

Elegiac/ ECSTATIC

Sunday, June 14
2 p.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
La Grange, IL



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Elegiac/ ECSTATIC

This afternoon's Program

Kindly hold applause until the conclusion.

I. being human

where you go

David Lang
(b. 1955)

Verleih uns Frieden

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1843)

Urlicht

Gustav Mahler
(1860-1911)

II. of the earth

Take Him, Earth, For Cherishing

Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

Epitaph of a Romantic Woman

Marybeth Kurnat
(b. 1987)

Smile, O Voluptuous Cool-Breathed Earth

Stacy Garrop
(b. 1969)

Ian Murrell, Baritone

At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners

Williametta Spencer
(1927-2026)

III. in the universe

A Blade of Grass

Stacy Garrop
(b. 1969)

Choir Students of Hampshire Middle and High Schools

Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras I | So seid nun geduldig

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Faire is the Heaven

William Henry Harris
(1883-1973)

Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras II | Aber, des Herrn
Wort bleibet in Ewigkeit

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Elizabeth Waldon, organ; Ke Wang, piano

Program Notes



There are events in life that induce a change in perspective: interruptions of our normal procedures, cycles, rhythms and rituals – times that bring a sharp change in priorities through our inordinate emotional response to them. While they are disparate points on our spectrum of emotions, both elegy and ecstasy are central to us when we must navigate events that change our perspective about life, and to how we respond to our perceptions of existence: the joy of being alive made even more

precious by the certainty of death, and grappling with the unknown while retaining hope there is something greater that we do not (or cannot) perceive. It is a great challenge to our minds: **being human** (*this we know*), **of the earth** (*this we can understand*), **in the universe** (*this we may not fathom*) – all while experiencing the individual and collective emotions orbiting our identities as finite beings. We know this human life. We can understand our physical existence and how we are atomically connected to this awesome world. What about that which we cannot fathom?

Grappling with each of these levels of perception and the accompanying emotions is a gift itself, and we relish the creative imaginations of the composers whose music is on the program. We present their art with themes, pairings, interruptions, segues, and tropes; please hold applause until the conclusion.

Singers

Sopranos

Isabella Anderson
JoEllyn Caulfield
Marybeth Kurnat
JeniLyn Roether
Deanna Tausch
Erin Truesdell

Altos

Lena Burke
Adrienne Gallagher-Beetstra
Mihcal McClelland
Emily Paulson
Amy Schwartz
Nicole Tolentino

Tenors

Daniel Beetstra
Niall Casserly
Filip Duda-Žurawieck
John McHugh
Segun Owele
Joseph Quaynor

Basses

Matt Alfrey
Timothy Bostwick
Daniel Chukwunyem
David Hartley
Jordan Pedigo
Mike Richards

Hampshire Choir Students

Jayden Anderson
Brylee Currie
Haley Hagendorn
Bridget MacDonald
Makayla Magsombol

Abigail McKinney
Verina Perez
Cherish Scott
Abigail Slipke
Madison Wiebe

Lyrics and Translations

Lang: where you go

*where you go
where you stay
where you live
where you die
don't make me leave you
don't make me turn away from you*

*where you go i will go
where you stay i will stay
where you live i will live
where you die i will die*

*don't make me leave you; i will never leave
you
don't make me turn away from you; i will
never turn away from you
don't make me go; i will never go*

Mendelssohn: Verleih uns Frieden

*In these our days so perilous,
Lord, send us peace in mercy;
No God but thee can fight for us,
No God but thee defend us;
Thou, our God alone*

Mahler: Urlicht

*O red rose,
Man lies in direst need,
Man lies in direst pain,
I would rather be in heaven.*

*I am from God and to God I will return,
Dear God will give me a light,
Will light my way to eternal blessed life/*

*I then came upon a broad path,
An angel came and sought to turn me back,
Ah no! I refused to be turned away.*

Lyrics and Translations

Howells: Take Him, Earth, For Cherishing

*Take him, earth, for cherishing,
to thy tender breast receive him.
Body of a man I bring thee,
noble even in its ruin.*

*Once was this a spirit's dwelling,
by the breath of God created.
High the heart that here was beating,
Christ the prince of all its living.*

*Guard him well, the dead I give thee,
not unmindful of his creature
shall he ask it: he who made it
symbol of his mystery.*

*Comes the hour God hath appointed
to fulfil the hope of men,
then must thou, in very fashion,
what I give, return again*

*Not though ancient time decaying
wear away these bones to sand,
ashes that a man might measure
in the hollow of his hand:*

*Not though wandering winds and idle,
drifting through the empty sky,
scatter dust was nerve and sinew,
is it given to man to die.*

*Once again the shining road
leads to ample Paradise;
open are the woods again,
that the serpent lost for men*

*Take, O take him, mighty leader,
take again thy servant's soul.
Grave his name, and pour the fragrant
balm upon the icy stone.*

Kurnat: Epitaph for a Romantic Woman

*She has attained the permanence
She dreamed of, where old stones
lie sunning.
Untended stalks blow over her
Even and swift, like young men running*

*Always in the heart she loved
Others had lived,
—she heard their laughter.
She lies where none has lain before,
Where certainly none will follow after.*



Lyrics and Translations

Spencer: At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners

At the round earth's imagin'd corners, blow
Your trumpets, angels, and arise, arise
From death, you numberless infinities
Of souls, and to your scatter'd bodies go;
All whom the flood did, and fire shall o'erthrow,
All whom war, dearth, age, agues, tyrannies,
Despair, law, chance hath slain, and you whose eyes
Shall behold God and never taste death's woe.
But let them sleep, Lord, and me mourn a space,
For if above all these my sins abound,
'Tis late to ask abundance of thy grace
When we are there; here on this lowly ground
Teach me how to repent; for that's as good
As if thou 'hadst seal'd my pardon with thy blood.

Garrop: Smile, O voluptuous cool-breathed earth!

Baritone soloist:

Smile, O voluptuous cool-breathed earth!
Earth of the slumbering and liquid trees!
Earth of departed sunsets—earth of the mountains misty top!
Earth of the vitreous pour of the full moon just tinged with blue!
Earth of shine and dark mottling the tide of the river!
Earth of the limpid gray of clouds brighter and clearer for my sake!
Far-swooping elbowed earth—rich apple-blossomed earth!
Smile, for your lover comes.
Prodigal, you have given me love—therefore I, to you, give love.
O unspeakable passionate love!

Garrop: A Blade of Grass

A blade of grass is the journeywork of the stars.
Long and long has the grass been growing,
Long and long has the rain been falling,
Long has the globe been rolling round.

Lyrics and Translations

Brahms: *Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras*

*For all flesh, it is like grass
And all glory of mankind is like the grass' flowers:
The grass is withered, and the flower fell off.*

*So now be patient, dear brothers, for the future of the Lord.
See, a farmer patiently waits on the delicious fruit
Until he receives the morning rain and the evening rain*

Harris: *Faire is the Heaven*

*Faire is the heaven where happy soules have place
In full enjoyment of felicitie;
Whence they do still behold the glorious face
Of the Divine, Eternall Majestie;
Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins
Which all with golden wings are overdight.
And those eternall burning Seraphins
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;
Yet fairer than they both and much more bright
Be the Angels and Archangels
Which attend on God's owne person without rest or end.
These then in faire each other farre excelling
As to the Highest they approach more neare,
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling
Fairer than all the rest which there appeare
Though all their beauties joynd together were;
How then can mortal tongue hope to expresse
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?*

Brahms: *Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras*

*For all flesh, it is like grass
And all glory of mankind is like the grass' flowers:
The grass is withered, and the flower fell off.*

*So now be patient, dear brothers, for the future of the Lord.
See, a farmer patiently waits on the delicious fruit
Until he receives the morning rain and the evening rain*

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As we move forward through this transition, we are energized by the possibilities ahead, and your ongoing support will be essential in realizing our vision for the next chapter.

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Today's Concert**