

BRADLEY SYMPHONY CENTER, MILWAUKEE

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

SUNDAY, MAY 12



BEL CANTO
CHORUS



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

FOR THE ARTS

UPAF IS FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS that you are here to enjoy today. We're for thousands of local artists in the spotlight and behind the scenes. We're for you — the audience — experiencing excitement, inspiration and connection. We're for Milwaukee, Tosa, Waukesha, Racine & beyond. We're for being together, surrounded by the magic of music, dance, song and theater.

We're for raising our community up.

You're for the arts too, so please join us to ensure that our world-class performing arts groups make a full recovery.

► DONATE TODAY. UPAF.ORG/DONATE

MUSIC | DANCE | SONG | THEATER



Richard Hynson, Music Director
Presents

The Dream of Gerontius

Featuring members of the Bel Canto Chamber Orchestra

The Dream of Gerontius, Op. 38

*Edward Elgar
(1857-1934)*

Part I: Prelude
Jesu, Maria – I am near to death

Intermission

Part II: I went to sleep; and now I am refreshed
Thy judgement is now near

Gerontius and Soul
NICHOLAS HUFF, tenor

The Angel
CLARA OSOWSKI, mezzo-soprano

The Priest and the Angel of the Agony
LEO RADOSAVLJEVIC, baritone

Thank You to Our Sponsors





Richard Hynson, Music Director of Bel Canto Chorus

This season marks Richard Hynson's 36th year as Music Director of Bel Canto Chorus. Additionally, Hynson is in his seventh season as Music Director of the Kettle Moraine Symphony Orchestra.

In 2022, Hynson and his wife, Michelle, were selected by the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee to receive its Lifetime Achievement in Music — that organization's highest honor.

Hynson is in demand as a guest conductor; past engagements include performances with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Skylight Music Theatre, and the Racine, Sheboygan, and Waukesha Symphony Orchestras. Hynson has conducted at Carnegie Hall in New York City, where he led a large national festival chorus and orchestra in Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem*.

In 2012, Hynson was awarded the American Prize in Choral Conducting — community choral division. This national prize provides evaluation, recognition, and reward to America's finest performing artists, ensembles, and composers. In making the award, the American Prize committee wrote, "During his 24 years as Music Director, Dr. Richard Hynson has transformed Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee from a venerable community chorus to a vibrant, successful arts organization respected for its artistic excellence, innovative programming, and impactful outreach..."

Hynson and members of Bel Canto Chorus have performed internationally at the acclaimed Spoleto Music Festival in Italy, the Festivals of Troyes and Rheims in France, the Llangollen Festival in Wales, and the Elora and Huntsville Festivals in Canada. In addition to its annual concert season, the chorus is often called upon to participate in performances by national touring companies. In November 2016, Bel Canto participated in the Milwaukee performance of *The Legend of Zelda: Symphony of the Goddesses: Master Quest*. The chorus has performed with orchestras in Argentina, Uruguay, France, and Ireland. In June 2017, Bel Canto traveled to Germany and the Czech Republic. This June, Bel Canto will be performing in Sicily, and will end its tour by singing at Mass at St. Peter's in Rome.

From Milwaukee's *Shepherd Express*: "Rick Hynson has been the music director at Bel Canto Chorus for 35 seasons. In that time, he has grown as a choral director while helping to usher the organization into the 21st century in new and exciting ways. Hynson's longevity in his role is unmatched in the area, with no one else coming close to his tenure."



Nicholas Huff, Tenor

Tenor Nicholas Huff has been hailed for his vocal and dramatic fearlessness in leading roles such as Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with Florida Grand Opera. He has also created the role of Fabian Hart in Jake Heggie's 2019 opera, *If I Were You*, at Merola Opera Program and he has performed the role of Mitch in Florida Grand Opera's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and Tamino in Opera Fort Collins' *Die Zauberflöte*. He was part of the definitive, Grammy-nominated recording of Carlisle Floyd's final opera, *Prince of Players*; and played Nemorino in Miami Lyric Opera's production of *L'Elisir d'Amore*. This performance is a homecoming for Huff; he was a Baumgartner Studio Artist at Milwaukee's The Florentine Opera and was awarded the Bel Canto Chorus Prize in the Metropolitan Opera Competition, both in 2018.

Huff can next be heard in his role debut as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* in San Francisco next month with Pocket Opera and Cinnabar Theater, and then in concert and recital at the Ravinia Festival this August as a part of the Ravinia Steans Music Institute.

Originally from Kenosha, Wisconsin, Huff studied at Carthage College, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance. He earned his Master of Music in Vocal Performance & Literature from the Eastman School of Music.

@NickHuffTenor
www.NicholasHuff.pw



Clara Osowski, Mezzo-Soprano

Mezzo-soprano Clara Osowski, who sings “from inside the music with unaffected purity and sincerity” (UK Telegraph), is an active soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe.

Career highlights include her appearances with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Mid-Columbia Symphony, St. Paul Civic Symphony, Tulsa’s Signature Symphony at TCC, Winona Symphony Orchestra, Winston-Salem Symphony, Back Bay Chorale, and the Mobile Symphony Orchestra. Osowski is a frequent collaborator of The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, and with them she has performed *Mahler’s Symphony No. 2*, and Dominick Argento’s orchestral song cycles *Casa Guidi* and *A Few Words about Chekhov*. She also has frequently soloed with Bel Canto Chorus, with her most recent performance being Menotti’s *Missa O Pulchritudo*.

In 2017, Osowski placed second at Thomas Quasthoff’s international Das Lied Competition in Heidelberg, Germany, becoming the first-ever American prize winner, and won the Houston Saengerbund competition. In the 2019 Wigmore Hall Song Competition, she was awarded The Ralph Vaughan Williams Society Prize for the best interpretation of songs in English by a British composer and in the 2017 competition, the Richard Tauber Prize for the best interpretation of Schubert Lieder. She won the Radio-Canada People’s Choice Award and third place in the song division at the 2018 Concours musical international de Montréal. She won the 2014 Bel Canto Chorus Regional Artists Competition in Milwaukee and was a runner-up in the Schubert Club’s 2016 Bruce P. Carlson Scholarship Competition.

Osowski received her Bachelor of Musical Arts degree with emphasis in Voice from North Dakota State University in 2008 where she received the 2022 Horizon Award for great success in her profession, and Master of Arts Degree in Voice from the University of Iowa in 2010. She was recognized as a 2018-2019 McKnight Artist Fellow for Musicians administered by MacPhail Center for Music.

In addition to performing, Osowski serves as the Artistic Director of Source Song Festival, a week-long art song festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and participates in a number of ensembles, including Lumina Women’s Ensemble and Seraphic Fire.



Leo Radosavljevic, Baritone

Praised for his “steely power” (*Voix des Arts*) and “resonant bass” (*Opera News*), Leo Radosavljevic is a presence on the operatic stage. A native of Chicago, he spent his childhood singing in the Lyric Opera Children’s Chorus and studying piano with his father. He then attended The Juilliard School where he received a bachelor’s degree with scholastic distinction and a master’s degree. Since his studies, he has been heard with Opera Colorado as Bonze (*Madama Butterfly*), The New Philharmonic as Don Alfonso (*Così fan Tutte*), Opera Theater of Saint Louis as Manders (*Regina*), Teatro Nuovo as Orbazzano (*Tancredi*), and covered the role of the King in *Aida* with Riccardo

Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He is the 3rd Prize winner of the 8th Klaudia Taev Competition in Estonia, Grand Prize winner of the 2017 Bel Canto Competition, and was a Regional Finalist in the 2020 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. On the concert stage, he has appeared as soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic, Metropolis Symphony Orchestra, The Orchestra Now, New Juilliard Ensemble, and Juilliard415, with whom he performed Telemann’s rarely heard *Die Tageszeiten* to high acclaim from The New York Times, as well as made a studio recording in Vancouver with the Canadian Broadcasting Company. Radosavljevic began 2024 singing music of Verdi and Puccini in Phoenix, Arizona as a finalist in the National Opera Association competition, and has already been on Carnegie Hall’s calendar on two occasions this year. These included a performance in Weill Hall as a finalist of the Oratorio Society of New York competition and performances of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies’ “one man” vocal and dramatic tour de force, *8 Songs for a Mad King*, which was performed as part of Carnegie’s Dancing on the Precipice: The Fall of the Weimar Republic series, and was featured in New York Magazine as part of their “23 Classical Music Concerts We Can’t Wait to Hear in 2024”.

Biographies (continued)



Kai Simone, Managing Director of Bel Canto Chorus

Kai Simone, with a career marked by excellence, is an accomplished director, producer, musician, performer, radio personality, and educator. She is the recipient of the 2016 Milwaukee Black Excellence Award in Music and Theater. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theater Directing and Design from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and her diverse training includes music theory, composition, and voice. Simone's broad talents have seen her producing memorable plays like *A Raisin in the Sun* and *The Wiz*, and creating unique musical experiences through her original Kwanzaa musical, *Imani* and the *Magic Drum*, which she recreated and produced into a fully animated production.

In 2012, Simone co-founded the Skai Academy of the Performing Arts in Milwaukee alongside Emmanuel Turner. This institution has enriched thousands of students with dynamic workshops and performances, fostering young talent across diverse backgrounds. The Skai Stage Band, formed under their guidance, is celebrated for its vibrant fusion of styles, captivating audiences in Milwaukee and Madison.

Currently, as the Managing Director of the Bel Canto Chorus and through her Skai Music programs, Simone continues to influence the Milwaukee arts scene. She is actively involved in the Lullaby Project, a collaborative effort with Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute through its Milwaukee partner, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Kai contributes to musical education through the Discover Music, Discover Life, Inc. curriculum, a program of the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic Orchestra. Additionally, she enhances the cultural landscape through partnerships with Milwaukee area community and educational entities including Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee Art Museum, and Boerner Botanical Gardens. Simone's commitment extends to serving on local arts boards, further demonstrating her dedication to enriching the artistic community.



Danielle Bridges, Production Manager of Bel Canto Chorus

Danielle Bridges received a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Music Education from the University of Central Arkansas and a Master of Arts in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa. During her studies, Bridges discovered a particular interest in developing creative, communal textual analysis and nonverbal communication methods for use during choral rehearsals. She is a proponent of music by women composers and founded the Iowa Women's Music Collective to advocate for the research and performance of music by women. Bridges has presented her research at a wide range of conferences including the International Voice Foundation Symposium and the inaugural Theorizing African-American Music conference.

Bridges has taught choral music in contexts ranging from middle school to retirement community choirs and has served as a choral consultant for public and private schools. In addition to her work at Bel Canto Chorus, she is the Artistic Director of the Waukesha Choral Union and the Director of Music at Community United Methodist Church in Elm Grove, where she conducts the Chancel Choir, Clarion Bells, and Festival Choir.

Bel Canto Chorus Endowment Fund

Consider donating to the Bel Canto Chorus Endowment Fund, where your gift to choral music can be appreciated for years to come. Whether it is a gift of stock or a check, simply indicate that you would like your investment to go toward our Endowment Fund. For more information, contact the Bel Canto office at (414) 481-8801.

Begun by a generous gift from The Suzanne & Richard Pieper Family Foundation

Program Text

PART 1

Gerontius

Jesu, Maria – I am near to death,
And Thou art calling me; I know it now,
Not by the token of this faltering breath,
This chill at heart, this dampness on my brow –
(Jesu, have mercy! Mary, pray for me!)
'Tis this new feeling, never felt before,
(Be with me, Lord, in my extremity!)
That I am going, that I am no more.
'Tis this strange innermost abandonment,
(Lover of souls! great God! I look to Thee.)
This emptying out of each constituent
And natural force, by which I come to be.
Pray for me, O my friends: a visitant
is knocking his dire summons at my door,
The like of whom, to scare me and to daunt
Has never, never come to me before;
So pray for me, my friends, who have not
strength to pray.

Assistants

Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison.
Holy Mary, pray for him.
All holy Angels, pray for him.
Choirs of the righteous, pray for him.
All Apostles, all Evangelists, pray for him,
All holy Disciples of the Lord,
pray for him.

All holy Innocents, pray for him.
All holy Martyrs, all holy Confessors,
All holy Hermits, all holy virgins, All ye
Saints of God, pray for him.

Gerontius

Rouse thee, my fainting soul, and play
the man;
and through such waning span
Of life and thought as still has to be trod,
Prepare to meet thy God.
And while the storm of that bewilderment
Is for a season spent
And, ere afresh the ruin on me fall,
Use well the interval.

Assistants

Be merciful, be gracious; spare him, Lord,
Be merciful, be gracious; Lord, deliver him.
From the sins that are past;
From Thy frown and Thine ire;
From the perils of dying;
From any complying
With sin, or denying
His God or relying
On self, at the Last;
From the nethermost fire;
From all that is evil;
From power of the devil;
Thy servant deliver,
For once and for ever.
By Thy birth, and by Thy Cross
Rescue him from endless loss;
By Thy death and burial,
Save him from a final fall;
By Thy rising from the tomb,
By Thy mounting up above,
By the Spirit's gracious love,
Save him in the day of doom.

Gerontius

Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus,
De profundis oro te,
Miserere, Judex meus,
Parce mihi, Domine.

Firmly I believe and truly
God is Three, and God is One;
And I next acknowledge duly
Manhood taken by the Son.

And I trust and hope most fully
In that Manhood crucified:
And each thought and deed unruly
Do to death, as He has died.
Simply to His Grace and wholly
Light and life and strength belong.
And I love, supremely, solely,
Him the holy, Him the strong.

Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus,
De profundis oro te,
Miserere, Judex meus,
Parce mihi, Domine.

Program Text (cont.)

Gerontius (continued)

And I hold in veneration,
For the love of Him alone,
Holy Church, as His creation,
And her teachings, as His own.
And I take with joy whatever
Now besets me, pain or fear,
And with a strong will I sever
All the ties which bind me here.
Adoration aye be given,
With and through the angelic host,
To the God of earth and heaven,
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus,
De profundis oro te,
Miserere, Judex meus,
Mortis in discrimine.

I can no more; for now it comes again,
That sense of ruin, which is worse than
pain,
That masterful negation and collapse
Of all that makes me man.

... And, crueller still,
A fierce and restless fright begins to fill
The mansion of my soul,
And, worse and worse,
Some bodily form of ill floats on the wind,
with many a loathsome curse
Tainting the hallowed air, and laughs,
and flaps its hideous wings,
And makes me wild with horror and
dismay.
O Jesu, help! pray for me, Mary, pray!
Some Angel, Jesu! such as came to Thee
In Thine own agony ...
Mary, pray for me. Joseph, pray for me.
Mary, pray for me.

Assistants

Rescue him, O Lord, in this his evil hour,
As of old so many by Thy gracious power:
Noe from the waters in a saving home;
(Amen).
Job from all his multiform and fell distress;
(Amen).
Moses from the land of bondage and
despair;
(Amen).

Assistants (continued)

David from Golia and the wrath of Saul;
(Amen).
... So, to show Thy power,
Rescue this Thy servant in his evil hour.

Gerontius

Novissima hora est: and I fain would sleep,
The pain has wearied me ...
Into Thy hands O Lord, into Thy hands ...

Priest

Proficiscere, anima Christiana, de hoc
mundo!
Go forth upon thy journey, Christian soul!
Go from this world!
Go, in the Name of God,
The Omnipotent Father,
Who created thee!
Go, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
Son of the living God,
Who bled for Thee!
Go, in the Name of the Holy Spirit,
Who Hath been poured out on thee!

Assistants

Go in the name of Angels and Archangels;
In the name of Thrones and Dominations;
In the name Of Princedoms and of Powers;
And in the name of Cherubim and
Seraphim; go forth!
Go, in the name of Patriarchs and Prophets!
And of Apostles and Evangelists,
Of Martyrs and Confessors,
in the name Of holy Monks and Hermits;
in the name Of holy Virgins;
and all Saints of God.
Both men and women, go!
Go on thy course;
And may thy place today be found in peace,
And may thy dwelling be the Holy Mount
Of Sion: through the Same, through Christ
Our Lord.

PART 2

Soul of Gerontius

I went to sleep; and now I am refreshed.
A strange refreshment for I feel in me
An inexpressive lightness, and a sense
Of freedom, as I were at length myself,
And ne'er had been before. How still it is!
I hear no more the busy beat of time,
No, nor my fluttering breath, nor struggling
pulse;
Nor does one moment differ from the next.

This silence pours a solitariness
Into the very essence of my soul:
And the deep rest so soothing and so sweet
Hath something too of sternness and of
pain.

Another marvel: Someone has me fast
Within his ample palm; ...
... A uniform and gentle pressure tells me
I am not self-moving,
But borne forward on my way.
And hark! I hear a singing; yet in sooth
I cannot of that music rightly say
Whether I hear, or touch, or taste the tones.
Oh, what a heart-subduing melody!

Angel

My work is done,
My task is o'er,
And so I come,
Taking it home,
For the crown is won,
Alleluia.
For evermore.
My Father gave
In charge to me This child of earth
E'en from its birth,
To serve and save,
Alleluia,
And saved is he.
This child of clay
To me was given,
To rear and train
By sorrow and pain
In the narrow way,
Alleluia.
From earth to heaven.

Soul

It is a member of that family
Of wondrous beings, who,
Ere the world were made,
Millions of ages back, have stood around
The throne of God.
I will address him,
Mighty One, my Lord,
My Guardian Spirit, all hail!

Angel

All hail, my child!
My child and brother,
Hail! what wouldest thou!

Soul

I would have nothing but to speak with thee
For speaking's sake. I wish to hold with thee
Conscious communion; though I fain would
know
A maze of things, were it but meet to ask,
And not a curiousness.

Angel

You cannot now
Cherish a wish which ought not to be
wished.

Soul

Then I will speak.
I ever had believed
That on the moment when the
struggling soul
Quitted its mortal case, forthwith it fell
Under the awful Presence of its God,
There to be judged and sent to its own place.
What lets me now from going to my Lord!

Angel

Thou art not let but with extremest speed
Art hurrying to the Just and Holy Judge.

Program Text (cont.)

Soul

Dear Angel, say,
Why have I now no fear of meeting Him!
Along my earthly life, the thought of death
And judgement was to me most terrible.

Angel

It is because
Then thou didst fear, that now thou dost
not fear,
Thou hast forestalled the agony, and so
For thee the bitterness of death is passed.
Also, because already in thy soul
The judgement is begun.
A presage falls upon thee, as a ray
Straight from the Judge, expressive of
thy lot.
That calm and joy uprising in thy soul
Is first-fruit to thee of thy recompense,
And heaven begun.

Soul

Now that the hour is come, my fear is fled;
And at this balance of my destiny,
Now close upon me, I can forward look
With a serenest joy.
But hark! upon my senses
Comes a fierce hubbub, which would make
me fear
Could I be frightened.

Angel

We are now arrived
Close on the judgement-court; that sullen
howl
Is from the demons who assemble there
Hungry and wild, to claim their property,
And gather souls for hell.
Hist to their cry!

Soul

How sour and how uncouth a dissonance!

Demons

Low-born clods
Of brute earth,
They aspire to become gods,
By a new birth,
And an extra grace,
And a score of merits,
As if aught
Could stand in place
Of the high thought
And the glance of fire
Of the great spirits,
The powers blest,
The lords by right,
The primal owners,
Of the proud dwelling
And realm of light –
Dispossessed,
Aside thrust,
Chucked down,
By the sheer might
Of a despot's will,
Of a tyrant's frown,
Who after expelling
Their hosts, gave,
Triumphant still,
And still unjust
Each forfeit crown
To psalm-droners,
And canting groaners
To every slave,
And pious cheat
And crawling knave,
Who licked the dust
Under his feet.

Angel

It is the restless panting of their being;
Like beasts of prey, who, caged within
their bars,
In a deep hideous purring have their life,
And an incessant pacing to and fro.

Demons

The mind bold
And independent
The purpose free,
So we are told,
Must not think
To have the ascendant.
What's a saint?
One whose breath
Doth the air taint
Before his death;
A bundle of bones,
Which fools adore,
Ha! Ha!
When life is o'er.
Virtue and vice,
A knave's pretence.
'Tis all the same;
Ha! ha!
Dread of hell-fire,
Of the venomous flame,
A coward's plea.
Give him his price,
Saint though he be,
Ha! ha!
From shrewd good sense
He'll slave for hire;
Ha! Ha!
And does but aspire
To the heaven above
With sordid aim,
And not from love.
Ha! ha!

Soul

I see not those false spirits; shall I see
My dearest Master, when I reach His
throne?

Angel

Yes – for one moment thou shalt see
thy Lord.
One moment but thou knowest not
my child,
What thou dost ask: that sight of the
Most Fair
Will gladden thee, but it will pierce
thee, too.

Soul

Thou speakest darkly, Angel! and an awe
Falls on me, and a fear lest I be rash.

Angel

There was a Mortal, who is now above
In the mid glory: he, when near to die,
Was given communion with the Crucified –
Such, that the Master's very wounds were
Stamped Upon his flesh; and, from the
agony which thrilled through body and soul
in that embrace,
Learn that the flame of the Everlasting Love
Doth burn ere it transform ...
Choir of Angelicals
... Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise:

Angel

... Hark to those sounds!
They come of tender beings angelical,
Least and most childlike of the sons of God.

Choir of Angelicals

Praise to the Holiest in the height
And in the depth be praise:
In all His words most wonderful:
Most sure in all His ways!

To us His elder race He gave
To battle and to win,
Without the chastisement of pain,
Without the soil of sin.

The younger son He willed to be
A marvel in His birth:
Spirit and flesh His parents were;
His home was heaven and earth.

The Eternal blessed His child, and armed,
And sent Him hence afar,
To serve as champion in the field
Of elemental war.

To be His Viceroy in the world
Of matter, and of sense;
Upon the frontier, towards the foe,
A resolute defence.

Program Text (cont.)

Angel

We now have passed the gate, and are
within
The House of Judgement ...

Soul

The sound is like the rushing of the wind –
The summer wind – among the lofty pines.

Choir of Angelicals

Glory to Him, Who evermore
By truth and justice reigns;
Who tears the soul from out its case,
And burns away its stains!

Angel

They sing of thy approaching agony,
Which thou so eagerly didst question of.

Soul

My soul is in my hand: I have no fear –
But hark! a grand mysterious harmony:
It floods me, like the deep and solemn
sound
Of many waters.

Angel

And now the threshold, as we traverse it
Utters aloud its glad responsive chant.

Choir of Angelicals

Praise to the Holiest in the height
And in the depth be praise;
In all His words most wonderful;
Most sure in all His ways!

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail;

Choir of Angelicals (continued)

And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's Presence and His very Self,
And Essence all divine.

O gen'rous love! that He who smote
In man for man the foe,
The double agony in man
For man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach His brethren and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height
And in the depth be praise:
In all His words most wonderful;
Most sure in all His ways!

Angel

Thy judgement now is near, for we are come
Into the veiled presence of our God.

Soul

I hear the voices that I left on earth.

Angel

It is the voice of friends around thy bed,
Who say the "Subvenite" with the priest.
Hither the echoes come; before the Throne
Stands the great Angel of the Agony,

The same who strengthened Him, what
time He knelt
Lone in the garden shade, bedewed with
blood.
That Angel best can plead with Him for all
Tormented souls, the dying and the dead.

Angel of the Agony

Jesu! by that shuddering dread which fell
on Thee;
Jesu! by that cold dismay which sickened
Thee;
Jesu! by that pang of heart which thrilled
in Thee;
Jesu! by that mount of sins which crippled
Thee;
Jesu! by that sense of guilt which stifled
Thee;
Jesu! by that innocence which girdled
Thee;
Jesu! by that sanctity which reigned in
Thee;
Jesu! by that Godhead which was one with
Thee;
Jesu! spare these souls which are so dear
to Thee;
Souls, who in prison, calm and patient,
wait for Thee,
Hasten, Lord, their hour, and bid them
come to Thee,
To that glorious Home, where they shall
ever gaze on Thee.

Soul

I go before my Judge ...

Voices on Earth

Be merciful, be gracious; spare him, Lord.
Be merciful, be gracious; Lord, deliver
him.

Angel

... Praise to His Name!
O happy, suffering soul! for it is safe,
Consumed, yet quickened, by the glance
of God.
Alleluia!! Praise to His Name.

Soul

Take me away, and in the lowest deep
There let me be,
And there in hope the lone night-watches
keep,
Told out for me.
There, motionless, and happy in my pain,
Lone, not forlorn –
There will I sing my sad perpetual strain,
Until the morn,
There will I sing, and soothe my stricken
breast,
Which ne'er can cease
To throb, and pine, and languish, till possess
Of its Sole Peace.
There will I sing my absent Lord and Love:
Take me away,
That sooner I may rise, and go above,
And see Him in the truth of everlasting day.

Souls in Purgatory

Lord, Thou hast been our refuge:
in every generation,
Before the hills were born,
And the world was,
From age to age Thou art God.

Angel

Softly and gently, dearly ransomed soul,
In my most loving arms I now enfold thee,
And o'er the penal waters, as they roll,
I poise thee, and I lower thee, and hold thee.
And carefully I dip thee in the lake,
And thou, without a sob or a resistance,
Dost through the flood thy rapid passage
take,
Sinking deep, deeper, into the dim distance.

Angels, to whom the willing task is given,
Shall tend, and nurse, and lull thee,
As thou liest;
And Masses on the earth,
And prayers in heaven,
Shall aid thee at the Throne of the
Most Highest.

Program Text (cont.)

Souls

Come back, O Lord! how long:
And be entreated for Thy servants.

Choir of Angelicals

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise.

Angel

Farewell, but not for ever, brother dear,
Be brave and patient on thy bed of sorrow;
Swiftly shall pass thy night of trial here,
And I will come and wake thee on
the morrow.

Souls

Bring us not Lord, very low; for Thou hast said,
Come back again, ye sons of Adam.

Angel

Be brave and patient, brother dear.

Choir of Angelicals

Praise to the Holiest in the height.
Amen.



Give the gift of lifelong
learning through music.

We thank you warmly.


belcanto.org

Musicians

Bel Canto Chorus

Barbara Allbright	Emily Knutson*	John Schilling+
Kelly Bartyczak	Kyle Kolberg*	Kate Schmitt
Carol Bayne	Steve Kunda	Marcia Schwager
Janice J. Becker	Costandi Kuttab*	Brian J. Schwanz
Chelsea Betz*	James LaBelle*	Jill Shearer
CarolAnne Bozosi	Lindsay Lamm*	Lindsay Sheridan
Kate Braatz	Michael LaPlant	Joshua K Sievert
Erica Breitbarth*+	Nichole Larson	Dean Sievert
Susan Brown*	Sandra Lash*	Amy Sievert
Samantha Burgos	Angela Lee	Delbert J. Slowik
Jason Clark*+	Judy Zoelzer Levine	Michelle L. Smith
Heather Comiskey	Pedro Lima	Binette H. Solomon
Elizabeth Conway	Noah Lindenberg	Erin Stamm
Pete Craig	Wendelin Lockett*+	Philip Starr
Chelsey Daniels	Katie Lott	Garrett Steinbrink
Adam Dean	Marilyn Mascitti*	James D. Stout
Luella J. Dooley-Menet	Jessica Miles	Davis Sullivan
Molly Farley	Colleen Miner	Maddy Sullivan
Martha Felton Dobbs	David Mohr*	Isaac Svien
Thayer Fisher+	Sharon Morrow	Timothy Szczepaniak
Carly Fitzgerald*+	Chelsea Muench	Tom Thiele
Emily Fox	Max Mullen+	Veronica Thomas
Karri L. Fritz-Klaus	Katie Mullins	Fausta Urboniene
Ellen Fulton	Jamie Murray	Nina Weid
Ashlyn Galloway	Terri Neil	Mark W. Weller
Albrecht Gaub	Lori Ann Pannier	Kayla Wendlake
Jaymes Gayhart*	Alexandra Pieper+	Elaine Wessel
Lauren Gizzi	Josh Pope*	Nathan Wesselowski*
Andrea S. Goetzing	Erin Frey Puccetti	Hazel Wheaton
Anthony Grant	Alison Rada-Bayne+	Charles T. White
Lynn Gutoski	Stephen Ragatz	Rebecca Whitney*
Brett Hanisko*+	Annalisa Ragatz	Marie Widder
Abby Hanson	Debbie Rakestraw	Andrew Widder*
Joe Hatchell	Lisa Rao	Natalie Wikstrom
Mitch Haycock	Joel Rathmann*	Ruth Williams
Keith Heidmann	Jessica Rauh	Annie Williams+
Joan Henkel	Kristin Raymond	Evan Witz
David Hillenbrand	Kirsten Reddy	Heidi Wylie*
Dan Holzmilller	Catherine Regner	
Kathleen Hughes*	Kay Richardson	
Michelle Hynson*	Mary S. Rinehart	
Brent M. Johnston*+	Jessie SaLee	
Morgan Knigge	Kerry Saver	

*Denotes Section Leader

+Denotes Semi-Chorus

Orchestra

First Violins

Jeanyi Kim, Concertmaster
Sascha Mandl
Mike Giacobassi
Danielle Brusubardis
Darlene Rivest
Tatiana Migliacci
Lena Gaetz
John Emanuelson

Second Violins

Jerry Loughney
Katherine Brooks
Melissa Mann
Ellen Willman
Jessica Williams
Ashley Rewolinski

Violas

Jamie Hofman
Amanda Koch
Olga Tuzhilkov
Lynne Fields
Mary Pat Michels
Joseph Steinbart

Cellos

Trischa Loebl
Roza Borisova
Sacia Jerome
Lydia Park
Tom Smith

Basses

Chuck Grosz
Michael Britz
Kate Krueger

Flutes

Carol Meves
Tatiana Pearson

Piccolo

Octavian Moldovean

Oboes

Suzanne Geoffrey
Kimberly Hawkinson

English Horn

Jennifer Bryan

Clarinets

Laura McLaughlin
Bernard Parish

Bass Clarinet

Orlando Pimental

Bassoons

Joshua Fleming
Libby Garrett

Contra-Bassoon

Andrea Clark

Horns

Kathryn Krubsack
Sue Walker
Liz Olson
Katie Ritter

Trumpets

David Magoon
Steven Ehrhardt
Justin Olson

Trombones

Matthew Walker
Chris Burns

Bass Trombone

Kyle Samuelson

Tuba

Serena Voltz

Harp

Kelsey Molinari

Timpani

Terry Smirl

Percussion

Carl Storniolo
Danny Hafenstein
Erik Holmes



About Bel Canto Chorus

Values and Mission Statement

We believe lifelong learning builds thriving communities. At Bel Canto Chorus, we build communities by connecting people through music. We offer world-class choral programs in the Milwaukee Area. Our mission is to connect singers, audiences, and the community through experiences with diverse choral music.

About

Founded in 1931, Bel Canto Chorus is Southeastern Wisconsin's oldest continually performing arts organization. The group includes an auditioned adult performance chorus of approximately 100 singers and a Senior Singers program for those 55 or better who want to sing in an organized performance chorus. Characterized by a heartfelt belief in the value of Bel Canto Chorus's mission and vision, and supported by devoted singers and audiences, talented artistic and administrative staff, and dedicated Board members, the group's passion for sharing the thrill of live choral music has remained steadfast throughout its long, proud history.

Board of Directors

Officers

Marq Truscott – President
Thayer Fisher – Treasurer
Marcia Schwager – Secretary

Ellen Fulton, Antonina Johnston, Katie Kaminsky, Sibyl McCarley, Theodore Perlick Molinari, Sarah Paul, Stephen Ragatz

Artistic Staff

Music Director/Conductor – Richard Hynson
Assistant Conductor/Accompanist – Michelle Hynson
Senior Singers Conductor – Rebecca Renee Winnie
Senior Singers Accompanist – Elna Hickson

Administrative Staff

Chief Executive Officer – Theodore Perlick Molinari
Managing Director – Kai Simone
Production Manager – Danielle Bridges

Chorus Cabinet

CarolAnne Bozosi, Thayer Fisher, Joe Hatchell, Mitch Haycock, Jim LaBelle, Angela Lee, Annalisa Ragatz, Stephen Ragatz, Kristin Raymond, Catherine Regner, Kay Richardson, Kerry Saver, Philip Starr, Veronica Thomas, Kayla Wendlake, Charles White, Marie Widder

Bel Canto Chorus Financial Supporters

Bel Canto Legacy Society

Members of the Bel Canto Legacy Society have agreed to include the Chorus as a part of their estate planning arrangements. You may join them by contacting the Bel Canto office at (414) 481-8801.

Margaret E. Haggerty
Louise L. Hedrick
Sally D. Hoyt & Vaughn Ausman
Kerry Saver
William & Susan Smith

Joanna & Chris Smocke
James Steinman
Roseanne & David Tolan
Louis Winter

Corporate and Foundation Support (4/1/23-4/1/24)

\$10,000+

Seamons Leadership LLC
United Performing Arts Fund

\$100 - \$999

Amazon Smile
Devine Family Charitable Fund
Vanguard Charitable

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bert L. and Patricia S. Steigleder Charitable Trust
Nonprofit Management Fund

To \$99

Network for Good
Thrivent Financial

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Marcus Hotels & Resorts
Pieper Electric, Inc./Ideal Mechanical
Zurn Foundation

Matching Gifts

GE Foundation
Network for Good

Bel Canto Chorus Individual Supporters (4/1/23-4/1/24)

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT (4/1/2023-4/1/2024)

Standing Ovation (\$10,000+)

Anonymous
Sally D. Hoyt & Vaughn Ausman
Rita McDonald

Bravissimo (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous
Helen & Robert Vettori

Bravo (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Anonymous [2]
Susan & Thomas Connor
Sue C. D'Alessio
Thayer Fisher & Hayley German Fisher
Janet Gibeau
Michael L. Hayes & Patricia A. Teets
Joan & Dave Henkel
Madeline Henry
Richard & Michelle Hynson
Katie Kaminsky & Jeff Niehus
Sibyl McCarley & Brian Frailing
Ed & Linda Mordy
Marjorie Piechowski
Theodore & Kelsey Perlick Molinari
Raka & Lisa Rao
Jeff & Marcia Schwager
Don & Kathy Schwerin
Brett Seamons
William R. & Susan Chamberlin Smith
Richard Wagner
Mark Weller
Elaine & Robert Wessel

Fortissimo (\$500-\$999)

Tom & Carole Barnum
Jan & Bob Becker
Randy Casey
Sandra Christensen
Mary Alice Dunn
Ellen Fulton & James Hegarty
Eileen Griffiths
Jim & Christine Hill
James & Laura Hyland
Dan & Virginia Jagla
Marjorie Jothen
Gregg & Sheila Jozwik
Sue Martin-Steiner & Tony Steiner
Pat & Ray Mehler
Christian & Kate Mitchell
Katherine & Oliver Moss
Terri & Stephen Neil
Annalisa Ragatz
Michael & Mary Burke Ryan
Zach & Jessica Willenbrink
Rebecca Winnie

Forte (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous [2]
Moki & Cindy Amini
Rachel & Adam Arndt
Robert Balderson
CarolAnne Bozosi
Susan & Dennis Daye
Jodi & John Eastberg
Terese Jackson
Raja Khan
John & Nancy Kirtley

Bel Canto Chorus Individual Supporters (4/1/23-4/1/24)

Forte (\$250–\$499)

Gordon Lang & Julie Zieflé
Gayle & Jim Meyer
David Nelson & Lynne Shaner
Sarah Pancheri
Sarah Paul
Joe & Michelle Phillips
Alex & Rick Pieper
Jason & Meaghan Schultz
Carter Simmons
Sheila Strock
Joe & Kay Tierney
Martin & Janet Tierney
Amanda & Chris Tollefsen
Elizabeth Wessel
Brad & Michelle Wilkins

Mezzo Forte (\$100–\$249)

Anonymous [2]
Janine Arseneau
Charlotte Bouche
Indra & Ernie Brusubardis III
Valerie Burbey-Lutzen
Susan Cattey
Heather Chapman
Robert & Elizabeth Conway
Catherine & Mario Costantini
John & Terri Devine
Don & Martha Dobbs
Cary Docter
Margaret Douglas
Dale & Sydnee Edman
Merzy Eisenberg
Martin Emerson
Ryan & Leia Esser
Constance Ferentz
Stanley & Janet Fox
Alex Freund
Lynn Gabe
Carl Granberg
Joe & Lisa Hatchell
Ryan Heberlein & Marilena Reina
Laura & Brian Hirano
Tom & Katie Hofman
Kathleen & Tyrrell Hughes
Stefanie Jacob
Brent & Nina Johnston
Barbara Keefe
Jerome Kerkman
Andy & Beth Konieczka
Myriam Konieczka
Lynn Krebs
Kristen Labovsky
Kathy Lake
Don Langenfeld
Mickie & Judy Leach
Dale & Barbara Lenz
Colleen Lese
Judy Zoelzer Levine
Lynne & Thomas Lindemann
Renata Luczkowska
Todd & Sarah Lundquist

Lois Malawsky
Meike Mansfield
Tom McGovern
Dave & Sonja Mohr
Jary & Kelly Niebuhr
Dan Nordloh
Ellen Osburn Johnson
Thaddeus & Alison Rada-Bayne
Daniel & Jennifer Roemer
Doug & Judy Ross
Kerry Saver
Melissa & Mike Schieble
Josefina Sevilla-Gardinier
Jill Shearer & Michael Julian
Philip Starr
Grace Stetter
Kathryn Walters
John Wiesman
Charles and Kathleen Willenbrink
Heidi & Craig Witz
Bob Wrenn & Margaret Hickey
Heidi & Jon Wylie
Marilyn & Doug Zwissler

If you identify any errors, please notify us at info@belcanto.org or (414) 481-8801.

The generosity of the foundations, corporate donors, and individual contributors listed above makes our music possible. If you are in a position to introduce us to a potential new corporate sponsor, please email Kai Simone at ksimone@belcanto.org. If you would like to make an individual, tax deductible,

The above donors may also be viewed in larger font on our website at www.belcanto.org. If you identify any errors, please notify us at info@belcanto.org or (414) 481-8801.

The generosity of the foundations, corporate donors, and individual contributors listed above makes our music possible. If you are in a position to introduce us to a potential new corporate sponsor, please email Kai Simone at KSimone@belcanto.org. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to Bel Canto Chorus, please visit www.belcanto.org/donate.html. Every dollar makes a difference. We thank you warmly.

Announcing Bel Canto Chorus's 2024-25 Season

VOICES UNITED

Under the Direction of Artistic Director
Jonathan Laabs

For an invitation to the special VIP season preview party where we will announce the entire season, please reach out to info@belcanto.org.

STAY IN
TOUCH!



@bel.canto.chorus



facebook.com/Bel.Canto.Chorus



Subscribe to our newsletter



BEL CANTO
CHORUS