Syracuse University
Hendricks Chapel

Malmgren Concert Series
&
Syracuse University Humanities
Center's Symposium on "Dreams."

*presents*

# *We Hold These Truths*

*A Choral Celebration of America's 250th*

Sunday, November 15, 2026
4 p.m.

We acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation,
Firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee,
the Indigenous people on whose ancestral lands

Syracuse University now stands.

**PROGRAM**

Welcome: Corey MacPherson or Annie Laver, Dean of Hendricks Chapel

## Community Sing

The Star Spangled Banner — Francis Scott Key (1779-1843), John Stafford Smith (1750-1836), Ed. Mark Clague (b. 1966) & Andrew Kuster (b. 1969)

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

## Nottingham HamFam Voices Treble Choir

Austin Aserian, director
Samuel Benjamin, piano, Theodore Benjamin, violin, Caspian Pierce, cello

Where the Light Begins — Susan Labarr (b. 1981)

Does the World Say? — Kyle Pederson (b. 1971)

Bring Me Little Water Sylvie — Huddie Ledbetter (1889-1949), arr. Adam Podd (b. 1986)

## Liverpool High School Advanced Treble Chorus

Sky Harris and Joel Touranjoe, directors
Madison Lapp, flute

Light of a Clear Blue Morning — Dolly Parton (1946-2026), arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962) & Richard Gabrillo (b. 1975)

Wanting Memories — Ysaÿe M. Barnwell (b. 1946)

What Happens When a Woman? — Alexandra Olsavsky (b. 1990)

## Spirit of Syracuse Chorus

Alicia Caron and Sky Harris, directors

Something to Talk about — Shirley Eikhard (1955-2022), arr. Anna-Maria Nystrom

When I Fall in Love — Victor Young (1889-1956)/Edward Heyman (1907-1981), arr. David Wright (b. 1949)

World, Here I Am Medley — arr. Nancy Bergman (1927-2023) & Patrick McAlexander (b. 1980)

## Syracuse University Vox Salina

Kyra Stahr, director
Katherine Smyth, assistant conductor
Anna Hummel, piano

How Can I Cry? — Moira Smiley (b. 1976)

Julia Morrissette, Gianna Moore, Emma Donvito, Josephine Diodato, vocal solos
Ethan Coburn, cello, John Warren, cajon
Renate Wilson, choreography

Rise Up — Jake Runestad (b. 1986)

## Aaron Rapray

Hendricks Chapel Organ Scholar

Five Dances — Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)
III. Those Americans

America, The Beautiful — Calvin Hampton (1938-1954)

## Ensemble Sonora

Wendy Moy, artistic director
Ida Tili-Trebicka, piano

'Tis The Gift to Be Simple — American Shaker Hymn
arr. Alice Parker (1925-2023)

Poor Wayfaring Stranger — American Folk Hymn
arr. Jonathan Rodgers (b. 1981)
Morgan Beaton, mezzo-soprano

Swing Low: A Spiritual Medley — Traditional
arr. Rosephanye Powell (b.1962)

We Hold These Truths (**World Premiere Commission)*

I. Campaign Song (Or, Why We Oppose Votes for Men) — Loren Loiacono (b. 1989)
Veronica Mainville, mezzo-soprano

II. American Dream — Natalie Draper (b. 1985)

New Dreams — inspired by Grace Lee Boggs/Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980)

## Community Sing

America the Beautiful — Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929), Samuel A. Ward (1847-1903)

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

## Combined Choirs

Homeland — Gustav Holst (1874-1934), arr. Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)

Ida Tili-Trebicka, piano
Aaron Rapray, organ
Lydia Morris, trumpet, Madeline Macdonald, trumpet
Ryan Hill, horn, Elijah Campbell, trombone, Michael Coldren, tuba,
Austin Aserian, timpani, Ishan Gottam, percussion

I vow to you, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price.
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

Though the road has bends and turns, and my spirit suffers,
Humans fail, systems fail, shadows fall.
But the ruts run deep, cut by the blood of faces above,
And voices now silent . . .
But the message loud is heard: "Homeland. Homeland,
Renew your youth, restore your soul!"

Homeland, the country that I love, hold out your arms to me.
I strive for you, and give to you the best I hope to be.
May your wisdom be your armour, your compassion be your sword;
May your strength be forged with mercy, your courage lives restore.
Homeland, the country that I love, forever reign supreme;
And when time stands still, my homeland, may heaven hold your **dream**.
My homeland, be my dream, my hope.
Homeland, homeland!

## What is Your Dream for America?

**We invite you to share your Dream for America on the displays in the Chapel and online. Scan here for the digital platform→**

## WELCOME

Welcome to "We Hold These Truths: A Celebration of America's 250th." This semiquincentennial is a fitting moment to reflect on the ideals of our founding: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. What has been our story as we seek to meet them? The music in this concert gathers voices from our journey, from folk hymns to Dolly Parton, from activist Grace Lee Boggs to Syracuse composers who created new works for this occasion. I hope you will add your voice too, raising it in song and sharing your dreams for the next generation. Thank you for being part of this celebration and dreaming with us!

To learn more about these pieces, please scan the QR code or visit https://www.ensemblesonora.com/program-notes for our interactive program notes.

—Wendy Moy, artistic director

## SELECTED PROGRAM NOTES

### American Dream

The lyrics are a collage of re-imagined familiar texts associated with America, including Katherine Lee Bates's "America the Beautiful" (both current and older versions), Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus," Samuel Francis Smith's "My Country 'Tis of Thee," the Declaration of Independence, and the Pledge of Allegiance. The overall reframing of these texts as questions owes much in spirit to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The music supports these repurposed texts by creating a dreamscape of questions and contemplation. -Natalie Draper, composer

*Do we hold these truths to be self-evident?*
*Are we all created equal?*
*Do we have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?*
America,
Are you beautiful?
With spacious skies
And purple mountain majesties?
Do you let freedom ring
From sea to shining sea?

*Do we hold these truths to be self-evident?*
*Are we all created equal?*
*Do we have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?*
Oh, mother of exiles,
Is this a sweet land of liberty?
Does god shed his grace on thee?
Are there no tyrants here?
Who stain, with selfish gain,
The banner of the free?

*Do we hold these truths to be self-evident?*
*Are we all created equal?*
*Do we have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?*
America,
Are you beautiful?
With spacious skies
And amber waves of grain?
Do you let freedom ring
Above the fruited plain?
America!
Will you take in the homeless, the tired, and the poor?
The tempest-tost, huddled masses?
Will you take in the homeless, the tired, and the poor?
Tell them America is their land, too?
Will you?

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America*
*And to the Republic for which it stands*
*One nation, under god, with liberty and justice for all.*
*With liberty and justice for all.*
America,
Are you beautiful?
With spacious skies?
America
America

**Campaign Song**

*Campaign Song (Or, Why We Oppose Votes for Men)* sets two poems ("Why We Oppose Votes for Men" and "A Consistent Anti to Her Son") by American author and activist Alice Duer Miller, taken from her 1915 collection *Are Women People? A Book of Rhymes for Suffrage Times.* Duer Miller's poems, many first published in the New York Tribune, form a witty, acerbic response to the anti-suffrage arguments of her time. In both poems heard in *Campaign Song,* Duer Miller flips common arguments against suffrage back onto men, highlighting the hypocrisy in their rhetoric. Visiting these texts over a century later, I expected to find them a quaint relic of a less enlightened time. Instead, they struck me as an urgent reminder of the hard-won battles for equality and democracy, and our never-ending pursuit of a more perfect union.

–Loren Loiacono, composer

**"A Consistent Anti to Her Son" from *Are Women People?***
*By Alice Duer Miller*

You're twenty-one to-day, Willie,
And a danger lurks at the door,
I've known about it always,
But I've never spoke before;
When you were only a baby
It seemed so very remote,
But you're twenty-one to-day, Willie
And old enough to vote.

You must not go to the polls, Willie,
Never go to the polls,
They're dark and dreadful places
Where many lose their souls;
They smirch, degrade and coarsen,
Terrible things they do
To quiet, elderly women--
What would they do to you?

If you've a boyish fancy
For any measure or man
Tell me, and I'll tell Father
He'll vote for it, if he can.
He casts my vote, and Louisa's,
And Sarah, and dear Aunt Clo;
Wouldn't you let him vote for you?
Father, who loves you so?

I've guarded you always, Willie,
Body and soul from harm;
I'll guard your faith and honor,
Your innocence and charm
From the polls and their evil spirits,
Politics, rum, and pelf;
Do you think I'd send my only son
Where I would not go myself

**"Why We Oppose Votes for Men" from *Are Women People?***
*By Alice Duer Miller*

Because man's place is in the armory!
Because no really manly man wants to settle any question otherwise than by fighting about it!
Because if men should adopt peaceable methods women will no longer look up to them!
Because men will lose their charm if they step out of their natural sphere and interest themselves in other matters than feats of arms, uniforms and drums!
Because men are too emotional to vote. Their conduct at baseball games and political conventions shows this, while their innate tendency to appeal to force renders them unfit for the task of government!

**Homeland**

The text of Homeland transcends any cultural or national boundaries. People throughout history have cherished their ties of blood, language, and culture, and fought with their lives to protect them. May we ever value our heritage, and the "homeland" which preserves it to this day.

The arranger of Homeland (Z. Randall Stroope) wrote the second and third stanzas in dedication to his own father who, as a prisoner of war, walked the Bataan Death March in World War II so that his son, and the sons and daughters of others might celebrate freedom and life to this day.

# PERSONNEL

Composer and performer bios can be found at:
www.ensemblesonora.com/we-hold-these-truths

## Nottingham Ham Fam Voices Treble Choir

Austin Aserian, conductor
Samuel Benjamin, pianist
Theodore Benjamin, violinist
Caspian Pierce, cellist

Elizabeth Austin
Norah Beier
Samantha Bellini
Elizabeth Bloomer
Lydia Brechler
Kyle Campbell
Rhoda Cateforis
Emily Cofer
Gloria Colegrove
Elle Coleman
Brianna Cruz
Jelani Derby
Veronica Ebner
Niamani Eiland
Max Evans
Najlah Harris
Kalin Hopkins
Nawall Jeylani
Akira Keech
Genevieve LaClair
Isabelle Larsen
Genevieve Leo
Tyanne Lyons
Rania Magezi
Esther Mariam
Maeve Morgan
Ella Myers
Ila Robinson
Irina Rodak
Liesl Saufley
Haylee Schultz
Tatiara Smith
Zoe Tape
Reneajah Taylor
Addie Zhe-Heimerman
Alicia Zinkovitch

## Liverpool High School Advanced Treble Chorus

Joel Touranjoe and Sky Harris, directors

Asiyah Abdul-Karim
Rashelle Alston
Shanelle Alston
Lillian Auribi
Abigail Austin
Vivian Bearup
Natalya Bentley
Greta Bishop
Deonna Brhel
Ainsley Buczek
Emma Clifford
Cecelia Corsello
Ava DiGirolomo
Hannah Drake
Tori Erardi
Keelin Feinberg
Adaya Ferby
Susannah Godly
Jazzlyn Goodman
Bridget Hallenbeck
Lilian Huss
Raina Huynh
Angeth Joh
Madison Kinzie
Alivia Kordziel
Annie Lake
Lyra Landon
Abigail Lee
Janelle Lesperance
Noella Makengera
Emma Manley
Janga Mannah
Lylia Mapes
Katie Martin
Brynn McCoy
Alleyah Mcneish
Kendall Moyer
Marien Nunez Rodriguez
Gracie Owens
Olivia Robarge
Gianna Rojas
Glory Sederstrand
Lily Sharkey
Orysya Sokolowski
Chelsea St. Amour
Nadja Stapelfeldt
Nevaeh Susko
Myah Taylor
Francesca Valletta
Kayla Van Heerden
Genevieve Wood
Molly Woods

## Liverpool High School Concert Chorale

Joel Touranjoe and Sky Harris, directors

Leyana Berrios
Alyvia Chiclana
McKenna Folks
Naiah Lyons
Courtney Maddison
Alyssa Murray
Lily Neu
Scarlett Sen
Perseus Wiers
Zero Yehle

## Spirit of Syracuse Chorus

Alicia Caron and Sky Harris, directors

Jennifer Ames
Kathy Argiro
Samantha Barley
Margaret Barnhart
Patti Bigelow
Macenzie Bigness
Hilda Blevins
Helen Bravi
Lexi Bruening
Alicia Caron
Meghan Chiumento
Karla Chun
Beth Clark
Ashley Coggen
Mary Connelly
Kay Crawford
Jill Doss
Cynthia Foster
Cheryl Given
Carlene Gleason
Bri Goodwin-Haines
Laura Hard af Segerstad
Sky Harris
Janet Harrison
Karen Hartz
Jenn Hunter
Mary Hutchins
Cindy Johnson
Amy Kemp
Melanie Kiehl
Donna Komrowski
Beth LaBarge
Melissa LaFlamme
Evelyn Langenstien
Amy Manley
Lori Manton
Julie Martin
Jill McAndrew
Pat McMonagle
Jessica Montena
Patsy Nash Jones
Rachel Nave
Laurie Orlando
Jennifer Parke-Marriner
Holly Reid
Amanda Reynolds
Rhiannon Riley
Natalie Roane
Lee Romanyk
Susan Sanna
Deb Saucke
Molly Scuderi
Katie Sheerin
Heather Sheridan
Paula Smith
Barbara Soper
Allison Strang
Meridith Styer
Julie Sul
Cassia Susklik
Judi Thomas
Pam Tracy
Catrina Tulowiecki
Cindy Tzetzis
Kathy Valentino
Kristina Valentino
Barb Wright
Paulette Young
Monica Zallo
Kathy Zubal-Storrings

## Syracuse University Vox Salina

Kyra Stahr, director
Katherine Smyth, assistant conductor
Anna Hummel, piano

Emmy Baer#
Zoe Ballou
Grace Berkauskas
Avianna Bergold
Gab Blouin
Angelina Theresa Brennen#
Zoe Case
Alexia Catalone
Sofia Cesario
Katherine Condon
Olivia Damasco
Jocey Davis
Josephine Diodato
Scarlett Dissanayake#
Emma Donvito*
Ella Claudine Femino
Bettina Gao
Eleanor Gattine#
L Gener
Sophia Giordano
Nahsima Gomia
Cheyenna Gordon
Sammi Grosshandler
Abigail Gutierrez
Eliza Halteman#
Aurelia Harp#
Jessica Hoard
Ela Jaen
Mandy Jiang#
Klark Johnson*
Madeline Jones
Dana Kim
Erin Laming
Gianna Moore
Julia Morrissette
Genevieve Neenan
Vu Quynh Nhi Nguyen
Delilah Pawlowski
Phoebe Russell
Mia Sateriale
Esmé Schaus
Jax Sherer
Rebekah Kazi Shippee*
Alexandra Swords#
Yue Tao
Marisa Traver
Caroline May Williams
Renate Wilson#
Addison Woodruff

* denotes speakers
# denotes Syracuse University Vox Salina dancers

## Ensemble Sonora

Wendy K. Moy, artistic director; Ida Tili-Trebicka, piano
L Gener & Cheyenna Gordon, project assistants

Morgan Beaton
Janet Brown
Maggie Coogan
Ainslee Santa Croce
Olivia Damasco
Joanna Hyunji Kim
Liana Knapp
Veronica Mainville
Heather O'Connell
Kate O'Leary
Rebecca Peña
Kathleen Roland-Silverstein
Katherine Smyth
Kyra Stahr
Martha Sutter
Nina Pelligra

## Members of Syracuse University Oratorio Society

Wendy K. Moy, director
Brody Brown, assistant conductor

Rachel Briscoe
Josie Diodato
Maureen Edmonds
Erica Hoenig
Jennifer LaMonica
Megan Magill
Mia Montenegro
Eileen Ordinetz
Melissa Rashford
Mia Sateriale
Rebekah Shippee
Darcy Smith
Allie Thompson

## SPECIAL THANKS

The Rock Center, Syracuse Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, Megan Carlsen, José "Peppie" Calvar, Emily Forsythe, L Gener, Cheyenna Gordon, Dara Harper, Anne Laver, Vivian May, Brian Simons, Alex Snow, Kyra Stahr, Michelle Taylor, John Warren, Sarah Workman

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 1917 Service Version of the National Anthem was provided by the Star Spangled Music Foundation.

***Campaign Song*** and ***American Dream***, commissioned works premiered by Ensemble Sonora, are made possible by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

**Ensemble Sonora** (from the Latin *sonare*, "to sound") is a community of professional choral artists creating music that engages with the issues and stories of our time. Under the direction of Dr. Wendy K. Moy, the ensemble unites musicians across Central New York to make music that resonates, both sonically and socially. Each project is built around repertoire chosen for its artistry and expressive power. Our music invites performers and audiences alike to listen more deeply.

## We Demand! A Legacy of Activism in America

On view at the Special Collections Research Center, Bird Library, 6th floor gallery until December 23, 2026. This exhibition is free and open to the public!

Come explore traces of resistance and perseverance in the form of publications, posters, protest signs, photographs, demands, newsletters, and more that document the critical role of activism in challenging injustice and securing greater freedoms for all. For decades, the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) has collected materials related to histories of activism and social reform in America that illustrate how advancements in rights were made possible by those who came before. This tireless pursuit and ongoing work of individuals and collective groups who have come together to push for change—not always seen during their lifetimes—in the face of extraordinary challenges and circumstances are documented within this exhibition.

SCRC is offering **a free public tour of We Demand! on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, from 5:30 – 7 PM**. More information on the exhibition and tour can be found in the lobby.

## Syracuse University Art Museum

Tonight's concert celebrates 250 years of the American story, and the Syracuse University Art Museum invites you to keep exploring. Scan the QR code to open our free guide on Bloomberg Connects and discover some of the American artworks on view in our galleries. Then come experience them in person. Admission is always free and open to all. The SU Art Museum is located on the first floor of the Shaffer ArtBuilding, across the Quad from Hendricks Chapel.

# The Malmgren Concert Series of Hendricks Chapel

## Sundays at 4:00 p.m. in Hendricks Chapel

Join us for music to stir the soul and ignite the spirit as we welcome renowned musicians to the stage of Hendricks Chapel in the heart of Syracuse University! Sundays at 4 PM – free and open to the public.

**November 15 - We Hold These Truths**
A choral celebration of America's 250th anniversary with Ensemble Sonora and area choirs.
*Co-sponsored by Syracuse Symposium's Series, "Dreams."*

**February 21 - Black History Month Concert**
Setnor choirs and student soloists highlight music of Black composers.

**March 21 - Fourth Wall Ensemble and Emmy Award-winning composer Jeff Beal**
This acclaimed contemporary vocal group performs Beal's Beatitudes and The Paper-Lined Shack.
*Co-sponsored by Kathleen Roland-Silverstein and Merril Silverstein.*

**April 18 - Hans Davidsson on the Harrold Organ at the SU Catholic Center**
Experience Syracuse's newest organ played by one of the world's finest organists.
Part of the Syracuse Pipe Organ Festival.

**April 25 - Hendricks Chapel Choir Spring Concert**
A favorite annual campus concert featuring diverse and uplifting choral music.

Malmgren concerts are presented with support from the Malmgren Fund.

*Please join us for these additional special music events hosted by Hendricks Chapel:*

**Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. – Holidays at Hendricks**
*Sign up to receive news from Hendricks Chapel at chapel.syracuse.edu to receive announcements about tickets for this event.*

**Sunday, January 31, 2027, at 4:00 p.m. – Let's Sing!**
*Community hymn and anthem sing with the Hendricks Chapel Choir*

**For more information, visit chapel.syracuse.edu.**