Upcoming VCU Music Events

JAZZ ORCHESTRA I with guest artist Bob McChesney
Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 8 p.m.
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
Tickets $7 in advance, $10 at door. Free for VCU students with ID.

VCU OPERA
Saturday, April 30, 2016, 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 1, 2016, 7 p.m.
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
The VCU Opera presents two one-act operas: Gian-Carlo Menotti’s tragedy “The Medium” and Gioacchino Rossini’s comedy “La Cambiale di Matrimonio” (“The Marriage Contract”).
Tickets $10 in advance; $15 at door.

VCU Guitar Ensemble
Sunday, May 1, 3 p.m.
Recital Hall, James W. Black Music Center
Free admission

For tickets and information, visit ARTS.VCU.EDU/MUSIC/EVENTS

A Journey Towards Hope
presented by
VCU Commonwealth Singers,
The VCU Polyphonics
and the VCU Women’s Choir

co-sponsored by the
VCU Humanities Research Center’s HIV-AIDS Initiative

Friday, April 15, 2016 | 7:30 p.m
Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall
Virginia Commonwealth University
W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts
922 Park Avenue | Richmond, VA
arts.vcu.edu/music
Program
VCU Women’s Choir
Rebecca Tyree, Conductor
Margaret Taylor, Accompanist

The Womanly Song of God ........................................ Libby Larson
Text by Catherine de Vinck

Set Me As A Seal .......................................................... Richard Nance
Song of Soloman

Patrick Smith, French Horn

Voices of Broken Hearts .............................................. Steven Sametz
from Clark Street Bridge Carl Sandburg

Katie Cappuccio, Gabrielle Debra, Anna Webster, Ghost Chorus
Dr. Justin Alexander, Vibraphone

A City Called Heaven .................................................. Traditional Spiritual
arr. Paul Carey

Gnothi Safton (Know Thyself) ...................................... Jim Papoulis

Carrie Bullard, Robyn Freidin, Cassidy Hamilton,
Kimberly Strothers, Marie Kreck, Boomwhackers
Laycee Bell, Cassie Tilman, Savannah Whittenburg, Descant

Don’t Be Afraid .......................................................... Allyson Reigh
arr. Jennifer McMillan

Simone Plater, soloist

The VCU Polyphonics

Sicut Cervus............................................................. Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Due pupille amabili Notturno KV 439.......................... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Ecco quell fiero istante Notturno KV 436

Gute Nacht from BWV227 Jesu, meine Freude ............... Johann Sebastian Bach

Java Jive ................................................................. Music Ben Oakland, Lyrics Milton Drake
arr. Kirby Shaw

When I Fall In Love...................................................... Victor Young
arr. Kirby Shaw

Arianna Rose, soloist

VCU Polyphonics

Georgia Cotter
Aaron Frisbie
Alex Goia
Ella Mort

VCU Commonwealth Singers
Erin Freeman, Director
Laura Candler-White, Accompanist

Soprano
Erin Bolden @
Kaylyn Carver
Tiun Duong
Victoria Jackson *
Samantha John
Charlotte Schuhle
Savannah Whittenburg

Tenor
Jonathan Bowman ^
Matthew Evangelisto *
Emory Freeman ~
Jason Garland
Aaron Moyers

Alto
Jaylin Brown *
Georgia Cotter
Taylor Dacosta
Kirsten Ferguson
Ella Mort
Simone Plater
Amanda Simon
Hayleigh Wilson

Bass
Coltrane Conklin *
Brian Donovan ~
Forrest Glass #
Shyheim Hinnant
Gabriel Taylor
Darius Thomas
Andrew Wingfield @

* Section Leader
# Conducting Assistant
@ Chorus Manager
^ Research Assistant
~ Marketing Team
VCU Women's Choir
Rebecca Tyree, Conductor
Margaret Taylor, Accompanist

Laycee Bell
Chemistry

Erin Bolden
Music B.A.

Hailey Broyles**
Music Education: Choral

Carrie Bullard
Music Education: Choral

Katherine Cappuccio
Music B.A./Music Industry

Gabrielle Debra
Biology

Nicole Frank
Early & Elementary Education

Robyn Freidin*
Music B.A.

Lexie Gruber
Music Education: Choral

Cassidy Hamilton
Music Education: Choral

Marie Kreck
English, Music

Emily Nesbit
Music: Vocal Performance

Simone Plater
English

Taylor Ramirez
Music B.A.

Charlotte Roth
Music B.A.; Cinema B.A.; Creative Writing minor

Daniella Sniffen
Psychology

Janet Speight
Fashion Merchandising

Kimberly Strother
Broadcast Journalism; Music minor

Cassie Tillman
Music: Vocal Performance

Anna Webster ^
English; Russian and Music minors

Clarissa Whitehead
Elementary Education

Savannah Whittenburg #
Music: Vocal Performance

VCU Commonwealth Singers
Erin Freeman, Conductor
Laura Candler-White, Piano

We're All Here ........................................ Daron Hagen
World premiere instrumentation
Justin Alexander, Percussion
Laura Candler-White, Piano

Deep River ........................................... Traditional
arr. Hogan

Io Taceró .............................................. Gesualdo

Unicornis Captivatur ................................ Ola Gjeilo

What a Wonderful World .......................... George Weiss & Bob Thiele
arr. Clausen

Jaylin Browne, Alto

When You Wish Upon A Star .................... Leigh Harline and Ned Washington
arr. Nancy Wertsch

Tonight's concert is presented in conjunction with the VCU Humanities Research Center's Spring 2016 speaker series, "HIV-AIDS: Local, National, and Global Perspectives."
For detailed information on this series, please visit humanitiescenter.vcu.edu.

This concert is co-sponsored by the VCU Humanities Research Center.

* Chorus Manager
# Librarian
** Assistant to the Director
^ Wardrobe
Program Notes

As we acknowledge the past four decades of HIV-AIDS epidemic, we reflect on its impact on the entire human population through music and the written word. The selected songs of strength, love, sadness, acceptance, faith, hope and empathy encompass the message that awareness and understanding can be our strongest source of support.

Women's Choir opens the concert with Womanly Song of God, an uplifting, almost raucous, jubilant celebration of birth, renewal and life. Libby Larsen, one of America's most performed living female composers selected this poem by a female poet for its energy and dancelike nature. Her highly rhythmic setting vividly paints these poignant words with vibrant intensity as she has the singers perform as drummers, dancers and storytellers with their bodies and voices. The strength of the human spirit emanates from the joyful female chorus.

Set Me A Seal, a text from the Songs of Solomon, sings of the ultimate union and devotion of our dear loved ones: "set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm: for love is strong as death" — for it is love that heals the heart.

The haunting effects of delayed vibraphone, choir and ghost choir in Voices of Broken Hearts create an ethereal atmospheric sound seemingly suspended in time as the voices echo in aleatoric alternation. Taken from Carl Sandburg's Chicago Poems (1916), these words created often desolate images, depicting real life in the streets at the height of the industrial revolution. The broken hearts and broken dreams relate to the tragic loss of life at the height of the HIV-AIDS epidemic and the continued hardships and loss of life today.

The spiritual, A City of Heaven reveals a mournful pleading in search of 'that place called home' and the solace of acceptance when found.

The text of Gnothi Safton, was inspired by the ancient Greeks who "believed that to know thyself was one of the axioms of philosophical thought" (J.P.) This energetic combination of voices, boom whackers and piano exudes excitement in the celebration of life.

We close with a piece written for the Don't Be Afraid Campaign. Established in 2013 by Scott Jones, this organization seeks to raise awareness and create a non-judgmental forum for discussing the fear associated with homophobia and transphobia. "Acknowledging and letting go of fear can lead to a deeper level of acceptance. Don't be afraid to face your fear, don't be afraid to love and accept yourself." (Scott Jones, founder, Don't Be Afraid Campaign)

Text & Translations

The Womanly Song of God

Libby Larson; text by Catherine de Vinck

Women's Choir

I am the woman dancing the world alive:
Birds on my wrists
sun-feathers in my hair
I leap through hoops of atoms:
under my steps
plants burst into bloom
birches tremble in silver
Can you not see the roundness of me:
curves of the earth
Maternal arms of the sea
(encircling you wetly as you swim?)
I am the birthing woman
kneeling by the river
Heaving, pushing forth a sacred body
(not mud, not stone: flesh and blood)
Round, round the wind
spinning itself wild
Drawing great circles of music
across the sky:
Round the gourd fulle of seeds
round the moon in its ripeness
Round the door through which I come
stooping into your house.
I am the God of a thousand names:
why cannot one of them be
Woman singing?

Unicornis Captivatur

Anonymous, Engelberg Codex 314

The Unicorn is captured,
it's presented to the royal court
in the hunter's snare;
creeping, it freed itself from the pole;
because it's wounded, it heals itself
with the viper's venom.

Sing Alleluia
to the dying lamb;
sing Alleluia,
cry Alleluia
to the victorious Lion.

Life returns to the wounded Pelican
after miserable death
in its nest for the sins of the world.

The Phoenix' light is burnt out,
the ancient sins of the world
are utterly consumed by flame.

The Hydra enters the crocodile,
deprives it of its entrails, kills it,
and comes back alive.

Three days long
the lion slept till the King
awakened it with a roar.

Io Taceró

Anonymous

I will keep quiet, yet in my silence my tears and sighs shall tell of my pain.
And if I should die, death shall cry out for me once again.