

Pierre-Auguste Renoir, detail from *Wheatfield*, 1879.



P R E S E N T S

GUEST CONCERT

# THE BRIGHT FIELD

**Clerestory**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 3 P.M.

SCHROEDER HALL



David and Absalom, Rembrandt



St. Peter's Basilica, Michelangelo



Bacchus, Michelangelo



Venus de Milo, Alexandros of Antioch



David, Michelangelo



Creation of Adam, Michelangelo



*Presented by Sonoma Bach in association with the Green Music Center*

*Guest Recital:*  
**The Bright Field**

FEATURING

**Clerestory**

Saturday, February 16, 2019  
Schroeder Hall, Green Music Center  
Sonoma State University

# Guest Recital: The Bright Field

*“Light in nature creates the movement of colors.”*  
—Robert Delaunay, French artist (1885-1941)

My mother is a painter, as was her mother, my grandmother. When I was young, our house was filled with art: watercolors, oils, and pastels. Another feature of my childhood was joining an English cathedral-style choir when I was seven—first as a boy treble, then as a countertenor alto. Week after week, we sang the music of Tallis, Palestrina, Howells, and all the great choral composers. This became the musical tapestry of my formative years.

Despite the early “impressions” art and music made on me at an early age, I only became interested in their intersections more recently. In the case of the early music that comprises most of this program, the connection is common inspiration. Renaissance art and music both drew heavily on themes from the Bible, and from the Nativity to the Last Supper to tales from the Old Testament, we find artistic expression not just in the music echoing around the great cathedrals, but sometimes in the cathedrals themselves—for example, St. Peter’s Basilica (designed in part by Michelangelo) and the Sistine Chapel’s paintings and frescoes.

In the case of the more contemporary compositions on our program, the inspiration of the musician by the artist, as was the case of Pärt and Richter, was direct. Bay Area composer Allen Shearer and French painter Marcel Duchamp are connected by a third creative mind, X. J. Kennedy, who wrote the poem “Nude Descending a Staircase” five decades after the painting and two decades before the choral piece that borrows its lyrics.

Leonardo da Vinci was apparently a good musician, despite considering it a lower form of art because of its impermanence. I beg to differ. I think the fleeting nature of the interaction between musicians and audience in a performance is the purest moment of creative expression. Something is expressed, something is heard, and something is felt, all at the same time, all together.

Before I get out of my depth, on to some other business. We hope that the color images that are included in this program help you visualize the art you’re “hearing.” It wouldn’t seem right not to show you these masterpieces as you hear the music we have paired with them.

We’d love to see you again soon at our final concerts of this 13th season of Clerestory. On May 11 and 12 the men of Clerestory will share the latest in our long-running “Americana” series with more favorites from the Great American Songbook, as well as other great works in the choral canon of our nation.

Jesse Antin  
Clerestory Founder

# Guest Recital: The Bright Field

Related artwork listed below in italics

## *“Every Block of Stone...”*

Bacche, Bene Venies.....Chant  
*Bacchus, Michelangelo*

Tu Es Petrus.....Giovanni da Palestrina (1525-1594)  
*St. Peter's Basilica, Michelangelo*

Venus, Ung Jour.....Robert Meigret (1508-1568)  
*Venus de Milo, Alexandrus of Antioch*



## *The Old Testament*

Adam Lay Ybounden.....Boris Ord (1897-1961)  
*Creation of Adam, Michelangelo*

Absalon Fili Mi.....Josquin des Prez (1450-1521)  
*David and Absalom, Rembrandt*

When David Heard.....Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)  
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## *Saviour of the World*

Salvator Mundi, Domine.....John Sheppard (1515-1558)  
*Salvator Mundi, Leonardo da Vinci*

O Saviour of the World (from *Requiem*) .....Herbert Howells (1892-1983)  
*Salvator Mundi, Leonardo da Vinci*



## *The Last Supper*

O Sacrum Convivium.....Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)  
*L'Ultima Cena, Leonardo da Vinci*



## *INTERMISSION*



O Sacrum Convivium.....Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)  
*L'Ultima Cena, Leonardo da Vinci*



### ***Scenes from the Nativity***

The Annunciation.....Jesse Antin (b.1977)  
*Ecce Ancilla Domini, Dante Gabriel Rossetti*

The Three Kings.....Jonathan Dove (b.1959)  
*The Adoration of the Magi, Botticelli*



### ***Modern Masters***

O Sweet Kiss.....Alfonso Ferrabosco (1575-1628)  
*The Kiss, Gustav Klimt*

Drei Hortenkinder aus Fatima.....Avro Pärt (b.1935)  
*Birkenau/Doppelgrau, Gerhard Richter*

El Grito.....Einojuhani Rautavaara (1928-2016)  
*The Scream, Edvard Munch*

Nude Descending a Staircase .....Allen Shearer (b.1943)  
*Nude Descending a Staircase, Marcel Duchamp*



### ***Dreams of Flying***

Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine.....Eric Whitacre (b.1970)  
*Sketches, Leonardo da Vinci*



Leonardo da Vinci's Flying Machine

# Notes, Texts and Translations

## **Bacche, Bene Venies.....Chant**

*Bacche, bene venies gratus et optatus,  
per quem noster animus fit letificatus.*

*Istud vinum, bonum vinum, vinum generosum,  
reddit virum curialem, probum, animosum.*

*Iste cyphus concavus de bono mero profluus  
siquis bibit sepius satur fit et ebrius.*

*Hec sunt vasa regia quibus spoliatur  
Ierusalem et regalis babilon ditatur.*

*Ex hoc cypho conscii bibent sui domini,  
bibent sui socii, bibent et amici.*

*Bacchus forte superans pectora virorum  
in amorem concitat animos eorum.*

*Bacchus sepe visitans mulierum genus  
facit eas subditas tibi, o tu Venus.*

*Bacchus venas penetrans calido liquore  
facit eas igneas Veneris ardore.*

*Bacchus lenis leniens curas et dolores  
confert iocum, gaudia, risus et amores.*

*Bacchus mentem femine solet hic lenire  
cogit eam citius viro consentire.*

*Bacchus illam facile solet expugnare,  
a qua prorsus coitum nequit impetrare.*

*Bacchus numen faciens hominem iocundum,  
reddit eum pariter doctum et facundum.*

*Bacche, deus inclite, omnes hic astantes  
leti sumus munera tua prelibantes.*

*Omnes tibi canimus maxima preconia,  
te laudantes merito tempora per omnia.*

Bacchus, well pleasing and desired,  
through whom our spirits are made joyful.

This wine, good wine, kindly wine,  
makes a man courtly, fine, and spirited.

This empty cup overflows with good wine;  
one who drinks much will be sated and drunk.

These are the royal cups by which despoiled  
was Jerusalem and royal Babylon enriched.

From this cup let lords drink,  
let allies drink, and let friends drink.

Bacchus, casually conquering the hearts of men,  
stirs their spirits to love.

Bacchus often visiting womankind  
makes them subject to you, O Venus.

Bacchus fills the veins with hot liquid;  
sets them afire with the heat of Venus.

Bacchus gently alleviates worries and pains  
and brings jollity, joy, laughter and love.

Bacchus usually appeases a woman's mind  
and compels her husband to agree quickly.

Bacchus makes it easy to capture  
her whom you wish to obtain.

Bacchus is the god who makes man happy,  
and makes him equally learned and eloquent.

Bacchus, god of all of us standing here,  
we are happy offering gifts to you.

All sing you the highest praises;  
you deserve praise from everyone at all times

"Bacche, bene venies" is number 200 in the collection *Carmina burana*, a 13th-century German manuscript containing over 200 Latin secular poems of the 12th century, as well as some poems in Medieval German. About one-fourth of the poems have melodies indicated in non-diastematic neumes, a notation that was old even for the 13th century, but transcription was facilitated through comparisons to examples of the same poems and melodies in French and English Manuscripts. One of the 40 drinking songs in *Carmina burana*, "Bacche, bene venies" alternates a refrain noting that wine "makes a man courtly, fine and spirited" with verses that speak of the affects of Bacchus as made manifest through wine. For instance, one verse describes how Bacchus, in the form of wine, enters people's veins and sparks the "heat of Venus."



**Tu Es Petrus.....Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c.1525-94)**

*Tu es Petrus,  
et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam  
et portae inferi non praevallebunt adversus eam.  
Et tibi dabo claves  
regni caelorum.  
Quodcumque ligaveris super terram,  
erit ligatum et in caelis,  
et quodcumque solveris super terram,  
erit solutum et in caelis.  
Et tibi dabo claves  
regni caelorum.*

You are Peter,  
And upon this rock I will build my church:  
and the gates of hell shall not overcome it.  
And I will give you the keys  
to the kingdom of heaven.  
Whatever you bind upon earth  
shall be bound in heaven,  
and whatever you release upon earth  
shall be released in heaven,  
and I will give you the keys  
to the kingdom of Heaven.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525–94), spent nearly all of his life in Rome, and about 27 years of his career working at St. Peter's. His six-voice setting of *Tu es Petrus*, with a text from Matthew 16:18–19, was published in 1572 in his second volume of motets (he had set the text three years earlier for seven voices). *Tu es Petrus* features many of Palestrina's signature characteristics, such as the tendency to have full harmonies at nearly every moment, a setting that makes the text easy to understand, and motivic ideas that are shared between voices and that move from one idea to the next seamlessly. Although set for six voices, it is rare that all six sound simultaneously. The piece opens with the three highest voices, which then drop out as the three lowest voices imitate them. At "*et portae inferni*" (at the gates of hell) we find strict imitation between the two alto parts and among the paired tenor and second bass with the baritone and first bass.



**Venus, Ung Jour.....Robert Meigret (1508-68)**

*Venus, ung jour, en veneur se déguise,  
prend une trompe et l'épieu furieux.  
Le long d'ung bois, Cupido advise  
qui enpennoit deux traits bien dangereux.  
Venus prend l'arc et le carquois précieux  
disant: "Mon fils, de tirer je désire."  
Cupido prend la trompe, puis va dire en souriant:  
"Donc, ceci me doit."  
Et voilà dont vient que Venus toujours tire  
et que Cupido trompe de jour et de nuit.*

Venus, one day, in disguise as a hunter,  
takes a trumpet and wild spear.  
Along a wood, Cupid decides  
To draw two dangerous traits.  
Venus takes the bow and quiver  
Saying: "Son, I want to shoot them."  
Cupid takes the trumpet, then goes on smiling:  
"Then this suits me."  
And so it is that Venus always shoots  
And Cupid deceives and cheats day and night.

French composer Robert Meigret (1508–68) published 30 chansons in Paris between 1547 and 1552. His four-part "*Venus ung jour en veneur se déguise*" appeared in a publication by Pierre Attaignant in 1546. The text, about Venus exchanging her trumpet for Cupid's bow and arrow, features a clever play on the French words for trumpet (*la trompe*) and cheating (*tromper*). Meigret's fluid setting highlights certain lines, such as when Cupid takes the trumpet.





**Adam Lay Ybounden.....Boris Ord (1867-1961)**

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond	Ne had the apple taken been,
Four thousand winter, thought he not too long.	Ne had never Our Lady been heavené queen.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,	Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
As clerkes finden written in their book.	Therefore we moun singen Deo gratias.

An English conductor and organist Boris Ord (1897-1961) is best known for his direction of the choir at King's College. His only published work is a carol, "Adam Lay Ybounden", setting a 15<sup>th</sup>-century text. Drawing on the third chapter of Genesis, the text concerns the Fall of Adam and redemption through the son of Mary, and Ord colors his music to support the text. The piece begins in B minor as the text describes Adam's 4000-year bondage, which the humorous poem suggests is a rather severe sentence for eating an apple. Throughout, the four voices generally move together, with the notable exception of the final words "*Deo gratias*", at which point the lines move independently, coming together for a final cadence on a bright, unexpected, B major.



**Absalon Fili Mi.....Josquin de Prez (c.1440-1521)**

<i>Absalon fili mi,</i>	Absalom my son,
<i>quis det ut moriar pro te, Absalon?</i>	if only I had died instead of you, Absalom!
<i>Non vivam ultra,</i>	I shall live no more,
<i>sed descendam in infernum plorans</i>	but go down to hell, weeping.

Possibly composed to commemorate the death of either the son of Pope Alexander VI in 1497, or the son of King Maximilian I in 1506, "*Absalon fili mi*" sets King David's lament for his dead son. The piece has been attributed to Josquin des Prez (c. 1440–1521), and it begins in the imitative style for which Josquin is known: each of the four voices begins with the same notes, one voice following another at different pitch levels. Imitation continues throughout the through-composed work, often involving only two voices. He brilliantly illustrates the short text. At "*non vivam ultra*" Josquin adds a flat, moving the sound to the darker side of the musical color spectrum. When the setting arrives at the text about descending into hell, weeping (*descendam in infernum plorans*), Josquin introduces yet another flat, taking the music "down" to an even darker tone. Most expressive are the falling half-steps (D-flat to C) setting "*plorans*" (weeping), a lachrymose gesture that became widely understood as a representative of tears. Rembrandt's painting of David and Absalom does not represent this moment; rather, it depicts the reconciliation of Absalom and David after Absalom ordered the death of his brother, Amnon.



**When David Heard.....Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)**

When David heard that Absalom was slain,  
He went up to his chamber over the gate and wept;  
And thus he said, O my son, my son Absalom,  
Would God I had died for thee.

Welsh by birth, Thomas Tomkins (1572–1656) was primarily a composer of anthems and an organist at the Chapel Royal. He was a contemporary of the better-known William Byrd and Thomas Morley, and was apparently respected by both of them. Tomkins's five-voice "When David heard" was published in London in 1622 as one of the Songs of 3. 4. 5. & 6 parts. The madrigal contains the same text we hear in Josquin's

"Absalon fili mi," but with the preceding line from 2 Samuel, in which David goes to his room to weep for Absalom. The style is very different from Josquin's, and instead of imitative entries the voices enter and move roughly together, often juxtaposing groups of two or three as the text repeats. Later, voices become more independent at the manifold repetitions of "Absalom my son." Tomkins creates colorful moments through the use of striking cross-relations, in which one voice sings, for example, an E-flat, after which another voice immediately sings an E-natural.



**Salvator Mundi, Domine.....John Sheppard (1515-58)**

*Salvator mundi Domine,  
Qui nos salvasti hodie,  
In hac nocte nos protege,  
Et salva omni tempore.*

Lord, Savior of the world,  
Who has redeemed us today,  
Protect us in this night,  
And save us at any time.

*Adesto nunc propitius,  
Et parce supplicantibus;  
Tu dele nostra crimina,  
Tu tenebras illumina.*

Help us now  
And have mercy on us, entreating you,  
Erase our crimes,  
Lighten our darkness.

*Ne mentem somnus opprimat,  
Ne hostis nos surrepiat,  
Nec ullis caro, petimus,  
Commaculetur sordibus.*

That sleep may not oppress our spirits,  
That the enemy may not creep upon us,  
And that not our flesh, we pray,  
Be soiled with any stains.

*Te, reformator sensuum,  
Votis precamur cordium,  
Ut puri castis mentibus  
Surgamus a cubilibus.*

You, who corrects our thoughts,  
We ask with our heartfelt prayers,  
That with chaste minds and cleansed,  
We may rise from our beds.

*Deo Patri sit gloria,  
Eiusque soli Filio,  
Cum Spiritu Paraclito  
Et nunc et in perpetuum. Amen.*

Praise be to God, the Father,  
And to His only Son,  
With the Holy Spirit, Paraclete,  
Now and forever. Amen.

John Sheppard (1515–58) was, like Tomkins later, a member of the Chapel Royal. His work represents the tail end of the Latin Rite in England, ending with the accession of Elizabeth I in 1558. The six-voice motet *Salvator mundi Domine* is based on a plainchant Compline hymn for the vigil of Christmas. Sheppard alternates monophony and polyphony for the hymn's five verses, setting verses 1, 3 and 5 for solo tenor on the original chant, and verses 2 and 4 for six voices, preserving the original chant melody in the baritone part. The texture is imitative, although not exactly, with a great degree of independence among the lines. What we know of performance practice at the time suggests that the solo performers and the choir sang antiphonally.



**O Saviour of the World (from *Requiem*).....Herbert Howell (1892-1983)**

O Saviour of the world,  
who by thy cross and thy precious blood  
has redeemed us, save us and help us,  
we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Aside from the title, Herbert Howells's (1892–1983) *Salvator mundi* bears little relationship to Sheppard's piece. Perhaps the first three notes of the Howells, setting "O Sa(viour)" quote the first three notes of the chant, setting "*Salvator*," but Howells's notes form a rising and falling half step, as opposed to a rising and falling whole step. Howells's four voices move primarily homorhythmically and, at "save us," divide into two, four-voice choirs. Composed as the first movement of Howells's *Requiem* of 1932, *Salvator mundi*'s changing meters and fluid mixing of major and minor create a striking setting of a short prayer.



**O Sacrum Convivium.....Olivier Messiaen (1908-92)**

*O sacrum convivium, in quo Christus sumitur;  
recolitur memoria passionis ejus;  
mens impletur gratia;  
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.  
Alleluia.*

O sacred banquet, wherein Christ is received;  
the memorial of his passion is renewed;  
the soul is filled with grace;  
and a pledge of future glory is given to us.  
Alleluia.

Over 350 years after Tallis, Olivier Messiaen (1908–92) set *O sacrum convivium* for four voices in 1937, the year his only child was born. Completely homorhythmic, the work floats through metric ambiguity as it inconsistently alternates measures of seven and nine eighth notes, occasionally with measures of other values. This characteristic, combined with Messiaen's non-traditional harmonic language and repetitions of words, denies the listener a sense of direction in the work, which begins to repeat itself in the middle.



INTERMISSION



**O Sacrum Convivium.....Thomas Tallis (c.1505-85)**

Thomas Tallis's (c. 1505–85) five-voice *O sacrum convivium* was initially composed as an instrumental fantasia, perhaps in the 1560s, and was re-written as a motet for publication in 1575. At about the same time, Tallis produced an English-texted version, *I call and cry*. The Latin text, possibly by Thomas Aquinas (1225–74), serves as a Magnificat antiphon for the second Vespers of Corpus Christi. The motet begins in G minor with imitation among all five voices that continues throughout, except for a few cadences, while repetitions of short phrases push the piece toward its climactic close on G major.



**The Annunciation.....Jesse Antin (b.1977)**

The angel and the girl are met.  
Earth was the only meeting place.  
For the embodied never yet  
Travelled beyond the shore of space.  
  
The eternal spirits in freedom go.  
See, they have come together, see,  
While the destroying minutes flow,  
Each reflects the other's face  
Till heaven in hers and earth in his  
Shine steady there. He's come to her  
From far beyond the farthest star,  
Feathered through time. Immediacy  
Of strangest strangeness is the bliss  
That from their limbs all movement takes.  
Yet the increasing rapture brings

So great a wonder that it makes  
Each feather tremble on his wings.  
  
Outside the window footsteps fall  
Into the ordinary day  
And with the sun along the wall  
Pursue their unreturning way.  
Sound's perpetual roundabout  
Rolls its numbered octaves out  
And hoarsely grinds its battered tune.  
  
But through the endless afternoon  
These neither speak nor movement make,  
But stare into their deepening trance  
As if their gaze would never break.  
*Magnificat anima mea Dominum*

Jesse Antin's (b. 1977) *The Annunciation* sets a text by Edwin Muir that imagines with vivid imagery the angel Gabriel visiting Mary. We hear a clever combination of techniques used by much earlier composers mingled with thoroughly modern harmonies and illustrative madrigalisms. For example, Antin sets the first line of the second part of the poem, "Outside the window footsteps fall," with imitative entrances, in Renaissance style. After the group sings "And hoarsely grinds its battered tune," four independent lines emerge, each "grinding out" a four- or five-note pattern. The strident sounds created by the mingled patterns become the accompaniment for the last lines of Muir's poem, to which Antin adds the line from Luke 1:46, "My soul magnifies the Lord," in Latin.



**The Three Kings.....Jonathan Dove (b.1959)**

O balow, balow la lay,  
The first king was very young,  
With doleful ballads on his tongue,  
O balow, balow la lay,  
He came bearing a branch of myrrh  
Than which no gall is bitterer,  
O balow, balow la lay,  
Gifts for a baby King, O.  
  
The second king was a man in prime,  
O balow, balow la lay,  
The solemn priest of a solemn time,  
O balow, balow la lay,

With eyes downcast and reverent feet  
He brought his incense sad and sweet,  
O balow, balow la lay,  
Gifts for a baby King, O.  
  
The third king was very old,  
O balow, balow la lay,  
Both his hands were full of gold,  
O balow, balow la lay,  
Many a gaud and glittering toy,  
Baubles brave for a baby boy,  
O balow, balow la lay,  
Gifts for a baby King, O

Jonathan Dove (b. 1959) is known primarily as a composer of opera and choral music. His carol, *The Three Kings*, was commissioned by King's College Cambridge, for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve 2000. The text, by Dorothy L. Sayers, describes each of the three kings who visit the newborn Jesus. Sayers casts the magi as the three stages of life: a young king who bears bitter myrrh, a

king "in his prime" with "incense sad and sweet," and a "very old" king with a gift of gold. Dove laces Sayers's poem with a lilting lullaby of "O balow, balow, la lay," the rocking motion of which supports the lines sung initially by two solo sopranos. At the verse describing the third, oldest, king, a sweet and mysterious key change finds the entire group singing homorhythmically until a sudden and colorful change in meter and energy sends each voice on its own path.



**O Sweet Kiss.....Alfonso Ferrabosco (1543-88)**

O sweet kiss, full of comfort,  
O joy to me envied  
So often sought, so oft to me denied.

For thee my life is wasted,  
Yet thee I never tasted,  
O lips so false and wily  
that me to kiss provoked,  
and shrunk so slyly.

O looks empois'ned  
O face, well may I fear thee  
that kill'st who thee beholds  
and comes not near thee,  
I die a death most painful,  
Killed with unkindness,  
Farewell sweet lips disdainful

Alfonso Ferrabosco (1543–88), at the age of nine, was charged with supervising immigration permits in Bologna. Evidently it was not a very important job. His madrigal "O sweet kiss" is in five parts, and is an English language version of "*O dolcissimo bacio*," published in 1587 in Venice. Italian madrigals enjoyed wide popularity in England at this time, and the English version appeared in 1588. Filled with excellent counterpoint that often juxtaposes groups of voices, "O sweet kiss" features cadences that are clear and regular, marking each line of poetry. At first a lively work, the pace slows at "I die a death most painful," as the protagonist expresses distress at false kisses.



**Drei Hortenkinder aus Fatima.....Arvo Pärt (b.1935)**

*Aus dem Mund der Kinder und Säuglinge  
schaffst du dir Lob. Alleluja.*

Out of the mouths of children and infants  
you create praise for yourself. Alleluia

Estonian composer Arvo Pärt (b. 1935) established an international reputation in the late 1970s, after a prolonged study of medieval polyphony. The resultant technique, "tintinnabuli," or "bell-like," has informed most of his work since, including his *Drei Hortenkinder aus Fatima* (2014). The basses provide the foundation for the piece, repeating "*Alleluia*" while the three higher voices sing the rest of the text. Often, one voice acts as a pedal, repeating a single note, while another voice moves through and around the same note, thus creating brief but colorful dissonances, particularly on "*schaffst du mir Lob*." Pärt's seemingly simple setting befits the text, which celebrates the simple wisdom of children.



**El Grito.....Einojuhani Rautavaara (1928-2016)**

*La elipse de un grito,  
va de monte a monte.  
Desde los olivos,  
será un arco iris negro  
sobre la noche azul. ¡Ay!*

*Como un arco de viola,  
el grito ha hecho vibrar  
largas cuerdas del viento. ¡Ay!*

*(Las gentes de las cuevas  
asoman sus velones) ¡Ay!*

Eclipse of a scream resounding  
echoes mountain to mountain.  
Rising over the olive trees,  
is a rainbow black as darkness  
over the night of deep blue. Ay!

Like the bow of a viola,  
the scream has drawn out vibrations  
of the wind and its music. Ay!

(The people of the caves  
will now put on their long veils.) Ay!

One of the most important Finnish composers since Sibelius, Einojuhani Rautavaara (1928–2016) composed in a variety of styles. His *Suite de Lorca* (1973) sets poems by the Spanish poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca (1898–1936), and is one of his most popular works. The settings of the four short pieces sonically parallel Lorca's allusive, colorful language. "*El grito*" (The Scream) begins with a striking glissando rising an octave in the upper voices, which then divide and layer dissonant semitones on top of each other, all describing the "eclipse of a scream." The "scream" sounds several more times in the song.



**Nude Descending a Staircase.....Allen Shearer (b.1943)**

Toe upon toe, a snowing flesh,  
a gold of lemon, root and rind,  
she sifts in sunlight down the stairs  
with nothing on. Nor on her mind.

We spy beneath the banister  
a constant thresh of thigh on thigh;  
her lips imprint the swinging air  
that parts to let her parts go by.

One-woman waterfall, she wears  
her slow descent like a long cape  
and pausing on the final stair,  
collects her motions into shape.

A professional singer who writes primarily vocal music, Allen Shearer (b. 1943) earned a Ph.D. in 1972 at Berkeley, where he continues to teach voice. The modernity of Shearer's language in "Nude Descending a Staircase" is evident from the beginning, as the countertenors set up a rhythmic ostinato with "toe upon toe." The harmonic language, however, is not far removed from that of late Romanticism. Shearer's occasional madrigalisms, such as the descending line on "one woman waterfall," parallel the flurry of descending motion in Duchamp's 1912 painting of the same title.



## Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine.....Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

I. Leonardo dreams of his flying machine...  
Tormented by visions of flight and falling,  
More wondrous and terrible each than the last,  
Master Leonardo imagines an engine  
To carry a man up into the sun...

And as he's dreaming the heavens call him,  
"Leonardo. Leonardo, vieni á volare".  
("Leonardo. Leonardo, come fly".)

*L'uomo colle sua congiegniate e grandi ale,  
facciendo forza contro alla resistente aria.*

(A man with wings large enough and duly  
connected  
might learn to overcome the resistance of the  
air.)

II. Leonardo dreams of his flying machine...  
As the candles burn low he paces and writes,  
Releasing purchased pigeons one by one  
Into the golden Tuscan sunrise...

And as he dreams, again the calling,  
The very air itself gives voice:  
"Leonardo. Leonardo, vieni á volare".

("Leonardo. Leonardo, come fly".)

*Vicina all'elemento del fuoco...*

Scratching quill on crumpled paper,  
*Rete, canna, filo, carta.*

Images of wing and frame and fabric fastened  
tightly.

*...sulla suprema sottile aria.*

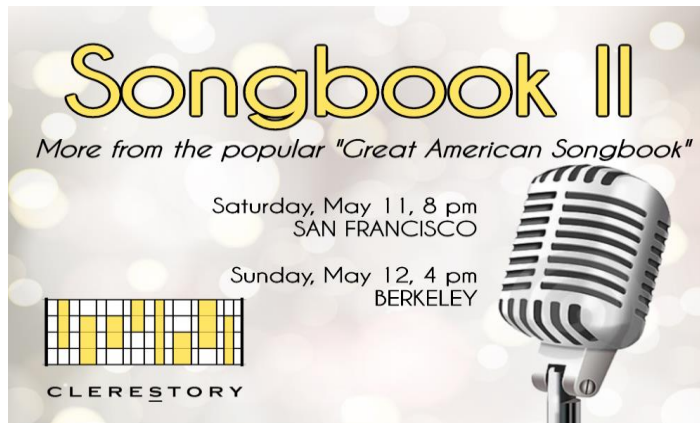
III. Master Leonardo Da Vinci dreams of his  
flying machine...

As the midnight watchtower tolls,  
Over rooftop, street and dome,  
The triumph of a human being ascending  
In the dreaming of a mortal man.

Leonardo steels himself,  
takes one last breath,  
and leaps

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970), is one of the most successful current composers of choral music. His colorful *Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine* (2001) is filled with colorfully illustrative madrigalisms, such as the rising scales on "flight" and descending ones on "falling." As Leonardo releases his pigeons one by one, each part has a turn with "one by one," and in the section entitled "Flight," most of the choir intones short syllables and wind sounds on regular pulses as soloists soar above them. Whitacre's piece is filled with dense, dissonant chords that tend to resolve to familiar harmonies.

- John R. Palmer, Ph.D., Professor of Music, Sonoma State University



**Songbook II**  
More from the popular "Great American Songbook"

Saturday, May 11, 8 pm  
SAN FRANCISCO

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BERKELEY

CLERESTORY

The poster features a large, stylized microphone on the right side. In the bottom left corner, there is a small graphic of a grid with yellow bars of varying heights, resembling a bar chart or a musical staff.



# Clerestory

Jesse Antin · Jamie Apgar · Kevin Baum · Sidney Chen · Christopher Fritzsche  
Scot Hanna-Weir · James Monios · Justin Montigne

Clerestory is named for cathedral windows that let in daylight; for 13 seasons, the group has told the "clear story" of music through sophisticated performances, grounded in decades of experience singing together. Clerestory's singers are veterans of San Francisco's finest professional vocal groups. Since its founding in 2006, Clerestory has performed across the Bay Area, including regular concerts in San Francisco, Berkeley, and Sonoma, along with appearances in Palo Alto, Santa Cruz, Grass Valley, Pleasanton, and Lodi. The ensemble has been featured on National Public Radio and on San Francisco's KDFC, and they were the featured ensemble at the 2012 North Central ACDA Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. Listen to free recordings from Clerestory's current and past seasons at [clerestory.org/music](http://clerestory.org/music).

**Jesse Antin** is the founder of Clerestory. He has performed with many of the finest groups in the Bay Area since moving to California in 2000, including five years with the esteemed men's ensemble Chanticleer. He appears on seven Chanticleer recordings, including one Grammy winner. Other local performances have been as a soloist and chorus member with the American Bach Soloists, the choir of Grace Cathedral, and accompanying the Mark Morris Dance Group. Jesse is a native of Princeton, New Jersey, where he grew up singing counter-tenor in a cathedral men-and-boys choir. During Jesse's early career in church music, he was also an organist, choir director, and composer; his pieces continue to be performed and recorded by choirs around the country. Jesse lives in Oakland with his wife and young sons, and he works as the Development Director for the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley. He is an avid trail runner who was ranked #1 locally in his age group in 2018, and is a loyal fan of the Oakland A's.

**Jamie Apgar**, counter-tenor, is Associate for Music at All Souls Episcopal Parish, Berkeley, CA, and Chapel Musician at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, also in Berkeley. An accomplished musicologist, he received his Ph.D. in Music History in 2018 from the University of California, Berkeley, where he wrote a dissertation on music and the politics of worship in the Church of England, c.1560-1640. Though currently employed as a church musician, he continues to research and publish. Jamie has appeared in concert with premier professional choirs, including the Choir of Washington National Cathedral, the Simon Carrington Chamber Singers, and American Bach Soloists. He lives in Berkeley with his wife, Melanie, an opera scholar whom he met at UC Berkeley. When not scrutinizing assumptions about music and culture, they love cooking, laughing, walking in the sun, and lounging on the couch.

**Kevin Baum** is currently tenor section leader at Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco; he is also a cantor at St. Ignatius Catholic Church. Kevin is an auxiliary member of Philharmonia Baroque Chorale and he sings many solo and small ensemble concerts throughout the Bay Area. Other ensembles Kevin performs with or has performed with include In Other Words, Cappella SF, Endersnight, San Francisco Lyric Chorus, Marin Baroque, Marin Symphony Chorus and San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Kevin is a tating instructor at Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles in Berkeley and at San Francisco School of Needlework and Design.

**Sidney Chen**, bass-baritone, is committed to the performance of music of our time, specializing in the creation of new works for voice. He performs with Meredith Monk and Vocal Ensemble, most recently in composer/choreographer Monk's music-theater work *On Behalf of Nature*, which has been seen at the BAM Next Wave Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival, and which has been recorded for ECM Records. With the San Francisco Symphony he traveled to Carnegie Hall, premiering Monk's chamber work *Realm Variations* as part of the 2012 American Mavericks Festival. In recent seasons he has performed Luciano Berio's monumental *Sinfonia* for 8 voices and orchestra, toured to Denmark with San Francisco Lyric Opera's production of David Lang's *the little match girl passion*, and collaborated with the Friction Quartet on a concert of new works for vocal quartet and string quartet. In 2009 he sang in Carnegie Hall's 45th-anniversary celebration of Terry Riley's *In C*, organized by the Kronos Quartet. He is the co-founder of The M6, a New York-based vocal sextet, which has been heard on NPR and featured in the New York Times. He regularly performs with the San Francisco new music chamber chorus Volti, and serves as the group's artistic advisor.

**Christopher Fritzsche**, soprano, is a native of Santa Rosa CA. He has been a “performer” since the tender age of two, when he was first dragged (literally) across the stage, playing the part of young Michael’s teddy bear in the play, *Peter Pan*. Flush with such early success, he took up the guitar at age seven and immersed himself in music of the Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel, James Taylor, and John Denver, among others. He discovered the joys of choral singing in high school and went on to study voice in college as a tenor. Several leading musical theatre and opera roles later, he graduated with a degree in music, and was about to get a real estate license (in order to satisfy his Capricorn desire for money) when someone informed him that the falsetto voice he had only ever used in jest could actually be put to use on the concert stage. This led him to join the men’s ensemble Chanticleer as a soprano for the next 11 years, performing in many of the world’s greatest concert halls and singing on well over a dozen recordings, two of which won Grammy Awards. Having retired from the road in 2003, he has since expanded his solo and ensemble career, appearing with various groups and artists in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. He served on the vocal faculty at his alma mater, Sonoma State University, from 2004 to 2009. He continues to teach vocal classes and performs regularly with the Sonoma Bach early music organization. He is the Music Director for the Center for Spiritual Living in Santa Rosa.

**Scot Hanna-Weir** is Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Santa Clara University (SCU) where he conducts the SCU Chamber Singers and Concert Choir, teaches conducting, voice, and other courses within the music department. He is also Artistic Director of the Santa Clara Chorale, a 90-voice auditioned community choir, who under Scot’s baton, regularly perform masterworks and new premieres including Bach’s *St. John Passion*, Gendel’s *Barbara Allen* [World Premiere], Hagen’s *Ashes of Roses* [West Coast Premiere], Mozart’s *Requiem*, and Fauré’s *Requiem*. In addition to conducting, Scot is a regular vocalist with the San Diego Pro Arte Voices and an active composer and arranger whose works have been performed by choirs across the country. Scot holds an undergraduate degree in music education from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and Masters and Doctoral degrees in conducting from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Maryland respectively.

**James Nicholas Monios**, bass, enjoys a varied musical career as a performer and teacher. A native of Long Beach, California, Jim studied piano, contrabass, and voice while earning a Master of Arts degree in historical musicology. Since moving to San Francisco in 1991, Jim has performed with many of the finest ensembles in the Bay Area, including San Francisco Opera Chorus, Philharmonia Baroque Chorale, American Bach Soloists, and San Francisco Choral Artists, and he has appeared as soloist with San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco City Concert Opera, *Soli Deo Gloria*, and *Magnificat*. He has been bass soloist at Temple Shalom-Israel and several San Francisco churches, including Church of the Advent, where he also served as Associate Director of Music. He began working with Piedmont Children’s Choir in 1994 and has continued teaching and conducting in private schools ever since, while maintaining a private piano studio in San Francisco.

**Justin Montigne**, countertenor, is originally from Des Moines, Iowa, where he was forced off the piano bench after a dismal accompanying stint into the middle school choir. After this fortuitous switch, he went on to receive his Bachelor’s in music from Drake University in Des Moines, and his Master’s and DMA in vocal performance from the University of Minnesota. An active teacher as well as performer, Justin taught voice for the University of Minnesota and toured Minnesota and the upper Midwest, performing with many ensembles including the Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Orchestra, Western Plains Opera, and the Des Moines Symphony. Justin then moved to San Francisco and sang alto for three years with the acclaimed male vocal ensemble, Chanticleer, performing a wide variety of works with the group in venues around the United States and the world. He has sung with the Minnesota Opera, the Oregon Bach Festival, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, AVE, Seraphic Fire, Conspirare, and other ensembles. Justin teaches voice at the San Francisco Girls Chorus and UC Berkeley, co-founded and directs the Bay Area Vocal Academy, and is a registered yoga teacher specializing in yoga for singers



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Salvator Mundi, Leonardo da Vinci



Ecce Ancilla Domini, Rossetti



The Kiss, Gustav Klimt



L'Ultima Cena, Leonardo da Vinci



The Adoration of the Magi, Botticelli



Birkenau/Doppelgrau, Gerhard Richter





The Scream, Edvard Munch



Nude Descending a Staircase, Marcel Duchamp

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