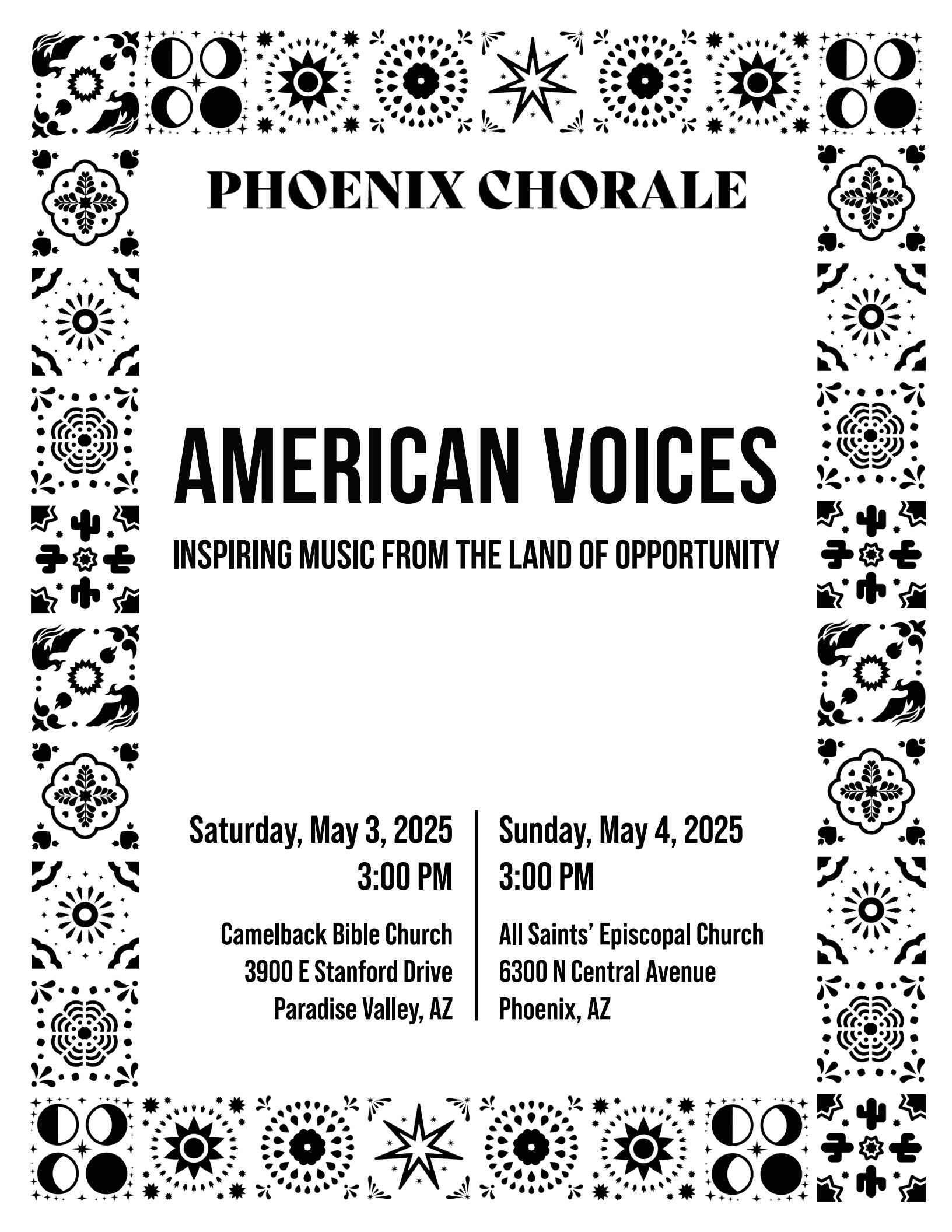




PHOENIX CHORALE

AMERICAN VOICES

INSPIRING MUSIC FROM THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Saturday, May 3, 2025

3:00 PM

**Camelback Bible Church
3900 E Stanford Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ**

Sunday, May 4, 2025

3:00 PM

**All Saints' Episcopal Church
6300 N Central Avenue
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Join James Gerber and Erik Goldstrom as they offer up music for four hands and four feet! Featuring music by Naji Hakim, Gustav Merkel, Frank Ferko, Richard Wagner, and John Phillips Sousa in an afternoon extravaganza not to be missed!

AMERICAN VOICES

INSPIRING MUSIC FROM THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY



SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025 3:00 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025 3:00 PM

Earth Song

Frank Ticheli

Four Motets

Aaron Copland

- I. Help us, O Lord
- II. Thou, O Jehovah, Abideth
- III. Have mercy on us, O my Lord
- IV. Sing ye praises to our King

Madalyn Kiewiet, soprano

Courtney Evans, alto

James Grandjean, tenor

Jason Raetz, bass

All seems beautiful to me

Eric Whitacre

Scenes in America Deserta

John McCabe

INTERMISSION

Vista Point

Jennifer Lucy Cook

Lies'l Hill, soprano

WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

Peace

Trad. arr. Kevin Siegfried

Steal away to Jesus

Trad. arr. Dale Adelman

James Grandjean, tenor

McKay

Trad. arr. Carol Barnett

Swing low, sweet chariot

Trad. arr. Dale Adelman

Caleb French, baritone

The Gift to be Simple

Joseph Brackett, arr. Bob Chilcott

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit

Trad. arr. Dale Adelman

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS PHOENIX CHORALE CONCERT SPONSORS:

SATURDAY MAY 3: DOUGLAS AND ANNETTE JONES | SUNDAY MAY 4: MARY FARRINGTON-LORCH

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME CHRISTOPHER GABBITAS



We reach our final concert series of this 2024/25 season, and are grateful to all of you for your support across the four series of performances. As usual, we are approaching varied repertoire, both well-known and hidden gems, and have more of the same for you in today's program which we have called **American Voices**.

Programming this concert was a true labor of love: it gave me the opportunity to consider the various contributions that the United States has made to literature and music, and to allow for the voice of the land itself to be heard through writers and composers. In part, this was inspired by our latest commissioned work, **Vista Point** by friend of the ensemble, Los Angeles-based composer Jennifer Lucy Cook. She hit upon the idea of celebrating America's unique and beautiful landscape through her words and music, and I immediately wanted to find a complementary piece to balance this idea. Ultimately, there was only one choice: John McCabe's incredible tour-de-force, **Scenes in America Deserta**. Perhaps an obvious choice for a choral ensemble based in the desert, this moving and evocative work sets to music text written by the architectural historian Peter Reyner Banham, from chronicles of his travels throughout the south western United States. The imagery and word-painting is quite extraordinary; if you ever wondered if silence, heat, and light could be represented in music - this is how!

Moving from the land to the people, we give voice to several groups of American people who have put music front and centre in their culture: African American spirituals, together with music of the Shaker People, and the Sacred Harp tradition. The program interweaves examples of these differing styles, as a tapestry brings together colourful threads of material, each enhancing the other and showing the wealth of creative spirit that has long inhabited this land. And, we pay homage to one of the true C20th greats in the form of **Four Motets** by Aaron Copland, book-ended by two fine examples of C21st American choral writing by Eric Whitacre, and Frank Ticheli whose **Earth Song** again refers to the very land beneath our feet, and cries out to us that we must honour and care for what we have, for fear of losing it altogether. I leave you with a line from that piece, as it will resonate with all of us, I am sure:

*"But music and singing have been my refuge
And music and singing shall be my light"*

Once again, thank you for joining Phoenix Chorale this season! We hope very much to see you again next time around, as we prepare another feast of choral music for your enjoyment.



Christopher Gabbitas
Artistic Director, Phoenix Chorale



WELCOME BACK COMPOSER JENNIFER LUCY COOK

Jennifer Lucy Cook (she/her) is a composer and lyricist based in Los Angeles. Jen specializes in music for the stage and screen, choral work, and pop songwriting.

Recent choral commissions include Phoenix Chorale, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and Vox Femina, and she debuts a new piece at Carnegie Hall this Spring. She is the recipient of the Chorus Austin Composition Prize, the Cantus Emerging Composer Award, the HerVoice Female Composer Prize, and the Edwin Fissinger Composition Prize. Her piece *Time* is in the top ten best selling concert choral works overall for J.W. Pepper in 2024, and was awarded a Director's Choice and along with her arrangement of "*What Was I Made For*," both received a J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice for 2024.

She is an alumnus of the Johnny Mercer Foundation Writer's Grove with Goodspeed Musicals. She is currently working with Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken on his "A Whole New World for Alan Menken" solo show, which debuted at the London Palladium and has an upcoming engagement in Osaka, Japan. Jen also wrote music and lyrics for *Salem*, a dark comedy retelling of the witch trials, which has since garnered significant social media attention. Other theater commissions include Full House Theatre Co., British Youth Musical Theatre, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, and her musical recaps of the Bachelor went viral on TikTok. She earned a Master's degree in Musical Theater Writing from Goldsmiths University in London and a Bachelor's in Media Music from Brigham Young University. Despite writing music in such a wide range of genres, Jen's music is united by a keen love for storytelling with song. She prioritizes specific, highly emotional lyrics, melodic earworms, and infectious rhythmic grooves, and conceives of every piece from a dramatic, narrative-driven perspective.

SPECIAL THANKS TO PHOENIX CHORALE SEASON SUPPORTERS

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TRINITY
CATHEDRAL

Earth Song (2007)

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Sing, be, live, see

This dark stormy hour
The wind, it stirs
The scorched Earth cries out in vain

Oh war and power, you blind and blur
The torn heart cries out in pain

But music and singing have been my refuge
And music and singing shall be my light

Four Motets (1921)

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

I. Help us, O Lord

Help us, O Lord.

For with Thee is the fount of life.
In Thy light shall we see light.
Let us march and try our ways.
Turn to God.

For with Thee is the fount of life.
In Thy light shall we see light.

It is good that man should wait.
It is good that man should hope,
hope for the salvation of the Lord.

Help us, O Lord.

II. Thou, O Jehovah, Abideth

Thou, O, Jehovah, abideth forever.

God reigneth over all men and nations.
His throne doth last and doth guide all the
ages.

Why wilt Thou forsake us ever?
When then wilt Thou forget us never?

A light of song shining strong
Hallelujah, hallelujah

Through darkness and pain and strife
I'll sing, I'll be, live see

Peace

Thou, O Jehovah, abideth forever,
and all the length of our days will ever be
our Savior.

When then wilt Thou forget us never?

Thou, O Jehovah, abideth forever.

III. Have mercy on us, O my Lord

Have mercy on us, O my Lord.
Be not far from us, O my God.
Give ear unto our humble prayer.
Attend and judge us in Thy might.

Uphold us with Thy guiding hand.
Restore us to Thy kindly light.

Have mercy on us, O my Lord.
Be not far from us, O my God.
O my heart is sorely pained
and calls on Thee in vain.
Cast me not away from salvation.

Then we shall trust in Thee,
then we will bear our place.
Have mercy on us, O my Lord.
Be not far from us, O my Lord.

O my heart is sorely pained
and calls on Thee in vain.
Cast me not away from salvation.

Have mercy on us, O my Lord.
Be not far from us, O my God.

IV. Sing ye praises to our King

Sing ye praises, sing ye praises to our King.
O sing ye praises, sing ye praises to our King.
O sing ye praises, sing ye praises to our King and Ruler.

Come and hear all ye men.
Come and hear my praises.
He doth bless all the earth,
and bringeth peace and comfort.
Shout unto God all ye men.

Shout unto God all your praises.
He doth bless all the earth,
and bringeth peace and comfort.

Sing ye praises, sing ye praises to our King.
O sing ye praises, sing ye praises.
Come and praise Him all ye men.
Shout and praise Him all ye men.
He doth bless all the earth,
bringeth peace to all ye men.
O sing ye praises, sing ye praises to our King and Ruler.

All seems beautiful to me (2022)

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

From this hour I ordain myself loos'd of
imaginary lines,
Going where I list, my own master total and
absolute,
Listening to others, considering well what
they say,
Pausing, searching, receiving,
contemplating,
Gently, but with undeniable will,
divesting myself from the holds that would
hold me.
I inhale great draughts of space,
The east and the west are mine, and the
north and the south are mine.

I am larger, better than I thought,
I did not know I held so much goodness.

All seems beautiful to me,
I can repeat over and over to men and
women
You have done such good to me I would do
the same to you,
You have done such good to me I would do
the same to you,
You have done such good to me I would do
the same to you,
I will recruit for myself and you as I go,
I will scatter myself among men and
women as I go,
I will toss a new gladness and roughness
among them,
Whoever denies me it shall not trouble me,
Whoever accepts me he or she shall be
blessed and shall bless me.

Text: Walt Whitman

Scenes in America Deserta (1986)

John McCabe (1939-2015)

I. Silence, heat and light I

Silence, heat and light. The silence flowed back like a filling pool ... the air began to feel warm as the sun beat back ... a thin heat-haze began to dance and shimmer ... everything that is not shadow is brilliant incandescent white against the darker mountains behind ...

II. Cycling

Swinging in wider and wider circles or going head down for the ever-retreating horizon, the salt whispers under one's wheels ... Swooping and sprinting like a skater over the surface of Silurian Lake ...

III. Buildings and Works of Man: Cosanti

A sequence of small sunken courtyards: some roofed ... others sheltered by overhanging trees which dappled these deep places with patterns of flickering shadow. And everywhere- tinkling bells and tinkling fountains ...

IV. Pueblo: The Frescoes

The frescoes ... had but one subject: water ... every image celebrated or craved the giving of water. White-legged figures of gods spilled water from feathered gourds; black pots set upon the ground spewed symmetrical fountains of water; fish ... spat water and rainbows. An eagle spat water, two geese spat water, a storm bird spat water, and lightning struck everywhere to celebrate the thunderstorm.

V. Silence, heat and light II

Color seems to emanate as light throughout the atmosphere ... The shadows in the gorge and along the mountain face were an extraordinary blue, a profound, saturated blue undimmed by the whitening corruptions of atmosphere, an utter blue beyond question and almost beyond description ...

Text from 'Scenes in America Deserta' by Peter
Reyner Banham

Vista Point (2025)

Jennifer Lucy Cook

World Premiere Performance

One foot in front of the other
One foot in front of the other
A trail my mother's mother's mother dreamt
about

I'm moving forward

One foot in front of the other

One foot in front of the other

A trail my mother's mother's mother dreamt
about

And still I'm climbing, climbing, climbing,
climbing

Up a steep slope

That took an age to form

Worn and wind-blown

Through every winter storm

Chaos in the making

Is beauty still

But without earthquake or heavy rockfall
Or without landslide, there'd be no hill
There would be no hill at all

Up, up, up, up

My weary feet never bother

My weary feet never bother

A trail my father's father's father walked
upon

My weary feet never bother

My weary feet never bother

A trail my father's father's father walked
upon

I'm going farther, farther, farther, farther

'Round a cliffside

A full grown tree clings

Like gravity does not apply

The scrappy juniper has wings

For a tree root

Any boulder is no barrier

For a tree root

Never minds a winding path, no

My path is winding

My path is weathered

I need reminding

That I'm untethered

My path is winding

My path is weathered

I need reminding

That I'm untethered

I'm going up, up, up, up

A hundred miles of the holiest view

Belongs to me and belongs to you

A vista point and a lightheaded high

Where earth and human meet the sky

A hundred miles of the holiest view

Belongs to me and belongs to you

A vista point and a lightheaded high

Where earth and human meet the sky

Composer Note:

Vista Point is where three hikers meet on a trail. The text reflects them putting one foot in front of the other, and trusting that the resulting view is going to be worth it, both literally and figuratively. There's a rhythmic nature to the hiking, there's a breathlessness as the air thins, and there's a grandeur in the resulting view. Being able to see for miles in every direction provides a clarity for each of the characters, and solidifies the lessons that nature offers: there's a calm, steady resilience in weathering storms, growing around boulders, adapting to change, and thriving even in less-than-ideal circumstances. It is my hope that these universal truths exist in both the personal as well as political connotations, and provide a renewed sense of hope and expansiveness in the audience.

This piece was commissioned by Phoenix Chorale with generous support from Mary Farrington-Lorch

Peace (1997)

Trad. arr. Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

Peace unto Zion.

Peace, peace to the faithful,
and a crown of rejoicing from your Heavenly
Father.

When Zion shall be cleansed she shall
flourish as a rose.
I will walk in her midst and will bless all
those with a tenfold blessing.
And their sorrows shall cease, for I'll cry
upon her walls.

Peace, peace, sweet peace.

Steal away to Jesus (1992)

Trad. arr. Dale Adelman (b. 1961)

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 by the thunder;
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul:
I ain't got long to stay here.

*Steal away, steal away,
Steal away to Jesus.
Steal away, steal away home.*

I ain't got long to stay here.

Green trees a-bendin',
Poor sinner stand a-tremblin',
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul:
I ain't got long to stay here.

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

McKay (2003)

Traditional American (Sacred Harp) arr. Carol Barnett (b. 1949)

O the transporting, rapturous scene
That rises to my sight!
Sweet fields arrayed in living green,
And rivers of delight.

There gen'rous fruits that never fail
On trees immortal grow,
There rocks and hills and brooks and vales
With milk and honey flow.

Swing low, sweet chariot (1995)

Trad. arr. Dale Adelman (b. 1961)

Swing low, sweet chariot,
comin' for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
comin' for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan and what did I see,
comin' for to carry me home?
A band of angels comin' after me,
comin' for to carry me home.

*Swing low, sweet chariot,
comin' for to carry me home.*

*Swing low, sweet chariot,
comin' for to carry me home.*

Oh, if you get there before I do,
comin' for to carry me home.
Tell all my friends I'm comin' too,
comin' for to carry me home.

*Swing low, sweet chariot,
comin' for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
comin' for to carry me home.*

The Gift to be Simple (1989)

Joseph Brackett, arr. Bob Chilcott (1797-1882)

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be
free,
'tis the gift to come down where you
ought-a be,
and when we find ourselves in a place just
right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
to turn, turn, will be our delight
till by turning, turning we come round right.

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit (1992)

Trad. arr. Dale Adelman

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit
movin' in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, ev'ry time I feel the spirit
movin' in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain when my Lord spoke,
Out o' His mouth came fire and smoke.
An' all aroun' me look so shine,
Ask-a my Lord if all was mine.

*Yes ev'ry time I feel the spirit
movin' in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, ev'ry time I feel the spirit
movin' in my heart, I will pray.*

De Jordan River is chilly an' cold,
chill-a de body but not de soul,

*And ev'ry time I feel the spirit
movin' in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, ev'ry time I feel the spirit
movin' in my heart, I will pray!*

ABOUT PHOENIX CHORALE



The Phoenix Chorale, led by Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas since 2019, is regarded as one of the finest choral ensembles in the US of the western Classical tradition.

Founded in 1958 as the Bach & Madrigal Society of Phoenix and subsequently known as the Phoenix Bach Choir, the Phoenix Chorale became a fully professional choir in 1992. The Chorale's mission is to nurture and amplify the strength and resonance of Arizona's choral artistry. All professional artists who sing in the Chorale live in the state, many of whom teach voice and direct music activities in Phoenix metro-area schools and community colleges and have studied in the state's strong collegiate choral programs.



Phoenix Chorale currently presents four thematic concert programs each season, with musical works spanning five centuries including composers, poets, and lyricists from across the globe and representing creative artists of all genders, creeds, and colors. The music and words we share aim to resonate personally in some way within each listener, whether they join us live in the room or through our recordings and videos.

PHOENIX CHORALE ARTISTS

Soprano

Leslie Ellingson
Lies'I Hill
Madalyn Kiewiet
Cara Loveless-Faulkner
Katherine Rosenfeld
Sarah Smith

Alto

Courtney Evans
Ariana Iniguez
Carol Jennings
Anjelica Simone
Holly Sheppard
Leia Wasbotten

Tenor

Gavin Ely
Elijah Frank
Gabriel Frongillo
James Grandjean
Josiah Hagstrom
Billy Mattison

Bass

Caleb French
Christopher Herrera
Joshua Hillmann
Jordan Murillo
Jason Raetz
Samuel Williams

Christopher Gabbitas **Artistic Director** | Tom Peterson **Assistant Conductor**

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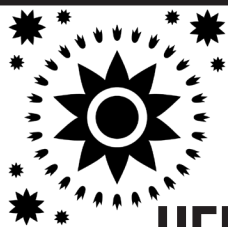
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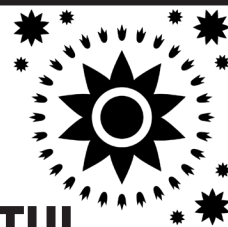
Learn more about the Chorale and our talented Arizona-based artists including full bios and headshots by scanning the QR Code on your phone's camera app or by visiting phoenixchorale.org/aboutus

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PHOENIX CHORALE SPRING CAMPAIGN 2025



HELP US REACH OUR \$150,000 GOAL BY JUNE 30TH!

Last Spring, patrons like you blasted past a historic goal to raise \$100,000 in two months towards Phoenix Chorale's new Season. Let's do it again, and then some.

Did you know that the Chorale's annual budget operates at almost \$600,000 per year and ticket income accounts for less than a quarter of the revenue we need to deliver our world-class offering?

Phoenix Chorale is investing in the community we serve to keep choral music interesting and intriguing to patrons old and new through: offering a blend of large-scale projects with orchestra alongside our signature a cappella concerts, seeking major collaborations, a mix of sacred and secular venues, and hearing new commissioned work from living composers alongside cherished classics.

With a gift to the Chorale this Spring you make possible a new Season of:

Unparalleled Concert Experiences: breathtaking and profound a cappella moments and awe-inspiring choral-orchestral collaboration.

Unwavering Commitment to local professional artists with Chris Gabbitas' World-Class Leadership: hiring only Arizona-based singers and paying staff and artists fair wages.

Extending our Impact: through media and recordings on radio, TV and online, and in building connections between Arizona and the wider choral world through work with living composers.

Keeping Concerts Affordable: through accessible price points, our student ticket program, early bird subscription discounts and more.

When you support us with a financial gift, your voice joins the chorus of people who believe in bringing people together through beauty.

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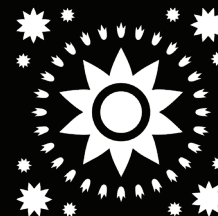
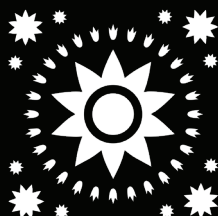
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Susan Fischer
Jacqueline Forbes
*Christopher Gabbitas
Jim & Rhenda Gallup
Victor and Nancy Geiger
Al Gephart
Clifford Golden
Edwin Goldstein
Teresa & Scott Gould
Esther Groves
David A. & Anita Hagstrom
Matthew & Bonnie Harris
Bob Perry & Pam Havens
Sue Hill
John Irwin
Judith Jones
Nancy Kielty
Douglas & Pamela Kimball
Mike & Barbara Koff
Spencer Lane
Francoise & Gerald Lorch
Florence Lynch

Dolores McClimans
 Patricia O'Toole
 Christine Parker
 Jamie & Kevin Peffley
 Lawrence Phibbs
 Mary Pierce
 Nicole Pilié
 J.A.C. & LeAnn Redford
 James & Linda Rossman
 Dr. Margaret Ruccolo
 Evelyn Sowell
 Monte & Nancy Sriver
 Allan Stam
 Maurice Staples
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 Irene Tseng
 Randi Turk
 Tom & Diane VanDyke
 Stephen & Barbara Veitch
 James Veurink
 Shirley J. Vieths
 Jerelyn B & John Walters
 Ann Wheat
 Patrick Williams

†Current Board Member
 *Singer or Staff Member

Honors

In honor of clients of Law Office of Mary
 Farrington-Lorch
 Mary Farrington-Lorch
 In Honor of Carlos Oldham and Joan
 Goforth
 Marilyn J Dennett
 In Honor of Tom Peterson
 Florence Lynch

Memorials

In Memory of Geoffrey Belmont
 Nicole Belmont
 Dr Christopher Samuel
 In Memory of Barbara Jo Brandt and
 Richard Charles Brandt
 Dr Beverly Brandt
 in Memory of Edwin Hirsekorn
 Hirsekorn Chain of Hearts
 Charitable Fund Kathleen Hirsekorn
 In Memory of Theresia Hoerner
 Helena Hill
 In Memory of James M Jensen
 Judi Jensen
 In Memory of John Mueller
 Mari Chazen TTe
 In Memory of Louise and Rice Pierce
 Mary Louise Pierce

The Phoenix Chorale would like to
 thank the law firm of Thorpe Shwer
 for its ongoing generous support.

T H O R P E S H W E R

The John and Ellen Ford Legacy Society is made up of distinguished individuals who have chosen to make a commitment to Phoenix Chorale through a planned gift in their estate.

To become a member of the John & Ellen Ford Legacy Society and make a planned gift or to request Legacy Society materials, please contact Executive Director Nicole Belmont at 602-253-2224.

Legacy Society Members

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 Elayne Achilles
 Alison Chaney†
 Norman Friesen
 Jay* & Rita Good
 April & Tom Jones
 Claudia Kennedy
 James Lawson
 Dorothy Lincoln-Smith
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 Lynne Traverse†

Legacy Society Members In Memoriam

Dosia Carlson
 John and Ellen Ford
 Tom Phinney
 Alan Kennedy
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YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THE MUSIC POSSIBLE

Over 50% of our annual budget comes from individual donors who share our passion for choral music and its power to reach listeners worldwide through our recordings made in Phoenix and to enrich the musical life of the Greater Phoenix Metro Area through our concert seasons. Here are some other ways you can support Phoenix Chorale:

IRA DISTRIBUTIONS & DONOR ADVISED FUNDS Charitable giving can be a smart tax strategy. To instruct your financial institution to issue a donation to the Chorale, please instruct them to make a check payable to 'Phoenix Chorale' at 100 W Roosevelt Street, Phoenix AZ 85003. Please ensure your name is credited for the gift when they send the check and the name or dedication you wish us to credit in our concert programs.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS You can also maximize your contribution to Phoenix Chorale if your employer offers a Matching Gift Program. Please contact your company's Human Resource Office to see if your gift to Phoenix Chorale will qualify. Please also ensure any matching gifts indicate that you are the employee being matched.

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UNDERWRITING & SPONSORSHIP Concert sponsorship opportunities are available to individual donors and corporations starting at \$5000. We offer single concert, concert series, 1 season support, which offers a suite of benefits at different levels, such a front-row seats for you and your guests, podium & marketing acknowledgment, and ad space in our programs for dedications or to promote your business. Special Projects, such as composer commissions and album recordings are also directly fundable via an underwriting gift.

Please contact Phoenix Chorale Executive Director Nicole Belmont if you are interested in underwriting and sponsorship.

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