

COLOUR & LIGHT

Inspired by the life and works of
MARC CHAGALL

University Singers

Graeme Langager, conductor
Risa Tonita, piano

Choral Union

Caroni Young, graduate student conductor
(masters thesis recital)
Eshantha Peiris, piano

March 19, 2022
The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
School of Music



PROGRAM

"IN THE MIDDLE"

University Singers
Graeme Langager, conductor
Risa Tonita, piano

Prayer for Ukraine
Peegeldused tasasest mast (Reflections on a Plain)
Bruno Quezada, cello
Warum ist das Licht gegeben?(Op 74, No 1)
In the Middle
I'll Fly Away
Eshantha Peiris, piano

arr. Andrea Ciona
Tõnu Kõrvits

Johannes Brahms
Dale Trumbore
arr. Brandon Boyd

INTERMISSION

"COLOUR & LIGHT"

Choral Union
Caroni Young, graduate student conductor
(masters thesis recital)
Eshantha Peiris, piano

Vision Chant
A Lonely Land
Kelk Jeffery, violin
Tonight
Bogoróditse Djevó
Hineih Ma Tov
V'la l'bon vent
Yeish Kochavim
Bruno Quezada, cello
Arise, Beloved!
Light of a Clear Blue Morning
Emma Verret, soprano
Kelk Jeffery, violin

Andrew Balfour
Giselle Wyers

Jussi Chydenius
Arvo Pärt
Jeremiah Klarman
Allison Girvan
Jonathan Tunick

Rosephanye Powell
arr. Craig Hella Johnson

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional,
ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

PROGRAM NOTES, TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

WARUM

1. Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen?

Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery,
and life unto the bitter in soul;
Which long for death, but it cometh not;
and dig for it more than for hid treasures;
Which rejoice exceedingly, and are glad,
when they can find the grave?
Why is light given to a man whose way is hid,
and whom God hath hedged in?

—Job 3: 20-23

2. Lasset uns unser Herz

Let us lift up our heart
with our hands
unto God in the heavens.

—Lamentations 3:41

3. Siehe, wir preisen selig, die erduldet haben.

Behold, we count them happy which endure.
Ye have heard of the patience of Job,
and have seen the end of the Lord;
that the Lord is very pitiful,
and of tender mercy.

—James 5:11

4. Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin,

With peace and joy I travel to that place,
according to God's will;
my heart and soul are comforted,
gently and quietly.
As god has promised me,
death has become sleep to me.

—Nunc Dimittis, paraphrased

IN THE MIDDLE

Barbara Crooker's poem "In the Middle" describes our need to connect in the rush of ordinary life. In this setting, the piano serves as an unreliable time-keeper, ebbing and flowing as our perception of time does. The word "time" itself occurs over and over within the piece, serving as a sort of refrain, a reminder to slow down.

It is so easy to forget, in the context of everyday life, that time will ultimately catch up with all of us. There's no antidote, but in the meantime, we should "take off our watches" more often, finding ourselves "tangled up in love" with another or just with this life, and granting time permission, if not to stop, then to slow.

—Dale Trumbore, composer

In the middle of a life that's as complicated as everyone else's,
struggling for balance, juggling time.
The mantle clock that was my grandfather's
has stopped at 9:20; we haven't had time
to get it repaired. The brass pendulum is still,
the chimes don't ring. One day I look out the window,
green summer, the next, the leaves have already fallen,
and a grey sky lowers the horizon. Our children almost grown,
our parents gone, it happened so fast. Each day, we must learn
again how to love, between morning's quick coffee
and evening's slow return. Steam from a pot of soup rises,
mixing with the yeasty smell of baking bread. Our bodies
twine, and the big black dog pushes his great head between;
his tail, a metronome, 3/4 time. We'll never get there,
Time is always ahead of us, running down the beach, urging
us on faster, faster, but sometimes we take off our watches,
sometimes we lie in the hammock, caught between the mesh
of rope and the net of stars, suspended, tangled up
in love, running out of time.

—Barbara Crooker, from *RADIANCE*.

**"If I create from the heart, nearly everything works;
if from the head, almost nothing."**

—Marc Chagall

I have been fascinated by Chagall from the moment I crossed the threshold of St. Stephen's Church in Mainz, Germany. Chagall's stained glass windows fill the church with a deep blue light and create a sense of serenity and peace. That experience inspired me to learn more about Chagall. I soon realized that there was much more to his artwork than vibrant colours but that these windows represented an act of reconciliation and a plea for peace. I continue to be inspired by Marc Chagall and his artwork. I hope tonight will leave you wanting to learn more! Enjoy the concert!

—Caroni Young

The program begins with **Vision Chant** by Andrew Balfour. Balfour lives in Winnipeg and is of Cree descent. He makes use of the Ojibway word for Journey: "Babamadizwin" along with traditional Indigenous chant styles. This piece represents Chagall's career as a visual artist, seeking to represent and find meaning in his memories and life experiences, dreams and realities. It opens with two distinct soprano parts separated by time and distance. The middle section is the journey and the chant and then finally ending in the soprano voices united. Vision chant is paired with Chagall's painting: "Self Portrait of the Artist with Seven Fingers".

Lonely Land – was composed by Giselle Wyers, who currently teaches the University of Washington. This text for this piece was written by William Allingham, an Irish Poet and was originally entitled "Heather". The text describes the "vast barren hills and moors" and the "empurpling" flowers that fill them. There is a strong connection to the land and to ancestral roots. This piece features violin throughout and incorporates a traditional Irish melody. Chagall was greatly influenced by music and many paintings include themes of musicians. There is a sense of timelessness that reminded me of Chagall's many depictions of the village life of his childhood. It is paired with "Russian Village".

Tonight – In the words of composer, Jussi Chydenius "is a love song that sounds to me as if it could appear in a French Film – Very romantic but a bit melancholic." The poetry is by Sarah Teasdale. Chagall spent many years of his life living in France and often painted pictures of lovers floating in the sky with the backdrop of the Eiffel. He was deeply in love with his first wife Bella and she figures prominently in many paintings. She died relatively early in Chagall's life in 1944. It is paired with "Autour d'Elle"

Arvo Part's **Bogoróditse Djevó** connects to Chagall's upbringing in Russia with traditional text in Church Slavonic. It is written in a folk style and is the hymn to the Virgin Mary. In Chagall's autobiography he speaks highly of his Mother and her influence in the household. It is Paired with "Virgin with Sled"

Hineih Ma Tov by Jeremiah Klarman is a Hebrew prayer for peace. The text translates to "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for people to dwell together in unity". This text speaks to Chagall's Jewish faith and to his experiences of war and discrimination and our continued need to seek peace. The middle section is a vibrant dance like melody that matched well with Chagall's painting "La Danse".

V'la l'Bon Vent is a traditional French Canadian folk song. This version is arranged by Alison Girvan, from Nelson B.C. I wanted to include a piece in the French language, since Chagall spent many years living in France. I chose V'la l'bon vent, because it represents a perfect mixture of play tinged with sadness that is so often present in Chagall's art. Colour also features prominently in the verses as we sing about a black duck, a white duck and the silver of the hunter's rifle. This piece is paired with "Fiddler" as a nod to the French Canadian Folk tradition.

The text for **Yeish Kochavim** was written by Hannah Senesh (1921-1944). She was a young Hungarian Jew who had emigrated to Palestine. During the second world war, she parachuted into Yugoslavia to try to help her fellow Jews. She was killed as she tried to cross the border. This poem was set to music by Jonathan Tunick. The poetry represents hope and how if we die our spirits are transported to the stars, not to be forgotten. Chagall was greatly impacted by the deaths of his fellow Jews during World War II. He fled to the US during the war, but many of his works remaining in Europe were destroyed. The Nazis featured his work in an exhibit of Degenerate Art. Many of his paintings contain Jewish themes and depictions of war.

Rosephayne Powell's composition **Arise Beloved** is based on the Song of Solomon 2:7-13. The setting uses nature as a means to express love and passion. This piece contains a sense of love and urgency with vivid word painting. Listen for the sound of the nightingale created by the piano part way through the piece. Chagall composed a series of paintings based on the Song of Solomon. I have paired it with "Ebony Horse" which features two lovers sitting on a floating horse and is reminiscent of the text "arise beloved and come away".

Light of a clear blue morning was originally written by Dolly Parton, the version you hear tonight has been arranged by Craig Hella Johnson. This piece is also about hope and coming through times of darkness to the light. I thought it made a pairing to connect this piece to an image of Chagall's stained glass which inspired this concert. The light of the morning shining through stained glass creates hope for a peaceful future. The image is a detail from St. Stephen's Church in Mainz, Germany.

CITATIONS



Chagall, Marc, Russian/Ukrainian, 1887-1985.
1912. Self-portrait with Seven Fingers.

https://library.artstor.org/asset/AIC_780036.



Marc Chagall, French (born Belarus), 1887-1985.
1921. Russian Village. drawings and watercolors.
Place: Saint Louis Art Museum, Gift of Mr. and
Mrs. Marcus Rice.

[https://library.artstor.org/asset/
ASLAMIG_10313907205](https://library.artstor.org/asset/ASLAMIG_10313907205).



Marc Chagall. 1945. Around Her (Autour d'elle).
painting. Place: Musée National d'Art Moderne,
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.

[https://library.artstor.org/asset/
AWSS35953_35953_30933632](https://library.artstor.org/asset/AWSS35953_35953_30933632)



Marc Chagall. 1949. The Madonna and the Sledge.

https://library.artstor.org/asset/AWSS35953_35953_31707252



Marc Chagall. 1950-52. The Dance (La Danse). painting. Place: Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.

https://library.artstor.org/asset/AWSS35953_35953_30938251



Chagall, Marc, Russian/Ukrainian, 1887-1985. 1912-1913. The Fiddler.

https://library.artstor.org/asset/AIC_780035



Marc Chagall, French (born Belorussia), 1887 - 1985. 1943. In the Night. Paintings. Place: Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, The Louis E. Stern Collection, 1963, 1963-181-16,

<http://www.philamuseum.org/main.asp>.

https://library.artstor.org/asset/PMA_1039758744



Marc Chagall , European; Eastern European; Russian, 1887 - 1985, (artist),. 1948. Four Tales from the Arabian Nights: No. 12 - The Tale of the Ebony Horse, No. 3. Prints, Print. Place: The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, Gift of the Hanna Fund, 1948.683,

<http://www.clemusart.com/>.

https://library.artstor.org/asset/AMICO_CL_103800048.



St. Stephen's Church, Mainz

<https://www.itravelwithart.com/mainz-church-with-chagall-windows/>

PERSONNEL



Graeme Langager is Director of Choral Activities at the University of British Columbia School of Music. As is a passionate and dynamic conductor, Langager is sought-after as a clinician, adjudicator, educator and guest conductor. He has performed throughout Europe and across North America, appearing in such venues as St. Mark's in Venice, St. Peter's in the Vatican, St. Steven's in Vienna, Carnegie Hall in New York and in cathedrals and concert halls in Spain, Italy, France, Austria and the Czech Republic. Langager's choirs have also performed at numerous choral conferences, including: NCCO (National Collegiate Choral Organization), ACDA-AR (American Choral Directors Association Conference, Arkansas), IAJE (International Association of Jazz Educators), MENC/NAfME (National Association for Music Education), and the Montreux and North Sea Jazz Festivals. Langager served as the artistic director and conductor of the acclaimed Phoenix Chamber Choir in Vancouver from 2012-2018, during which the choir released 3 CDs, performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Andrea Bocelli, and was privileged to be invited to perform at Canada's Podium Conference in 2016 showcasing the best choirs in the country.

Langager was born into a musical family, singing and playing instruments from an early age. He received the doctoral degree in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and the master of music degree from California State University, Long Beach. Langager also holds a degree in Jazz Studies. He has taught for more than 20 years in universities and colleges in the United States and Canada, and is also active as a composer and arranger.



Caroni Young began singing in choir when she was six years old in Elementary School on Salt Spring Island. From the first, she was hooked on singing! She studied at Capilano University where she earned a Bachelor Degree in Jazz Studies and then a degree in Education from UBC. She is so honoured to be part of this wonderful choral conducting team at UBC and is especially grateful to Dr. Langager for his guidance and support. In addition to her studies at UBC, she is the Artistic Director of *VIVA CHORALE* and the *MAKANA YOUTH CHOIR*, both located on Salt Spring. When she is not directing choirs or singing, you'll likely find her on board B.C. Ferries!

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Graeme Langager, conductor
Risa Tonita, collaborative pianist

Meruet Bestybay
Claire Bidulka
Trinity Collie
Carolin Ford
Indira Graham
Mariana Iguavita
Anja Kelly
Taylor McKee
Taylor McKee
Deeandra Miranda
Skylar Sabasch
Julia Yoo

Alexandra Baird
Chelsea Dell
Rachel Dupras
* Britney Huynh
Saphren Ma
* Han-Ah Park
Kate Pasula
Marin Phillips-Hing
Holly Ten Haaf
* Caroni Young

Gabriel Chona
Bryce Dong
Alex Ding
Owen Glor
Jordan Griffiths
Isaac Howie
Martin Joo
* Michael Stahl
Samuel Teo

Ayrton Chilibeck
* Elvin Do
Thomas Farrell
Ryan Flores
Hans Grunwald
* Will Ireton
Josh Levesque
Hanwen Liang
* Zach Manlapid
Albin Rickman

* denotes graduate assistants

CHORAL UNION

Graeme Langager, conductor
Caroni Young, graduate assistant conductor
Eshantha Peiris, collaborative pianist

Achint Lail
Adriana Zaharijevich
Aidan Redulla
Alex Liu
Alexei-Luis Villareal
Alice Yang
Alison Kelsall
Allice Wang
Amy Cheung
Andrew Marr
Anna Pontin
Anne Qu
Anusha Thukral
Aurora Chen
Avery Quarashi
Ayuki Ohno
Bella Wark-Pantoja
Benedikt Golisch
Bofeng Cheng
Boxuan Zhang
Caelan Prescott
Caitlin Bellas
Cat Hartt-Towle
Celina Mu
Cherry Hsu
Chloe Huang
Christian Richardson
Claire Liu
Darren Wen
Dawn Tomaszewski
Denis Petrov

Dillon Forde
Elissa Matthew
Emily Malmgren
Emma Penner
Emma Verret
Erin Strachen
Ethan Tong
Eva Schmidt
Fergus Kwan
Fiona Zhang
Gabriela Pimentel
Ghoncheh Eijadi
Grace Jung
Grace Walker
Haley Power
Hannah Park
Heeya Song
Ioana Fronea
Ivy Lin
Janna Berg
Jason Lau
Jenny Lim
Jeon Mok
Jessica Peng
Jessica Tao
Jodi Ferrer
Joel Schelp
Joseph Jeon
Joseph So
Justin Lau
Kaitlyn Agda

Karen Chan
Kathleen O'Connor
Kayla Preocanin
Kayla Salanga
Kelsey Zhong
Ken Cai
Kendra Baldwin
Kristina Shishkova
Kristine Choi
KT Huber
Lauren-Nicole Pizarra
Lena Hart
Liam Taylor
Lily-Alice Malena-Morin
Lucia Monchi
Maddy Keir
Manuela Chao
Marie Schmidt
Maryam Khamis
Matthew Perez
Matthew Wong
Meena Chowdhury
Melanie Ko
Michael Chen
Michael Robert
Michelle Wu
Miya Ding
Molly Morrison
Nancy Mu
Naomi Barasch
Naomi Giorgis

Natalia Roche
Nathalie Phan
Nicole Borowicz
Olivia Huang
Phillip Lee
Ray Chen
Richard Xiang
Risa Murakami
Samuel Boone
Sandy Adams
Sara Booth
Sara Foubert
Sarah Stephenson
Sarah Tang
Sarah Wong
Sharon Chu
Shayna Kang
Shilpa Sharma
Skye Wilkinson
Snow Diao
Sofia Muzychka
Sylvie Nesbitt
Tim Cheng
Tyson Fisher
Veronica Meyer
Vinci Fong
Vivienne Tharmin
Wellesley Kerr
Wendy Cheung
Ziheng Zhao