

A hand with gold glitter paint is pointing towards a rainbow and a starry sky. The background is a mix of soft colors and a starry night sky.

Robbinsville High School  
Proudly Presents

# Forevermore *a choral concert*

*May 4th, 2022  
7:00pm*

# ABOUT THIS CONCERT

Thank you for choosing to spend your Wednesday evening with us! Tonight's program is the result of months of hard work and exploration. The centerpiece of this concert, *For a Breath of Ecstasy*, is a large work consisting of seven movements written to poems by Sara Teasdale. These bigger pieces are difficult to tackle but provide so many opportunities for us to grow as musicians. While larger works like these can sometimes be difficult to navigate as an audience, I hope you are able to enjoy the story being presented and promise you will be delighted by the beauty these musicians are able to create in front of you.

**Hlohonolofatsa** is a traditional South African greeting song with a familiar call and response structure. The repetitive nature of the song is embellished by the slow evolution of each line, progressively getting larger and more intricate as the song races to the end. **Dziediet, Meitas** is a Latvian folksong translating to "Sing, Maidens!" Another piece fashioned as a call and response, this simple melody is presented in an upbeat and triumphant manner. In the middle of the piece, the momentum is torn away and the choir ripples under a soloist explaining why she sings into the night. After the turbulent nature of the piece is slowly rebuilding, the ensemble closes this number out gloriously singing out their joys for the wind to carry their voices to their neighbors.

**For a Breath of Ecstasy** begins with **Wealth Enough for Me**, a rhythmically driving opening supports a soaring melody with the choir expressing their desire to spread their thoughts and memories in order to assure their own immortality. **Peace Flows into Me** is a love song, with the choir actively reimagining their position in the world trying to support their love. The viscous a cappella setting quickly assumes a strong pulse pushed forward by the basses and tenors when they begin singing about their desire to reflect all the beautiful things their love is to the world. **Who Gave My Soul to Me** is a remembrance of love in the past. The minor tonality and haunting cello motif throughout the piece hints towards a negative emotion response, but as the song unfolds, the text inspires hope as the ensemble builds strong resonant chords remembering what they learned from their missteps in the past. **For You I Am Still** is a lush, warm expression of how we can still give to the ones we love even when we feel we may be out of rope. The development section of this song is marked with "the tree of my song stands bear," a phrase repeated multiple times. Each utterance ends in a cluster of dissonance, launching the ensemble into a phrase reminiscent of a gust of wind, until the final iteration where the ensemble is all in unison which heralds us back to the opening gesture. **Spend All You Have On Loveliness** brings a more uplifting feel to the motivic material repurposed from the third movement, this time instead celebrating the beauty in life and reminding us to take a chance on the things we love. Containing the titular text, this song acts as the resolution of all of the hopes and momentum that has thus built up in the piece at large. **And I For You** enchants immediately with a pulsating almost water-like accompaniment, set against a floating melodic line celebrating the sensation of finding love. **Let Me Love** is a direct motivic restatement of the first movement, with the text shifting away from leaving a mark on the world to now being able to love unconditionally.

**TāReKīTa** is an energetic piece describing the sound of a drum through onomatopoeia. Set in the rāga "Jog," the rhythmic drive of this is a wonderful contrast to the end of "For a Breath of Ecstasy." Our finale, **Death Came a-Knockin' (Travelin' Shoes)** is a traditional spiritual featuring a trio of soloists with a positive outlook on how they will respond on the day death knocks on their door.

Thank you all so much for taking time out of your day to spend time listening to our music and thank you for the never ending support you show each of these musicians. Have a wonderful rest of the year!

~Brian Williams

# Forevermore *a choral concert*



## RHS CONCERT CHOIR

### **Hlohonolofatsa**

South African  
Greeting Song  
Arr. Daniel Jackson

Iyo hlohonolofatsa

Ka lebitso la ntate

Bless Everything

In the name of the Father

### *Soloists*

Wren Lieberman, Anthony Adamo, Summer Heyburn,  
Sandhya Muthukumaran, Catalina Vasquez, Addis Tafesse.

## RHS CHAMBER CHOIR

### **Dziediet, Meitas!**

Latvian Folksong  
Arr. Laura Jēkabsons  
Saanvi Sawkar, soprano

Dziediet emits manu  
dziesmu,  
Remit mani palīgā,  
Signet manu kumelinu,  
zalā tautas sētīnā.

Sing, maidens, my song,  
Let me join in as well.  
Tie my horse  
With a green skin rein.

Dziediet, emits vakarā,  
vakarā tālu skan;  
rīta koki rasas pilni,  
Tad vairs tālu neskanēs.

Sing, maidens, in the evening,  
Song carries far in the evening.  
In the morning, trees are full of dew,  
Then the song won't carry as far.

Dziedu koši locīdama,  
Died sari pavilkdama  
vējinš manu balsu nesa  
pašā touts sētīnā.

I sing brightly, bending the melody,  
I sing, dragging long the melody.  
The wind carried my voice  
Straight into the courtyard of my  
neighbors.

# *For a* BREATH *of* ECSTASY

MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA

*Based on Poems by*

SARA TEASDALE

Robbinsville High School Concert Choir

Brian Williams, *Director*

Rose Pettinelli, *Oboe*

Alex Dandon, *Violin I*

Keren Ocasio, *Violin II*

Caty Butler, *Cello*

Each of the movements of *For a Breath of Ecstasy* chronicles Teasdale's search for solace amidst life's many storms. The tapestry of different vocal forces set against the backdrop of Oboe and Strings reveals moments of yearning, love, joy, and peace. Vivid imagery portrays transcendent moments of solace that are revealed in an individual's relationship to nature and in love.

This work draws texts from *Love Songs*, the anthology of celebrated American poet, Sara Teasdale (1884-1933), and was commissioned to celebrate the centennial of her winning the first Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1918.

-Michael John Trotta

## I. 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 the hither side of death  
To gain their immortality.

## II. 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.

## III. Who Gave My Soul to Me

I gave my first love laughter,  
I have my second tears,  
I have my third love silence  
Thru all the years.

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

## IV. 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.

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

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

## V. Spend All You Have On Loveliness

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

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.

Spend all you have for loveliness,  
Buy it and never count the cost;  
For one white singing hour of peace  
Count many a year of strife well lost,  
And for a breath of ecstasy  
Give all you have been, or could be.

## VI. 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 stem,  
The sky is luminous;  
Eternity was made for them,  
Tonight for us.

## VII. Let Me Love

Until I lose my should and lie  
Blind to the beauty of the earth,  
Deaf thought shouting wind goes by,  
Dumb 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.

# RHS CHAMBER CHOIR

## TāReKiTa

Reena Esmail

TāReKiTa is a vibrant joyful piece in a rāga (an Indian classical melodic framework) called Jog, which incorporates both major and minor modalities into a single scale. The text syllables are onomatopoeic vocalizations of the sounds produced by Indian instruments.

## Death Came A-Knockin'

(Travelin' Shoes)

Spiritual

Arr. Ruthie Foster

Transcribed Paul Rardin

Anusha Qaisar, soprano

Shreeya Iyer, alto

Allyson Wolochuk, alto

You know that death came a-knockin' on my mother's\* door

Singin', "Come on, Mother\*, ain't ya ready to go?"

And my mother\* stooped down, buckled up her shoes,

And she\* moved on down by the Jordan stream.

And then she\* shout,

"Hallelujah! Done, done my duty,

Got on my traveling' shoes."

\*(2) Sister

\*(3) Brother

\*(4) Neighbor

\*(5) Preacher

\*(6) My

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## ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR

Anthony Adamo\*, Mahi Amin, Paras Anand, Sana Anand, Achyut Anoop, Prithvi Raaj Arumugam, Ava Blando, Rithika Bodicherla, Sabrina Breden\*, Angie Brown, Leah Caiola, Gianna Ciccio, Isabella Crapanzano\*, Sidney Davis, Daniel Delate, Kami Enciso, John Exner\*, Emanuel Flores\*, Melina Fusco, Ella Gallagher\*, Bridget Godfrey, Rachael Godfrey, Lindsay Goyden, Hailey Harrison, Alyce Heller, Summer Heyburn, Terrence Ho\*, Felicity Holt, Courtney Horvath\*, Sahana Iyer, Shreeya Iyer\*, Anya Kawlekar, Brianna Krail, Wren Lieberman\*, Elliora Liebmann, Edward Lu\*, Abigail Moir, Nida Mubarak, Sandhya Muthukumar, Kate Myers\*, Anusha Nandan, Amelie Perez, Anusha Qaisar\*, Harini Ramesh, Isabella Riether\*, Jonathan Roy, Sumedha Sabbani\*, Shreya Savur, Saanvi Sawkar\*, Abby Scatena, Ashley Semmel, Brandon Semmel\*, Brianna Semmel, Ethan Shaev, Ria Sharma, Ashley Spilatore\*, Ryan Stanton, Crow Sussman\*, Addis Tafesse, Hailey Tkacs, Aanya Tummala, Catalina Vasquez, Natalie Villegas, Emily Volchansky, Sylvia Wahby\*, Olivia Walker, Sris Wilfred\*, Allyson Wolochuk, Shruthi Yarraguntla

## ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR

Anthony Adamo\*, Ava Blando, Isabella Crapanzano\*, Ella Gallagher\*, Bridget Godfrey, Shreeya Iyer\*, Wren Lieberman\*, Nida Mubarak, Saanvi Sawkar\*, Anusha Qaisar\*, Isabella Riether\*, Abby Scatena, Ashley Spilatore\*, Allyson Wolochuk

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Mr. Curtis Wyers, *Assistant Principal*  
Mr. Matthew Dalessio, *Assistant Principal of Athletics*

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Thank you for your support of the arts in Robbinsville!

*Cover & Poster Design by Sana Anand*

