

GREAT RIVER CHORALE, a 50-voice adult community choir based in St. Cloud, Minnesota, was founded in 2001 and has been the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra's principal choral partner since 2013. The choir has distinguished itself by its commitment to artistic excellence, collaborations with local and regional artists, and commissions of new music from Minnesota composers including René Clausen, Timothy Takach, David Dickau and Laura Caviani. Great River Chorale has been selected four times (in 2019, '17, '15 and '13) for inclusion on Classical Minnesota Public Radio's "Taste of the Holidays" CD featuring "Minnesota's best regional ensembles." Great River Chorale was the only choir outside the Twin Cities metro area to perform virtually in Chorus America's 2021 National Conference, and was one of ten Minnesota choirs to headline the 2015 Northern Voice Festival in the Twin Cities.

STEPHEN HAMILTON has earned critical acclaim as a distinguished and sought-after virtuoso concert organist for over forty years. Dr. Hamilton's numerous international performances include concerts at Westminster Abbey and Saint Paul Cathedral in London, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Saint Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, and the Cathedral of Saint James in Regensburg. He has presented hundreds of solo recitals in the United States at major venues including Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C., and Saint John the Divine, Riverside Church, Saint Thomas Church, and Saint Ignatius Loyola in New York City. Stephen Hamilton is Minister of Music Emeritus at the Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal) in New York City, and was a faculty artist at Hunter College, Manhattan School of Music, and Queens College. An Iowa native, Hamilton now resides in Minneapolis and maintains an active performing schedule.

RENÉ CLAUSEN, conductor emeritus of The Concordia Choir, is internationally renowned as a premiere conductor, composer and arranger. Dr. Clausen held the Paul and Eleanor Christiansen Endowed Chair in Choral Music at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN where he taught from 1986 to 2020 and continued The Concordia Choir's tradition of excellence while furthering its reputation for aesthetic expression, tonal refinement, and technical skill. He was the artistic director of the nationally broadcast and twice Emmy® award-winning Concordia Christmas concerts. His varied and eclectic compositional style ranges from works for high school and church choirs to technically demanding compositions for college and professional choirs. Clausen is recipient of the American Choral Directors Association Midwest Region's 2018 Weston Noble Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2017 Alumni Achievement Award from Saint Olaf College, and the 2012 Washington and Lee University Award for Excellence in the Arts.

MARY KAY GESTON, conductor and artistic managing director of Great River Chorale, has led the choir since 2010. Dr. Geston taught at universities in MN, WI, CO, and SD for thirty-one years and conducted the MMTA Honors Concert from 2013-19. Choirs under her direction have performed at state and regional ACDA and MMEA conferences and with the Minnesota Orchestra. She has conducted all-state and honor choirs in CO, KY, MN, NE, ND, SD and WI, has been a clinician in Taiwan and South Korea, and has presented at state, regional and national conferences of ACDA, AGO, NAFME and NATS. She has held many leadership roles in ACDA at the state and regional levels, and received ACDA-MN's 2012 Choral Director of the Year award.

BARBARA BROOKS, collaborative pianist, is a Twin Cities-based vocal coach and pianist who has worked with opera companies in the USA and Canada. Ms. Brooks is on staff at the Wesley Balk Opera/Music Theatre Institute and has been a music director for Theatre de la Jeune Lune and The Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company, and an opera coach at universities in Texas, Colorado and Minnesota. Barb has studied with György Sándor, Martin Isepp, and at England's Britten-Pears School.

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In Every Corner Sing

Sunday, May 1, 2022 – 2 p.m.
Saint John's University Abbey Church
Collegeville, MN



Stephen Hamilton
guest organist



René Clausen
composer-in-residence

Mary Kay Geston, *conductor*
Barbara Brooks, *collaborative pianist*
Anne Rhodes, *ASL interpreter*



The Program

Antiphon (Let all the world)

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)
Words: George Herbert (1593 – 1633)

Stephen Hamilton, *organ*

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!
The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly,
the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!
The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out;
but, above all, the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

The Gift to Sing

Music: René Clausen (b. 1953)
Words: James Weldon Johnson (1871 – 1938)

Composed for Great River Chorale in loving memory of Connie Taylor.
Deborah Ferrell, *soprano*

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,
And blackening clouds about me cling;
But, oh, I have a magic way
To turn the gloom to cheerful day—
I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still,
Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing,
With glad defiance in my throat,
I pierce the darkness with a note,
And sing, and sing.

I brood not over the broken past,
Nor dread whatever time may bring;
No nights are dark, no days are long,
While in my heart there swells a song,
And I can sing.

When music sounds

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)
Words: Walter de la Mare (1873 – 1956)

Barbara Brooks, *piano*

When music sounds, gone is the earth I know,
And all her lovely things even lovelier grow;
Her flowers in vision flame, her forest trees
Lift burdened branches, stilled with ecstasies.

When music sounds, out of the water rise
Naiads whose beauty dims my waking eyes,
Rapt in strange dreams burns each enchanted face,
With solemn echoing stirs their dwelling-place.

When music sounds, all that I was I am
Ere to this haunt of brooding dust I came;
And from Time's woods break into distant song
The swift-winged hours, as I hasten along.

Trois Paraphrases Gregoriennes

3. Hymne d'action de Grace "Te Deum"

Jean Langlais (1907 – 1991)

Stephen Hamilton, *organ*

Seek him that maketh the seven stars

Music: Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)
Words: Amos 5:8, Psalm 139

Stephen Hamilton, *organ*

Seek Him that maketh the seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,
the night is light about me. Amen.

Angelis suis Deus

Music: Vytautas Miškinis (b. 1954)
Words: Psalm 90, adapted

*Angelis suis Deus mandavit de te,
Ut custodiant te in omnibus viis tuis.
In manibus portabunt te, ne unquam offendas
Ad lapidem pedem tuum.*

God has given his angels charge over you,
That they may keep you in all your ways.
In their hands they shall bear you up, lest
You dash your foot against a stone.

Even Now

Music: René Clausen
Words: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8

Composed for Great River Chorale in loving memory of Connie Taylor.
Stephen Hamilton, *organ*

For I am even now being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my leaving is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is prepared for me the crown of righteousness, that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day—not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

In paradisum (from Requiem, Op. 48)

*In paradisum deducant angeli
in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres
et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.
Chorus angelorum te suscipiant
et cum Lazaro quondam pauper
aeternam habeas requiem.*

May the angels lead you into paradise;
may the martyrs greet you at your arrival
and lead you into the holy city of Jerusalem.
May the choir of angels greet you
and like Lazarus, who once was a poor man,
may you have eternal rest.

Music: Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924)
Words: Antiphon from the Burial Rite

Prelude and Fugue in B Major, Opus 36 No. 1

Stephen Hamilton, *organ*

Marcel Dupré (1886 – 1971)

The Singer's Dance

Ana Miller, *soprano* | Barbara Brooks, *piano*

The leaves have fallen away, and dance
to the wind-song in the garden,
and through new naked trees, we see
the two great rivers in their beauty
and restless power. The driven clouds
burn like comets in our aerial ocean,
the air is alight with the cries of birds
flocking southwards like the music
once exiled from the heart, yet our hearts
erupt and here, on this wind-driven hill
we are drawn to the centre of the dance,
and we know we are helplessly singing,
seeking whatever in us we cannot stop,
the song ceaseless, leaping, our utter yes.

Hymn to a New Age

Stephen Hamilton, *organ*

Words and music: Lee Hoiby (1926 – 2011)

Through the long night we have come
The sun is bright, the wars are done
We will unite
We will be one
A new light has begun

God's loving kingdom come to us
The gift of life and the gift of freedom
Now shall peace reign
Truth be revealed
And all wounds be healed
So was it ever meant to be
Resplendant hope of humankind
To follow with the dove
The way of peace
The way of love

Smile, heaven, on our loving land
Shine blessings on our fair kingdom
Enrich our time to come
With growing love
With joy abundant
And long, prosperous days

So shall it be
So shall it be
So shall it ever be

God's blessings are renewed again
The face of freedom is revealed in sunlight
Now sing in praise of life
With poems praise
With voices praise
With drums, with trumpets praise

GREAT RIVER CHORALE

Mary Kay Geston,* *conductor and artistic managing director* | Barbara Brooks,* *collaborative pianist*

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Dené Dryden
Deborah Ferrell
Amanda Koubsky*
Nina Lasceski, OSB*
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Ana Miller
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Paul Houston
Mark Nelson*
Aelred Senna, OSB
Mike Stadther
Don Waage
Barry Toland
Chuck Wright

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