



THIS IS NOW

GOVANS
CHANCEL CHOIR
AND GUESTS

O, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CITY, ARR STEVEN WARD

DONATO CELENTANO, BARITONE

ISAIAH BATEY, TENOR

"O What a Beautiful City" summons the Apostle John's vision of the New Jerusalem where one would spend eternal freedom from the toils of life. The spiritual--as with most spirituals--was sung as a form of communication that one was close to the north, or freedom from enslavement. This arrangement was completed for the Augsburg University Choirs annual Advent Vespers Concert in 2023 and is meant to convey the hope and awe at the prospect of being able to gaze upon that beautiful city one day while creating them here on earth each day.

THE HOUSE ON THE INTERFACE FROM *KRAINA*

(US PREMIERE) BY ANSELM MCDONNELL

NATANYA BRENNAN, SOPRANO

NELDA CLELLAND, PIANO

Kraina is a song cycle reflecting on experiences of the Polish diaspora from contemporary and historical Polish poets, with a particular focus on those who moved to Northern Ireland during the Troubles.



FIRST FROST BY PRANAV RANJIT (WORLD PREMIERE)

PATRICK KLINK, TENOR

NELDA CLELLAND, PIANO

Written in 2023, "First Frost" depicts the thoughts of a person experiencing the long, sunless northern European winter for the first time. It is a setting of a text that I wrote myself, inspired partially by my own experience of winters while living in Tallinn, Estonia and Helsinki, Finland. In this art song, I sought to combine the raw intensity of early 20th-century Expressionist music with occasional interludes of dreamy consonance.

WE WILL NEVER BE BROTHERS BY MARIE HERRINGTON

ELISHEVA PRONT, SOPRANO

NELDA CLELLAND, PIANO

Anastasia Dmytruk is a famous Ukrainian poet and activist who wrote "We Will Never Be Brothers" in 2014 on Russia's occupation of Crimea. This piece is a reflection of Ukrainian thoughts and feelings based on the imperialist torment of the Ukrainian people and their land. This piece was premiered in 2024 at National Sawdust in Brooklyn NYC, for Sparks and Wiry Cries' SongSLAM competition, then performed again in late 2024 for the Source Song Festival, in Minneapolis, MN.

CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER, BY LAURA NEVITT

NERISSA PAGLINAUAN, SOPRANO

GOVANS CHANCEL CHOIR

The text for "Clean Air and Clean Water" is extracted from the words of Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez during a House Financial Services Committee Meeting in March of 2019. I took parts of the speech and worked to form it into a poetic framework, and with a coherent theme throughout. A slow and somewhat ominous chord progression stays consistent throughout the piece - a reminder that climate change is slow moving, but always present - there is no avoiding this. Reminders that "we are going to pay" are scattered throughout the work. AOC's impassioned speech came after Congressman Sean Duffy argued that the Green New Deal would increase the total cost of housing for lower income earners and the homeless. He said, and I quote: "If you're a rich liberal from maybe New York or California, it sounds great because you can afford to retrofit your home or build a new home that has zero emissions, that's energy efficient."

I BELIEVE BY MARK MILLER

JOCELYN TAYLOR, SOPRANO

GOVANS CHANCEL CHOIR

Mark Miller set to music these words that were scratched on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany by a Jew hiding from Nazi persecution:

“I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining.
I believe in love even when I don’t feel it.
I believe in God even when God is silent.”

Thank you to our guests,
Natanya Brennan, soprano
Elisheva Pront, soprano
Patrick Klink, tenor
Ben Ross, baritone,
and Nelda Clelland, piano

Govans Chancel Choir Members:

Jocelyn Taylor

Sherry Peck
Elena Storey
Laura Harris
Laura Kittel

Nerissa Paglinauan

Mary Weller
Anita Hendrix
Myra Brosius

Isaiah Batey

Karl Starks
Michael Boersma

Donato Celentano

Doug Storey
Alex Short
David Boersma