

# SINGERS COMPANYE

September 29, 2024

5:00 pm

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Massillon, Ohio*

VoxMix Collective  
Samuel Gordon, Artistic Director  
Amy Sauriol, Collaborative Pianist

*When there is a chance to loosen up and lighten up and even live it up, a chance to feel the warmth of this gentle, wild, messy, holy world, love beckons us over and asks, "Got a minute?" Anne Lamott*

## ***Program***

### **Birds Bees Buds and Trees**

Unison (Delphine Chalmers)	Bob Chilcott
Trees Need Not Walk the Earth (David Rosenthal)	Jocelyn Hagen
Redbuds (Crystal Gordon Gilchrist)	Samuel Gordon
Sunflower (William Blake)	Jacob Narverud
Two Old Crows (Vachel Lindsay)	Paul John Rudoï
Over the Rainbow (Harold Arlen) Laura Williams, soprano   Timothy Eck, tenor	arr. Jacob Narverud

### **Psalm 100: Shout for joy all the earth!**

Jubilate Deo	Dan Forrest
Jubilate Deo (Latin/English)	
Ve adthdor vador (Hebrew/Arabic)	
Ta cao chang de yang (Chinese)	
Benedicid su nombre (Spanish)	
Song of the Earth	
Omnis Terra (Latin, Zulu & English)	
Mikhaila Nobel-Pace & Sarah Hutchins (2) Olivia Beal-Newcomb (3) Merissa Coleman (4)	

## Unison

When the back of our skin becomes soft to the touch and the breeze leaves through our hair, the whisper of the trees and the stories we write are in unison. When the ripple of a smile weathers dimples into stone and love breaks on new shores, the surge of the tides and the press of a hand are in unison. When the bravest ideals take wing in soaring flocks, and make a home in warmer skies, the patterns of the birds and the lives we weave are in unison. When dreams linger in waking thought like teasing constellations and hope fills even hopeless hearts, the song of the future and of our souls is in unison.

## Trees Need Not Walk the Earth

Trees need not walk the earth for beauty or for bread; Beauty will come to them where they stand. Here among the children of the sap is no pride of ancestry: a birch may wear no less the morning than an oak. Here are no heirlooms save those of loveliness in which each tree is kingly in its heritage of grace. Here is but beauty's wisdom in which all trees are wise. Trees need not walk the earth for beauty or for bread; Beauty will come to them in the rainbow – The sunlight – and the lilac- haunted rain; and bread will come to them as beauty came.

## Redbuds

Your blossoms emerged, a boisterous electric pink announcement that spring had returned. Another season of new growth and hopeful expectations of a time for easy living, well earned. Buds became leaves and dreams became real as the nourishment of a life well lived grew new roots, transplanted by choice, to new soil with dreams of adventure long dormant but newly conceived. Warm summer breezes rustled your leaves while memories returned of summers past, each shared and preserved in a heart's museum, your shady canopy, shifting in the breeze, dappling the lane and grass.

In but a blink of the eye, your blossoms faded, now a dusky reminder of your brilliant emergence littered with Mother Nature's other spring confetti petals, fallen, devoured, passing into past tense. Too soon leaves will fall and your unruly branches will stand like sentinels against the winter mist. Black boney branches beaconing to yet another journey. Unexpected, abrupt, finally unable to be dismissed. But the spring will resume its exuberant dance with a warming shove, and the redbuds will explode again in electric pink, renewed, eternal, hopeful, joyous – like love.

## Ah! Sunflower

Sunflower! Weary of time, who counts the steps of the Sun: seeking after that sweet golden clime, where the traveler's journey is done, where the Youth pined away with desire, and the pale Virgin shrouded in snow: arise from their graves and aspire, where my sunflower wishes to go.

## Two Old Crows

Two old crows sat on a fence rail thinking of effect and cause, of weeds and flowers, and nature's laws. One of them muttered, one of them stuttered, each of them thought far more than he uttered. One crow asked the other crow a riddle. The muttering crow asked the stuttering crow. "Why does a bee have a sword to his fiddle?" "Bee-cause", said the other crow. Just then a bee flew close to their rail and those two black crows turned pale, and away those crows did sail. Why? BBBBBBBBBB-cause. Buzzzz!



## Psalm 100: Shout for joy all the earth!

### Jubilate Deo

O be joyful in the Lord, all you lands: serve him with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. Be sure that the Lord is God: it is he that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pastures. Go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; be thankful to him and speak good of his name for he is Gracious, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endures from age to age. (Ps. 100, Latin Vulgate)

**Ve adthdor vador (From age to age):** Bless his name. For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures from age to age. (From Psalm 100: 4-5, Hebrew and Arabic)

**Ta cao chang de yang (The sheep of his pasture):** It is he that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. (From Psalms 100:3 and 23:1, Mandarin Chinese)

**Benedicid su nombre (Bless his name):** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise. Be thankful, and bless his name. (Psalm 100:4, Spanish)

**Song of the Earth:** Alleluia. Praise Jehovah. (Nearly universal transliteration) Omnis terra: Sing for joy, dance in gladness, shout for joy, all the earth! (Latin, adapted English translation, Zulu)

## Artistic Leadership

Dr. Samuel Gordon received his undergraduate training at The Pennsylvania State University. His master's and doctoral degrees in voice performance and conducting were conferred with highest distinction from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Principal mentors include Julius Herford, Robert Shaw, Ralph Apelman (voice pedagogy), John Reeves White, Fiora Contino, Hans Tischler, Marko Rothmuller, Tibor Kozma, and Hans Tischler, Thomas Houser

Winner of the major international choral competitions, Concorso Polifonico Internazionale Guido d'Arezzo (twice), and the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, he is also the two time recipient of the Fiat Conducting Prize (Arezzo), the madrigal prize at the Welsh National Eisteddfod, and the Grand Prize at the International Early Music Competition in Zadar, Slovenia. He has been a member of international adjudication panels of international choral competitions, in Poland, Italy, Hungary, Greece, England and, most recently, the Guido d'Arezzo Choral Composition (2023).

As the tenor of the National Gallery of Art (NGA) Vocal Arts Quartet, he has sung concerts at prestigious music festivals, most notably those of Salzburg, Rheingau and Scandanavia including presentations for the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, the music festival at La Fenice in Venice and Bellas Artes de Panama. The quartet has performed on four continents including broadcasts for European national radio and television and has been featured as part of the music series at the Louvre in Paris and the Belvedere in Vienna. He has prepared choruses for major American orchestras and has been guest conductor and clinician for ensembles across this country, Europe, Asia, and Central America. His choral works are distributed by Hal Leonard, and he has recorded for Koch International and Telarc records. Sam is married to Dr. Lynn Turner and is the best buddy for a rambunctious Poochon who answers to Teddy.

## About Singers Companye

Singers Companye is a mixed chamber choir that focuses on modern choral repertoire and collaborates with a wide variety of musicians as well as dancers, visual artists, and poets. The ensemble has sung concert tours of Ireland, Spain and Italy. Our singers have excellent vocal/musical backgrounds, many often heard as featured soloists for various musical events throughout northeast Ohio. Companye has garnered enthusiastic reviews from Cleveland Classical, the Plain Dealer and the Washington Post and has enjoyed two residencies at the National Gallery of Art in Washington - *Paris During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* and *The Native American Experience*.

Singers Companye and VoxMix Collective are part of Crooked River Musical Arts, a non-profit, tax-exempt public charity with no paid staff. We explore the choral art in interactive group study that focuses on vocal pedagogy, conducting, and repertoire. We present the results in the form of concerts. Members of our ensemble teach populations that serve children who speak roughly 22 languages in their homes.

Those teachers help us educate youth about the nature of building community through the choral art – giving voice to those communities. Please give generously to help us continue our work and prepare for an exciting 25th Anniversary Season.

---

## VoxMix Music Collective

Ian Wenz, flute; Alexandra Piepenbrink, oboe; Brian Medellin, clarinet; Daniel Fackler, horn; Andy Flanagan, percussion; Brendon Phelps, cello, Jeff Sonoda, keyboards; Dean Wagner, organ; Amy Sauriol, piano.

---

## Choral Artists

**Soprano:** Merissa Coleman, Ashley Hafler, Olivia Beal-Newcomb, Mikhaila Nobel- Pace, Kathryn Sees, Brittany Smith, Valerie Niese Stewart and Laura Williams. **Alto:** Lydia Chlpka, Jennifer Calhoun, Stephanie Corbin, Mackenzie Henry, Sarah Hutchins, Kellie Ramirez and Jenna Stolarik. **Tenor:** Anthony Bianchi, Timothy Eck, Michael Lada, Jesse Lange, Stephen Lord, Brian Medellin and Daniel Schneck. **Bass:** David Aberth, Simon Beck, Patrick Fields, Lennie Green, Spencer Kieft, Brian Klinect, and Zack Richards.

---

## Operations Collective

Executive Artistic Director: Samuel Gordon

Artistic Associates: Timothy Eck, Amy Sauriol

Initiatives/Projects Team: Merissa Coleman, Kathryn Sees, Kellie Ramirez, Zack Richards, Valerie Stewart, Kara Cea, Lynn Turner

Community Outreach Director: Christine Stewart

Conducting Associates: Anthony Bianchi, Jesse Lange, Zack Richards

Crooked Rivers Musical Arts/Singers Companye is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Find us on [singerscompanye.org](http://singerscompanye.org) and social media.

We are supported by a grant from the Akron Community Foundation