

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."

Dear Friends,

When we see this signature Star Wars crawl, we know that we will follow it into the distance as it recedes, into a different reality where "normal" no longer applies. Classic science fiction. And yet . . .

The word "apocalypse" usually refers to a time in which life as we know it falls apart, leaving us utterly without control. The original Greek root means "to uncover, reveal, or disclose." One TED speaker referred to it as "the loss of all we take for granted." Sound familiar?

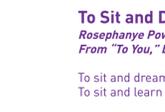
Interestingly, all major religious traditions, and many secular myths as well, teach us that apocalyptic events are designed to ensure a radical rearrangement of life priorities; i.e., falling apart, but for the sake of waking up to what we would otherwise not have understood about ourselves. We can probably all think of times in which we felt as if life as we knew it was falling apart. But what if the whole world were to have such an experience all at the same time?! Oh, Right.

So, within Ember, we've been trying to look at these months of COVID impact as an invitation to greater depth. We ask ourselves questions. (In April), we asked what old norms we have RELEASED or learned to hold more lightly, some permanently. And today, we pose the question, "How do we EMERGE with greater wisdom and understanding?"

One thing seems clear: We are all in this together. And we live best when we are our best – individually within ourselves, in relationship with each other, in harmony with all that is natural in this particular galaxy. And we believe that singing can activate a most authentic, Whole human experience, in that it is fully sensory, physical, emotional, relational, as well as intellectual; FAR beyond Descartes' limiting philosophy, "I think, therefore I am."

And so we reach out in song. It is our work toward greater Wholeness for all of us as we, collectively, EMERGE from behind both tangible and metaphorical "masks." We'll see you along the road, the road home from "far, far away," to our very own galaxy, if one apocalyptically altered.

In bright aspiration,


Dr. Deborah Simpkin King, Founding Artistic Director
Ember Choral Arts
Product of Schola Cantorum on Hudson

For reasons of health safety, Ember has been performing this season with approximately half of its usual number of singers, and has entertained no new auditions. Assuming accelerating vaccination rates locally, we anticipate opening auditions over the summer. Watch for announcements, or feel free to reach out at any time to let us know of your interest. info@ScholaOnHudson.org

EMERGE

I. ASPIRATIONAL DREAMING

Bright Morning Stars (2005)

*Shawn Kirchner, arr.
Traditional Appalachian Song
John Maderazo, baritone*

Bright morning stars are rising; Day is a-breaking in my soul.
O where are our dear fathers? Day is a-breaking in my soul.
They are down in the valley praying. Day is a-breaking in my soul.

O where are our dear mothers? Day is a-breaking in my soul.
They have gone to heaven shouting. Day is a-breaking in my soul.

O where are our dear children? Day is a-breaking in my soul.
They're upon the earth a-dancing. Day is a-breaking in my soul.

Bright morning stars are rising; Day is a-breaking in my soul.

To Sit and Dream (1994)

*Rosephanye Powell
From "To You," by Langston Hughes*

To sit and dream, to sit and read,
To sit and learn about the world.

Outside our world of here and now-
Our problem world.

To dream of vast horizons of the soul
Through dreams made whole,
Unfettered, free, help me!
All you who are dreamers, too,
Help me to make our world anew.

I reach out my hand to you.

II. SEARCHING FOR WISDOM

And Einstein Said (2016)

*Trent Worthington
Sayings of Albert Einstein*

One - There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle, the other is as though everything is a miracle.

Two - When you're courting a nice girl, an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder, a second seems like an hour. That's relativity.

Three - That deep emotional conviction of the presence of a superior power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God.

Four - The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe. The solution to this problem lies in the heart of man.

Five - Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count. And everything that counts cannot be necessarily counted.

Six - The simplest way . . . God always takes the simplest way.

Unicornis Captivatur (2001)

*Ola Gjelle
Excerpts from the Engelberg Codex; ca. 1400, Switzerland*

Unicornis captivatur,
Aute regum presentatur
Venatorum laqueo.
Palo serpents est levatus
Medicatur sauciatius
Veneno vipereo.

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.

Refrain: Alleluia canite,
Agno morienti,
Alleluia pangite,
Alleluia promite
Leoni vincenti.

Refrain: Sing Alleluia
To the dying lamb;
Sing Alleluia,
Cry Alleluia,
To the victorious Lion.

Pellicano vulnerato
Vita redit pro peccato
Necce stratis misera,
Phos fenicis est exusta,
Concremanturque vetusta
Macrocosmi scelera.

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. *Refrain*

Idrus intrat crocodillum,
Extris privat, necat illum,
Vivus inde rediens,
Tris diebus dormitavit
Leo, quem resuscitavit
Basileus rugiens.

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. *Refrain*

You Are the Music (2008)

*Dan Farrest
"Listening" by Amy Lowell
Anna Willson, soprano*

'Tis you that are the music, not your song.
The song is but a dent which, opening wide,
Lets forth the poet-up melody inside,
Your spirit's harmony, which clear and strong
Sings but of you

Throughout your whole life long
Your songs, your thoughts, your doings each divide,
This perfect beauty,
Waves within a tide,
Or single notes amid a glorious throng.

The song of earth has many different chords; ('Tis you)
Ocean has many moods, and many tones,
Yet always ocean.
So is this One music, with a thousand cadences.

'Tis you that are the music, not your song . . .

III. BASIC TRUTHS

I Believe (2012)

*Mark A. Miller
Anonymous Jewish poem
Ruston Ropac, mezzo*

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.
I believe in love, even when I don't feel it.
I believe in God, even when God is silent.

Sound Over All Waters

*William V. Malpede
John Greenleaf Whittier*

Sound over all waters reach out from all the lands.
Sing chorus of voices, the clapping of hands.
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn.
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born.

Sound all the peoples, the marches of peace,
All speech flow to music the long quarrel cease
Sing with gladness the song that the angels began
Sing glory to God, and goodwill unto man!

With glad jubilations, bring hope to the nations,
The dark night is ending, and dawn has begun!

Sound over all waters reach out from all the lands.
Sing chorus of voices, the clapping of hands.
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn.
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born.

Rise hope of the ages, rise like the sun
Speech flow to music and all hearts beat as one

With glad jubilations, bring hope to the nations,
The dark night is ending, and dawn has begun!

IV. TOWARD WHOLENESS

The Spaces in Between Us (2010)

*Jan Garrett, JD Martin, Lisa Aschmann
Larry Nickel, arr.
Ilana Worrell and Mark Aro, soloists*

If I could give one gift to you, as solid as the morning dew,
A window pane the light shines through; the spaces in between us.

A gift for you my heart would bring; the sweet release of everything
The breath I take before I sing; the spaces in between us.

Trusting in what might arise without a thought preceding,
As simple as a baby's sigh, resting and receiving.

It's not what keeps our souls apart, but what connects and dreams us,
The vast potential of the heart; the spaces in between us.

I offer what my heart has found; the silent love that's all around
A symphony without a sound; the spaces in between us.

If I could give you more than this, let it be Forever's kiss,
Mindful of my mindlessness; the spaces in between us.

He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother (1969/2010)

*Bob Russell andobby Scott
Mac Huff, arr.
Christopher Tefft, baritone*

The road is long with many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where, who knows when.
But I'm strong, strong enough to carry him.
He ain't heavy, he's my brother.

So on't we go. His welfare is my concern;
No burden is he to bear, we'll get there.
For I know he would not encumber me.
He ain't heavy, he's my brother.

If I'm laden at all, I'm laden with sadness
That ev'ry one's heart isn't filled with the gladness of love for one another.

It's a long, long road from which there is no return,
While we're on the way to there, why not share.
And the load doesn't weigh me down at all.
He ain't heavy, he's my brother.

Bridge Over Troubled Water

*Paul Simon
Vince Peterson, arr (2013); after Aretha Franklin*

Don't trouble the waters. Leave it on! Yeah!
Still waters run deep, yes they do! Oh! Yeah!

When you're down and out. When you're on the street,
When evening falls so hard, I will be there to comfort you.
I'll take your part When darkness comes, and pain is all around,
Like a bridge over troubled water, I will ease you down.

Don't trouble . . .

Sail on silver girl. Sail on by. Your time has come to shine.
All of your dreams are on their way. See how they shine!
If you ever need a friend, I'm sailing right behind.
Like a bridge over troubled water, I will ease your mind.

I'll lay me down.

Ember Singers

Mark Aro	Taylor Pitts	Karen Lea Siegel
Susan Baer	Sei Young Pyo	Virginia Steindorf
Mark Davies	Amanda Regan	Christopher Tefft
Chris Howatt	Ruston Ropac	Alexander Wentworth
Pamela Jones	Caroline Sargent	Julian Whitley
Gordon King	Romana Schaeffer	Anna Willson
John Maderazo	Alison Self	Ilana Worrell

Biographies

ABOUT EMBER (SCHOLA CANTORUM ON HUDSON)
Founded in 1995 as an independent 501c3, the Schola Choral Arts organization has grown in depth and influence. It performs (as Ember) its full season in both Manhattan and northern New Jersey, and enjoys international recognition for its work in advocacy of new choral music. The organization is home to PROJECT : ENCORE, which serves as a bridge connecting composers with conductors who seek new music of exceptional quality.

Fundamental to Schola's core values is the belief that music has a unique power to affect the human heart and soul, inviting each of us to become fully aware, mindful individuals. It is part of Schola's mission to extend the role of Art beyond that of its own intrinsic value, leveraging it to bring visibility and expansive thinking to issues of human significance.

Core to the mission of Ember and Schola Cantorum on Hudson is to bring innovative programs designed to touch lives, inspire leadership through promotion of new music and enhance meaningful engagement with young singers. For more information visit www.EmberEnsemble.org.

Deborah Simpkin King, Ph.D., is a visionary choral conductor, new music advocate, and master teacher. She plays an active role in the vibrant Manhattan choral scene and serves the national and international music community through her guest conducting and body of published work.

Her leadership as a conductor is ongoing with not only her own choral ensembles, but also within Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival and other guest conducting appearances.

Schola is the parent organization of PROJECT : ENCORE™, an international advocacy initiative founded by Dr. King that promotes post-premiere performances of new music. Through PROJECT : ENCORE, she is at the leading edge of the new music industry, working with composers in finding post-premiere performances, and performing many premieres and second performances herself.

Supplementing her work in the not-for-profit and professional conducting arena, Dr. King frequently works as a professor and as a director of music within church programs. She has guided several university choral programs through times of transition, most recently serving as the Interim Director of Choral Activities at William Paterson University (WPU). Currently, Dr. King is the Music Director of the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township.

Dr. King is a frequent guest conductor. She was one of five conductors chosen to work with Simon Halsey in the 2016 premiere preparation and performance of David Lang's new commission, "the public domain," calling for 1000 voices, in celebration of the 50-year anniversary of Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival. She served similarly in 2018's "Mostly Mozart Festival for the premiere by John Luther Adams of "In the Name of the Earth." She also recently guest conducted for the Tlaxcala Canta choral festival in Tlaxcala, Mexico.

As an ongoing columnist with ACDA's *The Choral Journal*, and host of choir radio's Sounds Choral, Dr. King serves the music community worldwide. King is Chairwoman of the New York Choral Consortium (NYCC), and a frequent presenter at professional conferences on choral consortia and new music.

Matthew Oden [Collaborative Accompanist] Pianist and composer, Matthew is equally comfortable providing Baroque continuo accompaniment on period instruments and touring with pop stars; playing ragtime piano to tipsy revelers in crowded bars and leading liturgy the following morning, Matthew Oden, pianist, has performed myriad roles in varied situations. A native of San Diego, he studied classical piano at the University of Southern California and has since worked as a freelance musician, musical director, arranger and composer in Los Angeles and New York.

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AUDITION FOR EMBER

Interested in joining Ember? Auditions this Summer!

Our core belief is that music has a unique power to affect the human heart and soul. Ember is committed to excellence in:

- Innovative programming and performance
- Leadership through promotion and performance of new choral music
- Vibrant, creative engagement with young artists

Ember singers include a high percentage of active professional musicians, young emerging professionals, and experienced avocational musicians. Solo technique is supported Ember's approach to tone. Singers come from an exceptionally wide geographical radius from both sides of the Hudson River. Ember is a full-season performing resident of both New York and New Jersey. All of our rehearsal and performance venues are highly accessible via mass transit.

Do you read music? Do you have vocal training? Do you have previous choral experience? Are you interested in a wide range of musical expression? Then Ember might be for you!

Visit emberensemble.org/auditions for more information.

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