

Waukesha Choral Union Presents

Requiem

By John Rutter

Sunday, March 1, at 3:00 PM

Dr. Martin Luther Church, Oconomowoc

325 S. Main St.





Welcome from the Director

Welcome to the Waukesha Choral Union's annual presentation of the Fred and Joanne Portz Community Concert! For more than forty years, this concert series has embodied the WCU's commitment to welcoming our community into meaningful experiences with choral masterworks. Community singers are invited to join the WCU for the concert cycle—scores are provided and dues are waived. As you know, audience members also attend the concert for free. It is our honor to welcome you today and to continue the work the Portz family began decades ago.

For many years, *Messiah* by George Frideric Handel was the centerpiece of this series. Today, we expand the repertoire we share. This year's featured work is John Rutter's *Requiem*, a musical journey of grief and love that moves from darkness into light, carrying a message of hope and reconciliation.

But this is more than a performance; for many of us, it is deeply personal. The *Requiem* is dedicated to the memory of my grandmother, Donna Jean Bridges—I learned to sing at her side. In that same spirit, members of the chorus have dedicated their performances to loved ones they carry in their hearts. I invite you to visit our memorial area during intermission or after the concert to learn more about the people who have shaped and loved us.

Donna Bridges



Thank You!

Sam Wulterkens and Oak Creek High School

Jen Schwingle and Waukesha West High School

Pastor Clare Sedlacek and Dr. Martin Luther Church

Waukesha State Bank

Thomas Press

St. Luke's Lutheran Church



Scan the QR code to sign up for our email newsletter!



choralunion.org



Waukesha Choral Union



@waukeshachoral



Program

Danielle Bridges, artistic director
Dr. Simone Gheller, collaborative pianist



For a Breath of Ecstasy

Based on poems by Sara Teasdale

Michael John Trotta

WCU Chamber Ensemble
Simone Gheller, piano
Kaylyn Ruemler, oboe

1. Wealth Enough for Me

I have no riches but my thoughts,
Yet these are wealth enough for me;
My thoughts of you are golden coins
Stamped in the mint of memory;

And I must spend them all in song,
For thoughts, as well as gold, must be
Left on this side of death
To gain their immortality.

2. Peace Flows into Me

Peace flows into me
As the tide to the pool by the shore;
It is mine forevermore,
It will not ebb like the sea.

I am the pool of blue
That worships the vivid sky;
My hopes were heaven-high,
They are all fulfilled in you.

I am the pool of gold
When sunset burns and dies—
You are my deepening skies;
Give me your stars to hold.

3. Who Gave My Soul to Me

I gave my first love laughter,
I gave my second love tears,
Gave my third love silence
Through all the years.

My first love gave me singing,
My second gave me eyes to see,
But oh, it was my third love
Who gave my soul to me.

4. For You I Am Still

I sang my songs for the rest,
For you I am still;
The tree of my song is bare
On its shining hill.

The tree of my song stands bare
Against the blue —
I gave my songs to the rest,
Myself to you.

For you came like a lordly wind,
And the leaves were whirled
Far as forgotten things
Past the rim of the world.



Program

5. Spend All You Have on Loveliness

All you could be, be...
Life has loveliness to sell,
All beautiful and splendid things,
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,
A soaring fire that sways and sings,
And children's faces looking up
Holding wonder like a cup.

Spend all you have for loveliness,
And never count the cost;
For one white hour of singing peace

Counts years of strife well lost,
And for a breath of ecstasy
Give all you have been, and all you could be.

Life has loveliness to sell,
Music like a curve of gold,
Scent of pine trees in the rain,
Eyes that love you, arms that hold,
And for your spirit's still delight,
Holy thoughts that star the night.

6. And I For You

The moon is a curving flower of gold,
The sky is still and blue;
The moon was made for the sky to hold,
And I for you;

The moon is a flower without a sun,
The sky is luminous;
Eternity was made for them,
Tonight for us.

7. Let Me Love

Until I lose my soul and lie
Blind to the beauty of the earth,
Deaf though shouting wind goes by,
Lost in a storm of mirth;

Until my heart is quenched at length
And I have left the land of men,
Oh, let me love with all my strength
Careless if I am loved again.

Intermission



Requiem

John Rutter

*In memory of Donna Jean Bridges and all those who
loved us with all their strength.*

Sarah Richardson, soprano
Lea Blackney, cello

1. Requiem aeternam from *Missa pro defunctis*

*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine:
et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

*Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion,
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.*

*Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro
veniet.*

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Grant them rest eternal, O Lord,
and may light eternal shine upon them.

Thou, Lord, art worshipped in Zion:
Thy praises shall be sung in all Jerusalem.

Give ear to my prayer, O Lord, unto Thee all
flesh shall come at last.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have
mercy.



Program

2. Out of the Deep

Psalm 130

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him, and in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

3. Pie Jesu

from *Missa pro defunctis*

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.

Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them rest.

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis sempiternam requiem.

Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest.

4. Sanctus

from *Missa pro defunctis*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus

Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and
majesty.

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord:

Hosanna in the highest.

5. Agnus Dei

Latin text from *Missa pro defunctis*; English texts from
the Burial Service, 1662 Book of Common Prayer

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona eis requiem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Grant them rest.

Man that is born of a woman
hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery.
He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower;
he fleeth as it were a shadow.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona eis requiem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Grant them rest.

In the midst of life, we are in death:
of whom may we seek for succour?

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona eis requiem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Grant them rest.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord:
he that believeth in me, though he were dead,
yet shall he live:
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me
shall never die.



Program

6. The Lord is my shepherd

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

7. Lux Aeterna

English text from the Burial Service

Latin text from *Missa pro defunctis*

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord,
for they rest from their labours. Even so saith the Spirit.

*Lux aeterna luceat eis Domine:
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

Let eternal light shine upon them, O Lord:
with Thy saints forever, for Thou art merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may light perpetual shine on them.



Program Notes

Michael John Trotta's **For a Breath of Ecstasy** is a seven-song cycle featuring poems from Sara Teasdale's Pulitzer Prize-winning poetry collection, *Love Songs* (1917). Teasdale, the first recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, was celebrated for her lyric verse and strong imagery, with one critic remarking of *Love Songs* that "Miss Teasdale is first, last, and always a singer."

Trotta sets Teasdale's poems in arch form, a structure that emphasizes symmetry. Movements one and seven, two and six, and three and five closely parallel each other, while movement four stands on its own. For instance, the energetic, almost frenetic piano introduction to movement one, "Wealth Enough for Me," returns in movement seven, "Let Me Love." The tenor and bass chorus featured in movement three, "Who Gave My Soul to Me," is closely mirrored by the treble chorus in movement five, "Spend All You Have on Loveliness." This careful attention to form reflects Teasdale's own devotion to classical poetic structures.



Program Notes

For a Breath of Ecstasy spans a wide emotional landscape, tracing what Trotta describes as Teasdale's search for "solace amidst life's many storms." Her vivid imagery lends weight to meditations on peace, love, and life's joys and sorrows. The cycle concludes with Teasdale's resolve to "love with all [my] strength / careless if I am loved again," a declaration made all the more poignant when the work is followed in performance by a requiem, or a mass for the dead.

John Rutter's **Requiem** was written in 1985, dedicated to the memory of the composer's father, and first performed in October of that year. Following the precedent established by Brahms and Fauré, among others, it is not strictly a setting of the Requiem Mass as laid down in Catholic liturgy, but instead is made up of a personal selection of texts, some taken from the Requiem Mass and some from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The work is intimate rather than grandiose, contemplative and lyric rather than dramatic, and ultimately moving towards light rather than darkness - the "lux aeterna" of the closing text.

The seven sections of the work form an arch-like meditation on the themes of life and death: the first and last movements (Requiem aeternam and Lux aeternam) are prayers on behalf of all humanity, movements two and six (Out of the deep and The Lord is my shepherd) are psalms, three and five (Pie Jesu and Agnus Dei) are personal prayers to Christ, and the central Sanctus is an affirmation of divine glory.



Featuring
Frank Almond, Violin

With works by
Whitacre, Finzi,
Vaughan Williams,
Gibbons,
and more



MILWAUKEE
CHAMBER CHOIR

Sunday, April 19 | 4 PM

And All of Winged Delight

Jeremiah Cawley, Artistic Director

Wauwatosa
Presbyterian
Church
2366 N 80th St

www.MilwaukeeChamberChoir.org

And, save the date for our next concert!

Nov. 22, 2026 - The Sacred Banquet



The Waukesha Choral Union and Community Singers

Vaughn Ausman ~
Jan Becker +
Bob Becker +
Jake Bergman ~
Ed Beringer
Richard Berner
Nancy Bertram
Karen Bieszk ~
Diane Bleke
Sue Brown +
Chris Budish
Alice Byrne +
Catherine Callahan ~
David Carr
Jeanne Clow +
Tina Congdon
Sue Connor
Tom Connor
Abby Coppock
Phyllis Cramer
Karen Cumblad +
Tonya Drifka
Laura Feghali +
Janet Gibeau +
Maureen Hair ~
Kirsten Hart +

Mitch Haycock +
Sally Hoyt +
Alex Hummel ~
Charlie Hummel * ~
Patricia Hummel * ~
Liz Jacobson +
Bekah Jasperson ~
Ida Kempen
Dwayne Krager
Kelly Kramer
Pamela Kramer
Jolene Lawrence +
Mary Lindberg
Carren Loredo
Dee Dee Mackie
Kristina Magsig ~
Ricki May
Paul McCoy ~
Barbara Miller
Gregory Milleville +
Nicole Mol ~
Shemagne O'Keefe
Mullins +
Dorothy Murphy *
Allison Nastoff ~
Helen Nitschke +

Jim Olson +
Cathy Raspanti +
Peggy Laz Recknagel
Michele Rinka * ~
Roxanne Rollefson +
Doug Ross +
Michael Schaner +
Tom Schneider
Philip Starr +
Wendy Stippich ~
Jeffery Stolpa +
Susan Till
Sue Wallenslager ~
Tyler Walters * ~
Maddi Weinstock ~
Dianne White +
Darrel White + ~
Maria Wichman +
Annemarie Wucker +
Nancy Ziebell

* Section Leader
+ Community Singer
~ Chamber Ensemble

Guest Musicians

Amanda Fuerst, flute
Kaylyn Ruemler, oboe
Lea Blackney, cello
Scott Elford, timpani
Matthew Kokotovich, glockenspiel
Emmaline Strong, harp
Sarah Richardson, soprano



WCU Artistic Staff



Danielle Bridges is the Artistic Director of the Waukesha Choral Union. She received her B.M. in Vocal Music Education from the University of Central Arkansas and her M.A. in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa. During her studies, Ms. Bridges discovered a particular interest in developing creative, communal textual analysis and nonverbal communication methods for use during choral rehearsals. She is a proponent for music by women composers and founded the Iowa Women's Music Collective to advocate for the research and performance of music by women. Ms. Bridges has been selected to share her research at conferences

including the International Voice Foundation Symposium and the inaugural Theorizing African-American Music conference. In addition to her experience teaching choral music in contexts ranging from middle school to community choirs for singers in retirement communities, Ms. Bridges has served as a choral consultant for public and private schools. She is the current Director of Music at Community United Methodist Church in Elm Grove, WI, where she conducts the Chancel Choir, Clarion Bells, Jubilate Chimes, Children's Choir, and Festival Choir.

Collaborative pianist **Simone Gheller** received master's degrees in Piano (1999), Organ Performance & Organ Composition (1999), Music Education (2003), and Choral Music & Choral Conducting (2004). He also received a doctorate in Organ Performance and Organ Composition, magna cum laude (2006). He studied at the University of Vienna, and he received two "Medaille d'Or en Superieur d'Interpretation" at the Conservatoire Superior des Music de Paris. Gheller also studied at Oberlin College, where he completed the Artist Diploma—a great distinction in music. Currently, he is Music Director and Organist at St. Jerome Church in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He is also the accompanist of Bel Canto Chorus and the Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy.



Gheller has an extensive international performing history spanning the last 35 years, with concerts in prestigious locations. He has garnered many awards, including first prizes at several national and international organ competitions.



Featured Artists



Soprano **Dr. Sarah Richardson** is an active voice educator and performer in the Milwaukee area, appearing with various vocal ensembles including the Collegium Ladyes, Aperi Animam, Milwaukee Chamber Choir, Present Music, and Bel Canto Chorus. She has also performed roles with Milwaukee Opera Theatre, notably as the Queen of the Night (ZIE MAGIC FLUTE) and Danica (SVADBA). Sarah holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from UW-Madison where she performed for numerous recitals, concerts, and opera productions, including Miss Wordsworth (ALBERT HERRING), and chamber works of Schubert, Ravel, and Webern. Her dissertation project centered on the

commission, premiere, and recording of a song cycle to honor her upbringing on a dairy farm and feed mill in north-central Wisconsin. Sarah holds a Master of Music degree from UW-Milwaukee and Bachelor of Music degree from Viterbo University. She is currently the voice instructor and performance coordinator at Alverno College, with a passion for teaching vocal health and techniques for all styles and levels.

Lea Blackney started cello in elementary school because "that's an instrument for tall people", beginning a life-long journey with music. Lea studied cello at Hope College in Michigan and at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with Stefan Kartman. She has performed with the Wisconsin Philharmonic as well as the Racine, Kenosha, Festival City and Sheboygan symphonies. An avid chamber musician, Lea has performed as part of Chamber Music Milwaukee, the noon-day series at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival and countless recitals in genres spanning early music to laptop orchestra.

She considers modal improvisation and repertoire for organ and cello among her specialties. As a teacher, Lea maintained large studios in Michigan, Ohio and in Milwaukee with the String Academy of Wisconsin. Today, she works as a board-certified music therapist using music to bring comfort to hospice patients and their loved ones. Lea earned degrees in music therapy from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana. She teaches music therapy and cello at Carroll University, is a clinical supervisor for music therapy professionals, and sings with the Collegium Ladyes. She enjoys knitting, sewing, taekwondo and adventures with her kids Walter and Mabel and fiance Charlie.





Featured Artists

Kaylyn Ruemler is a Milwaukee-area oboist who performs regularly with the Wisconsin Wind Orchestra and the Kenosha Symphony Orchestra. She is an active musician throughout southeastern Wisconsin, appearing with regional orchestras, chamber groups, and choral ensembles.

Kaylyn earned her Bachelor's in Music Performance from Carroll University. During her time at Carroll, she received the Corabelle Carlisle Corbett Music Award for performance excellence and the Wind Symphony Outstanding Musician Award.



She maintains a busy freelance schedule and continues to perform in a wide range of orchestral and collaborative settings across the region.



About Us

The Waukesha Choral Union has been musically active in the community for over 60 years. Originally a combination of the Carroll College student chorus and community singers named the Waukesha Choral Society in 1949, the group became the Town and Gown in 1961 and the Waukesha Choral Union in 1974, taking its present form as an auditioned choir in 1978. Over the years, the Waukesha Choral Union has developed a reputation for excellent choral music performances in southeast Wisconsin.

The Waukesha Choral Union pursues artistic excellence through a variety of musical programming. The WCU challenges, enriches and educates its members, audiences and community. The Chorus also impacts the community through collaboration with area schools, youth choral groups, and local arts organizations in Waukesha County.



Sing with the Waukesha Choral Union!
Interested in singing with the WCU?
Scan the QR code for information on auditions.



Board of Directors

Officers

Dwayne Krager - President
Susan Wallenslager - Vice President
Barbara Miller - Treasurer
Bekah Jasperson - Secretary

Committee Chairs

Tonya Drifka - Membership
Michele Rinka - Music Library
Makenzie Kojis - Marketing
Bekah Jasperson - Fundraising
Susan Wallenslager - Operations

Directors at Large

Tonya Drifka
Alex Hummel
Makenzie Kojis*
Wendy Stippich
Maggie Urban*
Jose Velez*

Ex-Officio

Danielle Bridges - Artistic Director

* Denotes non-singing community member



Volunteer Opportunities

Waukesha Choral Union offers significant opportunities for leader involvement and development! Board of Director and Committee participation is fun, challenging, and rewarding. Speak with any member about being part of the future of Waukesha Choral Union!

The Waukesha Choral Union is always in need of an extra pair of hands. Call (262) 238-3454 or email marketingmanager@choralunion.org to help out.



Our concerts are supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Audience Survey

We are interested in your thoughts! Please circle your answer to each question, tear out of the program, and leave it at the box office

All answers optional

How would you rate the quality of the singing and performance? (Circle One)

Poor Fair Neutral Good Outstanding

How would you rate the repertoire choice? (Circle One)

Poor Fair Neutral Good Outstanding

How was the overall experience of the location (parking, seating, acoustics, accessibility)?

Poor Fair Neutral Good Outstanding

How integrated do you feel the WCU is in the cultural life of our community? (Circle One)

Not At All Somewhat Neutral A Lot To Large Degree

To what extent did you feel inspired or moved by today's performance? (Circle One)

Not At All A Little Neutral A Lot A Great Amount

How did you hear about today's concert? (Circle All That Apply)

Social Media Word of Mouth Email Poster/flyer Newspaper Website
Community Calendar

What was your primary reason you attended today's concert? (Circle One)

To support a specific friend or family member in the choir

Because I love choral music in general

To feel asense of community

To be entertained and inspired

Is this your first choral union concert of the season? (Circle One) Yes No

Age (Circle One): Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 older

How likely are you to attend a future Choral Union concert? (Circle One)

Not likely Somewhat likely Neutral Likely Very Likely

Rather take the survey online? Scan the QR code





We Welcome Your Donations

The Waukesha Choral Union is a nonprofit organization funded through ticket sales, grants, and donations from individuals and private corporations. Ticket sales cover only a small portion of our expenses for the season. Please consider supporting the Waukesha Choral Union as we continue our work of making community music in Waukesha County!

The Waukesha Choral Union is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax-deductible. Donors will be gratefully acknowledged in our programs.

Maestra Level (\$2500+)
Conductor Level (\$1000-\$2499)
Soloist Level (\$500-\$999)
Chorister Level (\$250-\$499)
Patron Level (\$100-\$249)
Accompanist Level (\$25-\$99)

Thank you for supporting the Waukesha Choral Union!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Total Amount Included _____ Check Enclosed

Remove this page and return completed form with your donation to donation boxes at the venue, or mail your donation to:

Waukesha Choral Union
P.O. Box 495
Waukesha, WI

Or donate online at www.choralunion.org.



Thank You to Our Donors

The Waukesha Choral Union acknowledges the individuals, corporations, and foundations who have supported us in the last 12 months. Thank you!

If you would like to join these generous donors in supporting local music, scan the QR code to make an individual, tax-deductible contribution. If you are interested in corporate partnership, please email fundraising@choralunion.org.



Maestra (Over \$2500)

Wisconsin Arts Board
Tom and Sue Conner
Barbara Miller

Conductor (\$1000-\$2499)

Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Fred and JoAnn Portz Fund
Dwayne Krager
Michele Rinka
Sue Wallenslager

Soloist (\$500-\$999)

Patricia Hummel

Chorister (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous
Judith A. Rosynek
Trident Financial

Patron (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous [3]
Jennifer DeVries
Drake & Associates
The Practical Club
Alex Hummel
Barbara Kirschner
Dee Dee Mackie
Dorothy Murphy
Dave & Peggy Laz Recknagel
Doug Ross

Accompanist (\$25-\$99)

Anonymous [2]
Edward Beringer
Christine Budish
Roland Kramer
Susan Krechel
Annie Hwang
Maureen Hair
Kelli Harrigan
Rodney Rexroth
Maddi Weinstock
Cathy Raspanti
Sandy Amadon
Alice Byrne

Waukesha Choral Union Presents

In Verse and Voice

Choral Reflections on the Poetry of Waukesha County

Sunday, May 17 at 3:00 PM
St. John's Lutheran Church in
Brookfield
20275 Davidson Rd.



A program inspired by the voices of our own community, featuring poetry by Waukesha County writers, with choral works selected to reflect and expand on the themes found in their words.

Tickets available at ChoralUnion.ludus.com

