

Brandywine Valley Chorale

★ NEW ★
Beginnings



BVC
BRANDYWINE VALLEY
CHORALE

JASON THRONE • Artistic Director

April 27, 2024

Saturday at 7:30 PM

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★ NEW ★ Beginnings

Saturday, April 27, 2024

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Spring is in the air and with the spring comes **NEW BEGINNINGS**, which is also the title of our performance this evening.

We want to start off by welcoming you. But more than a welcome, we also want to express our thanks to you, our audience. This has been a very full and busy concert season with having three concerts versus our normal two. It is important that you know how grateful we are to you, along with our advertisers and sponsors who have been with us throughout this season. You are the reason we have been able to do all we have done. And to that end, this is why the concert this evening is free of charge. You may participate in a 'Free Will Offering' at the end of the concert, if you are so inclined.



Tonight's concert features two separate works. The first is the *Wedding Cantata* by Daniel Pinkham, one of the composer's most often performed pieces. The second is a trio of songs written and/or composed by our very own, Joseph Eckman. The songs reflect **HURT**, **HOPE**, and **HEALING**, inspired by poets Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson and also by The Beatles. In addition, we will be featuring a few of our members as they perform pieces they have chosen. And last, but definitely not least, we will be accompanied by the beloved and most talented, Linda Lorgus, who has been our rock year after year.

As always, we welcome new members. If you love to sing and think you might like to join Brandywine Valley Chorale, please visit our website, thebvc.org and request an audition. You can also find ways to financially support the BVC on that same website.

We are in the process of planning our 2024-2025 concert season and look forward to sharing these plans with you in the near future.

After the concert this evening, we invite you all to stay for a reception we are hosting in your honor to provide a tangible reflection of our appreciation for your support. The members of the BVC all say, "Let them eat cake."

RUTH RUSSELL
President
Brandywine Valley Chorale



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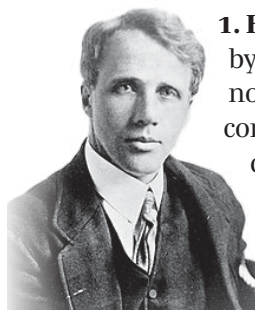
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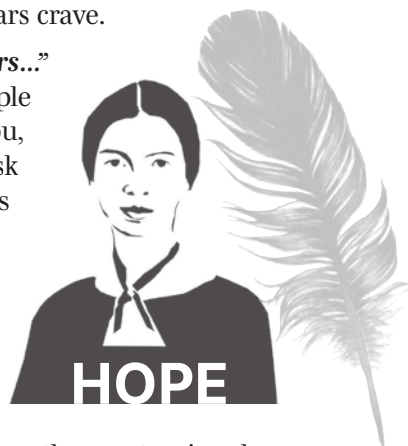
New Beginnings Suite

New Beginnings tells an overarching story of redemption and renewal through three separate but related chapters: **Hurt**, **Hope**, and **Healing**.

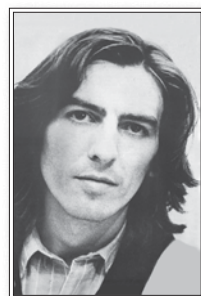


1. HURT — “*Nothing Gold Can Stay*” is a short poem by Robert Frost (1874–1963) that explores the idea that nothing good or precious can last forever. The music, conceived as a tone poem, conveys the dissolution and decay of nature through dissonance and progressions that don’t quite go where one would expect them to (listen to the chords at the ends of phrases.) The final held notes are unsettling, never reaching the resolution that our ears crave.

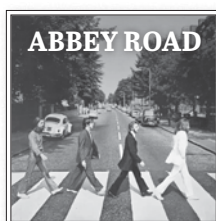
2. HOPE — “*Hope is the thing with feathers...*” by Emily Dickinson (1830–1886) uses a simple metaphor; Hope is a bird that stays with you, no matter the circumstances and doesn’t ask for anything in return. The song’s first notes achieve the calm that **HURT** never allowed by providing tonal resolution. Listen for the three note “hope” motif, the driving ostinato that “never stops,” the growing dissonance of stormy seas and chilly lands, and finally the buoyant recapitulation.



3. HEALING — “*Here Comes the Sun*” is a Beatles masterpiece by George Harrison (1943–2001). Everyone knows it, and can grasp its universal, simple imagery. The warm sun is here after a long cold winter, and everything’s alright. The first chord on the piano is the same as **HURT**’s first chord, and the cascading entrances lead to an unsettling chord cluster, but a sonic sunrise begins a steady, optimistic build. The bridge is



classically Beatles — surprisingly complex meter changes (7/8, 6/8, 5/8, 4/4) that feel natural because they perfectly service the lyrics. In this song, every dissonance resolves, and the final build leads to a modulation that signals that the sun is indeed finally here, and that... “it’s alright.”



— from Joseph Eckman

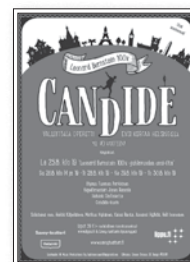
PROGRAM NOTES

Wedding Cantata

Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006) was an award-winning composer, organist, and harpsichordist who founded the early music performance program at New England Conservatory in Boston. Though he wrote in a wide variety of genres, he is most known for his sacred choral music. Set in four movements, Pinkham’s *Wedding Cantata* is one of his most popular works and takes the love poetry of the biblical **Song of Solomon** as its text. Pinkham’s buoyant melodic lines and jaunty rhythms of the first and third movements celebrate the joy and passion of young love while the more restrained canonic writing of movement two and the homophonic chorale-like last movement depict the strength of mature love. Pinkham’s harmonic language in the work makes frequent use of 4ths and 5ths, a feature it shares with another of his popular works, *Christmas Cantata*.



Make Our Garden Grow



In the comic operetta *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990), which premiered on Broadway in 1956, Candide, a young innocent who lives in a sheltered paradise, is mentored by Dr. Pangloss, who believes they live in “the best of all possible worlds.” This optimism is tested as Candide endures one abhorrent trial after another. When everything he has ever loved withers away amidst death, destruction and deceit he amends his philosophy.

“**Make Our Garden Grow**” is a hymn of hope as Candide realizes the only purpose of living is to cultivate the earth and create a garden.

In the recent Oscar-nominated film, *Maestro*, the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir is depicted rehearsing the composition, with Montgomery County native, Bradley Cooper, portraying Bernstein.

ORDER OF PROGRAM

You Are the New Day

Words and Music by John David
Arranged by Peter Night
Adapted by Jacob Narverud
Linda Lorgus – COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

BVC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Now the Green Blade Rises

Old French Carol
Music by John McLeod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)
Renée and Vivian Gushurst – SOLOISTS
Linda Lorgus – COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Wedding Cantata

Words and Music by Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006)

- I. **Rise Up My Love**
Brenten Megee – TENOR
Ashley Vogel – SOPRANO
- II. **Many Waters**
- III. **Awake, O North Wind**
- IV. **Epilogue: Set Me As A Seal**
Linda Lorgus – COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

BVC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Make You Feel My Love

Words and Music by Bob Dylan
Lorrie Cohen – SOLOIST
Linda Lorgus – COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

New Beginnings Suite

by Joseph Eckman

1. **HURT: “Nothing Gold Can Stay”**
2. **HOPE: “Hope Is the Thing with Feathers”**
3. **HEALING: “Here Comes the Sun”**

Linda Lorgus – COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

BVC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Always Remember Us This Way

from **A Star Is Born** (2018)
by Lady Gaga,
Natalie Hemby, Hillary Lindsey, Lori McKenna
Kyla Eryka de Guia – SOLOIST
Linda Lorgus – COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

BVC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

That I Did Always Love

from **Newer Every Day**
Poetry by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
Music by Jake Heggie
Brenten Megee – SOLOIST
Linda Lorgus – COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Make Our Garden Grow

from **Candide**
Words by Richard Wilbur (1921-2017)
Music by Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
Arranged by Robert Page
Linda Lorgus – COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

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PROFILES

JASON THRONE · FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jason Throne received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education at Temple University. While teaching in Baltimore, he studied conducting under the direction of Edward Polochick, the Director of the Baltimore Symphony Chorus, and performed with the Baltimore Symphony and Chamber Chorus. After receiving his Masters in Choral Conducting at Temple University, Mr. Throne was Apprentice and Program Editor with Berkshire Choral International (in Great Barrington, Massachusetts), where he lectured on the choral music of Brahms and Bach, as well as music technology.



Mr. Throne has worked with renowned conductors including Robert Page, Joseph Flummerfelt, Vance George, Marvin Hamlich, John Rutter, and David Zinman. As Assistant Conductor of the Bucks County Choral Society, he performed and conducted the group during their tour of Estonia and Russia. Mr. Throne is Choral Director at Unionville High School where he leads five different award-winning choirs. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in June 2010, with the UHS Chorale, performing in the New York City premiere of a work by Grammy Award-winning artist and conductor, Eric Whitacre.

A champion of new music, Mr. Throne strongly believes in supporting modern composers, like Norwegian musical artists Ola Gjeilo and Kim André Arnesen, as well as local composers Thomas Lloyd, David Bennett Thomas, John Conahan, and most recently, Joseph Eckman. He was also the mastermind of February's BVC concert featuring English virtuoso Will Todd with talented choruses from three local area high schools.

Mr. Throne lives in Lancaster with his wife, Beth, and four children Daniel, Sophia, Madison, and Oliver.

PROFILES

LINDA YOUNG LORGUS · COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Linda Lorgus retired as the music director and organist at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Unionville where she led an active choral and handbell choir program for twelve years. Prior to St. Michael, she was principal organist and handbell director at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Chester. This extensive church and handbell experience led Ms. Lorgus to her current position as church music and handbell editor at J.W. Pepper, Inc., the world's largest sheet music distributor.



Ms. Lorgus is also a freelance accompanist, working not only with the Brandywine Valley Chorale, but with several vocal studios and regional high school choral programs in Pennsylvania.

LEON SPENCER · ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Leon Spencer received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio. Additionally, he attended Westminster Choir College in Lawrenceville, New Jersey for coursework in vocal pedagogy and studied choral conducting with the late Joseph Flummerfelt.



While living in Ohio, he worked as a public school music teacher and served as director of music for the Second Presbyterian Church (Newark, Ohio). He also was a choral clinician for several churches in the Columbus area. Since his return to Chester County in 1991, he has served as choir director for churches in Coatesville, Kennett Square, and New London.

Mr. Spencer is currently co-owner of Pro Musica Studio and serves in a variety of civic capacities. He was the mayor of Kennett Square from 1999 to 2010.

PROFILES

JOSEPH ECKMAN • GUEST COMPOSER

Dr. Joe Eckman has been a practicing dentist since 2004, but has always had a passion for composing and arranging music. Prior to attending dental school, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in trumpet performance from Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania. In addition to writing original music for various vocal and instrumental settings, Dr. Eckman enjoys collaborating with nearby high school music teachers and students, customizing arrangements for their specific needs. He is a lifelong resident of Chester County, where he lives with his wife Elizabeth and their three children.



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| Yolanda Hopping | Amanda Ostrusky | Susan Snyder |
| Alison Leese | Kathleen Rhodes | Kathryn Spencer |
| Lauren Longhi | Rachael Rule | Ashley Vogel |

Alto

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Pam Allenstein | Maura George | Kylee Mawson |
| Georgia Black | Pat Giordano | Marty Owens |
| Heather Buono | Renée Gushurst | Ruth Russell |
| Lorrie Cohen | Sutton Hays | Gerda Saxer |
| Suzanne Dickinger | Melody Kasprzak | Cathy Taylor |
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Tenor

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Phil Duncan | Joseph Eckman | Betsy Odgers |
| Kyla Eryka de Guia | Brenten Megee | |

Bass

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Charles Baker | Daniel Kasprzak | Leon Spencer |
| Laurence Beck | Matthew Ochs | Mark Swanson |
| Tony Bosworth | Steve Pember | Rich Vogel |
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