

MSM Lab Chorus

John Verkuilen, Conductor

Brian Wong, Collaborative Pianist

Saturday, April 23, 2022 | 7:30 PM
Gordon K. and Harriet Greenfield Hall

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PROGRAM

FRANZ SCHUBERT
(1797–1828)

Der Tanz

TRAD. SPIRITUAL
(arr. Patrick Dupré
Quigley)

Steal Away

Alexandra Cirile, mezzo-soprano

TRAD. SPIRITUAL
(arr. Undine S. Moore)

Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord

Brandon Pencheff-Martin, Fernando Watts,
soloists

DON MACDONALD
(b. 1966)

When the Earth Stands Still

JACOB LEIBOWITZ
(b. 2000)

Hush (World Premiere)

Hush, Little Baby

Hush-a-bye, Baby

Lauren Fitzgerald, Jennifer Robinson,
Maggie Curole, Mark Filatov, Isaac Hall, soloists

WILLIAM BYRD
(1539/40–1623)

Lullaby, My Sweet Little Baby

FELIX MENDELSSOHN
(1809–1847) *Verleib uns Frieden gnädiglich*

TRAD. SOUTH
AFRICAN SONG
(arr. Michael Barrett)

Ndikbokbele Barwo

Jennifer Robinson, Sara Zerilli, Evan Katsefes,
Henry Griffin, soloists
Kabelo Boy Mokhatla, djembe

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Der Tanz

Es redet und träumet die Jugend so viel,
von Tanzen, Galoppen, Gelagen,
auf einmal erreicht sie ein trüglisches
Ziel,

da hört man sie seufzen und klagen.

Bald schmerzet der Hals, und bald
schmerzet die Brust,
verschwunden ist alle die himmlische
Lust,

“Nur diesmal noch kehr’ mir
Gesundheit zurück!”
so flehet vom Himmel der hoffende
Blick!

Jungst wähnt’ auch ein Fräulein mit
trübem Gefühl,
schon hätte ihr Stündlein geschlagen.
Doch stand noch das Rädchen der
Parze nicht still,
nun schöner die Freuden ihr tagen.

Drum Freunde, erhebet den frohen
Gesang,
es lebe die teure Irene noch lang!
Sie denke zwar oft an das falsche
Geschick,
doch trübe sich nimmer ihr heiterer
Blick.

Youth talks and dreams so much
Of dances, gallops, and parties;
Suddenly it reaches a false goal,

Then we hear it sigh and complain.

Soon the throat hurts, and soon the
chest hurts,
Lost is the heavenly delight.

“Just this time, health, come back to
me!”
Thus pleads from heaven the hopeful
glance.

Recently a girl thought, in her sadness,
That her last hour had come.
But the wheel of fate did not stand still
Now joys are dawning for her more
beautifully.

So friends raise the joyous song:

“May dear Irene live long, to be sure,
May she often think of false Fate,

But may her cheerful gaze never grow
sad.”

Steal Away

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus!
Steal away, steal away home;
I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me;
He calls me like the thunder.
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul;
I ain't got long to stay here.

Green trees are bending;
And sinners stand a-trembling;
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul;
I ain't got long to stay here.

Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord

Oh, the king cried,
"Oh, Daniel, Daniel, oh!
Daniel, Daniel, oh!
A-that-a Hebrew Daniel,
Servant of the Lord!"

Among the Hebrew nation,
One Hebrew Daniel was found.
They put him in a-the lion's den.
He stayed there all night long.

Now the King in his sleep was troubled,
And early in the morning he rose,
To find God sent a-His angel down
To lock the lion's jaws.

When the Earth Stands Still

Come listen in the silence of the moment before rain comes down.
There's a deep sigh in the quiet of the forest and the tall tree's crown.

Now hold me.
Will you take the time to hold me and embrace the chill?
Or miss me,
will you take the time to miss me when the earth stands still?

Cause there's no use running
cause the storm's still coming
and you've been running for too many years.

Come listen in the silence of the moment before shadows fall.
Feel the tremor of your heartbeat matching heartbeat as we both dissolve.

Now hold me....
Cause there's no use running cause the storm's still coming
and you've been running for too many years.

So stay with me, held in my arms
Like branches of a tree
They'll shelter you for many years.

Hush, Little Baby

Hush little baby don't say a word,
Mama's gonna buy you a mockingbird.

And if that mockingbird don't sing,
Mama's gonna buy you a diamond ring.

And if that diamond ring don't shine,
Mama's gonna give you a silver dime.

And if Mama's silver dime turns brass,
Papa's gonna buy you a looking glass.

And if that looking glass gets broke,
Papa's gonna buy you a billy goat.

And if that goat falls 'fore it gets to town,
You'll still be the sweetest little baby around!

Hush little baby don't you cry,
Mama's gonna sing you a lullaby.

Hush-a-bye, Baby

Hush, little baby, in the tree top,
When the wind blows the cradle will rock;
When the bough breaks the cradle will fall;
Down tumbles baby, cradle and all.

Lullaby, My Sweet Little Baby

Lulla, lullaby, my sweet little baby,
what meanest thou to cry?

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich,
Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten.
Es ist doch ja kein andrer nicht,
der für uns könnte streiten,
denn du, unser Gott, alleine.

Grant us peace, Lord God, in this
time.
There is no one else to fight for us,
But you, our God, alone.

Ndikhokhele Bawo

Ndikhokhele Bawo
Ndikhokhele Mmeli wami
Zalomhlaba Bawo
Bawo ndiya bong a ngoba wena
Usandi gcinile.

He paid for me (by dying on the
cross), my Father
He paid for me by representing me
While on earth, my Father
Father I thank you because you
Will always keep me (safe).

Zundikhokhele
Ezintsizini

I implore you to lead me (so that I
may follow)

Hlal' Uhlele duze kwami.

During times of sorrow/strife
You are always standing nearby.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

John Verkuilen, Conductor

John Verkuilen is a second-year Doctor of Musical Arts student in choral conducting studying with Kent Tritle and Ronnie Oliver. He is also the Assistant Conductor of the Oratorio Society of New York and is on the faculty of MSM Summer, teaching courses in world music and advanced ear training. Before beginning his studies at MSM, John served for two years as Artistic Director of Sine Nomine, a select 24-voice ensemble in Fall River, Massachusetts; was guest conductor of the 85-voice Falmouth Chorale and 16-voice FC Chamber Choir for two concert cycles; and spent a year as Interim Artistic Director of Calliope, a collaborative chorus and orchestra in Boston. John earned a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from the Boston Conservatory and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies, economics, and music from Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where his interdisciplinary focus was world music.

Before his time in Boston, John Verkuilen was appointed Macalester's Assistant Choral Conductor, completed a yearlong music liturgy internship at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis, and performed two seasons as a member of the Minnesota Opera. He has served as Assistant Conductor of the Newburyport Choral Society and Conducting Apprentice at Berkshire Choral International and has been on the Boston Conservatory Vocal/Choral Intensive faculty. In addition to conducting, John frequently performs professionally with choirs in New England and the Midwest. His recent engagements have included singing the bass solos in the Mozart and Fauré requiems in Boston and the roles of Jesus and Peter and the bass arias in performances of Bach's *St. John Passion* in New York.

Alexandra Cirile

Alexandra Cirile is a mezzo-soprano from Los Angeles, California. She is a senior at MSM studying classical voice with Ruth Golden. Upcoming engagements include Senior Opera Theatre's production of *Die Zauberflöte* as Zweiter Knaben and Bronx Opera's production of *The Mercy of Titus* as a chorister.

Henry Griffin

Baritone Henry Griffin is a junior currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance under the tutelage of Marlena K. Malas. Henry has sung all of his life, including solo appearances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera of Chicago as a boy soprano, and the more recent roles of Toby in *110 in the Shade*, Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Dr. Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Chautauqua Voice Program. Henry also covered the role of the Commentator in Derrick Wang's opera *Scalia/Ginsburg* at the Chautauqua Opera Company this past summer. Henry has also played piano since the age of 6, most recently performing multiple recitals of four-hands repertoire with pianist Tian Qin, including a performance last June which aired on WFMT Chicago. This year, Henry will be performing the roles of Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Castleton Festival and The Forester in Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen* at the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory, as well as making his Carnegie Hall debut in November as a featured baritone in Paul Moravec's new oratorio *A Nation of Others*.

Evan Katsefes

Tenor Evan Katsefes from New York City is completing his first year at MSM in the studio of Marlena K. Malas. This summer, he will cover the role of Andrew Johnson in *The Mother of Us All* and perform in a workshop reading of *The House on Mango Street* with Chautauqua Opera while participating in the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory.

Kabelo Boy Mokhatla

Born in Tembisa, South Africa, Kabelo Boy Mokhatla started his musical journey at the Moses Molelekwa Arts Foundation. He is a drummer, composer, artist, and arranger. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in jazz percussion at Manhattan School of Music as a 2020–21 Hugh Masekela Heritage Scholarship recipient, studying with the renowned American jazz drummer, educator, bandleader, and composer Kendrick Scott. Kabelo has worked with national and internationally acclaimed musicians and has played on many stages.

Brandon Pencheff-Martin

Brandon Pencheff-Martin, of Marcellus, New York, is a freshman classical tenor voice major under the tutelage of Neil Rosenshein. Past opera/oratorio credits include *Don Ottavio* in *Don Giovanni* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Giuseppe in *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi; tenor soloist in Bach's *St. John Passion*; and tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah*. He would like to thank John, Michael, and Rong for an excellent time in Lab Chorus this year and can't wait to work with these fine conductors again in the future.

Jennifer Robinson

Jennifer Robinson is a first-year undergraduate in the Classical Voice program. She is thankful for the opportunities she has had attending MSM, all of which are made realizable by her voice teacher, Shirley Close. Most recently, Jennifer had a successful second semester recital, sung as a chorister in Bach's *St. John Passion* as a featured soloist, and rehearsed the "Pie Jesu" from Fauré's Requiem under the baton of Kent Tritle. She is so thankful to John, Michael, Rong, and Dr. Oliver for giving her the opportunity to learn and for providing a foundation that has enabled her to become a better musician.

Fernando Watts

Fernando Watts, bass, is a senior vocal performance degree candidate under the tutelage of Ruth Golden. He received his Associate's music degree at the Barbados Community College. He is currently a recipient of the Birgit Nilsson Scholarship award as well as the Tabor Foundation Scholarship Barbados. Fernando has performed as a soloist in John Stainer's *Crucifixion* and Handel's *Messiah*. In addition, in his role preparation he has performed *La Traviata* (Dottore Grenvil) at MSM and he will be performing the role of Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Senior Opera Theatre this spring.

Sara Zerilli

Sara Zerilli is a vocal performance major at Manhattan School of Music under Mignon Dunn. She will play Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with Berlin/Saluzzo Opera Academy this summer. She has performed in the title roles in scenes from *Carmen* and *La Cenerentola*. Sara is an alto soloist for MSM Chamber Choir and Lab Chorus and recently performed as a soloist in Bach's *St. John Passion*. Sara was in Chamber and Concert Choir in high school, where she served as vice-president and was the historian for the TriM National Music Honor Society. Her awards include the 2020 NJ All Shore Vocal Performance Scholarship, first place in NJ NATS, third place in the NJ All State Opera Competition, and an encouragement award in the Schmidt Vocal Arts NYC 2019 Competition. She was a finalist in the New York Lyric Opera's national competition in 2015 and 2016 and a finalist for the 2019 NJ Governor's Award. Ms. Zerilli performed with the NJ All State Chorus in 2018 and 2019, where she was first chair alto. She participated in NJ All Shore Chorus in 2017 and 2018 and was a featured soloist in 2019 and 2020. Additionally, she performed at Carnegie Hall under Trotta, Gentry, and Thye. She is a cantor for St. Joseph Church in Millstone Township, New Jersey.

Students in this performance are supported by scholarships provided by The ELMA Philanthropies and Rosalie J. Coe Weir Foundation. We are grateful to the generous donors who made these scholarships possible. For information on establishing a named scholarship at Manhattan School of Music, please contact Susan Madden, Vice President for Advancement, at 917-493-4115 or smadden@msmny.edu.

ABOUT THE LAB CHORUS

The Manhattan School of Music Lab Chorus was established for conducting students pursuing their Master's, Professional Studies, and Doctoral degrees in choral conducting. Throughout this course, conductors learn new repertoire, refine their gestural technique and rehearsal techniques, and deal with the practical reality of managing an ensemble of diverse singers.

Ronnie Oliver, Instructor

Brian Wong, Collaborative Pianist

Richener Bissereth

Hyattsville, Maryland

Alexandra Cirile

Los Angeles, California

Maggie Curole

Cut Off, Louisiana

Abby Dutler

Vernon Hills, Illinois

Mark Filatov

Brighton Beach, New York

Lauren Fitzgerald

Burlington, Connecticut

Henry Griffin

Oak Park, Illinois

Isaac Hall

Boseman, Montana

Evan Katsefes

Queens, New York

Xiao Liu

Zhangjiang, China

Brandon Pencheff-Martin

Marcellus, New York

Elizabeth Pope

Marriottsville, Maryland

Jennifer Robinson

Lakeland, Florida

Michael Sheetz

Dix Hills, New York

Ian Tweedy

Bowling Green, Kentucky

Fernando Watts

Bridgetown, Barbados

Sara Zerilli

Millstone Township, New Jersey

Rong Zhang

Shanghai, China

Xijia Zhang

Zhangjiakou, China

Yancheng Zhang

Gansu, China

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its 985 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege program continues to offer superior music instruction to 475 young musicians between the ages of 5 and 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit msmnyc.edu/support

Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.

M Manhattan
School of Music