

6TH ANNUAL ROBBINSVILLE CHORAL FESTIVAL

A NEW WORLD



May 24 7:00pm

Robbinsville High
School Auditorium

**Featuring new music and
empowering songs about
new beginnings.**

PRMS 7-8th Grade Choirs, RHS Choirs

Robbinsville High School

Vocal Music Department

Presents

FREEDOM



May 6th, 2018

4:00pm

**Robbinsville Performing
Arts Center**



Robbinsville High School

Ms. Molly Avery, Principal

Ms. Nicole Rossi, Assistant Principal

Mr. Curtis Wyers, Athletic Director

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Kathie Foster

Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Kim Tew

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Mr. Scott Veisz

Business Administrator

Ms. Beth Brooks

At multiple points in this concert the conductor may include a few seconds of silence after or in between pieces.

Please hold your applause until the conductor has lowered his hands.



Please refrain from any video and/or audio recording. As per United States Copyright law any recording of a performance is strictly prohibited.

About the Composers

Andrew Miller (Commissioned Composer) is an accomplished choral conductor, clinician, vocalist, composer, arranger and educator. Miller recently won first prize in the 2013 NDSU Edwin Fissinger National Choral Composition Contest with his setting of "The Tyger." A native of MN, Andy graduated from Brainerd High School in 2001, earned a bachelor's degree in K-12 vocal music education from Bemidji State University in 2006, and a master's degree in choral conducting from Minnesota State University-Mankato in 2010. Between degrees, Andy taught K-12 vocal music in Long Prairie MN during the 2007-08 school year. In 2007 he founded the Minnesota-based professional vocal ensemble, From Age to Age, which performed across the upper-Midwest and gained national recognition. In Fall 2010, Miller moved to Bismarck, ND to accept the position of director of choral activities at Bismarck State College (BSC). In September of 2012, Andy started ND's newest (and only) professional vocal chamber ensemble, Inspiraré. Currently the director of choral activities at BSC, Andy directs the Concert Choir, Women's Ensemble and Chamber Singers, and teaches Choral Conducting, Aural Skills, and Music Appreciation. He is an active member of ACDA, and is the NDACDA R&S chair of student and youth activities. Miller accepts several commissions annually from across the country, writing for a wide range of choir types, abilities, and voicings.



As a final project for AP Music Theory, students are tasked with writing a piece of music for an ensemble of their choice. Last spring **Anna Given** began work on a choral piece lovingly named "Untitled." Through multiple iterations of texts that would convey the message that "Rain" ultimately gets across, she settled on simple words with a universal message. The composition beautifully provides shade and texture to the lyrics, climaxing to a pop-esque solo and ending in a musical representation of rain pattering on the ground around you. The Robbinsville High School Chamber Choir is so excited to be able to perform a piece of music composed by an alumni of the group.



Robbinsville High School Choirs Concert Choir

Jaelyn Alston-Frye	Michael Gaspari*	Gabriella Natale
Carly Anderson	Amanda Godfrey	Erik Olsson
Laura Bradley	Michael Gomez*	Cara Pergament
Allison Brower	Vivienne Halm	Jonas Kevin Peter
Lilli Brown	Jackie Harris*	Joseph Porchetta
Keighly Butler	Sarah Heller*	Manaswi Prabhu Sawkar*
Jack Cavanaugh-Gialloredo	Jacob Katz	Fancesca Ragusa
James Cavanaugh-Gialloredo	Sam Keating	Sam Regen
Jade Chau	Kyle Kempton	Heidi Riad
Victoria Cheung	Abby Kenna	Timothy Riley
Nina Chhor	Allison Korff	Emilia Rossidivito
Sam Cicala*	Owen Kuhn*	Leah Salinas
Lily Coggins*	Larissa Leigh	Alexa Sautter*
Isabel Cox	Nathan Leonard	Sarah Scatena
David Cruz	Sky Lin	Madhumita Seshadri
Emmalyn D'Amico	Viveka Madhan	Dylan Shah
Ryan Dan	Shane Maher	Morgan Shapiro
Mykala Davison	Ava Malkin	Jess Smith*
Joelle DelPrete	Aashmi Mathew	Annakah Smolensky
Fiona Dennis	Sean McCunney*	Sanjana Sureshbabu
Jordan Dicker	Molly McKeown	Mrinali Taskar*
Tyler DiNinno	Anayah Michelle McNeil	Amar Vyas
Kelley Fernandes	Emily Milo	Anand Vyas
Rafael Ferreira	Daniela Mirando	Katharine Walls
Devon Fruscione	Dominick Mirando	Katie Weil
Abigail Gafgen	Victoria Nardo	Lizzy Young

Chamber Choir

Lilli Brown	David Cruz	Abby Kenna
Keighly Butler	Devon Fruscione	Sean McCunney*
James Cavanaugh-Gialloredo	Michael Gomez*	Manaswi Prabhu Sawkar*
Sam Cicala*	Jacob Katz	Sarah Scatena
Lily Coggins*		Mrinali Taskar*

* = Member of Senior Class

*"Choral singers and their conductors,
if they have a consistently honest experience together,
become the very fabric of each another's lives."*

-Elaine Brown

FREEDOM

When someone brings up the word "Freedom," your mind may divert you to the ridiculousness of "freedom fries" or you can hear the guttural exclamation "uh'Murica." I have found it difficult to explore "freedom" because of these pre-programmed responses to a word so closely tied to our nation's rebellious beginnings. How much thought have you put into the following question? Are you truly free? While freedom as represented by laws set forth by our governing body do affect us, our laws alone do not make us equally free. Some live mundane lives shackled by a fear of failure while others remain trapped behind an unsurmountable barrier constructed with unrealistic expectations and fake promises.

This program was compiled to allow us to ponder this very concept. In my experience, the things I have missed out on in life were not only caused by an external force stopping me, but a voice deep inside myself doubting I had the ability to succeed. As you are engaged with the music being performed today, take a few minutes to reflect on what is holding you back.

We begin with the **Testament of Freedom**, the largest work that the Robbinsville choirs have put together to date. This piece consists of four movements each set to a letter penned by Thomas Jefferson. The first three movements vividly retell the story of arming and mobilizing the American Colonies against our British occupiers. The fourth movement is a much older Jefferson reflecting on the living and breathing democracy he helped create and his hope for it to live on for centuries.

We, as human beings, are an embodiment of our cultural and social values, our principals, our taste in art, and our willingness to love one another. We venture through the dark unknown of life as a single candle trying to make sense of what is around us. **Hymn to the Eternal Flame**, a sacred Holocaust memorial oratorio, masterfully reminds us that by engaging with others, sharing our experiences, and "lighting other's candles in the dark" that we can not only add light to our own journey, but forever be a part of theirs. **Dawn** is a meditation on the coming light-filled day and all the possibilities that it possesses, as long as you continue to open doors. The lush harmonies lend to an unsure yet positive outlook on the future. **Rain**, composed by alumnus Anna Given, conveys through a simple text the beauty of being completely open and how our perception shifts in times of need: Sometimes everything you need is in front of you, but you cannot see it or do not know how to use it.

He Never Failed Me Yet, a classic gospel piece, is the positive outlook we all need in life. The piece recalls the ways that God has helped people in the past and reflects on how life is good, therefore life will continue to be good. **The Runner**, through a compelling accompaniment and a fantastic setting of text, recreates the release of tension as a runner traverses along a beautiful landscape, unrestricted by a path but blazing a trail on their own whim. The final piece, **Give It All**, was composed for the Robbinsville High School Choirs by Andrew Miller. The piece is deceptive: While it is set as a pop dance song, the harmonies and text provide a depth and color pallet that is not often seen in this genre. "If we keep our lives then we cannot see that in giving all is to be set free."

-Brian Williams

Testament of Freedom

Composed by Randall Thompson Text by Thomas Jefferson
Performed by the Robbinsville Concert Choir

Brian Williams, Director

Michael Gaspari '18, Accompanist

This four movement piece of music is to be presented as one large piece, please hold applause until the end of the song cycle.

I. The God who gave us life

The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time; the hand of force may destroy but cannot disjoin them.

-A Summary View of the Rights of British America (1774)

II. We have counted the cost

We have counted the cost of this contest and find nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery. Honor, justice, and humanity forbid us tamely to surrender that freedom which we received from our gallant ancestors, and which our innocent posterity have a right to receive from us. We cannot endure the infamy and guilt of resigning succeeding generations in that wretchedness which inevitably awaits them if we basely entail hereditary bondage upon them. Our cause is just. Our union is perfect. Our internal resources are great. We gratefully acknowledge, as signal instances of the Divine favor towards us, that His Providence would not permit us to be called into this severe controversy until we were grown up to our present strength, had been previously exercised in warlike operation, and possessed of the means of defending ourselves. With hearts fortified with their animating reflections, we most solemnly, before God and the world, declare that exerting the utmost energy of those powers which our beneficent Creator hath graciously bestowed upon us, the arms we have been compelled by our enemies to assume, we will in defiance of every hazard, with unseating firmness and perseverance, employ for the perseverance of our liberties, resolved to die free men rather than to live slaves.

-Declaration of Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms (July 6, 1775)

*Commissioned by the Robbinsville High School Choir, Robbinsville, NJ,
under the direction of Mr. Brian Williams
(Spring 2018)*

Give It All
Andrew Miller

Sam Cicala
Conductor

Calling out to all you broken hearted.
Come with me we're just getting started.
Now everybody let the music take control
I feel the fire burning in my soul.
I can take your baggage just come as you are
and let the future begin!

If we keep our lives then we cannot see
that in giving all we will be set free!

Day by day, we grow a little bit stronger,
Guide my feet back to a place of honor.
Now let your body just move to the beat.
I feel the rhythm burning in my feet
I can take your pain just be who you are
and see the future begin.

If we keep our lives then we cannot see
that in giving all we will be set free!

Lead me home
Through the night.
Out of darkness
into light.

If we keep our lives then we cannot see
that in giving all we will be set free!



Robbinsville High School Concert Choir

Brian Williams, Director
Michael Gaspari '18, Accompanist
Jason Price, Percussion

He Never Failed Me Yet Robert Ray

Rafael Ferreira
Alexa Sautter
Jonas Kevin Peter
Soloists

I will sing of God's mercy, every day,
every hour, He gives me power.
I will sing and give thanks to Thee
for all the dangers, toils and snares,
that He has brought me out.
He is my God and I'll serve him.
No matter what the test.
Trust and never doubt,
Jesus will surely bring you out,
He never failed me yet.

I know God is able to deliver
in time of storm.
I know that he'll keep you safe
from all earthly harm.
One day when my weary soul is at rest,
I'm going home to be forever blessed.

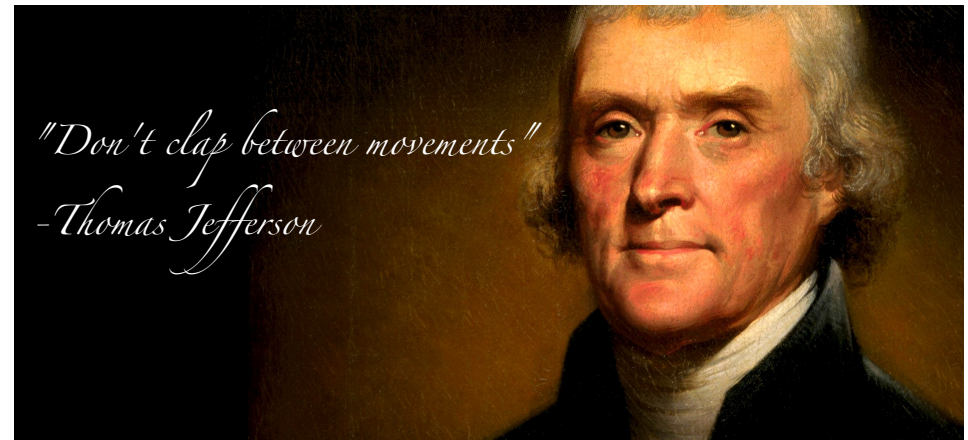
Didn't my God deliver Moses
from King Pharaoh?
And didn't He cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach,
Meshach, and Abednego?
When I think of what my God can do,
He delivered Daniel,
I know He will deliver you.

He never failed me yet.

The Runner Joshua Rist

The ground fits his foot
perfectly as he runs,
each breath fits his lungs.
The earth pushes back
with its slow spin.
While he crosses the golden
field of barley, it seems
to him his body will burst
into song.

-Roger Weaver (20??)



III. We fight not for glory

We fight not for glory or for conquest. We exhibit to mankind the remarkable spectacle of a people attacked by unprovoked enemies, with out any imputation, or even suspecting of offense. They boast of their privileges and civilization, and yet proffer no milder conditions than servitude or death. In our native land, in defense of the freedom that is our birthright and which we ever enjoyed till the late violation of it; for the protection of our property acquired solely by the honest industry of our forefathers and ourselves; against violence actually offered; we have taken up arms. We shall lay them down when hostilities shall cease on the part of the aggressors and all danger of their being renewed shall be removed and not before.

-Declaration of Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms (July 6, 1775)

IV. I shall not die without a hope

I shall not die without a hope that light and liberty are on steady advance. And even should the cloud of barbarism and despotism again obscure the science and liberties of Europe, this country remains to preserve and restore light and liberty to them. The flames kindled on the Fourth of July, Seventeen seventy six, have spread over too much of the globe to be extinguished by the feeble engines of despotism; on the contrary they will consume these engines and all who work them.

-Letter to John Adams, Monticello (September 12, 1821)



Robbinsville High School Chamber Choir

Brian Williams, Director



Hymn to the Eternal Flame

"To Be Certain of the Dawn"

Stephen Paulus

Manaswi Prabhu Sawkar

Lily Coggins

Soloists

Every face is in you, every voice, every sorrow in you.
Every pity, every love, every memory, woven into fire.

Every breath is in you, every cry, every longing in you.
Every singing, every hope, every healing, woven into fire.

Every heart is in you, every tongue, every trembling in you.
Every blessing, every soul, every shining, woven into fire.

Dawn

Eric William Barnum

From the door's soft opening
And the day's first sigh,
Filling the room,
I see before me
A life of doors,
One opening on another:
Doors upon doors,
And sighs upon sighs,
Rising in a tide of mornings,
Rising, until that final sigh,
And the last morning,
And the last holy breath,
Whispering, "this..."

Rain

Anna Given

RHS Class of 2017

James Cavanaugh-

Gialloredo

Abby Kenna

Sarah Scatena

Soloists

It rained for days after you left me,
As if the sky shared my grief.