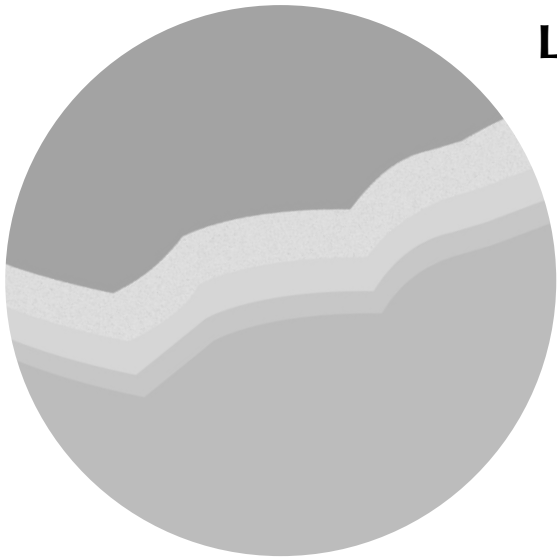
morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

*Remind us of the story
In which our paths unfold;
Reveal our hidden glory
Which, loving, you behold;
Inspire this deeper vision
Through worship, word, and bread,
And ground our great procession
For all the paths ahead.*

*Susan Palo Cherwien
From "Creator of Life's Turning"*



Lamb of God

arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)

Lamb of God most holy,
who on the cross didst suffer.
Patient still and lowly
thyself to scorn didst offer.
Our sins by Thee were taken,
or hope had us forsaken:
Have mercy on us, O Jesu.

Nicolaus Decius (1485-1541); Tr. A.T. Russell (1806-1874)

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 Haleluya! 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

March 1st – Chad Fothergill, Organist
Instrumental Meditation

Pilgrims' Hymn

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Even before we call on Your name
 To ask You, O God,
When we seek for the words to glorify You,
 You hear our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
 Surpassing all we know.

Glory to the Father,
 And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in,
 We breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast,
 We trust in You;
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,
 Beyond all mortal dream.

Both now and for ever,
 And unto ages and ages,
Amen.

Michael Dennis Browne

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

*Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,*

*And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.*

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

*Robert Frost (1874-1963)
"The Road Not Taken"*

I'll Be On My Way

Shawn Kirchner

Soloist: Andrew Kreye

When I'm gone, don't you cry for me,
don't you pity my sorry soul.
What pain there might have been will be past
and my spirit will be whole.

I'll be on my way,
I'll have left my feet of clay upon the ground.
I will be glory bound,
I'll be on my way!

When I am gone, please forgive the wrongs
that I might have done to you;
There'll be no room for regrets up there,
high above, way beyond the blue.

I'll be on my way,
I'll have laid my frown and all my burdens down,
I'll be puttin' on my crown,
I'll be on my way!

When I am gone, don't you look for me
In the places I have been;
I'll be alive, but somewhere else,
I'll be on my way again!

I'll be on my way,
I will lift my wings and soar into the air,
There'll be glory ev'ry where
I'll be on my way!

I'll be on my way,
I'll have laid my frown and all my burdens down,
I'll be puttin' on my crown,
I'll be on my way!
I'll have left my feet of clay upon the ground
I will be glory bound
I'll be on my way!

Shawn Kirchner



Bread for the Journey

Bret Hesla

Stanza 1 - Solo

Stanza 2 - Choir

Stanza 3 - All, Stand as you are able

Stanza 4 - High Voices

Stanza 5 - All



1, 5 Give us bread for the jour - ney, give us bread.
2 Guide our way as we trav - el, guide our way.
3 Make us one with each oth - er, make us one.
4 Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home.



Give us bread for the jour - ney, give us bread.
Guide our way as we trav - el, guide our way.
Make us one with each oth - er, make us one.
Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home;



When our legs are get - ting heav - y, and we're hang - ing down our heads,
With so ma - ny roads be - fore us, where to go is hard to say.
All the walls we've built a - round us: may we learn to tear them down.
where we'll live with all cre - a - tion, find our place and nev - er roam.



give us bread for the jour - ney, give us bread.
Guide our way as we trav - el, guide our way.
Make us one with each oth - er, make us one.
Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home.

Bret Hesla

Please sit.

Give Me Jesus

arr. Larry L. Fleming (1936-2003)

O, when I am alone, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

O, when I come to die, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

And, when I want to sing, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

Traditional Spiritual

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

arr. Dan Forrest

Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us,
Where to sin our hearts are lured.

Ever in His footsteps treading,
Living here, yet home above,
Full of faith and hope and love
Let us do our Father's bidding,
Faithful Lord abide with me;
Savior, lead, I follow Thee.

Let us also die with Jesus,
By His cross He conquer'd death,
Freed us from our souls' destruction,
Quickened us with life's new breath.
Let us mortify, while living,
Self and pride, and die to sin,
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here I die to Thee,
There to well eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus,
He is risen from the dead.
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry,
Jesus, Thou art now our Head.
Living members of Thy Body,
Where Thou livest, we shall be,
Thou wilt keep us constantly,
Even so, dear Lord, come quickly,
Jesus, here I live to Thee,
There to dwell eternally.

*Paraphrase of German text by Sigismund von Birken, 1653
Based on John 11:16*

The National Lutheran Choir acknowledges that we, as a choir of predominantly white singers, are performing music on this program that comes from traditions outside of our lived experience. We aim to honor, respect, and present the stories of others with care — especially people of color, immigrants, refugees, and enslaved Africans. African American Spirituals, Gospel, Jazz, folk songs, and songs from other cultures and traditions are a treasured resource for the choral community. Creators of these art forms have not always been given full credit for their work. As part of our new journey, the NLC is working on new ways of building relationships and generating support for organizations which represent people whose lived experience include these pieces of culture.

Culture bearers consulted during creation of this program include Michael Abels, Melissa Dunphy, and Marques Garrett.

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

TENOR

Nathan Baker-Trinity
 Lutheran Church of
 the Resurrection Chair
Logan Combs
Joseph Crippen
 Ebersole Memorial Chair
Shaun Halland*
 St. Phillip the Deacon Chair II
Seth Hartwell
Aaron Holmgren
 Uecker Family Chair
Ken Holmen
Brad Kolstad
Travis Karstad
 Matt and Allana Helland Chair
Andrew Kreye
Brian Lensch
 Kenneth C. and Dorothy A.
 Bailey Memorial Chair
William Mills
Caleb Poissant
Dain Swanson
 John and Priscilla Folin Chair
Mark Uecker

BASS

Steven Branstad
 Larry Fleming Chair
Michael Fandel
Will Heller
Kenton Hunt
 Elizabeth M. Strom Chair
Jacob Kunkel
Kelvin Li
 Curtiss L. Strom
 Memorial Chair
Dave Michel
Kai Oelschlager
Matthew Olson
Eli Pollock
 Luther College Chair
Justin Quam
Seth Quam
Rob Reid*
Danny Roth
Timothy M. Schmidt
Dan Streeper
 Gill Brothers
 Funeral Directors
 Gwenn & Steve Branstad Chair
Riley Unzicker
Josh Vidervol

* *Section Leader*

GUEST ARTISTS

Aaron David Miller, *Organ (February 25)*
Chad Fothergill, *Organ (March 1-3)*
Anne Wilson, *Piano*

STAFF

Tina Meckel, *Executive Director*
Kristin Rongstad, *Operations Manager*
Sarah Anderson, *Marketing & Events Manager*
Will Heller, *Social Media Manager*
Sara Langworthy, *Virtual Content Producer*
Bridgit Jordan, *Bookkeeper*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matt Helland, <i>Chair</i>	Linda Armstrong	Bowman Gray
Brenda Bartz, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Greg Aune	Beverly Tipton Hammond
David Soli, <i>Treasurer</i>	Jennifer Baker-Trinity	Paul Hoffman
Adam Krueger, <i>Secretary</i>	Steve Berg	Joe Holan
Christina Myers, <i>Singer</i>	Sandra Cline	David Johnson
<i>Representative to the Board</i>	Larry Duncan	Erin Johnson
Nancy JP Anderson	Philip Eidsvold	Kari Olson



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.

Aaron David Miller

Aaron David Miller is a renowned organ improviser and composer having won numerous international awards and given concerts across the country. Dr. Miller was recently a featured performer for Pipedreams 40th Anniversary Concert which was broadcast nationally. Recent awards have included the 2021 Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Annual Composition Competition and the 2019 Weiger Lepke-Sims Family Sacred Music Award.

Dr. Miller's orchestra works have been performed by such ensembles as the Seattle Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Zurich Symphony, and Houston Symphony Orchestra. His organ, choral and orchestra compositions are published by Augsburg Fortress, Paraclete Publishing and Oxford University Press. Aaron is currently Music Director at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN. He is also a Forensic Musicologist for Donato Music, Scarsdale, NY.



Chad Fothergill

Chad Fothergill is a keyboardist and historian who serves the church as a musician, teacher, writer, and composer. He is author of *Sing with All the People of God: A Handbook for Church Musicians* and has contributed both writings and compositions to several worship resources. Chad presently serves as Chapel Organist at Duke University Chapel, assists with weekday liturgies at Duke Divinity School, and is cantor to the Lutheran Summer Music community. Prior to his appointment at Duke, he was interim co-director of the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University, past editor of the ALCM journal *CrossAccent*, and taught at Gustavus Adolphus College and the University of Delaware.

Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir

Founded in 1935 by St. Olaf Choir alumnus Kenneth Lee, the Lenoir-Rhyne A Cappella Choir is the LRU's flagship choral ensemble. The choir performs frequently, including the annual "A Lenoir-Rhyne Christmas" and spring tour. In May 2023, the choir traveled to Spain and presented concerts in Toledo, Seville, and Madrid. In 2019, the choir traveled to Ireland. The ensemble performed *Carmina Burana* with Western Piedmont Symphony in February of 2024. Current director Ryan Luhrs began leading the A Cappella Choir in 2016. He is the ensemble's fourth director and follows the tenures of Paul Weber (1999-2016), E. Ray McNeely (1971-1999), and Kenneth Lee (1935-1971).



Duke University Chapel Choir

Founded in 1932, the Duke University Chapel Choir is the oldest established musical ensemble at Duke University. Its 100 members include undergraduate and graduate students; Duke alumni, faculty, and staff; and community members. The Chapel Choir leads worship services at Duke Chapel throughout the academic year. The choir's critically acclaimed performances of Handel's *Messiah* have been an Advent tradition since 1933; its spring oratorio concerts feature other major works performed with professional orchestra. Tours have taken the Chapel Choir across North America, Europe, and Asia, including performances at Carnegie Hall and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (New York); St. Martin-in-the-Fields (London); St. Giles Cathedral (Edinburgh); the Thomaskirche (Leipzig); and Washington National Cathedral.

Thank You!

Our most sincere gratitude to the following donors and individuals who have helped make the National Lutheran Choir's tour to North and South Carolina possible.

Revs. Frank and Mary Anderson
Perry and Trudy Bouknight
Neil A Brown
The Burn Law Firm, LLC, Lexington, SC
Elizabeth Cromer Carswell
Mr. and Mrs. Leland M. Caulder
Sandra Cline
The Rev. Dr. David and Carolyn Donges
The Bill Dukes Family and Blue Marlin Seafood
George Foundation
James M. Gossler
Rev. Dr. Richard Graf and Mrs. Shirley Graf
Karen and Bowman Gray, IV
Janice M. Haigler
Doris Harrington
Louise C. Hilbert
Efird L. and Maria F. Hine Fund of Augsburg Lutheran Church
Michael and Arlene Huber
Incarnation Lutheran Church Foundation
Jim and Sarah Ingram
*Honoring Sylvia Elkins Looney, Organist Emeritus,
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*

Jim H. Johnson
Michael and Jane Kohn
Donna Kraus
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Lever
Lincoln Pipe Organs, Inc.
Lutheran Homes of South Carolina
Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation
Lutheran Services Carolinas
Dr. Susan Wilds McArver
Revs. Jane and Bill Mitcham
Jill and Wayne Nelson
Brenta and Donald Poole
Sandra and Steve Rach
W.P. Rawl & Sons, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. M. Richbourg Roberson
John Gordon Ross and Sarah Ross
Rev. Dermon and Jean Sox
Elizabeth and Alan Staton
Nancy Wilfong
Bob and Rose Wingard
Judy Woolly

Sandra Cline, *Member of National Lutheran Choir Board of Directors*

Durham, North Carolina

Dr. Zebulon Highben, *Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*
Associate Professor of the Practice of Church Music, Duke Divinity School
David Faircloth, *Program Coordinator for Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel*
James Todd, *Communications Manager, Duke University Chapel*
Selden Smith, *Manager, Duke Technical Services*
Pablo Vega, *The Workshop, Recording Engineer*

Hickory, North Carolina

North Carolina Synod of the ELCA, Bishop Timothy Smith
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Dr. and Mrs. Fred and Donna Whitt and the LRU President's Office
Dr. Laura Crawley, *LRU Vice President for Mission, Engagement and Innovation*
Dr. Ryan Luhrs, *Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities*
The Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir
Dr. Christopher Nigrelli, *Professor of Music and LRU Concert Series*
Scott Woodard, *LRU Director of Conferences and Events*
LRU Conferences and Events Staff

Lexington, South Carolina

South Carolina Synod of the ELCA, Bishop Virginia Aebischer
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Staff and Volunteers
Pastor Jason Antley & Pastor Ralph Hill
Susan Wilson, *Music Director & Organist*
Steering Committee
Trudy Bouknight
Carolyn Donges
Jim Johnson
David Lever
Susan Wilson

New Dreams

ANNUAL GALA

Mark your calendar 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 | 3:00pm-5:30pm | Quincy Hall in Minneapolis, MN
Registration required

New Day

SPRING CONCERT

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
Tickets and Free Livestream at [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com)

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](https://www.nlca.com/Auditions) for more information.



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 our director and composers, and more!

SOURCES AND COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Keep Marchin' 'Til I Make It Home. Text and Music: Raymond Wise © 2007 Raise Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Praise the Lord. Text: Based on Psalm 117. Music: Florence B. Price © 2019 by G. Schirmer, Inc. All Rights reserved.

Spoken Reading: Canticle of the Turning, stanza 1 by Rory Cooney, based on the Magnificat © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission.

Unser Wandel ist im Himmel (SWV 390). Text: Philippians 3:20-21; Music: Heinrich Schütz, Choral Public Domain Library.

Don't Be Weary Traveler. Text: Traditional Spiritual; Music: Traditional Spiritual, arr. Alice Parker © 1995 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved; sung transition from "Religious Folk-Songs of the Negro: As Sung at Hampton Institute," ed. R. Nathaniel Dett.

Spoken Reading: Our Land: Poem for a Decorative Land, by Langston Hughes. Public Domain.

Be Not Afraid. Text: Isaiah 41:10, 43:1; Music: Knut Nystedt © 1995 by Norsk Musikforlag, A/S Oslo, admin. in the U.S. and Canada by Walton Music Corporation, a division of GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

We Sing the One God. Text: Susan Palo Cherwien © 1988, admin Augsburg Fortress; Music: JOURNEY HOME, David Cherwien © 1997 admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Sim Shalom. Text: from Hebrew morning service (Ashkenazic), all services (Sefardic); adapted by Jennaya Robison. Music: Jennaya Robison © 2019 by Galaxy Music Corporation, a division of ECS Publishing. All rights reserved.

Amen (from the opera "Omar"). Text: Rhiannon Giddens; Music: Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels © 2022 Subito Music Publishing and Notevole Music Publishing. All rights reserved.

His Eye is on the Sparrow. Text: Civilla D. Martin; Music: Charles Gabriel, arr. Zanaida Stewart Robles © 2023 by Gentry Publications. Administered by Fred Bock Publishing Group. All rights reserved.

Great is Thy Faithfulness. Text: Thomas O. Chisholm; Music: William M. Runyam, arr. Maureen Howell © 2024 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved.

Guest Artist Selections:

February 25 – Excerpt from "Choral Fantasy on EIN FESTE BURG" by Aaron David Miller © 2023. Commissioned in 2023 in honor of Dr. David Cherwien and his remarkable leadership of the National Lutheran Choir and his gifts as a church musician, composer and organist. Unpublished.
March 1 – Selections by Lenoir-Rhyne A Cappella Choir, directed by Dr. Ryan Luhrs, Director of Choral Activities. "I Am the Alpha and Omega" by Michael D. Costello. Text: Based on Revelation 21 and 22. Music: Michael D. Costello © Michael D. Costello. Unpublished. "The Word Was God". Text: John 1:1-3; Music: Rosephanye Powell © Gentry Publications. All rights reserved.

All that Could Never Be Said. Text: Sara Teasdale, Public Domain. Music: Christopher Tin © 2022 Tin Works Publishing, LLC. All rights administered by Boosey & Hawkes, Inc. and Concord Music Publishing.

I Lift My Lamp (With God's Love). Text: Matthew 25:35-40 and "Mother of Exiles" by Emma Lazarus, adapt. Gwyneth Walker. Music: Gwyneth Walker © 2020 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.

Spoken Reading: An excerpt from the poem "Home" by Warsan Shire, from "Bless the Daughter Raised by a Voice in Her Head" © 2022 by Warsan Shire. Published by Penguin Random House LLC, New York. All rights reserved.

#UnitedWeDream (from "American DREAMers"). Text: Claudia D. Hernández; Music: Melissa Dunphy © Mormolyke Press. All rights reserved.

My God is a Rock. Text: Traditional Spiritual; Music: Traditional Spiritual, arr. Stacey V. Gibbs © 2017 Walton Music Corporation, a division of GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song. Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Sommerville; Music: LES PETITES SOEURS; Text and Music © 1987 Le Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Spoken Reading: Creator of Life's Turning (stanza 2) by Susan Palo Cherwien, from "Come Beloved of the Maker" © 2010 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission.

Lamb of God. Text: Nicolaus Decius, Tr. Arthur T. Russell; Music: O LAMM GOTTES UNSCHULDIG, German Chorale, 1540, arr. F. Melius Christiansen © Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Ndji Raisa Ondundu. Text: A song from the Republic of Namibia; Music: using the tune NEAR THE CROSS, by William Doane, arr. Eslon V. Hindundu, copyright © 2023 Pavane Publishing. All rights reserved.

Pilgrims' Hymn. Text: Michael Dennis Browne, reprinted with permission; Music: Stephen Paulus © 1997 Paulus Publications. All rights reserved.

I'll Be On My Way. Text and Music: Shawn Kirchner © 2011 by Shawn Kirchner Publishing, available through www.shawnkirchner.com. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Bread of the Journey. Text: Bret Hesla; Music: BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY, Bret Hesla © 1990 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with Permission.

Give Me Jesus. Text: Traditional Spiritual; Music: Traditional Spiritual, arr. Larry L. Fleming © 1973 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.




Spoken Reading: The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost. Public Domain.

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus. Text: Paraphrase of German text by Sigismund von Birken, based on John 11:16; Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, George G. Boltze, arr. Dan Forrest © 2012 Hinshaw Music, administered by Fred Bock Publishing Group. All rights reserved.



P.O. Box 4395, St. Paul, MN 55104

612-722-2301 | NLCA.com

 @NLChoir  National Lutheran Choir  @NationalLutheranChoir

Winter Concert: *New Journey*

February 25th, 2024 | 4:00pm | St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church (Plymouth, Minnesota)
March 1st, 2024 | 7:30pm | Grace Chapel at Lenoir-Rhyne University (Hickory, North Carolina)
March 2nd, 2024 | 3:00pm | St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Lexington, South Carolina)
March 3rd, 2024 | 3:00pm | Duke University Chapel (Durham, North Carolina)