

UBCCHOIRS

GRAEME LANGAGER, DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES

IN CONCERT with the UBC University Singers

March 7, 2025

7:30pm, Barnett Recital Hall, UBC School of Music

Gloria in excelsis

Ivo Antognini (1963)

Ambe

Andrew Balfour (1967)

i thank You God for most this amazing day

Eric Whitacre (1970)

Joanne Acasio, soprano

I Will Lift Mine Eyes Unto the Hills

Graeme Langager (1970)

Agnus Dei (from *A Polish Requiem*)

Krzysztof Penderecki (1933-2020)

How They So Softly Rest

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Shennandoah

arr. James Erb (1926-2014)

INTERMISSION

Nelly Bly

arr. Jack Halloran (1916-1997)

Soir d'été (from *Trois Chansons Bretonnes*)

Henk Badings (1907-1987)

Die Orange und Myrthe hier

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Lassie, Would Ye Love Me?

Stephen Coker

She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain

arr. Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

University Singers
Graeme Langager, conductor
Eshantha Peiris, piano

We acknowledge that UBC Vancouver is located on the traditional and unceded territories of the hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm-speaking xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam people).

Program Notes

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of The Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

(from the Latin Mass Ordinary)

Ambe

This piece is based on an original song in Ojibway that was gifted by traditional drummer and singer Cory Campbell to Andrew Balfour and the University of Manitoba Concert Choir. Cory describes the song as “a call to the people to the ceremonial way of life or to the red road or, quite frankly, to whatever we have going on, because everything happens with spirit and in spirit.”

Andrew has created an original composition inspired by Cory’s song which uses the same text and echoes the steady rhythm of the drum, unifying the piece. The melodies of Andrew’s piece are all original but hints of Cory’s song remain. For Andrew, the steady beat throughout represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth and the lyrical first soprano melody that emerges from this rhythmic texture at measure seven conveys the powerful totem of the eagle which represents the teaching of love, wisdom, and strength.

Many dialects and local writing systems for Ojibwe exist. The pronunciation for the text is based on the dialect spoken on Sagkeeng First Nation in Cory’s home province of Manitoba. Specifically, the pronunciation of the word Anishinaabeg or phonetically, a-nis-ee-uh-nah-bek/g, reflects one of the teachings that have come to Cory involving the etymology of the word in representing not only the Ojibwe people, but people of all nations, or two-legged beings.

(notes by Cypress Publishing)

*Ambe, ambe Anishinaabeg
biindigeg Anishinaabeg
Mino-bimaadiziwin omaa.
Ambe!*

Come in two-legged beings!
Come in all people!
There is good life here.
Come in!

i thank You God for most this amazing day

i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

(e.e. cummings, 1894-1962)

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

(from the Latin Mass Ordinary)

How They So Softly Rest

How they so softly rest,
All they the holy ones,
Unto whose dwelling place
Now doth my soul draw near!
How they so softly rest,
All in their silent graves,
Deep to corruption
Slowly down sinking!

And they no longer weep,
Here, where complaint is still!
And they no longer feel,
Here, where all gladness flies!
And, by the cypresses
Softly o'ershadowed,
Until the Angel
Calls them, they slumber!

Poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

Soir d'été

*Lison ma câline, quittons la colline,
Car le jour décline au rouge horizon.
Avant qu'il ne meure, Profitons de l'heure:
À notre demeure viens t'en ma Lison!*

*Dans la paix immense du soir qui commence
Monte la romance des petits grillons
Et la plaine rase que Phébus embrase
Savoure l'extase des derniers rayons.*

*Des voix enjôleuses sortent des yeuses:
Ce sont des berceuses, des petits oiseaux.
Et sa porte close, la fermière Rose
Chante même chose entre deux berceaux!*

*C'est l'heure très pure où dans la ramure
Passe le murmure du grand vent calmé.
C'est l'heure languoureuse, l'heure où l'amoureuse
Se suspend heureuse au bras de l'Aimé;*

*C'est l'heure touchante où tous nos enchante,
Où la cloche chante l'Angélus au loin.
Et c'est l'heure grise où la douce brise
S'imprègne et se grise de l'odeur du foin;*

*C'est l'heure où tout aime, où, las du blasphème
Le méchant, lui même, est un peu meilleur.
Le coeur se dépouille de tout se qui souille.
L'âme s'agenouille devant le Seigneur!*

*Lison ma petite, prions le bien vite,
Pour qu'on ne se quitte de l'Éternité,
Et qu'il nous convie à fuir cette vie
À l'heure ravie d'un beau soir d'été.*

Lison, my pet, let us leave the hill,
for day dies away at the red horizon.
Before it dies away, let us profit from the moment:
To our home, come thither, my Lison!

In the immense peace of the emerging night
builds the love song of the tiny crickets,
and the open plain that Phoebus embraces
savors the ecstasy of the final rays.

Coaxing voices come from the oaks:
They are lullabies, tiny birds.
And behind her closed door, the farmer's wife Rose
sings the same thing between two cradles!

It is the very pure hour, when through the branches
passes the murmur of the great calmed wind.
It is the languid hour, the hour when the beloved
happily suspends herself, in the arms of her lover.

It is the touching hour, when everything delights us,
when the bell sings the Angelus in the distance.
It is the grey hour, when the gentle breeze
saturates itself and intoxicated by the aroma of hay;

It is the hour when everything loves, when, weary of cursing,
the wicked one himself is a little better.
The heart strips itself of all that pollutes it.
The soul kneels before the Lord!

Lison, my little one, let us pray very quickly,
so that we do not separate ourselves from Eternity,
and so that he might invite us to escape this life
at the ravishing hour of a beautiful summer's eve.

Die Orange und Myrthe hier

*Die Orange und Myrthe hier
Und rings der Blumen Zier,
Und in der Mitte ein Flügel fein,
Das muß wohl von meinem Liebsten sein.*

*Er sei Dir werth; wie schön sie blüht,
Die Blume verblüht; was tiefer glüht,
Du hegst es im Herzen auf [treuem Herd]¹;
Die Kunst sie bleib Dir werth!*

*Und kann ich nicht immer bei dir sein,
Eil' dann zum Freund und denke mein!
Doch denk' ich daß wir in allen Tagen
All Leid und Freud zusammentragen.*

The orange blossom and the myrtle here
And round about the adornment of flowers,
And in the middle a fine piano,
That must be a gift from my dearest one.

May it be worthy of you; however beautifully it blooms,
The flower withers; that which flames more deeply
You cherish [upon a faithful hearth within]¹ your heart;
May artistry remain precious to you!

And if I cannot always be with you,
Then hasten to your friend and think of me!
But I think that all our days we
Shall bear sorrow and joy together.

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Dr. Graeme Langager, conductor

Eshantha Peiris, collaborative pianist

SOPRANO

* Joanne Acasio
Naomi Barasch
Leah Brooks
Denise Chung
Briseis Jamela
Anastasia Lutsenko
Julia Yoo

ALTO

* Kristine Choi
Bethanea Chou
* Sharon Chu
Lauren Coulson
Sofia Culjak-Wade
Cooper Hatch
Mireya Hosein
Emily Malmgren

TENOR

Brian Archdekin
Kilian Krauss
Bartholomew Lim
Aidan Redulla
Carlo Santos
Aaron Yurkowski

BASS

* Tyler Baek
Thomas Dalton
Thomas Farrell
Gabriel Henderson
Noah James
Thomas McIlwraith
Aidan Pfeifer

*denotes teaching assistant

Join us this season!

Dal Grauer Memorial Lecturer in Music

Janina Fialkowska *piano*

Mar 28, 2025 | 7:30pm | Roy Barnett Recital Hall

UBC Opera: Manon

Mar 28 at 7:30pm & Mar 30 at 2pm, 2025 | Old Auditorium

UBC Bands

Apr 2 at 7:30pm | Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

UBC Vox and Oriana Choirs

Apr 3 at 7:30pm | Roy Barnett Recital Hall

UBC Symphony Orchestra

Apr 4 at 7:30pm | Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

UBC Chamber Choir

Apr 9 at 7:30pm | Roy Barnett Recital Hall

UBC Choirs

UBC Choral Union & University Singers

Apr 11 at 7:30pm | Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Tickets at music.ubc.ca/events