

NIGHT) SONGS

February 9, 2024, 7:30pm

University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis MN

Part I: Praise in the Night

Hymn: Carlton R. Young (1926-2023)

Joyful is the Dark, v. 1-2, 5, from the *All Creation Sings* Hymnal

Joyful is the dark, holy, hidden God,
Rolling cloud of night beyond all naming:
Majesty of darkness, energy of love,
Word in flesh, the mystery proclaiming.

Joyful is the dark, spirit of the deep,
Winging wildly o'er the world's creation,
Silken sheen of midnight plumage black and bright,
Swooping with the beauty of a raven.

Joyful is the dark, depth of love divine,
Roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,
Holy, haunting beauty, living, loving God.
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story.

Quote: Ibn Arabi, al-Sheikh al-Akhbar of Damascus (1165-1240)

I believe in the religion of love
Whatever direction its caravans may take,
For love is my religion and my faith.

Music: Terre Johnson (b. 1959)

My Song in the Night (2018)

First Congregational Church of Minnesota Choir

Allegra Montanari, Cello, Byron Almen, Piano

O Jesus my savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Onto thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, an alien from thee,
Or cry in the desert thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my savior, my song in the night.

O Jesus my savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with thy tender love, my soul's delight.
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my savior, my song in the night.

Poetry: Thomas Aquinas (1225-74)

O Salutaris Hostia (O Saving One)

O saving One, opening wide
The gates of heaven to all below,
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow

All praise and thanks to thee ascend
Forevermore, blest One in Three
O grant us life that shall not end
In our true native land with thee.

Music: Ēriks Ešvalds (b. 1977)

O Salutaris Hostia (2014)

First Congregational Church of Minnesota Choir

Linda Valerian, Soprano, Allegra Montanari, Cello

O salutaris hostia
Quae caeli pandis ostium
Bella premunt hostilia:
Da robur, fer auxilium

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria

Part II: Weariness

Music: Adele (b. 1988)

Love in the Dark (2015)

MJ Vang, Mezzo-Soprano, Robert S. Ragoonanan, Piano

Take your eyes off of me so I can leave
I'm far too ashamed to do it with you watching me
This is never ending, we have been here before
But I can't stay this time 'cause I don't love you anymore

Please, stay where you are
Don't come any closer
Don't try to change my mind
I'm being cruel to be kind

I can't love you in the dark
It feels like we're oceans apart
There is so much space between us
Baby, we're already defeated
Ah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah
Everything changed me

You have given me something that I can't live without
You mustn't underestimate that when you are in doubt
But I don't want to carry on like everything is fine
The longer we ignore it, all the more that we will fight

Please, don't fall apart
I can't face your breaking heart
I'm trying to be brave
Stop asking me to stay

I can't love you in the dark
It feels like we're oceans apart
There is so much space between us

Baby, we're already defeated
Ah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah
Everything changed me

We're not the only ones, I don't regret a thing
Every word I've said, you know I'll always mean
It is the world to me that you are in my life
But I want to live and not just survive

That's why I can't love you in the dark
It feels like we're oceans apart
There is so much space between us
Baby, we're already defeated
'Cause, ah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah
Everything changed me

And I-I-I-I-I don't think you can save me

Music: Lord Huron, arr. Willey Ohana

The Night We Met (2015)

Vocal U A Capella Choir

I am not the only traveler
Who has not repaid his debt
I've been searching for a trail to follow again
Take me back to the night we met

And then I can tell myself
What the hell I'm supposed to do
And then I can tell myself
Not to ride along with you

I had all and then most of you
Some and now none of you
Take me back to the night we met
I don't know what I'm supposed to do
Haunted by the ghost of you
Oh, take me back to the night we met

When the night was full of terrors
And your eyes were filled with tears
When you had not touched me yet
Oh, take me back to the night we met

I had all and then most of you
Some and now none of you
Take me back to the night we met
I don't know what I'm supposed to do
Haunted by the ghost of you
Take me back to the night we met (~3x)

Music: Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Spiegel im Spiegel (Mirror in the Mirror, 1978)
Allegra Montanari, Cello, Byron Almen, Piano

Music: Benjamin Britten (1913-76)

On This Island, Op. 11 (1937)

I. Let the florid music praise!

Benjamin Wegner, Tenor, Robert S. Ragoonanan, Piano

Let the florid music praise,
The flute and the trumpet,
Beauty's conquest of your face:
In that land of flesh and bone,
Where from citadels on high
Her imperial standards fly,
Let the hot sun
Shine on, shine on.

O but the unlov'd have had power,
The weeping and striking,
Always; time will bring their hour:
Their secretive children walk
Through your vigilance of breath
To unpardonable death,
And my vows break
Before his look.

Music: David Lesniaski

Seascape (2023)

University Baptist Church Choir

Memory sends the constant blue,
Striding from shore to shore;

An afterthought of rose sweetens the wind.

Many were the late afternoons
We followed the golden ocean;
Seeking an answer in surf and solitude.

Memory sends the constant blue,
Striding from shore to shore;
An afterthought of rose sweetens the wind.

Music: Benjamin Britten

Thomas Moore's Irish Melodies (1960)

V. At the mid hour of night

Trevor Lemon-Todd, Tenor, Robert S. Ragoonanan, Piano

At the mid hour of night when stars are weeping, I fly
To the lonely vale we lov'd when life shone warm in thine eye;
And I think that if spirits can steal from the region of air,
To revisit past scenes of delight; thou wilt come to me there,
And tell me our love is remember'd even in the sky.

Then I'll sing the wild song, which once 'twas rapture to hear,
When our voices, both mingling, breathed like one on the ear,
And, as Echo far off thro' the vale my sad orison rolls,
I think, oh my love! 'tis thy voice from the kingdom of souls
Faintly answering still the notes which once were so dear!

Music: Ivor Gurney (1890-1937)

Five Elizabethan Songs (1920)

IV. Sleep

Trevor Lemon-Todd, Tenor, Robert S. Ragoonanan, Piano

Come, Sleep, and with thy sweet deceiving
Lock me in delight awhile;
Let some pleasing dream beguile
All my fancies; that from thence
I may feel an influence
All my powers of care bereaving

Though but a shadow, but a sliding
Let me know some little joy!
We that suffer long annoy

Are contented with a thought
Through an idle fancy wrought:
O let my joys have some abiding! (2x)

Music: Thomas Dorsey (1899-1993), arr. Arnold Sevier (b. 1949)

Precious Lord (1996)

The University Lutheran Church of Hope Choir

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
At the river, Lord, I stand,
Guide my feet and hold my hand;
Take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

Music: Billy Joel (b. 1949)

Vienna (1977)

Brendin Kavitz, Tenor, Robert S. Ragoonanan, Piano

Slow down you crazy child
You're so ambitious for a juvenile
But then if you're so smart tell me
Why are you still so afraid? (mmmmm)

Where's the fire, what's the hurry about?
You better cool it off before you burn it out
You got so much to do and only
So many hours in a day (Ay)

But you know that when the truth is told
That you can get what you want
Or you can just get old
You're gonna kick off before you even get halfway through (Oooh)
When will you realize, Vienna waits for you?

Slow down you're doing fine
You can't be everything you want to be before your time
Although it's so romantic on the borderline tonight (tonight)

Too bad, but it's the life you lead
You're so ahead of yourself that you forgot what you need
Though you can see when you're wrong
You know you can't always see when you're right (you're right)

You got your passion, you got your pride
But don't you know that only fools are satisfied?
Dream on, but don't imagine they'll all come true (Oooh)
When will you realize, Vienna waits for you?

Slow down you crazy child
Take the phone off the hook and disappear for a while
It's alright, you can afford to lose a day or two (oooh)
When will you realize, Vienna waits for you?

And you know that when the truth is told
That you can get what you want or you can just get old
You're gonna kick off before you even get halfway through (oooh)
Why don't you realize, Vienna waits for you?

When will you realize, Vienna waits for you?

Part III: Onward, Together

Quote: Ken Liu (b. 1976)
from *The Paper Menagerie* (2011)

*The stars shine and blink.
We are all guests passing through,
A smile and a name.*

“We are defined by the places we hold in the web of others’ lives.

I pull my gaze back from the Go board until the stones fuse into larger patterns of shifting life and pulsing breath. ‘Individual stones are not heroes, but all the stones together are heroic.’

'It is a beautiful day for a walk, isn't it?' Dad says.

And we walk together down the street, so that we can remember every passing blade of grass, every dewdrop, every fading ray of the dying sun, infinitely beautiful."

Music: Harry Styles (b. 1994), arr. Sawyer Huss

Late Night Talking (2022)

Vocal U A Capella Choir

Things haven't been quite the same
There's a haze on the horizon, babe
It's only been a couple of days
And I miss you, mm, yeah
When nothin' really goes to plan
You stub your toe or break your camera
I'll do everythin' I can
To help you through

If you're feelin' down
I just wanna make you happier, baby
Wish I was around
I just wanna make you happier, baby

We've been doin' all this late night talkin'
'Bout anythin' you want until the mornin'
Now you're in my life
I can't get you off my mind

I've never been a fan of change
But I'd follow you to any place
If it's Hollywood or Bishopsgate
I'm coming too

If you're feelin' down
I just wanna make you happier, baby
Wish I was around
I just wanna make you happier, baby

We've been doin' all this late night talkin'
'Bout anythin' you want until the mornin'
Now you're in my life

I can't get you off my mind

Can't get you off my mind
Can't get you off my mind (can't get you off my mind)
I won't even try (I won't even try)
To get you off my mind (get you off my mind)

We've been doin' all this late night talkin'
'Bout anythin' you want until the mornin'
Now you're in my life
I can't get you off my mind

Can't get you off my mind (all this late night talkin')
Can't get you off my mind (all this late night talkin')
I won't even try (all this late night talkin')
Can't get you off my
All this late night talkin'

Music: Elwyn Alexander Fraser Junior (b. 1987)

Stars Within (2024)

You twinkle in the dark
To help me find my way
I gaze upon your spark
Until the break of day
I rise upon the dawn
And speak across these worlds
Your mark is on my soul
Your heart is in my words

I love your radiant love
Your care in me so deep
Your life in me lives on
Your light, my soul to keep
Your stars within me shine
Such brilliant beams of light
Your stars within will guide
Me safely home tonight

You show me how to brave
The road I cannot see
So I can walk through clouds
And find my clarity

I look upon your stars
Inspired by their birth
They went through their own clouds
To have their light break forth

And when my time has come
To meet you in the sun
I'll gaze into your eyes
And sing with you as one
Your countless stars will ring
As all the Heavens cheer
How love can light our way
And draw us ever near!

Woo, hey, other side, other side!
I'm gonna make it through this night
And see you on the other side
Your stars within me
Will guide me safely
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

I love your radiant love
Your care in me so deep
Your life in me lives on
Your light, my soul to keep
Your stars within me shine
Such brilliant beams of light
Your stars within will guide
Me safely home tonight!

Music: Paul M. Vasile (b. 1976)

Above All, Put On Love (2016)

Grace University Lutheran Church Choir, Madeline Didier, Piano

Above all, put on love,
Which binds everything together in harmony.
And live in peace, live in peace
As you lift your hearts and voices
In an offering of thanks and praise.

Above all, put on love,
Which binds everything together in harmony.
And live in peace, live in peace

As you lift your hearts and voices
In an offering of thanks and praise.

Be gracious, be humble, be patient,
And bear with each other in love.
Make every effort, make every effort
To keep the unity of the spirit
In the bond of peace.

Above all, put on love,
Which binds everything together in harmony.
And live in peace, live in peace
As you lift your hearts and voices
In an offering of thanks and praise.

Of thanks and praise.

Poetry: Ada Limón (b. 1976)

[In Praise of Mystery: A Poem for Europa \(2023\)](#)

Arching under the night sky inky
with black expansiveness, we point
to the planets we know, we

pin quick wishes on stars. From earth,
we read the sky as if it is an unerring book
of the universe, expert and evident.

Still, there are mysteries below our sky:
the whale song, the songbird singing
its call in the bough of a wind-shaken tree.

We are creatures of constant awe,
curious at beauty, at leaf and blossom,
at grief and pleasure, sun and shadow.

And it is not darkness that unites us,
not the cold distance of space, but
the offering of water, each drop of rain,

each rivulet, each pulse, each vein.
O second moon, we, too, are made
of water, of vast and beckoning seas.

We, too, are made of wonders, of great
and ordinary loves, of small invisible worlds,
of a need to call out through the dark.

Music: Jocelyn Hagen (b. 1980)

We Are the Stars (2019)

*The University Lutheran Church of Hope Choir
Devan Moran and Karin Valdizan, Violins,
Michael Chergosky, Viola, Nora Doyle, Cello*

We are the stars, who sing
from a distant place.

Yes, Yes.

You are alone in your orbit,
as we are.
Yes, your light burns fiercely,
as fiercely as ours.

The thin wind of loneliness
may howl around you,
suck the breath from your fire.

But look before you
and behind you.
Look above you
and below you.
See how many other hearts are burning,
burning as brightly as yours.

We are the stars.
We sing with our light
in our vast, brilliant constellations:
alone,
together.

Poetry: Leslie Contreras Schwartz

A Body's Universe of Big Bangs (2020)

A body must remind itself
to keep living, continually,

throughout the day.

Even at night while sleeping,
proteins, either messenger, builder,
or destroyer, keeps busy

transforming itself or other substances.
Scientists call these reactions
—to change their innate structure,
dictated by DNA—cellular frustration,

a cotton-cloud nomenclature for crusade,
combat, warfare, aid, unification,
scaffold, or sustain.

Even while the body sleeps, a jaw slackened
into an open dream, inside is the drama
of the body's own substances meeting

one another, stealing elements,
being changed elementally,
altered by a new story

called chemical reaction.
A building and demolishment,
creating or undoing,

the body can find movement,
functioning organs, resists illness—
or doesn't. Look inside every living being

and find this narrative of resistance,
the live feed of being resisted.
The infant clasping her fist

or the 98-year-old releasing
hers. This is how it should be,
we think, a long story carried out

to a soft conclusion. In reality,
little deaths hover and nibble,
little births opening mouths
and bodies the site of stories

the tales given to us, and retold, retold,
never altered, and the ones forgotten,
changed, unremembered

until this place is made of only
ourselves. Our own small dictators,
peacemakers, architects, artists.

A derelict cottage,
a monumental church
struck in gold, an artist's studio

layered with paints and cut paper,
knives and large canvas—

the site the only place
containing our best holy song:

I will live. I will live. I will keep living.

Music: Lucy Walker (b. 1998)

Today (2022)

The Night Songs Mass Choir

Today I rise, today I soar in splendour.
As the day keeps unveiling all her grandeur.
Let the chains of yesterday break away!
Today is here, I will not cling to yesterday!

Music: Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

The Ground (2010)

The Night Songs Mass Choir

*Devan Moran and Karin Valdizan, Violins, Michael Chergosky, Viola,
Nora Doyle, Cello, Ethan Prince, Bass, Madeline Didier, Piano*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.*

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Osana in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Benedictus qui venit.
Osana in excelsis.

Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi.
Dona nobis pacem.

Artistic Director: Robert S. Ragoonanan, University Lutheran Church of Hope
Technical Director: James Flaten, MN Space Grant, U of MN

Choirs (in order of appearance):

First Congregational Church of Minnesota Choir, Byron Almén, Director
University Baptist Church Choir, David Lesniaski, Director
Vocal U A Capella, Sawyer Huss, Director
University Lutheran Church of Hope Choir, Robert S. Ragoonanan, Director
Grace University Lutheran Church Choir, Chad Winterfeldt, Director
The Night Songs Mass Choir, Robert S. Ragoonanan, Director, Brad Beale,
Assistant Director

Instrumentalists and Vocal Soloists (in order of appearance):

Robert S. Ragoonanan, Piano
Byron Almén, Piano
Allegra Montanari, Cello
Linda Valerian, Soprano
MJ Vang, Mezzo-Soprano
Benjamin Wegner, Tenor
Trevor Lemon-Todd, Tenor
Brendin Kavitz, Tenor
Elwyn Alexander Fraser Junior, Singer-Songwriter
Madeline Didier, Piano
Devan Moran, Violin
Karin Valdizan, Violin
Michael Chergosky, Viola
Nora Doyle, Cello
Ethan Prince, Bass

Readers (in order of appearance): Jayne Lindesmith, John Beane, Katie Hale, Jean Anderson, Sharlene Hensrud

Programming Consultants:

Benjamin Wegner
Kalindi Bellach
Caitlin Ricks

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