USC THORNTON UNIVERSITY CHORUS: TONIGHT!



Friday | **APRIL 23, 2016** | 8:00 PM ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL 514 WEST ADAMS BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES, CA 90007

SHOU PING LIU conductor
JEREMY S. BAKKEN conductor
CHOONGWOO STEVE KO
NAN DENG piano

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Choral Music and is supported in part by the Noble Foundation Grant for Graduate Choral Music Recitals.



PROGRAM

LEONARD BERNSTEIN ARR. ED LOJESKI

"Something's Coming/Tonight" (from West Side Story)

Jeremy S. Bakken, conductor Joanna Smeeton, soloist Choongwoo Steve Ko, soloist

CARL ORFF

Carmina Burana

II. Reie XXV. O Fortuna

Shou Ping Liu, conductor

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Thamos, King of Egypt, K. 345

I. Maestoso

Shou Ping Liu, conductor Hope Thompson, Soprano Kirstina Rasmussen Collins, Alto David Rakita, Tenor Daniel Kim, Bass

GIUSEPPE VERDI

"Anvil Chorus" (from Il Trovatore)

Choongwoo Steve Ko, conductor

STEPHEN SONDHEIM ARR. MAC HUFF

"Send In the Clowns" (from A Little Night Music)

Shou Ping Liu, conductor Yidan Hu, soloist Beth Newcomb, soloist Kiera Nowacki, soloist Elisa Shimada, soloist Alex Norwick, soloist

GEORGE GERSHWIN

"The Jolly Tar and the Milkmaid" (from Damsel in Distress)

Jeremy S. Bakken, conductor Audrey Weber, soloist Gino In, soloist MORTEN LAURIDSEN
ARR. IAN FREEBAIRN-SMITH

Where Have the Actors Gone

Jeremy S. Bakken, conductor

MARC SHAIMAN ARR. ROGER EMERSON "You Can't Stop the Beat" (from Hairspray)

Jeremy S. Bakken, conductor

ELTON JOHN ARR. KEITH CHRISTOPHER "Circle of Life"
(from The Lion King)

Choongwoo Steve Ko, conductor

The use of flash cameras, video cameras, and other recording devices is not permitted. Please turn off all cell phones.

Due to safety considerations, members of the audience are not allowed backstage prior to or following performances.

PROGRAM NOTES

MUSIC BY LEONARD BERNSTEIN, LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM ARR. ED LOJESKI Something's Coming/Tonight

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) is one of the most important American musical figures of the 20th century. He is best known for his tenure as conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and for the Broadway sensation *West Side Story*. A charismatic and intense podium presence, extensive international engagements as guest conductor, and numerous recordings of major symphonic works marked his conducting career. His compositions reflect eclectic influences and facility in a variety of styles and genres. He was also an important educator and spokesperson for classical music, effectively using television and pen to engage audiences of all ages.

Bernstein's crowning Broadway achievement, *West Side Story*, is a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Lyricist and composer Stephen Sondheim (b. 1930) made his Broadway debut with his lyrics for West Side Story, launching a successful career. The plot deals with two lovers, each associated with opposing gangs from New York's Upper West Side in the 1950's. Ed Lojeski's arrangement of "Something's Coming" and "Tonight" seamlessly pairs these two selections from Act I. "Something's Coming" is characterized by quick rhythms, frequent meter changes, and metric complexities, the latter often manifested in the interaction between the voices and the piano accompaniment. "Tonight" features warmth and lyricism, as well as frequent tempo changes, capturing both the thrill and wonder of Tony and Maria's new love for one another.

CARL ORFF Carmina Burana

Carl Orff (1895-1982) a German composer who spent most of his life in Munich, began his musical studies at the age of five. He became the Kapellmeister at the Munich Kammerspiele in 1917 and later that year was drafted into the army. After a serious injury ended his involvement in World War I, Orff returned to Munich to focus on composing and conducting and served as chair of composition at the *Hochshule für Musik*. His first success as a composer came with the premiere of *Carmina Burana* in Frankfurt in 1937.

Orff intended *Carmina Burana* to be the first part of the trilogy *Trionf*i, a large-scale theatrical work originally staged for ballet and chorus. According to scholar Nick Strimple, *Carmina Burana* "became one of the most popular twentieth-century works of any kind." Orff set Latin, German and French poetry taken from 13th century German manuscripts containing over 200 poems in various languages. The first and ninth movements, "O Fortuna" and "Reie" have been excerpted for tonight's performance. "O Fortuna" could be described as a repeating theme with some variation. The opening melody is first presented in unison and eventually harmonized with a similar melody a third above. For the final iteration, the soprano melody is sung an octave higher. "Reie" is set to a poem in old German. The skillful use of syncopation, mixed meter, and dialogue between the men and women contribute to the infectious energy of this ninth movement.

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Thamos, King of Egypt

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), one of the most influential musical figures of all time, was born to composer and violinist Leopold Mozart (1719-1789) and Maria Anna Mozart. Mozart demonstrated an extraordinary talent at an early age. He toured several times with his father until 1773, when Prince-Archbishop Hieronymus Colloredo employed him as a Salzburg court musician.

While on tour in 1781, Mozart decided to remain in Vienna as a free-lance musician and his ten years there marked the crowning period of his life as a composer and performer. In 1790 when his health began to decline, Mozart continued to devote his energy to composition. His final work, *Requiem*, remained unfinished at the time of his death.

Tonight's performance will present incidental music written for *Thamos, King of Egypt*, a play by Tobias von Gebler (1720-1786). Mozart began to compose this work as early as 1773, but the last serious revision took place right before he moved to Vienna. King Thamos discovers that his father has stolen the throne from Menes, who is disguised as a priest named Sethos. Thamos falls in love with Sethos' daughter, Menas, but an evil high priestess plots to marry Menas to Pheron. In the end, the high priestess and Pheron die, and Thamos and Menas marry. This chorus in C major begins with the choir praising the ascendance of Thamos as the new king. In the middle section, four soloists add to the celebration. This movement has a symmetrical structure in which the opening chorus returns at the end. Although Mozart originally composed this incidental music in German, it will be sung in English for this performance.

GIUSEPPE VERDI Anvil Chorus

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) is an Italian composer primarily known for his dramatic operas. At the age of four, he began to study music and when he was seven, he was a substitute organist at the church of Saint Michele. In 1825, he began to study with Ferdinando Provesi (1770 ~ 1833), maestro di cappella at Saint Bartolomeo. Verdi began to take private composition lessons from Vincenzo Lavigna (1776-1836) who was the concertmaster at La Scala. After being asked to compose an opera for the Milanese Philharmonic Society, Verdi completed *Oberto, Conte di San Bonifacio* in 1836. The opera premiered at La Scala in 1839 and after the premiere, Verdi stopped composing for a time due to grief over the loss of his son and wife. He began composing again in 1842 and his output includes several operas, his famous choral-orchestral work *Messa di Requiem*, and *Quattro Sacri Pezzi* (Four Sacred Hymns).

Coro di Zingari or Anvil Chorus, is sung by gypsies in Act II, scene I of Il Travatore, Verdi's opera based on the novel El Trovador by Antonio Garcia (1813-1884). With libretto by Salvadore Cammarano (1801-1852), the opera tells the story of the love and revenge of troubadours who were singers in Southern France and Spain in the 15th century. This composition describes the scene as Spanish gypsies start their work at dawn by striking their anvils in the smithy.

STEPHEN SONDHEIM Send in the Clowns

Stephen Sondheim (b. 1930) was born into a well-to-do Jewish family in New York City. His parents divorced when he was ten, and Sondheim moved with his mother to a farm near Doylestown, Pennsylvania. According to the biography by Meryle Secrest, Sondheim described himself as an isolated and emotionally neglected child. Fortunately, Sondheim formed a warm friendship with James Hammerstein, the son of the famed composer Oscar Hammerstein II who took Sondheim under his wing. At Smith College, Sondheim studied with composer Milton Babbitt (1916-2011), with whom he pursued training in both serious and popular genres. Sondheim embarked on his Broadway career with his collaboration as lyricist for West Side Story. Other Sondheim musicals include Follies, A Little Night Music, and Sweeney Todd.

Send in the Clowns is a song from Act II of the 1973 Tony award winning Best Musical A Little Night Music. The female character Desirée sings this song after being rejected by her former lover. Arranged by Mac Huff for choir with piano accompaniment, this four-verse ballade in AABA form has the main melody sung three times in each A section. While the B section is in 12/8, the A sections alternates between 9/8 and 12/8 giving the melody its unique poignancy.

MUSIC BY GEORGE GERSHWIN TEXT BY IRA GERSHWIN The Jolly Tar and the Milkmaid

George Gershwin (1898-1937) was an American composer and pianist whose fame and popularity grew rapidly beginning in the 1920's. He is especially known for his piano and orchestra composition *Rhapsody in Blue* and for his Broadway musical *Porgy and Bess*. Gershwin also wrote numerous songs for vocal performance, for use in films, and for additional Broadway shows, often teaming with his older brother Ira (1896-1983) as lyricist. George died suddenly in 1937 due to a brain tumor, but not before producing an impressive catalog of works for stage, film, orchestra and solo voice, establishing himself as one of the great American composers of the 20th century.

Shortly before George's death, the Gershwin's collaborated on the film *Damsel in Distress* (1936), for which "The Jolly Tar and the Milkmaid" was written. This choral version is not an arrangement but rather was prepared by George himself. The dialogue is between a carefree jolly tar and a married milkmaid. Much of the composition is for a male and a female soloist, with the choir providing punctuation to the humorous exchange. The music is lilting and playful, employing chromatic inflections for color rather than to jar the ear. The form of the composition is ABAB, each section ending with the full chorus repeating the final lyric of the soloist. Gershwin rounds off the work with an extended and harmonically colorful "ah" for the choir that builds to a final climax and a punctuation from the piano.

WORDS AND MUSIC BY MORTEN LAURIDSEN ARR. IAN FREEBAIRN-SMITH Where Have the Actors Gone

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943) is Distinguished Professor of Composition at the USC Thornton School of Music and former composer-in-residence for the Los Angeles Master Chorale. His significant contributions to vocal and choral music are recognized by the regular worldwide performance of his works, hundreds of recordings featuring his compositions, numerous artistic residencies, and his 2007 National Medal of Arts.

The genesis of Where Have the Actors Gone and this arrangement in particular are best described by Lauridsen himself:

My esteem for the great Broadway songwriters has only depended over the years. Their enduring, rich legacy of quintessentially American music has certainly influenced my music during my entire career, especially in the creation of what I hope to have been elegant and gracious lines for those singing my works. "Where Have the Actors Gone" is my contribution to this genre of theater/cabaret songs. The story tells of the end of a love relationship through an allegorical tale of actors bringing their play to a close and parting ways. I asked my good friend Ian Freebairn-Smith to arrange "Actors" in two versions, one with my original piano accompaniment intact

and the second a more expanded version for a cappella jazz choir. His deft, beautifully-crafted renditions now make this song available to choruses as well." (adapted from Front Matter, Where Have the Actors Gone, Peer Music).

Tonight's performance is the former arrangement of the two Lauridsen describes. It features the melody passed around various voice parts, accompanying ooh's, and passages of rich harmonic vocal-writing.

MUSIC BY MARC SHAIMAN LYRICS BY MARC SHAIMAN AND SCOTT WITTMAN ARR. ROGER EMERSON You Can't Stop the Beat

Marc Shaiman (b. 1959) is a composer, arranger, and lyricist who has worked in film, television, on Broadway and for individual artists. Scott Wittman (b. 1955) is a director and lyricist for Broadway, television and individual artists. Shaiman and Wittman collaborate often, with *Hairspray* ranking as one of their most well-known and most award-winning products.

The multiple Tony award-winning musical *Hairspray* enjoyed a successful Broadway run of more than six years. It is based on the 1988 film of the same name. The story is set in the 1960's and addresses a number of social issues through the fictitious lives of teens in Baltimore. "You Can't Stop the Beat" is the final song in the show and is in a driving 60's rock style with much syncopation. Arranger Roger Emerson notes "Energy and drive are the key components of this arrangement and the vocals should be sung with great intensity. Style is more important than accuracy as you recreate the sound of the 1960s." Shaiman and Wittman capture this energy and drive in both the music and the lyrics, the latter of which speak of unstoppable forces in nature and everyday life. The song ends in a repetitious exchange of the phrase "You can't stop the beat" followed by a syncopated drive of the piano to a tremolo chord with final downbeat punctuation.

ELTON JOHN ARR. KEITH CHRISTOPHER Circle of Life

Knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1998, Sir Elton John (b. 1947) is one of England's most successful pop artists. An active singer, producer, and composer, John began playing piano by ear when he was three years old, started formal piano lessons at the age of seven and won a junior scholarship to the Royal Academy when he was eleven. John joined DJM Records in 1968. His first album, released in 1969, made the US top 100. John founded his own recording company, The Rocket Record Company, in 1974. He has released thirty-two solo albums including his February 2016 Wonderful Crazy Night, four collaborative albums, and nine soundtracks, scores, and theater albums and has thirty-seven gold and twenty-seven platinum albums.

The Lion King was an animated film released in 1994 by Walt Disney Pictures. Influenced by William Shakespeare's (1564-1616) Hamlet, the plot is focused on the growth and politics of the lion prince Simba, his father Mufasa, and Simba's uncle Scar who covets Mufasa's throne. The stage musical adaptation of The Lion King premiered in 1998 and is still one of the most popular musicals on Broadway. Circle of Life features music by Elton John, lyrics by Tim Rice (b. 1944) and orchestration by Hans Zimmer (b. 1957).

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Carmina Burana

Reie

Swaz hie gat umbe, daz sint alles megede, die wellent an man allen disen sumer gan!

Ah!. Sla!

Chume, chum, geselle min,

ih enbite harte din.

ih enbite harte din,

chume, chum, geselle min. Suzer rosenvarwer munt, chum un mache mich gesunt

chum un mache mich gesunt, suzer rosenvarwer munt.

Ah!. Sla!

O Fortuna

Swaz hie gat umbe,

daz sint alles megede,

die wellent an man

allen disen sumer gan! O Fortuna

velut luna

statu variabilis.

semper crescis

aut decrescis:

vita detestabilis

nunc obdurat. et tunc curat

ludo mentis aciem,

egestatem,

potestatem

dissolvit ut glaciem.

Sors immanis

et inanis.

rota tu volubilis.

status malus.

vana salus

semper dissolubilis,

obumbrata

et velata

michi quoque niteris;

nunc per ludum

dorsum nudum

fero tui sceleris.

Sors salutis

et virtutis

michi nunc contraria.

est affectus

et defectus

semper in angaria.

Hac in hora

sine mora

corde pulsum tangite; quod per sortem

sternit fortem.

mecum omnes plangite!

Those who go round and round

are all maidens,

they want to do without a man

all summer long.

Ah! Sla!

Come, come, my love,

I long for you,

I long for you,

come, come, my love.

Sweet rose-red lips,

come and make me better,

come and make me better.

sweet rose-red lips.

Ah!. Sla!

Those who go round and round

are all maidens.

they want to do without a man

all summer long. Ah! Sla! O Fortune,

like the moon

you are changeable,

ever waxing

and waning:

hateful life

first oppresses

and then soothes as fancy takes it;

poverty

and power it melts them like ice.

Fate - monstrous

and empty.

you whirling wheel,

you are malevolent,

well-being is vain

and always fades to nothing,

shadowed

and veiled

you plague me too;

now through the game

I bring my bare back

to your villainy.

Fate is against me

in health

and virtue.

driven on

and weighted down,

always enslaved.

So at this hour without delay

pluck the vibrating strings;

since Fate

strikes down the strong man.

everyone weep with me!

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



SHOU PING LIU

Born in Taiwan, Ms. Shou Ping Liu won several national piano competitions before she came to the United States. In 2002, Ms. Liu came to Boston under the support of the Talent and Merit Scholarship from New England Conservatory to pursue her undergraduate studies in piano performance. After graduating from New England Conservatory, Ms. Liu discovered her passion for conducting. Her conducting teachers have included Dr. Robert Page, Dr. Timothy Russell, Dr. William Reber, and Dr. Larry

Livingston. Ms. Liu is currently enrolled in the University of Southern California, where she is completing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting.

Before moving to Los Angeles, Ms. Liu served as the assistant conductor for the Lyric Opera Theater in Arizona. She was also the founder of a string chamber orchestra when she taught at New England Conservatory. Ms. Liu has been invited to conduct in venues including Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, Carnegie Music Hall in Pennsylvania, Clay Concert Theater in West Virginia, and Gammage Auditorium in Arizona. She continues to divide her career between the United States and Taiwan, where she is regularly invited for lectures and masterclasses. This past summer, Ms. Liu was selected to be one of the six conductors who participated in the Oregon Bach Festival under the tutelage of Helmuth Rilling. Since then she was engaged in a concert of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 with the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra in Georgia. Her upcoming engagements include performances with the Wintergreen Festival Orchestra under the guidance of Maestro Victor Yampolsky this coming July.



JEREMY S. BAKKEN CONDUCTOR

Jeremy S. Bakken (b. 1981) is a 3rd-year DMA student in the USC Thornton Department of Choral and Sacred Music. In addition to serving as co-conductor for the University Chorus during the 2015-16 school year, Bakken's teaching assistant assignment is with the USC Thornton Chamber Singers. He is studying conducting, sacred music, composition, and theory pedagogy as part of his USC degree plan. Bakken is a published composer and active church musician. He also serves as part of a team developing a new hymnal for the Lutheran church and performs

with the Milwaukee-based Christian music group Branches Band when his schedule allows. Bakken holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting and Composition from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque (2013) and a Bachelor of Science in Music and Mathematics from Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee (2004).



CHOONGWOO STEVE KO

CONDUCTOR

Choongwoo Steve Ko is a candidate for the Master of Music in Choral Music at the University of Southern California, where he studies with Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, Dr. Nick Strimple, Dr. Cristian Grases, Dr. Tram Sparks, and Dr. Morten Lauridsen. He holds a B. S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, where he first performed major choral-orchestral works with Dr. Jerry Blackstone. Following his passion in music, Mr. Ko earned a second bachelor's degree, in music, at

Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. At EMU, he studied voice with Dr. MeeAe Cecilia Nam, piano with Dr. Hyun-jin Lim, and conducting with Dr. Beth Everett and Mary Schneider. In 2013, he participated in the Choral Conducting Symposium at University of Michigan with Dr. Jerry Blackstone, Dr. Eugene Rogers, and Dr. Julie Skadsem.

As a vocalist, Mr. Ko has performed as countertenor and tenor soloist in Baroque oratorios and choral masterworks with numerous church choirs, including First Presbyterian Church Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor Hope Church, and St. James United Church of Christ. Also, Mr. Ko performed as an ensemble member with various choirs, such as the University of Michigan Choral Union, and Chamber Choir at Eastern Michigan University. He has sung under the baton of Hans Graf, Peter Oundjian, and many other conductors. Mr. Ko has also been featured in concerts as a pianist. As a conductor, he has conducted several youth choirs at Ann Arbor Hope Church, as well as serving the Ann Arbor United Korean Youth Orchestra as conductor and arranger.

As a member of USC Thornton Chamber Singers, Steve Ko sang at the American Choral Directors' Association 2015 National Convention in Salt Lake City under the direction of Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, and continues this year as a member of the USC Chamber Singers. Also at USC, Ko is the Assistant Conductor of the University Chorus.



NAN DENG

PIANIST

Nan Deng's musical studies began at the age of four in China, first on the piano and later voice. Over the years, Deng has won numerous local piano competitions and performed as a solo pianist. She was accepted into Xinghai Conservatory of Music in 2007, and received her Bachelor of Music degree in music education, with emphasis in piano performance.

In May of 2014, she obtained her Master of Music degree from California State University Northridge, where she studied with Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov. She is currently pursuing the Master of Music degree in Keyboard Collaborative Arts at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, under the tutelage of Dr. Alan Smith.

PERSONNEL

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ALTO

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TENOR

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Wong, On Chit Andrea	Undergraduate: Junior	B.S. Economics and Mathematics	Hong Kong, China

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UPCOMING EVENTS

APOLLO MEN'S CHORUS & ORIANA WOMEN'S CHOIR: SHINE ON!

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 7:30 P.M. Alfred Newman Recital Hall

The Oriana Women's Choir & Apollo Men's Chorus offer a concert program featuring works by Bob Chilcott, Aaron Copland, Claude Debussy, Henry Purcell, and Joseph Martin.

MUSIC@RUSHHOUR: APOLLO MEN'S CHORUS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 5 P.M. Simon Ramo Recital Hall

The Apollo Men's Chorus makes their triumphant return to Music@RushHour, ending the concert season with a flourish with their distinctive take on choral music from classical to contemporary. Don't miss this exciting finale!

USC THORNTON CONCERT CHOIR: LUX MUSICA

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016 – 7:30 P.M. Alfred Newman Recital Hall

The USC Thornton Concert Choir will give musical form to light in all of its spectral glory, performing works by Mozart, Barber and Paulus, among others FREE, Reservations required, email uschoral@usc.edu

PIATIGORSKY INTERNATIONAL CELLO FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2016 – 8:00 P.M. Bovard Auditorium

The USC Thornton Chamber Singers will join featured artists at the Piatigorsky International Cello Festival for an evening recital, performing Sofia Gubaidulina's Canticle of the Sun for cello, chamber choir, and percussion.

Tickets: https://piatigorskyfestival.usc.edu/tickets/

CHORAL AND SACRED MUSIC STUDENT RECITALS

LORRY BLACK, DMA RECITAL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016 – 7:30 P.M. Temple Etz Chaim 1080 E. Janss Rd. Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

AMBER KIM, DMA RECITAL

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016 – 4:00 P.M. Wewman Resital Hall, USC

