

Berkshire Concert Choir presents

THIS *Shining* NIGHT

A CHORAL CONSTELLATION OF MUSIC ABOUT NIGHT, AGING, AND MEMORY LOSS

*featuring*

WANDA HOUSTON

AND MUSICAL SELECTIONS BY  
BARBER, WHITACRE, PARKER, RUDMAN, AND MORE

SATURDAY  
MAY 17

6:00 PM

TANGLEWOOD'S LINDE CENTER  
FOR MUSIC AND LEARNING  
3 W. HAWTHORNE RD. LENOX, MA

HOSTED BY THE LINDE CENTER AS PART OF THE  
*TLI CLOSE TO HOME MINI FESTIVAL*

SUNDAY  
MAY 18

4:00 PM

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
400 WEST STREET, PITTSFIELD, MA

+ PRE-CONCERT  
TALK AT 3:30

PRE-CONCERT TALK WITH ANNIE JASKOT,  
JANE SALATA, AND JASON KITTLER



[BERKSHIRECONCERTCHOIR.ORG](http://BERKSHIRECONCERTCHOIR.ORG)

# President's Letter

Welcome to *This Shining Night*. We are so grateful you're here to share in this joyful expression of music, community, and fellowship. Our program explores the deeply human themes of aging and memory loss—experiences that touch many of us. We hope you find the music as moving as we have.

It's been a truly satisfying year for our chorus. We are stronger in number than ever before with 83 singers. Our board has expanded to fourteen directors with exceptional talents. And thanks to the generous support of our extended circle, we're able to stretch musically. Your belief in our mission makes performances like this possible.

Whether you're a longtime supporter or joining us for the first time, your presence sustains the art we love. Live choral music is rooted in connection, and we are honored to share this moment with you.

*Suzanne W. Pelton*

President

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(2025-2026 Season)

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# This Shining Night

Ryan José LaBoy, conductor

Amy Renak, piano

## Sunset

Sure on this Shining Night

*Samuel Barber*

## I. Lullabies at Dusk

The Birds' Lullaby

*Sarah Quartel*

Wanting Memories

*Ysaÿe M. Barnwell*

The Gartan Mother's Lullaby

*arr. Neil Ginsberg*

Erika Ludwig, violin

## II. Through the Twilight

Carol of the Stranger

*Abbie Betinis*

Stand By Me

*Jerry Lieber, Mike Stoller,  
Ben. E. King arr. Mark De-Lisser*

Wanda Houston, soloist

## III. The Darkness of the New Moon

A Forest that is a Desert

*Jessica Rudman*

1. In the Stony Mountains

2. Shadow Reel to Last Breath

3. Hospice

Goodnight Moon

*Eric Whitacre*

When Memory Fades

*Jayne Southwick Cool  
arr. Eric Nelson*

## IV. The Promise of the Dawn

Bright Morning Stars

*arr. Alice Parker*

Brian Litscher, soloist

Ad Astra

*Jacob Narverud*

## Sunrise

Sure on this Shining Night

*Morten Lauridsen*

# Artistic Director's Note

Dear Family, Friends, and Guests,

Over the past two years, I've had the distinct pleasure of getting to know the singers of Berkshire Concert Choir, not just for the beautiful sounds they contribute to the ensemble, but also for the beautiful people they are. The inspiration for *This Shining Night* emerged from my fascination with learning about the lives and interests of singers in the Choir. In particular, I was inspired by the professional lives of three of our singers: Anne Jaskot, a soprano and professor of astronomy at Williams College; Jason Kittler, a tenor and physician at Berkshire Medical Center; and Jane Salata, a soprano and psychotherapist with expertise in hospice care.

My curiosity to know more about their work led to a swirl of ideas that eventually became the theme of today's concert: using the passing of the night as a metaphor for aging and memory loss. This idea struck me as both rich and relevant. Rich, because it invites us, as artists, to do what we do best: engage in the complex process of art-making to make sense of the complex process of living. And relevant, because all of us, whether on the concert stage or seated in the audience, have some meaningful touchpoint with aging and memory loss. I understand that our theme might initially strike some as a somber or even unsettling choice for a concert theme. The very notion brings us face-to-face with our own mortality—which is perhaps not the fun time folks are looking for on a Friday night! And yet, I believe that it is precisely because these thoughts are challenging that it becomes important to hold space for them. It felt to me that exploring this topic through song could offer all of us a gentle entry into a vital conversation.

The concert unfolds like the passage of a single night, bookended by two distinct settings of James Agee's poem, *Sure on this Shining Night*. We open at sunset with a 1961 setting by Samuel Barber and close at sunrise with Morten Lauridsen's setting from 2005. In between, we metaphorically travel from dusk to dawn guided by music from renowned composers such as Ysaÿe Barnwell, Eric Whitacre, and Alice Parker. Within the darkness of a new moon, we encounter music that speaks directly to the challenge of navigating memory loss: Jessica Rudman's visceral multi-movement work, *A Forest that is a Desert*, and Eric Nelson's sensitive arrangement of *When Memory Fades*.

During *Stand By Me*, we are delighted to share the stage with Wanda Houston—her soulful presence and vocal grace are such an inspiration to us! On Saturday evening, we are especially honored to perform at The Linde Center as part of Tanglewood Learning Institute's Close to Home Mini Festival—we are so thankful to Mark Rulison and the BSO for the opportunity to sing on these storied grounds! On Sunday afternoon, we are excited to feature a pre-concert talk by the three singers who inspired our program: Anne, Jason, and Jane—thank you for sharing your passion!



I hope you find both comfort and courage in our concert today: comfort in the sheer beauty of the music we have prepared for you, and courage to approach this topic with a little less apprehension and a little more reverence. Considering the end of our lives and the lives of those we love is unimaginably difficult, but there is also honor in growing old and an equally profound honor in accompanying someone along that journey. Thank you for joining us as we journey together.

Musically yours,  
Ryan José LaBoy  
Artistic Director

## Texts & Translations

### **Sure on this Shining Night**

*James Agee*

Sure on this shining night  
Of star made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.  
The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.

High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.  
Sure on this shining night  
I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone  
Of shadows on the stars.

### **The Bird's Lullaby**

*E. Pauline Johnson*

Sing to us, cedars; the twilight is creeping  
With shadowy garments, the wilderness through;  
All day we have carolled, and now would be sleeping,  
So echo the anthems we warbled to you;  
While we swing, swing,  
And your branches sing,  
And we drowse to your dreamy whispering.

Sing to us, cedars; the night-wind is sighing,  
Is wooing, is pleading, to hear you reply;  
And here in your arms we are restfully lying,  
And longing to dream to your soft lullaby;  
While we swing, swing,  
And your branches sing,  
And we drowse to your dreamy whispering.

Sing to us, cedars; your voice is so lowly,  
Your breathing so fragrant, your branches so strong;  
Our little nest-cradles are swaying so slowly,  
While zephyrs are breathing their slumberous song.  
And we swing, swing,  
While your branches sing,  
And we drowse to your dreamy whispering.

## Wanting Memories

*Words and Music by Ysaÿe Barnwell*

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes  
I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes

You used to rock me in the cradle of your arms  
You said you'd hold me till the pains of life were gone  
You said you'd comfort me in times like these and now I need you  
Now I need you, and you are gone

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes  
Since you've gone and left me, there's been so little beauty  
But I know I saw it clearly through your eyes

Now the world outside is such a cold and bitter place  
Here inside I have few things that will console  
And when I try to hear your voice above the storms of life  
Then I remember all the things that I was told

I think on the things that made me feel so wonderful when I was young  
I think on the things that made me laugh, made me dance, made me sing  
I think on the things that made me grow into a being full of pride  
I think on these things, for they are true

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes  
I thought that you were gone, but now I know you're with me  
You are the voice that whispers all I need to hear

I know a please a thank you and a smile will take me far  
I know that I am you and you are me and we are one  
I know that who I am is numbered in each grain of sand  
I know that I've been blessed again, and over again

## The Gartan Mother's Lullaby

*Traditional Irish Folk Song*

Sleep my child, for the red bee hums the silent twilight's fall,  
The Banshee from the grey rock comes, to wrap the world in thrall.  
*A leanbhan*, oh, my child, my joy, my love, my heart's desire,  
The crickets sing you a lullaby, beside the dyin' fire.

Dusk is drawn and the Green Man's thorn is wreathed in rings of fog,  
*Siabhra* sails his boat till morn, upon the starry bog.  
*A leanbhan*, oh, the pale half-moon hath brimmed her cusp in dew,  
And weeps to hear the sad sleep tune, I sing, my love, to you.

## Carol of the Stranger

*Michael Dennis Browne*

Peace and grace be to this house  
Where all are welcomed in;  
Receive the guest, receive this heart:  
Tell the Stranger, tell.

Tell the Stranger what you cannot tell  
Those who love you and desire your joy:  
Tell.

Make tall your walls, make long these beams,  
Who once believed alone;  
Make wide the circle, feed the fire:  
Tell the Silence, tell.

Tell the Silence what you cannot tell  
Those who love you and desire your joy.  
Tell.

Blessings be upon this place,  
Let every wound be healed,  
Let every secret, every dream:  
Tell the Angel, tell.

## Stand By Me

*Words and Music by Jerry Lieber, Mike Stoller and Ben. E. King*

When the night has come  
And the land is dark  
And the moon is the only light we'll see  
No, I won't be afraid  
Oh, I won't be afraid  
Just as long as you stand  
Stand by me

So darlin', darlin', stand by me  
Oh, stand by me  
Oh, stand  
Stand by me, stand by me

Tell the Angel what you cannot tell  
Those who love you and desire your joy.  
Tell.

Peace and grace be to this house,  
All will be returned;  
Let every soul be called your own,  
Tell the Mystery, tell.

Tell the Mystery what you long to tell  
Those who love you and desire your joy.  
Tell.

If the sky that we look upon  
Should tumble and fall  
Or the mountain should  
crumble to the sea  
I won't cry, I won't cry  
No, I won't shed a tear  
Just as long as you stand  
Stand by me

And darlin', darlin', stand by me  
Oh, stand by me  
Oh, stand now  
Stand by me, stand by me

## A Forest that is a Desert

*Kendra Preston Leonard*

### 1. In the Stony Mountains

I think she has lost me forever,  
amid names and faces and trees

so much is lost  
in a forest that is desert

my hand circles on her  
back, all spine, stony mountains  
and I tell her

I tell her  
that I'm real and she says

how  
how can you be here?

I flew, I tell her:  
I flew here to see you.

But how can that be?  
It just is; I am here.

### 2. Shadow Reel to Last Breath

There is no revelation  
in her vexed words, lost sleep,  
the catch in her throat.

Shadows reel about the room  
where a lamp is always on,  
a little sun.

We turn her body,  
turn her sheets,  
take turns around her bed.

We walk,  
with anarchy and darkness  
on the clock,  
an arc.

Rock, and step, and circle.

Listen, listen,  
her speech is rough  
and loose.  
We keep our tears silent  
and our gazes blank.

The hour comes round at last.

### 3. Hospice

Hear the willow sweep away  
the leaves that fall on the brick,  
and fix the light by the wardrobe  
where the old shade riddles it round.

One breath in and one breath out  
while the second hand sweeps in silence;  
her hands trace circles in the air  
and on the counterpane.

### Goodnight Moon

*Margaret Wise Brown*

In the great green room  
there was a telephone  
and a red balloon  
and a picture of  
the cow jumping over the moon.

There were three little bears  
sitting on chairs  
and two little kittens  
and a pair of mittens  
and a little toyhouse  
and a young mouse  
and a comb and a brush  
and a bowl full of mush  
and a quiet old lady  
who was whispering "hush."

Goodnight room  
Goodnight moon  
Goodnight cow  
jumping over the moon

Hold my hand, you won't get lost.  
The moon circles the earth, and the tide  
comes in and out, sweeping clear the beach;  
the waves arc and recede.

Goodnight light  
and the red balloon

Goodnight bears  
Goodnight chairs  
Goodnight kittens  
and goodnight mittens

Goodnight clocks  
and goodnight socks  
Goodnight little house  
and goodnight mouse.

Goodnight comb  
and goodnight brush  
Goodnight nobody  
Goodnight mush  
and goodnight to the old lady  
whispering "hush."

Goodnight stars  
Goodnight air  
Goodnight noises everywhere.

### When Memory Fades

*Mary Louise Bringle*

When memory fades and recognition falters,  
When eyes we love grow dim, And minds confused,  
Speak to our souls of love that never alters;  
Speak to our hearts by pain and fear abused.  
O God of life and healing peace,  
Empower us with patient courage, by your grace infused.

As the frailness grows, and youthful strengths diminish,  
In weary arms, which worked their earnest fill.  
Your aging servants labor now to finish....  
Their earthly tasks as fits your mystery's will.  
We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing,  
Your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.

Within your spirit, goodness lives unfading.  
The past and future mingle into one.  
All joys remain, un-shadowed light pervading.  
No valued deed will ever be undone.  
Your mind enfolds all finite acts and offerings.  
Held in your heart, our deathless life is won.

## Bright Morning Stars

*Traditional 19th Century American Spiritual*

Bright morning stars are rising  
Bright morning stars are rising  
Bright morning stars are rising  
Day is a'breaking  
In my soul

Oh where are our dear fathers?  
Oh where are our dear fathers?  
They are down in the valley a'praying  
Day is a'breaking  
In my soul

Oh where are our dear mothers?  
Oh where are our dear mothers?  
They are gone to heaven a'shoutin'  
Day is a'breaking  
In my soul

Bright morning stars are rising  
Bright morning stars are rising  
Bright morning stars are rising  
Day is a'breaking  
In my soul

## Ad Astra

*Words and Music by Jacob Narverud*

*Ad astra per aspera.  
Sursum.  
Movere deinceps.  
Sine cura post omnes.*

To the stars through difficulties.  
Look upward.  
Move forward.  
Leave all cares behind.

When you're tired and troubled,  
And you have lost your way,  
Don't let hard times lead you astray.

Though you may be weary,  
Just know you're not alone,  
For the stars will lead you home.

# Artist Biographies

## Ryan José LaBoy | Artistic Director

Ryan José LaBoy is a singer, conductor, and community musician based in Pittsfield, MA where he serves as Artistic Director of Berkshire Children's Chorus and Berkshire Concert Choir. Previously, he served as Choir Director at Bard College at Simon's Rock (Great Barrington, MA), Director of Choirs & Voice at North Hennepin Community College (Brooklyn Park, MN), and Founding Music Director of ComMUSICation (St. Paul, MN)—an El Sistema-inspired music program focused on social justice and youth empowerment. As a singer, Ryan has performed with The Sound Between Ensemble (New York), Unitus Ensemble (Boston), Border CrosSing (St. Paul), MPLS (imPulse) (Minneapolis), VocalEssence Ensemble Singers (Minneapolis), and Ember Choral Arts (New York).

Ryan holds degrees in Choral Conducting and Music Education from the University of Minnesota and Westminster Choir College, and is currently a doctoral student at Teachers College, Columbia University. His research is located at the intersection of community arts and public health, including practices of community music, the advent of social prescribing in Massachusetts and the United States, and the transformative power of singing together.

## **Amy Renak | Piano**

Amy Renak is a busy pianist and teacher in Berkshire County. She has been teaching piano at the Berkshire Music School for 35 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!

## **Wanda Houston | Soloist**

Wanda L. Houston has performed professionally throughout the U.S., Europe and Australia. She has worked on Broadway, in film, recording, and television. Living in New England connects her with talented musicians who share her joy in the power of music and its effect on the hearts and minds of those who take the time to listen. Working in varying capacities with Michael Jackson, Barbara Streisand, John Turturro, Eddie Izzard, Eartha Kitt, Patti LaBelle, Joe Cocker and Sam Harris brought her to the stages of Pasadena Playhouse, Universal Studios, Radio City, Madison Square & Carnegie Hall. For more, visit [WandaWorld.biz](http://WandaWorld.biz).

## **Brian Litscher | Soloist**

Brian Litscher has performed with the Berkshire Concert Choir since 2009 and is honored to contribute to this touching concert. He has performed with Barrington Stage Company, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Taconic Stage, Town Players, cabarets, and shows at such venues as Barrington Main Stage, Stockbridge Playhouse, the Colonial Theatre, the Mac-Haydn Theatre and even Carnegie Hall. Favorite roles include Mr. Bumble OLIVER!, Howard THE FABULOUS LIPITONES, Dr. Everett Scott ROCKY HORROR SHOW, and The Phantom BROADWAY TO THE BERKSHIRES. He once sang "Somewhere" to Leonard Bernstein in-person and is a proud alumnus and former music director of The Dartmouth Aires.

## **Erika Ludwig | Soloist**

Erika Ludwig is a teacher by calling, a musician by genetics. Born to parents who met in music school, every opportunity was provided to develop her musical interests, which she didn't actually discover until attending her first adult fiddle camp in the summer of 2012. As the founder, director and teacher of Berkshire Strings in Egremont, MA, Erika leads students of all ages and abilities into the communal realm of making music together using the traditional fiddle repertoires of the Appalachian, Celtic, Quebecois and Scandinavian cultures. Her rare performances have been inspired by the Berkshire Concert Choir.



# About Berkshire Concert Choir

**Berkshire Concert Choir inspires, connects, and uplifts individuals by creating a welcoming community where people of all backgrounds and abilities can experience the transformative beauty of choral music.**

Berkshire Concert Choir is an 85-voice community chorus open to singers ages 16 and up, with no audition required. Founded in 1977, the choir performs two major concerts each season, along with informal "community sings" throughout the year. The Choir uses repertoire spanning centuries of choral music to explore both current issues and the depth of human experience.

Berkshire Concert Choir rehearses in Pittsfield on Thursday evenings September to May, providing singers with a high-quality musical experience in a supportive, collaborative environment. Community connections and accessibility are central to the group's mission, offering a welcoming space for singers of all ages and skill levels. Learn more at [www.berkshireconcertchoir.org](http://www.berkshireconcertchoir.org).

## Berkshire Concert Choir Singers

### Sopranos

Carol Allman-Morton  
Chelsea Beatty  
Joan Burkhard  
Rachel Christensen  
Ann-Marie Desautelle  
Cassie Favrot  
Bre Gladu  
Lesley Herzberg  
Rebecca Hoffmann  
Leo Honbarger  
Rosa Ipuz  
Anne Jaskot  
Linda Johnson  
Carolyn Kaufmann  
Karen Ketcham  
Allison Lerman-Gluck  
Renee Moretti  
Suzanne Newman  
Stephanie Preston  
Jane Salata  
Cadence Staebler  
Erin Tate  
Lyndsey Wasio  
Elizabeth Wedge

### Altos

Cameron Allshouse  
Rika Alper  
Rachel Alves  
Nancy Baker  
Chris Brandon  
Susan Buchholz  
Meghan Burden  
Jody Burrows  
Debbie Cranwell  
Gina Davis  
Hannah DeLisle-Stall  
Heidi Frayer  
Christiana Greene  
Colleen Hoskins  
MaryAnn C. House  
Christa MacDonald  
Barbara Martin  
Suzanne W. Pelton  
Ellen Rogers  
Eva Sereghy  
Kate Staebler  
Sierra Stansfield  
Phyllis Vine  
Melanie Willins  
Erin Wojcicki  
Mackenzie Wolcott  
Lisa Wolf  
Susan Wrba

### Tenors

Joel Bergeland  
Dan Burkhard  
Amy Chin  
Graham Christensen  
John Hansen  
Stuart Hoskins  
Robert James  
Gene Kalish  
Jason M. Kittler  
Brian Litscher  
Diane Miller  
James Muller  
Richard Riedel  
Chaya Schneider  
R Joseph Schorge  
Bruce Warren  
Jasper Zahn

### Basses

Shawn Bunnell  
Eric Christensen  
Fred Frayer  
Brett Greenleaf  
Stephen Hyer  
John Kidd  
Sven Leaf  
James Linkin  
Robin MacDonald  
Dominick Pierro  
Tom Rogers  
Gary Williams

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*Gifts received between September 1, 2024 and May 1, 2025 are recognized above.*

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# Honor and Remember

*This concert has personal resonance for many members of Berkshire Concert Choir.  
In this space, we honor and remember family, friends, colleagues, and caregivers.*

In memory of  
**Martha G. Allman**  
- Carol Allman-Morton

In memory of my granny  
**Elisabeth Elliot**  
Beloved missionary, author, pianist,  
speaker, and singer!  
Dementia took her in 2015.  
- Christiana Greene

In honor of  
**The Favrot Family**  
- Cassie Favrot

In memory of a dear and longtime friend  
**Leslie Ann McNaugher**  
(1942-2025)  
- Eva Sereghy

In memory of my beloved mother  
**Maria Sereghy**  
(1920-2012)  
Though her memory faded,  
her love never altered.  
And in honor of her devoted caregiver  
**Angelina "Angel" Bautista**  
- Eva Sereghy

In memory of  
**Eleanor Wedge**  
A great wit, aunt and friend  
and the only other E.WEDGE in NYC !  
- Elizabeth Wedge

Shout out to caring caregivers  
- Joan and Dan Burkhard

In memory of  
**Eleanor Alves**  
She was my Mother and  
my special friend.  
- Rachel Alves

In loving memory of  
**Harold "Tink" Evans**  
(1929 - 2024)  
The best of the best.  
- Hannah DeLisle-Stall

In loving memory of my amazing mother  
**Frances Kiley Freyer**  
(1933-2021)  
I miss you every day.  
- Amy Chin

In memory of  
**Elsie Fortini Salata**  
(1919-1984)  
May you be dancing in the light  
- Jane Salata

In loving memory of my grandmother  
**Cora Amelia Stagnar-Bristol**  
(1903-1987)  
"Love and compassion are necessities,  
not luxuries. Without them humanity  
cannot survive." - Dalai Lama  
- MaryAnn C. House

For the many touched,  
may you all be blessed  
for your love and care.  
- Barbara Martin

# Reflections from Our Pre-Concert Lecturers

## Jane Salata

*MSW, LICSW*

A man who was dying and on hospice care, was speaking with his hospice worker. The worker reflected on the richness of the man's life: his cozy home and large family, his valued career, his beloved pet dog. "It must be so hard to say goodbye to all of that," the hospice worker offered.

"Yes," the man said, "but it's ok, because I've *had* all of that."

When we think about any kind of loss, we are also thinking in some way about our connection and attachment to whomever or whatever we are losing. What kind of connection do we have to the people, places, and abilities we've loved and relied upon? Can we somehow keep those connections, even during the most profound changes in our lives? If we are facing the loss of our ability to remember, how do we still stay connected to one another? To ourselves?

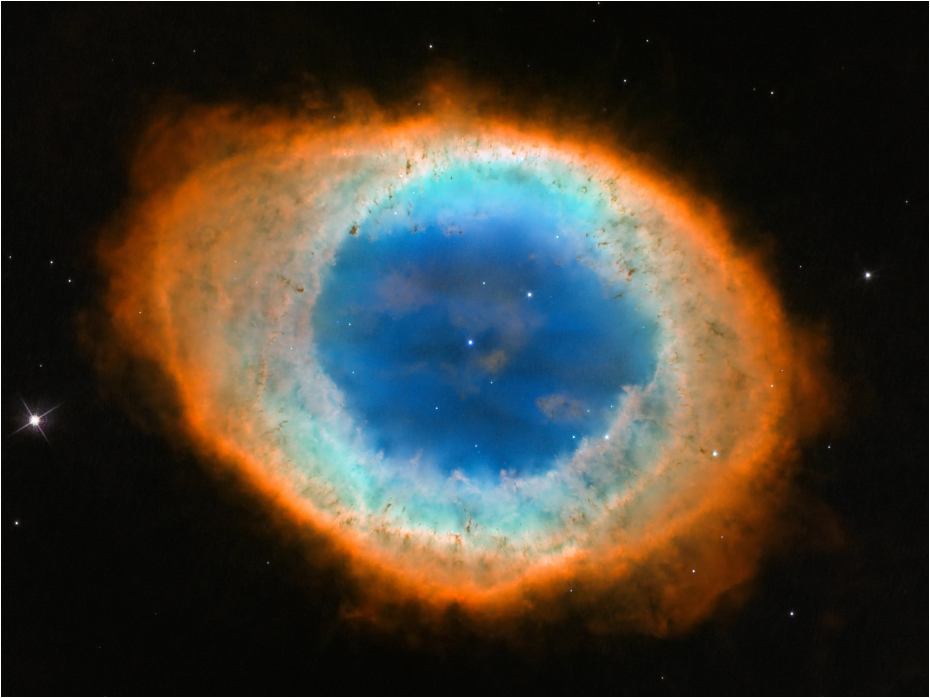
Our music today invites us to remember and honor those connections—whether it be to the stars whose death provided the materials for our planet and our bodies, to those who have nourished and supported us, to the lessons their lives and deaths have taught us. This is the light that sees us through.

## Anne Jaskot

*Assistant Professor of Astronomy at Williams College*

This Hubble Space Telescope image of the Ring Nebula shows shells of gas surrounding the dense, white core of a star at the end of its life. Each color shows light from different atomic elements; helium is colored as deep blue, the light blue inner shows hydrogen and oxygen, and the red outer layer is glowing nitrogen and sulfur. We are connected to the lifecycles of stars like these; stars produced the carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and other elements that make up the molecules in our bodies. Via supernova explosions or nebulae like this image, they disperse these elements into space, seeding the universe with the ingredients for life.

Take time to appreciate the night sky this month. Find a dark place, free from street lights, and wait 20 minutes for your night vision to activate. Don't look at any lights other than a red-light flashlight. For a free, printable star chart showing the night sky this month, visit [skymaps.com](http://skymaps.com). In May, the Big Dipper will be high in the evening sky. Follow its arcing handle toward a bright star, Arcturus (the phrase to remember is "Arc to Arcturus"). Continue the same distance again, and you will see another bright star, Spica (so you "Arc to Arcturus and Speed to Spica"). Spica is 11 times the mass of our Sun. It will form elements like oxygen and neon, before exploding as a supernova a few million years from now. Another star destined to explode is Antares, a red supergiant whose name means "The Rival of Ares (Mars)." You may be able to see this bright, red star low in the southeastern sky. Toward the northeast, the star Vega is one of the brightest in the sky. This star will end its life as a planetary nebula, like the Ring Nebula image shown, and will then provide new carbon and nitrogen to the universe. Later in the summer, Vega will rise higher in the sky, and just below it, you can look for the faint band of hundreds of visible stars that make up the plane of our Milky Way galaxy.



Credit: NASA, ESA and the Hubble Heritage (STScI/AURA)-ESA/Hubble Collaboration

# NOTES

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