



HOPE

A Concert Presented by
The Robbinsville High School Choirs

Robbinsville Performing Arts Center
Sunday, May 7th 2017 4:00pm

Robbinsville School District

Acting Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Kathie Foster

Acting Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Kim Tew

Robbinsville Township Board of Education

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Beth Brooks

Robbinsville High School

Ms. Molly Avery, Principal
Ms. Nicole Rossi, Assistant Principal
Mr. Curtis Wyers, Athletic Director
Mr. Brian Williams, Choral Director

Upcoming Events

5th Annual Robbinsville Choral Festival

7th & 8th Grade Choirs sing with the RHS Choirs

May 25th

7:00pm

Senior Showcase

Hear our seniors in the music department perform one last time!

June 12th

7:00pm

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The only tweets you'll get are about performances!



@RVILLEMUSIC



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HOPE

PROGRAM NOTES

I started thinking up this concert about a year ago when I first heard a high school perform Newtown Psalms. The piece conveys so many complex thoughts while shifting from beautiful homophonic settings to frigid Dies Irae esque tantrums. When considering how to include this piece into a concert without it seeming misplaced, I kept returning to how humans band together in times of strife and look ahead to brighter days...

The students of the chamber choir have learned an incredible amount of music this year and have only had an opportunity to perform each piece once. They will provide an overture to the concert by presenting three pieces that they have had the good fortune of performing at least once before. **I Should Be Glad** is a beautiful flowing arrangement of a Sara Teasdale poem expressing discontent in the things she has. **The Tyger** is a setting of a poem by William Blake, splitting the choir into eight parts and focusing on emulating and trying to understand the destructive force of nature in which the song is named after. **And So It Goes** is Billy Joel's ballade to eternal love, even when it may not be returned. The damning realization that he is still hopelessly and eternally devoted regardless of whether or not love is reciprocated gives this piece such a strong message.

These three pieces of music lock together in a rather pleasing manner and present a complimentary set of music to the concert choir without having it feel too familiar. This grouping of songs exemplifies the idea of always wanting more and moving outside of your comfort zone to find it. When confronted with new experiences, it is easy to get lost and frightened by the unfamiliar. By exploring the world and meeting "the tygers" that inhabit the world, we understand who we are. At the end of the day, by realizing our identity is a mix of positive and negative attributes that we could not live without, we can finally truly be ourselves.

The concert choir has spent a significant amount of time in the spring semester working on a set that tells an interpretive story of enduring hope. The song cycle begins with establishing the innocence and beauty of life with **In the Silence**, which is then affected by a catastrophe (**Newtown Psalms**). Counting the **1000 Beautiful Things** around them and remembering what they do have, the subject moves towards acceptance in **Hallelujah**. The cycle completes itself with our understanding that we will always be looking for more, seeking happiness, striving for perfection, and that is what makes life worth living (**City Called Heaven**).

I consider myself an optimist who is constantly looking for the best in people and situations. Working on a concert titled "Hope" would be a piece of cake for me, but I realize not everyone thinks as I do. This repertoire provides students the opportunity to engage with the concept of hope on their own terms. Through myriad conversations as an ensemble, we have come to separate conclusions on what this song cycle means to us as individuals.

The world is a complex, beautiful, vast, and sometimes unforgiving place. Hope is not static or easily defined, but trying to find it in the darkest of hours is what gets us through. To quote the YouTube channel VSauce2's final thoughts on music's influence on the human condition: "As long as you have music and the ability to embrace meaning from the sounds around you, you cannot be alone."

Thank you all for your constant support of the performing arts at Robbinsville High School, I hope you enjoy the concert.

Brian Williams
Choir Director

Robbinsville High School Chamber Choir
Brian Williams, Director

I Should Be Glad
Susan LaBarr
Poem by Sara Teasdale

I should be glad of loneliness
And hours that go on broken wings,
A thirsty body, a tired heart
And the unchanging ache of things,
If I could make a single song
As lovely and as full of light,
As hushed and brief as a falling star
On a winter's night.

The Tyger
Andrew Miller
Poem by William Blake

Tyger tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, and what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? And what dread feet?

What the hammer? What the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? What dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

And So It Goes
Billy Joel
Arr. Bob Chilcott

In ev'ry heart there is a room, a sanctuary safe and strong.
To heal the wounds from lovers past, until a new one comes along.

I spoke to you in cautious tones; you answered me with no pretense.
And still I feel I said too much. My silence is my self defence.

Andrew Malabunga
Soloist

And ev'ry time I've held a rose it seems I only felt the thorns.
And so it goes and so it goes, and so will you soon I suppose.

But if my silence made you leave, then that would be my worst mistake.
So I will share this room with you. And you can have this heart to break.

And this is why my eyes are closed, it's just as well for all I've seen.
And so it goes and so it goes and you're the only one who knows.

So I would choose to be with you. That's if the choice were mine to make.
But you can make decisions too. And you can have this heart to break.

And so it goes and so it goes, and you're the only one who knows.

HOPE

Robbinsville High School Concert Choir

Brian Williams, Director

Michael Gaspari '18, Accompanist

Notice: the following pieces are being presented as a set.
Please hold your applause until the end of the last piece of music.

In the Silence

Jacob Narverud
Poem by Robert Bode

Give me this life,
Give me this life, too:
That I may hear you, blessed world,
That I may hear your secret life;
That I may hear the snow as it nears,
That I may hear the snow as it kisses the earth.

Newtown Psalms

John F. Hudson

Da pacem, Domine
In diebus nostris
Quia non est alius
Qui pugnet pro nobis
Nisi tu Deus noster.

Give peace, O Lord,
in our time,
because there is not one else
who will fight for us
if not you, our God.

- The Book of Common Prayers

Victoria Skopowski
Soloist

Angustia superveniente
requirunt pacem et non eri.

Destruction cometh; and they
shall seek peace, and there shall be none.

- Ezekiel 7:25

Expectavimus pacem et non
erat bonum tempus.

We looked for peace,
but no good came.

- Jeremiah 8:15

Propter fratres meos et
proximos meos loquebar
pacem de te.

For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say,
"Peace be within you."

- Psalm 121:8 (Vulgate) / Psalm 122:8

Program Notes for Newtown Psalms

Whether tragedy strikes a small town, a major city, or an entire country, we as humans sympathize with the suffering, pain, and hardships that they endure. When the tragedy includes the murder of innocent school children, as at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, humanity is paralyzed in anguish, mourning lives that had barely begun before they were ended. None of the students were older than seven years of age. December 14, 2012 will be remembered for the loss of these twenty children and the six teachers who sought to protect them.

Combining four texts that cover a range of emotion, "Newtown Psalm" expresses the unsettled feeling that we, the living, experience when we think of the young lives that were cut short. Melodic and rhythmic dissonances portray that appalling day in stages of disbelief, destruction, and hopelessness, ultimately resolving at the comforting words of Psalm 121:8. This verse offers hope for the future in the reassurance of a divine peace for all, a settled peace which enfold the beauty of the lives that are at rest.

- John F. Hudson

1000 Beautiful Things

Annie Lennox

Arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Megan Haegley

Soloist

Ev'ry day I write a list of reasons why I still
believe they do exist: A thousand beautiful things.
And even though it's hard to see the glass is
full and not half empty: A thousand beautiful things.

So light me up like the sun, to cool down with your rain.
I never want to close my eyes again.

I thank you for the air to breathe, the heart to beat,
the eyes to see again: A thousand beautiful things.
And all the things that's been and done, the battle's won,
and good and bad in ev'ryone.

So here I go again, singin' by your window,
Pickin' up the pieces of what's left to find.

The world was meant for you and me to
figure out our destiny: A thousand beautiful things.
To live, to die, to breathe, to sleep, to try to
make your life complete.

Light me up like the sun, to cool down with your rain.
I never want to close my eyes again.

That is ev'rything I have to say...

Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen

Ethan Sperry

Performed by the
Robbinsville High School
Chamber Choir

Lily Coggins

Abi Valerio

Lauren Rejent

Abby Kenna

Sam Cicala

Manaswi Sawkar

Soloists

Well, I've heard there was a secret chord
That David played, and it pleased the Lord,
But you don't really care for music, do ya?
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, and the major lift,
The baffled king composing Hallelujah.

Well, your faith was strong but you needed proof.
You saw her bathing on the roof.
Her beauty in the moonlight overthrough ya.
She tied you to a kitchen chair.
She broke your throne, and she cut your hair.
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah.

You say I took the name in vain,
But I don't even know the name.
But if I did, well really, what's it to ya?
There's a blaze of light in ev'ry word.
It doesn't matter which you heard,
The holy or the broken Hallelujah.

I did my best, it wasn't much.
I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch.
I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool ya.
And even though it all went wrong,
I'll stand before the Lord of Song
With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah.

Well, maybe there's a God above,
But all I ever learned from love
Was how to shoot at someone who outdrew ya.
And it's not a cry when you hear at night.
It's not somebody who's seen the light.
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah.

Hallelujah.

City Called Heaven
Gospel Traditional
Arr. Josephine Poelinitz

Erin Godfrey
Soloist

I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow,
I'm left in this old wide world alone!

I ain't got no hope for tomorrow
I'm trying to make it make heaven my home.

Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord.
Sometimes I just don't know which way to turn.

I heard of a city called heaven
I'm trying to make it make heaven my home.

Robbinsville High School Concert Choir

Aashmi Mathew		Madelaine Benowitz
Abby Kelvy	Etai Clyde	Manaswi Sawkar
Abby Kenna	Eva Baer	Maryn Matisa
Abi Valerio	Francsca Ragusa	Megan Haegley
Alexa Sautter	Jack Cavanaugh-Gialloreto	Michael Gaspari
Allison Brower	Jackie Harris	Michael Gomez
Allison Korff	Jacob Katz	Molly Kelvy
Amanda Godfrey	Jade Chau	Molly McKeown
Amanda Hutchins	James Cavanaugh-Gialloreto	Mrinali Taskar
Anayah McNeil	Jarelle Boac	Mykala Davison
Andrew Malabunga	Jenny Beaulieu	Nathan Leonard
Anna Given	Jess Smith	Nicole Radosti
Carly Anderson	Joelle DelPrete	Owen Kuhn
Carolina Vieira	John Pakenham	Rebecca Horowitz
Daria Dittman	Joseph Porchetta	Ryan Keating
David Cruz	Kaeleigh Sturgeon	Sam Cicala
Devon Fruscione	Katharine Walls	Sam Keating
Dominick Mirando	Keighly Butler	Sarah Heller
Dylan Shah	Kelley Fernandes	Sarah Scatena
Elizabeth Margeotes	Laura Bradley	Sean McCunney
Lizzy Young	Lauren Rejent	Timothy Riley
Emilia Rossidivito	Leah Salinas	Toni Escuadro
Emilio Cavalli	Lilli Brown	Tyler DiNinno
Erik Olsson	Lily Coggins	Victoria Nardo
Erin Godfrey	Luna Lee	Victoria Skopowski

Robbinsville High School Chamber Choir

Abby Kenna	Etai Clyde	Michael Gomez
Abi Valerio	Jacob Katz	Manaswi Sawkar
Andrew Malabunga	Kaeleigh Sturgeon	Sam Cicala
Anna Given	Lauren Rejent	Sean McCunney
Erin Godfrey	Lily Coggins	Victoria Skopowski
	Megan Haegley	

