

BERKSHIRE CONCERT CHOIR

Matthew O. Thomas, Artistic Director • Amy Renak, Accompanist

P R E S E N T S

Coming Home

*The music and poetry of New England,
featuring works by:*

- *Randall Thompson*
- *Thomas Parente • Scott Bailey • Carson Cooman*
- *David Grover and Aaron Schroeder*
- *Steve Murray • William Cullen Bryant*
- *Alice Parker and Robert Shaw*

SAT., NOVEMBER 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM

SUN., NOVEMBER 20, 2022 at 3:00 PM

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will be required to be masked for the duration of the performance.

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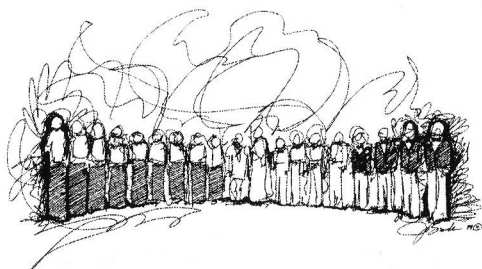
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BERKSHIRE CONCERT CHOIR

P R E S E N T S

Coming Home

The music and poetry of New England, featuring works by:

- *Randall Thompson • Thomas Parente • Scott Bailey*
- *Carson Cooman • David Grover and Aaron Schroeder*
- *Steve Murray • William Cullen Bryant*
- *Alice Parker and Robert Shaw*

Design by Tanya Bogaevskaya



Marilyn Gerhard, *President of the Board*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Coming Home, the fall concert event of our 45th season. The centerpiece of the concert, as you know, is Randall Thompson's Frostiana, using Robert Frost's poetry. Our Artistic Director, Matthew Thomas, was interested in bringing to life the music and poetry of New England to augment the charm of Frostiana, using the works of Emily Dickinson, William Cullen Bryant, (early American Poet whose home-
stead is in Cummington), Scott Bailey (North Adams native), Alice Parker(Charlemont resident), Carson Cooman (a resident of Boston), as well as compositions and arrangements by local composer, Stephen Murray, and also by beloved Berkshire composer, David Grover who passed away one year ago.

In addition, we are privileged to sing October, another Robert Frost poem, set to music by Dr. Thomas Parente. Dr. Parente informs us that he was given permission to perform October in 2015 by the Robert Frost Society. Previously, he tells us, the last time permission was granted to perform Frost's poetry, set to music, was in 1959.

Congratulations to Dr. Parente. It is an honor for us to perform this lovely and haunting composition.

A portion of our ticket sales will be donated to the People's Pantry in Great Barrington.

I hope the program which has a theme of remembrance appeals to you, stirring your emotions and memories in this time of Thanksgiving.

Peace, *Marilyn Gerhard*

Photo by Jane Salata

BERKSHIRE CONCERT CHOIR BIOGRAPHIES

MATTHEW O'STEEN THOMAS, *Artistic Director*

In addition to leading Berkshire Concert Choir, Matthew is director of music, choirmaster, and organist at St. John's Episcopal Church in Williamstown, Dean of the Berkshire Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, a faculty member at Berkshire Music School and a highly regarded and active choral conductor, collaborative pianist/organist, and music educator.

Matthew holds a double concentration Masters in Organ Performance and Music Composition from Hunter, an undergraduate degree in Piano Performance from Belmont University, and Artist Diplomas, for piano performance, from The Russian Academy of Music; and for musical theater performance from The American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

As a musical theatre music director, Matthew served as the collaborative pianist and music director for Broadway Sings for E.A.T., accompanying some of Broadway's finest personalities, and has served as a vocal coach, and rehearsal and audition accompanist for many performers and productions.

Matthew joined the creative team as music director for the MainStage production of "Sweet Charity" at MCLA, was pit pianist for "Spamalot" and "The Drowsy Chaperone" at B.A.R.T., and vocal coach for "Mary Poppins" at Williamstown Elementary.

AMY RENAK, *Accompanist*

Amy is a busy pianist and teacher in Berkshire County. She has been teaching piano at the Berkshire Music School for 33 years, and at Miss Hall's School as well, for not quite as long. She is the long-time director of music at Zion Lutheran Church, and the choir director at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, a Reform Jewish Congregation in Great Barrington. Amy enjoys accompanying singers and instrumentalists, and especially choirs like the one she accompanies today! Amy lives happily in Pittsfield with her husband Mark Mitchell and their two cats, Flora and Dahlia.

MARCELLA BRADWAY, *Soprano Soloist*

Marcella Bradway has sung in many choirs including the Hartford Chorale, with whom she sang at Carnegie Hall and Woolsey Hall at Yale, as well as the Bushnell in Hartford. She has sung with the Harvard Radcliffe Chorus and the UMass Chorale, and has performed many solo pieces. She also enjoys participating in theater, and has appeared in Town Players productions of "Christmastime in the City" and "Romance, Soul and Rock and Roll" at the Colonial. Marcella lives in Pittsfield with her husband and two boys, and is a practicing colorectal surgeon and chair of the department of surgery at Berkshire Medical Center.

BRIAN LITSCHER, *Baritone Soloist*

Brian has sung with the Berkshire Concert Choir for many seasons. Over a lifetime of singing he has performed with Barrington Stage Co., Berkshire Theatre Festival (Group), Taconic Stage Co., the Town Players of Pittsfield, and others in countless shows, revues, musicals, and plays. He has also performed at cabarets in Lenox and at Carnegie Hall as a member of the chorus for Brahms' Requiem. Besides his work with the Concert Choir, Brian's favorite performances have been as "Howard" in THE FABULOUS LIPITORES, "Mr. Bumble" in OLIVER!, "Al" in A CHORUS LINE, "Dr. Everett Scott" in ROCKY HORROR SHOW, the "Spamalot Knight" and the "Cat's cat" in FORBIDDEN BROADWAY, and the "Phantom" in BROADWAY TO THE BERKSHIRES. Also, Brian is a proud alumni and former music director of the Dartmouth (College) Aires a cappella group.

BERKSHIRE CONCERT CHOIR SINGERS

Sopranos

Pamela Bachrach
Marcella Bradway^s
Rebecca Hoffmann
Rosa Ipuz
Anne Jaskot**
Karen Ketcham
Margaret Kirsis
Amy Lafave
Renée J. Moretti** *
Diana Noble
Jane Salata††
Anna Stevenson
Ginella Tanner
Sonora Thomas
Kathryn Yudkin

Tenors

Kathy Chapman
Marilyn Gerhard† **
Colette Hanlon
Robert James
Patricia Jaouen
Gene Kalish††
Jason Kittler
Brian Litscher^s
Dennis McGill
Richard Riedel
Chaya Schneider
R. Joseph Schorge

Altos

Rika Alper††
Maribel Bednarski
Christine Brandon
Jody Burrows**
Deb Chaulk
Rachel Christensen
Cathy Clark
Susan Coles
Debra Cranwell
Amanda Egan-Poirier
Mara Herskowitz
Valerie James
Christa MacDonald
Marty Noyes
Wendy Noyes
Suzanne W. Pelton†
Ellen Rogers
Sierra Stansfield
Erin Wojcicki

Basses

Matt Carlson
Eric Christensen
Thomas Damrosch††
Raymond Ellsworth
Michael Gerhard† **
Brett Greenleaf††
John Kidd
James Linkin
Robin MacDonald
Tom Rogers
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^s *Soloist*

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BERKSHIRE CONCERT CHOIR PRESENTS
COMING HOME

How Can I Keep From Singing*Arr. by Scott Bailey*
Poetry: Robert Lowry

October..... *Thomas J. Parente; Poetry: Robert Frost*

Hope..... *Carson Cooman; Poetry: Emily Dickinson*

Saints Bound for Heaven... *Arr. by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw*

Thou, Whose Unmeasured Temple Stands *Issac Watts*
Poetry: William C. Bryant in memory of Jeff Hunt

If I Could Only Touch Your Life
David Grover and Aaron Schroeder in memory of David Grover
Brian Litscher and Marcella Bradway

FROSTIANA

Randall Thompson; Poetry: Robert Frost

"The Road Not Taken"

"The Pasture"

"Come In"

"The Telephone"

"A Girl's Garden"

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"

"Choose Something Like a Star"

All Kinds of Christmases*Chuck Gesner Arr. by Steve Murray;*

LYRICS

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Music: *Traditional Quaker Hymn arranged by Scott Bailey*

Poetry: *Robert Lowry based on Psalm 145*

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?

[Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die,
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.

[Refrain]

OCTOBER

Music: *Thomas Parente* • Poetry: *Robert Frost*

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.

Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away.
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost –
For the grapes' sake along the wall.

HOPE

Music: *Carson Cooman* • Poetry: *Emily Dickinson*

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

SAINTS BOUND FOR GLORY

Traditional Spiritual arranged by *Alice Parker* and *Robert Shaw*

Our bondage it shall end by and by, by and by.
Our bondage it shall end by and by.
From Egypts yoke set free,
Hail the glorious jubilee,
And to Canaan well return by and by.
Our Deliv'rer He shall come by and by, by and by.
Our Deliv'rer He shall come by and by.
And our sorrows have an end,
With our three-score years and ten,
And vast glory crown the day by and by.
And when to Jordans floods we are come, we are come,
And when to Jordans floods we are come,
Jehovah rules the tide,
And the waters Hell divide,
And the ransomd host shall shout, We are come.
Then with all the happy throng well rejoice.
Shouting glory to our King,
Till the vaults of heaven ring,
And thro all eternity well rejoice.
Shouting glory to our King,
Till the vaults of heaven ring,
And thro all eternity well rejoice.

THOU, WHOSE UNMEASURED TEMPLE STANDS

Music: *Issac Watts* • Poetry: *William C. Bryant*

Thou, whose unmeasured temple stands,	May they who err be guided here
Built over earth and sea,	To find the better way;
Accept the walls that human hands	And they who mourn, and they who fear,
Have raised, O God, to thee.	Be strengthened as they pray.
And let the Comforter and Friend,	May faith grow firm, and love grow warm,
Thy Holy Spirit, meet	And pure devotion rise,
With those who here is worship bend	While round these hallowed walls the storm
Before thy mercy-seat.	Of earth-born passion dies.
	Amen.

IF I COULD ONLY TOUCH YOUR LIFE

By Aaron Schroeder & David Grover

Where are the dreams
We dreamed when we were younger
Where are the songs we never got to sing
Oh how cold were the nights we slept without each other
Time doesn't wait, but time won't pass us by

If I could only touch your life
With just one part of me
You'll know how much you're needed
And I'll know I finally succeeded
If I could only touch your life with mine

So green the trees and oh so blue the skies
When you are looking through a lover's eyes
Darling these are the days, our days of love and laughter
There'll be no time for tears, the doubts and fears will fly

If I could only touch your life
With just one part of me
You'll know how much you're needed
And I'll know I finally succeeded
If I could only touch your life with mine

If I could only touch your life
With just one part of me
You'll know how much you're needed
And I'll know I finally succeeded
Oh won't you let me touch your life with mine

FROSTIANA

Music: Randall Thompson • Poetry: Robert Frost

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
– I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

The Pasture

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away
And wait to watch the water clear, I may
I shan't be gone long
You come too

I'm going out to fetch the little calf
That's standing by the mother
It's so young
It totters when she licks it with her tongue
I shan't be gone long
You come too



Come In

As I came to the edge of the woods,
Thrush music – hark!
Now if it was dusk outside,
Inside it was dark.

Too dark in the woods for a bird
By sleight of wing
To better its perch for the night,
Though it still could sing.

The last of the light of the sun
That had died in the west
Still lived for one song more
In a thrush's breast.

Far in the pillared dark
Thrush music went –
Almost like a call to come in
To the dark and lament.

But no, I was out for stars;
I would not come in.
I meant not even if asked;
And I hadn't been.

The Telephone

“When I was just as far as I could walk
From here to-day,
There was an hour
All still
When leaning with my head against a flower
I heard you talk.
Don't say I didn't, for I heard you say –
You spoke from that flower on the window silly –
Do you remember what it was you said?”
“First tell me what it was you thought you heard.”
“Having found the flower and driven a bee away,
I leaned my head,
And holding by the stalk,
I listened and I thought I caught the wordy –
What was it? Did you call me by my name?
Or did you say –
Someone said ‘Come’ – I heard it as I bowed.”
“I may have thought as much, but not aloud.”
“Well, so I came.”

A Girl's Garden

A neighbor of mine in the village
Likes to tell how one spring
When she was a girl on the farm, she did
A childlike thing.

One day she asked her father
To give her a garden plot
To plant and tend and reap herself,
And he said, "Why not?"

In casting about for a corner
He thought of an idle bit
Of walled-off ground where a shop had stood,
And he said, "Just it."

And he said, "That ought to make you
An ideal one-girl farm,
And give you a chance to put some strength
On your slim-jim arm."

It was not enough of a garden,
Her father said, to plough;
So she had to work it all by hand,
But she don't mind now.

She wheeled the dung in the
wheelbarrow
Along a stretch of road;
But she always ran away and left
Her not-nice load.

And hid from anyone passing.
And then she begged the seed.
She says she thinks she planted one
Of all things but weed.

A hill each of potatoes,
Radishes, lettuce, peas,
Tomatoes, beets, beans,
pumpkins, corn,
And even fruit trees

And yes, she has long mistrusted
That a cider apple tree
In bearing there to-day is hers,
Or at least may be.

Her crop was a miscellany
When all was said and done,
A little bit of everything,
A great deal of none.

Now when she sees in the village
How village things go,
Just when it seems to come in right,
She says, "I know!

It's as when I was a farmer – "
Oh, never by way of advice!
And she never sins by telling
the tale
To the same person twice.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Choose Something Like a Star

O Star (the fairest one in sight),
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud –
It will not do to say of night,
Since dark is what brings out your light.
Some mystery becomes the proud.
But to the wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed.
Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says, 'I burn.'
But say with what degree of heat.
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.

Use language we can comprehend.
Tell us what elements you blend.
It gives us strangely little aid,
But does tell something in the end.
And steadfast as Keats' Eremité,
Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.

ALL KINDS OF CHRISTMASES

Music and Poetry: *Chuck Gesner arranged by Steve Murray*

There are all kinds of Christmases,
Millions of Christmases,
White ones, and green ones, and silver ones, too
There's a young kind of Christmas with its candy and toys,
And an old kind of Christmas with quieter joys.
There's a big city Christmas, and a little town Christmas,
And the old-fashioned kind folks are caroling of –
But whatever your Christmas is, pray that your Christmas is:
Homecoming Christmas with those that you love.
Never mind wishing for the kind you have known
For you'll find, each one has a charm of its own.
There's a sunny bright Christmas and a candlelight Christmas
With fluffy white flakes drifting down from above –
But whatever your Christmas is, May all your Christmases
Be Merry Christmases shining with Love.



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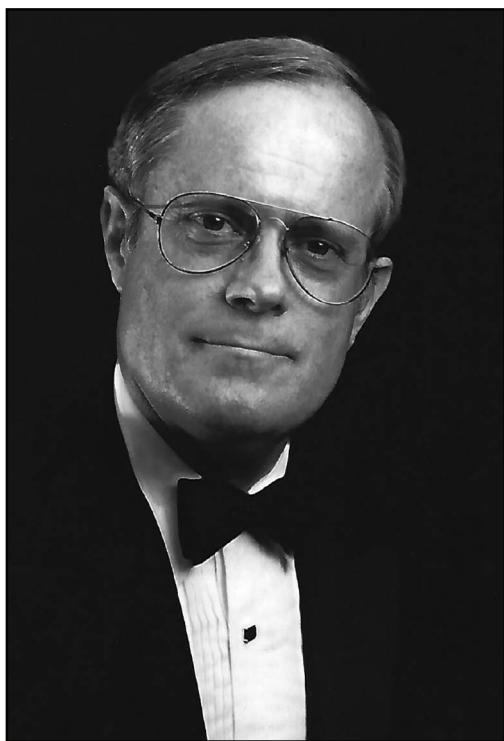
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- Members of the Board of Directors of the Berkshire Concert Choir for their dedicated service.
- Rev. Joel Bergeland, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, and Ryan Richardson, administrator of Common Room at Zion Lutheran Church for providing us rehearsal space and for their ongoing support of the Berkshire Concert Choir.
- Memrie Kelly for her support of the chorus as substitute accompanist. She has moved away from the Berkshires and we miss her.
- Adrienne Grover of Brown and Brown Insurance Agency
- Renee Moretti, Librarian
- Brian Litscher, Resident Agent
- Tanya Bogaevskaya, Graphic Designer
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- August Danowski, Web Master
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- Our donors and advertisers.
- Bob Heck of Pittsfield Community Television for providing an opportunity for Jane Salata, board member, to create a Public Service Announcement.
- Marcella Bradway for her moving services.



In Gratitude for
ANDREW CLARKE

*Founding Artistic Director
of the Berkshire Concert Choir,*

which he formed by merging the Stockbridge Singers
and the South Church Cantata Choir.

Andrew continues to bring joy and great music to
many as a church musician in Florida.

*From friends at the Berkshire Concert Choir and
South Congregational Church*



Jeffrey W. Hunt

1960-2022

**Husband, son, brother, uncle,
teacher, musician, collaborator,
organist, director, and friend.**

We will miss you.

*Jeff's family would like to thank the Berkshire Concert Choir
for their remembrance of Jeff as well as all the beautiful
choristers who participated in his memorial service.*



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*Thank you for
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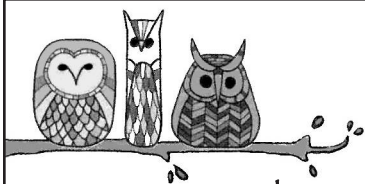
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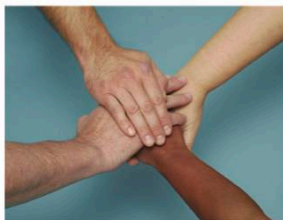
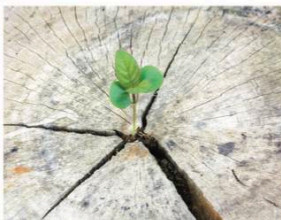
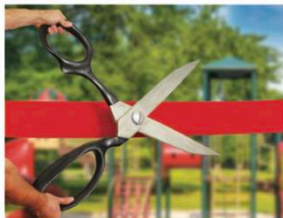
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