

# Revelation

light breaking darkness

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# Revelation

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## **"All Things New" arr. Elaine Hagenberg**

"All Things New" was written by American composer Elaine Hagenberg with words by Frances Havergal (1836-1879), an English religious poet and hymn writer. Hagenberg, who was born and lives in Iowa, is known for her exquisite lyricism and soaring melodies. In "All Things New" she has delivered an exceptional original setting of the Havergal poem that provides a message of hope especially needed today. A shimmering piano accompaniment and simple but lovely melodic lines combine perfectly and result in a moving experience for the singer and listener alike.

## **"Hope for the World, We Sing" arr. Jacob Narverud**

"Hope for the World (We Sing)" was written by Jacob Narverud with lyrics by Robert Bode. The uplifting poem with its theme of hope inspired Narverud's rhythmic piano accompaniment and melodies that move throughout the different sections of the choir. The words and music combine and result in a moving and profound message of hope. American composer Jacob Narverud (b.1986) is a Kansas native who is a sought-after composer and guest conductor sought throughout the country. Poet Robert Bode is noted for his dedication to the commissioning and performance of music by American composers.

## **"O Nata Lux, Light Born of Light" arr. Kevin A. Memley**

"O Nata Lux, Light Born of Light" by Kevin Memley, is a beautiful piece containing both Latin and English texts. A flowing piano accompaniment enhances the lovely melodies and harmonies of this moving song of praise. Kevin Memley is a largely self-taught composer living and working in the Fresno, California area. In addition to being a published composer, he currently teaches Music Technology at Clovis East High School, directs the Kingsburg Community Church Choir and accompanies several choirs in the San Joaquin Valley of Central California.

## **"Ukrainian Alleluia" arr. Craig Courtney**

Composer Craig Courtney writes "In the summer of 2007, I had the privilege of being part of a mission team serving in the Ukraine. Because of its geographical position and rich natural resources, the country has a history of foreign invasion, occupation, and oppression. It is estimated that more than 25 million Ukrainians were killed in the 20th century due to starvation, war, and the deadliest nuclear accident in history. Ukrainian Christians in particular suffered discrimination, arrest, torture, and even death for the sake of their beliefs. This anthem was borne out of that knowledge of these circumstances. It is a musical portrayal of a quiet voice of faith, praise, and hope in the midst of suffering and tragedy."

## **"The Peace of Wild Things" arr. Jake Runestad**

"The Peace of the Wild Things" is a stunning piece written by Jake Runestad (b.1986) and based on a poem by Wendell Berry (b. 1934). Runestad is considered to be "one of the best of the younger American composers" (Chicago Tribune) and was dubbed a "choral rockstar" by American Public Media. He is one of the most frequently performed composers in the world and has traveled to work with ensembles on all but one continent. The words of poet, activist, community builder, and farmer, Wendell Berry, serve as the inspiration for Runestad's composition. Berry's appreciation for the larger circle of existence is evident in this text that explores humanity's relationship with the earth. Runestad is quoted as saying about "The Peace of the Wild Things", "My attempt to illustrate Berry's words begins with swells of anxious clustered harmony that give way to the basses, the lowest and darkest voices of the choir." He goes on to explain that, as the piece progresses, the harmonies rise and lighten to the end with the piano providing an earthly palette throughout.

## **"We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace" arr. Moses Hogan**

"We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace" is a traditional spiritual with a compelling message. In Christian imagery, the "valley" often represents a place of difficulty, trial or suffering. If this is the case the message of the song seems to be one of safety in the presence of Spirit – the spirit being, in this case, Jesus. Moses hogan's memorable setting of the classic piece builds slowly to a glorious climax and then returns to a quiet conclusion which serves to highlight the compelling message of the spiritual.

## **"Light of a Clear Blue Morning" arr. Craig Hella Johnson**

*Soloist: Selena Lavonier*

Dolly Rebecca Parton (born 1946) is an American singer/songwriter, author, multi-instrumentalist, actress and philanthropist, best known for her work in country music. In the four plus decades since her national chart debut, she remains one of the most successful female artists in the history of the country genre. "Light of a Clear Blue Morning" first appeared on her 1977 album "New Harvest – First Gathering" album, and was a top twenty country music hit. Parton told interviewers that the song came out of the pain she felt from her break with longtime musical and business partner Porter Wagoner. Parton left Wagoner's band in 1974 in an effort to aim her career in a more mainstream pop direction.

## **"I Shall See" arr. Michael John Trotta**

*Soloists: Kathleen Siddall & Christopher Lutz-Long*

"I Shall See" by Michael John Trotta is based on Psalm 27 which begins:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

This a cappella piece has a lovely harmonic palette which introduces the text using appealing melodic lines. Trotta (b. 1978) is an experienced choral composer and conductor whose music truly showcases the talents of its performers and engages conductors, singers and audiences alike.

## **"Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing" arr. Mack Wilberg**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" is number four of "Four American Folk Hymns" which draws on the rich folk tradition of New England and the rural Southern United States. The melody itself comes from John Wyeth's "Prepository of Sacred Music" written in 1813. Composer Mack Wilberg has taken a low-key approach to his arrangement of this hymn, allowing the pure folk flavor to shine through. Wilberg (b.1955) is a former professor of music at Brigham Young University and was appointed Music Director of The Mormon Tabernacle Choir in 2008. His arrangements and compositions have been performed and recorded all over the world.

## **"True Light" arr. Keith Hampton**

*Soloists: Allison Deratzian & Angela Vaughn*

"True Light" begins with the opening phrases of the traditional spiritual "This Little Light of Mine" and then launches into an exciting work with original words and music by American composer Keith Hampton. It also features solo lines taken from the tenth century poet Grigor Narckatzi's "Book of Mournful Chants." Spiritual depth and driving rhythms combine to make this soulful gospel piece a joy to sing and to hear. Hampton, affectionately known as "Doc", is a conductor, composer, educator, church musician, organist, adjudicator and workshop clinician in the Chicago area.

## **"Be a Light" arr. Tim Hayden**

*Soloist: Vera Ewing*

"Be A Light" has words and music composed by Joshua Miller, Matt Dragstrem, Josh Thompson, and Thomas Rhett Akins and is arranged by Tim Hayden. It is an anthem of hope and unity and holds a significant message which is extremely relevant today. "In a world full of hate, be a light" is an example of the lyrics which refer to our power to affect change in the world. The piece has been recorded and features artists Thomas Rhett, Reba McEntire, Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin, and Keith Urban.

## **"You Do Not Walk Alone" arr. Elaine Hagenberg**

"You Do Not Walk Alone" is the final piece of the concert written by American composer Elaine Hagenberg. This ethereal setting of the traditional Irish blessing has strokes of Celtic styling within the soft and gentle flowing melody. The piece gradually builds in intensity, finally transitioning into a slow and quiet close. This piece would be perfect for any occasion but is particularly comforting during a season of uncertainty or grief.

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As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Valley Choral Society relies heavily on the financial support of businesses, corporations and individuals to sustain the offerings of the choir to both singers and audience. Through generous gifts we are able to continue to bring quality choral music to the Upper Perkiomen Valley and surrounding areas.

You can make a difference! All donations are tax-deductible and support the general operating fund of the choir.

## **Andrew Lutz-Long** *Artistic Director*

# **Music Team**

Andrew Lutz-Long is Director of Music Ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasio, PA since July 2007. He arrived at Trinity after graduating from Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a concentration in church music and administration. While at LVC, Drew reorganized and directed a Chapel Choir that sang at traditional Chapel services and appeared in local tours in the region. He also served as a drum major to the Lebanon Valley College Marching Band in 2005.

At Trinity, Drew oversees the choir programs for each age level, directs the hand-bell choir, and oversees the Trinity Concert Series, a music outreach of the congregation. The Trinity Chancel Choir regularly leads worship during the program year, and the additional groups participate on a rotating schedule. The youngest choir program was recently shifted to include all students participating in the Sunday School program. The full-time staff of Trinity also offer monthly "chapel time" programs for the 100 children cared for as part of the TLC Child Care Center, housed in Trinity's walls year-round, caring for children from infancy through kindergarten.

In 2009, Drew was invited to join the staff of the Valley Choral Society, Pennsburg, PA, as Assistant Director and serve as an accompanist. He served this role working with Patricia Conrad as Artistic Director until the summer of 2018 when Drew was offered the directorship.

Since fall of 2015, Drew serves as Chapel Organist at Muhlenberg College in Egner Chapel. In this role, he helps plan worship for the Christian community gathering weekly on Sundays, and assists at other special campus events especially concerts involving organ accompaniment. Drew is also a part of the Worship Team for the Southeastern PA Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, helping to plan specific worship events in the Synod as well as playing piano and organ during those services.

## **Mary Beth Penjue** *Assistant Director*

Mary Beth Penjue holds a Masters degree in Education from Cabrini University, a Bachelors degree in Music Education from Lebanon Valley College, and a Level 1 Orff Teaching certificate from the University of the Arts. She is a music teacher for the Penridge Area School District where the music staff has been recognized as a "best community for music education" for three consecutive years by NAMM, a national music organization. Since 2008, she has taught instrumental, vocal, and general music classes to students in grades K-8 at various elementary and middle schools in the district. In addition to her teaching duties, she has directed the elementary honors band, initiated a summer band program, and is a 2018 recipient of a Penridge Community Education Foundation grant.

Penjue is a member of the Dutch Country Players (DCP) in Montgomery County where she was last seen as Joy, the lead in the regional premiere of Sean Grennan's "The Tin Woman." Other prominent roles include Janet McKenzie in "Witness for the Prosecution" and Joan Daly in "The Snowball." At DCP she has served as an assistant director and a vocal coach for various Family Theatre productions including "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." For the last three summers, she has served as a co-director for Camp Bravo at the Doylestown Conservatory of Music, directing, choreographing and staging "Aladdin Jr", "Suessical the Musical Jr" and "Broadway Now."

## **Sue Ellen Echard** *Accompanist*

Sue Ellen Echard, MM, BS, BMus, is Choir Master and Organist at Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, Harleysville, PA serving there for 17 years. Over her career she has worked as choral director, workshop leader, Kindermusik® teacher, recitalist and teacher of organ and piano. She has been a member of the Philadelphia AGO for over 30 years and was recently elected to the executive committee of the Philadelphia Chapter. She specializes in choir and community building and was recruited early in the founding of Church of Holy Spirit to build music, arts and youth programs. The intention of growing this new parish was focused on well done music and liturgy through use of the Royal School of Church Music resources. Under her leadership, the choirs have grown to over 60 youth and adult participants in singing, instrumental and handbell choirs. The church continues to grow and thrive. In recent years, Sue Ellen led choral residencies at Bristol Winchester and Lincoln Cathedrals in England and is currently preparing for a residency at Exeter in 2022. Sue Ellen has served on the music staff of Bel Canto Children's Chorus and the Royal School of Church Music at the King's College Course in Wilkes-Barre.

Sue Ellen's career has been broad and comprehensive serving churches in the Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian, Reformed and Evangelical traditions. She holds a Bachelor of Science in theology and Bachelor of Music in Church Music from Cairn University and a Master of Sacred Music Degree from Westminster Choir College where she studied organ with Eugene Roan and choral conducting with Allen Crowell and Andrew Megill. She completed further studies in choral conducting at the Choral Institute at Oxford in 2017 and 2019.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Valley Choral Society is to produce outstanding music both in rehearsal and performance. In order to achieve our mission, we will:

- Challenge and educate
- Entertain and inspire
- Foster discipline and respect
- Develop growth in musicianship
- Encourage diversity and unity
- Share in the joy of music

### Officers

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## ABOUT THE CHOIR

Originally known as the Choral Arts Society of the Upper Perkiomen Valley, Valley Choral Society (VCS) was founded in 1983 by Richard F. Lampe. It was formed as a community choir composed of singers from the Upper Perkiomen Valley however, as the enthusiasm grew for a community music program, membership continued to expand to its now multi-county composition including Montgomery, Bucks, Lehigh and Berks Counties.

Presenting major concerts in the late fall and spring, VCS performs a wide variety of music – from John Rutter's Requiem to Broadway show tunes, from classical sacred music to well-loved music from the 1940s, from classic Christmas carols to the Beatles, from composers from past centuries to contemporary composers – all to the delight of appreciative audiences.

In addition to its major concerts, VCS has always had a rich history of community outreach that continues to expand with performances at community day events such as Quakertown Alive or Relay for Life, retirement communities throughout the area, and the annual "Make Music Upper Perk" event. Outside of the area, Valley Choral Society has most recently toured to Washington DC (2014) and New York City (2012); in keeping with our mission statement, other opportunities to perform are welcome as scheduling allows.



## SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday, September 13:** Sing with us! Valley Choral Society rehearsals resume for our 39th season. Stay up-to-date via email, Facebook, or Instagram for more information!



# CHOIR MEMBERS

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Virginia Servas  
Patti Spanier  
Monica Strawbridge  
Donna Taggart  
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## Soprano II

Kathleen Boyle-Giannini  
Dana Caporaletti  
Molly Faust  
Annette Raynes  
Kathleen Siddall  
Julie Swan  
Angela Vaughn

## Alto I

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Lindee Fitting  
Terry Hughley  
Sandy Hummel  
Ann Kolb  
Cheryl Kulp  
Vickie Long  
Patricia McCully  
Donna Snyder  
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Betty Ruth Yerger

## Alto II

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Barbara Cleland  
Paula Dreiling  
Vera Ewing  
Barbara Lampe  
Selena Lavonier  
Emma Lewis

## Tenor I

Debra Ferretti  
Christopher Lutz-Long  
Kirk Walters

## Tenor II

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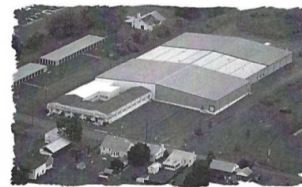
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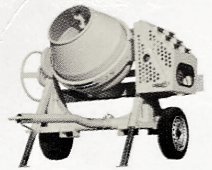
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