Monday Evening, November 28, 2016, at 7:00

DCINy
Changing Lives through the Power of Performance

Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

presents

Go Sing It on the Mountain

GABRIEL FAURÉ Requiem, Op. 48
   I. Introit et Kyrie
   II. Offertoire
   III. Sanctus
   IV. Pie Jesu
   V. Agnus Dei
   VI. Libera me
   VII. In Paradisum
JAMES D. MOYER, Director
JULIANNA MASSIELO, Soprano
ETHAN BARR, Baritone
JAMES T. MOYER, Baritone
DAVID ENLOW, Organ
PENNSBURY HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR

Intermission

PEPPER CHOPLIN Go Sing It on the Mountain (NY Premiere) (Narration by Pepper Choplin; Orchestration by Michael Lawrence)
   I. Rise, O People, and Bring Good News
   II. A Child Is Gonna Come
   III. Call His Name Jesus
   IV. Angel Band
   V. Hush, Little Baby
   VI. Go Sing It on the Mountain
   VII. Star Eternal
   VIII. Scottish Worship Carol
   IX. Joyous Nowell to the World
PEPPER CHOPLIN, Composer/Conductor
EMILY DRENNAN, Soprano
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Alice Tully Hall

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250 W. 57 Street, Suite 1610
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(212) 707-8566

Notes on the Program

Requiem, Op. 48
GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845–1924)
Duration: 44 minutes

The bulk of Gabriel Fauré’s music—whether piano, chamber, vocal, or orchestral—conveys the impression of a personal and private statement, an intimate conversation between the composer and his muse. Throughout his life Fauré’s ideal was, as he put it, to create musique de chambre (chamber music); the grander forms—opera, symphony, or concerto—were not for him. He made a number of attempts to write a symphony, but rejected them; the same fate awaited his attempt at a violin concerto. His music is admirably suited for performance in private homes or small halls. But the elegance and ease of much of it belies the painstaking effort that went into the composition. Fauré was not one to wear his heart on his sleeve. While the structure of his works usually fits the classical mold, he often experimented and surprised audiences with unexpected phrasing harmonies and elegant twists of musical development. Although a secret agnostic and freethinker, he worked for many years as organist and choirmaster at La Madeleine, one of the largest churches in Paris. Fauré charted new ground in his Requiem. It was not written to honor a specific person but, as Fauré put it, “for the pleasure of it.” It is a peaceful, almost understated work that conveys the message of death as eternal rest rather than as a fiery retribution for sins committed in life. Fauré actually omitted the core of the Latin requiem mass, the Dies Irae with its terrifying vision of eternal damnation. He saw death as “…a happy deliverance, a reaching for eternal happiness, rather than a mournful passing….” It is not surprising that one of the madeleine’s clerics remarked after a performance: “Monsieur Fauré, we do not need all these novelties. The Madeleine’s repertoire is quite rich enough….”

Composed in stages between 1877 and 1890, the Requiem did not reach its final orchestration until 1900; the instrumental accompaniment exists in a number of versions, from the original chamber ensemble plus organ to full symphony orchestra. Overall the music is serious but unthreatening, often even ethereal. To replace the Dies Irae, Fauré substituted at the end In Paradisum, the chant for the burial of the dead, describing the eternal peace of
Heaven. The contemporary British composer John Rutter, in his Requiem, is heir to Fauré’s concept of a musical send-off. The style of the Requiem is mostly homophonic and syllabic, closely resembling the rhythm, tempo, and volume of liturgical plainchant. At other times Fauré shifts briefly into 16th-century counterpoint, as in the Offertory. In the Sanctus the chorus doesn’t shout out the praise of God but gently sings to the accompaniment of an ostinato figure in the harp. Even the Hosanna, which begins forte, drifts almost lazily to a quiet conclusion. Fauré could not, however, completely eliminate terror from his Requiem. The text of the Libera me makes direct reference to the Dies Irae and eternal damnation; and this is, indeed, the only part of the work in which the listener experiences a sharp increase in musical tension. Fauré’s ethereal In Paradisum, however, is more than comforting as a response to the anxious prayer of Libera me.

—Joseph and Elizabeth Kahn

Go Sing It on the Mountain
PEPPER CHOLPIN (b. 1957)
Narration by Pepper Choplin
Orchestration by Michael Lawrence
Duration: 40 minutes

As we approach the Christmas season, composers and musicians are called to bring the story to life once more. Following the mountain theme, I’ve used several folk tunes to help us worship through the Christmas narrative.

Arise, O People: The first time I sang this melody in a Sacred Harp hymnbook I marveled at its sweeping energy. It seemed to be a perfect tune to carry this new text based on Isaiah’s call up to the mountain.

A Child Is Gonna Come: In the midst of strife and great change, every generation wonders what will become of the world. This original song echoes that concern and offers the promise of Advent.

Call His Name Jesus: The plaintive melody of the 17th-century folksong “Barbara Allen” carries my new text as it leads us to Bethlehem. In its quietness, we intimately call on the holy name of Jesus.

Angel Band: Many became familiar with this tune when Ralph Stanley sang it for the movie O Brother, Where Art Thou? The original text calls for the angel band to take us to heaven. My new words tell the story of the shepherds encounter with the “angel band.”

Hush, Little Baby: This folk tune was the first song I learned on the piano as a child. The new text centers on the wonder and the intimacy of mother and child.

Sing It on the Mountain: Whether we sing it or tell it on the mountain, this spiritual is a vibrant Christmas expression. Here I offer a different tune to each voice and then bring them together to express the celebration party of the shepherds.

Star Eternal: When I peer into the sky, I often remember that the stars were there long before and will be long after our time on earth. It is almost a glimpse of the eternal. The song uses the tune of “Rock of Ages” to contemplate the eternal light of Christ.

Scottish Worship Song: I wrote new verses to this old Christmas tune to create a song of quiet heartfelt worship.

Joyous Nowell to the World: This is simply a boisterous celebration combining the melodies of “The First Nowell” and “Joy to the World.” Enjoy the final hallelujah as you go…sing it on the mountain!

—Pepper Choplin
Texts & Translations

Requiem, Op. 48
GABRIEL FAURÉ

I. Introitus et Kyrie

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te delect hymnus, Deus, in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam; ad te omnis caro veniet.
Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Eternal rest grant them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them.
To thee praise is due, O God, in Zion, and to thee vows are recited in Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer; unto thee all flesh shall come.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

II. Offertoire

Domine Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae, libera animas defunctorum de poenis inferni, et de profundo lacu. Libera eas de ore leonis, ne absorbeat eas tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum. Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus. Tu suscipe pro animabus illis quarum hodie memoriam facimus. Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam, quam olim Abraham promissisti, et semini eius.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of the dead from punishment in the inferno, and from the infernal lake. Deliver them from the mouth of the lion, lest the abyss swallow them up, lest they fall into the darkness. Sacrifices and prayers to thee, O Lord, we offer with praise. O receive them for the souls of those whom today we commemorate. Make them, O Lord, to pass from death to life, as thou of old hast promised Abraham and his seed.

III. Sanctus

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. The heavens and earth are filled with thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

IV. PIE JESU

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem, requiem sempiternam.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest, rest everlasting.
V. Agnus Dei/Lux Aeterna
Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem,
requiem sempiternam.
Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam, dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Lamb of God,
who taketh away the sins of the world,
Grant them rest,
rest everlasting.
Let light eternal shine on them, O Lord,
with thy saints forever,
for thou art merciful.
Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine on them.

VI. Libera Me
Libera me, Domine,
de morte aeterna,
in die illa tremenda
quando coeli movendi sunt et terra,
dum veneris judicare
saeculum per ignem
Tremens factus sum ego, et timeo
dum discussio venerit,
atqueventura ira.
Dies illa, dies irae,
calamitatis et miseriae,
dies magna et amara valde.
Requiem aeternam, dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Deliver me, O Lord,
from eternal death,
on that fearful day
when the heavens are moved and the earth
when thou shalt come to judge
the world through fire.
I am made to tremble, and I fear,
when the desolation shall come,
and also the coming wrath.
That day, the day of wrath,
calamity, and misery,
that terrible and exceedingly bitter day.
Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine on them.

VII. In Paradisum
In paradisum deducant te angeli,
in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres,
et perducant te
in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.
Chorus angelorum te suscipiat,
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
aeternam habeas requiem

May the angels lead you into paradise,
may your arrival be greeted by the martyrs,
and may they lead you
into the holy city, Jerusalem.
May the chorus of angels receive you
and with Lazarus, once a poor man,
may you have eternal rest.

Go Sing It on the Mountain
PEPPER CHOPLIN

I. Rise, O People and Bring Good News
Rise, O people and bring good news. Go on up to the mountain.
Share the message and bring with you powerful singing and shouting.
Lift your voice and do not fear. Share it boldly, strong and clear.
Tell the cities until they hear, “Come and behold the Lord your God.”

Comfort, comfort my people now. Speak to them so tender.
You are pardoned with graceful pow’r and your warfare is ended.
Hear the voice of the prophet say, “For the Lord, prepare the way. Make the highway broad and straight. See the glory of the Lord.”

He shall feed His beloved flock like a faithful shepherd. Drawing close into His arms wandering lambs He’ll gather. As the shepherd comes to feed, all the young He’ll gently lead. He will care for all their need in His fold forever.

Earth awaits the holy day, full of expectation. Hear God’s people call and pray, “Lord, bring us salvation.” Open wide the earthly gate. See the Lord for whom we wait. As He comes, we’ll celebrate, full of jubilation. As He comes, we’ll celebrate. As He comes, we’ll behold our God.

II. A Child Is Gonna Come
The news is troublin’, the world is strugglin’. But soon, very soon a Child is gonna come. Many are burdened, their hearts are hurtin’. But soon, very soon a Child is gonna come.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. He will be a gift to the world. Rejoice, rejoice. O come to us, Emmanuel.

Many are cynical, despair is plentiful. But soon, very soon a Child is gonna come. Come be encouraged, be not discouraged. For soon, very soon, a Child is gonna come.

Rise and be cheerful, no longer fearful. Soon, very soon a Child is gonna come. Be strong and hopeful. We can be joyful For soon, very soon a Child is gonna come.

O come, O come Emmanuel and visit us Emmanuel. Soon, very soon, come.

III. Call His Name Jesus
The angel came to Nazareth and said these words to Mary, “The Lord is with you, blessed one.” But Mary was afraid. The angel said, “Now do not fear, for you have found God’s favor. Behold you shall bring forth a Son and call His name Jesus.”

“He shall be great and will be called, ‘The Son of the Most High.’ And God shall give to Him a throne. His Kingdom shall not end.”

Now Mary went from Nazareth with her new husband, Joseph, Into the town of Bethlehem and she was great with child.
While they were there, the hour came when she should be delivered. She brought forth her firstborn Son and called His name Jesus. (chorus)

She wrapped her Child in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. She whispered as He felt asleep, “I’ll call Your name Jesus.”

IV. Angel Band
Now there were shepherds out in the field.
They watched their flocks by night.
When all of a sudden, the angel came; the shepherds shook with fright.
O come, angel band. Come and around us stand.
O bear us sweet news of the Baby’s birth, our Savior, Christ the Lord.
The angel said, “Be not afraid. I bring you news of joy.
For unto you is born this day a newborn baby boy.

V. Hush, Little Baby
Hush, little Baby, don’t You cry. Listen to Your mother’s lullaby.
Now Your eyes are open wide, looking at the faces by your side.
Hush, little Baby, have You heard You have been causing quite a stir.
Angels and a shining star tell the world how special You are.
O what wonderful things we heard as we listened to the angel’s words.
Unto us a Child is born. You are the Savior, Christ the Lord.
Hush, little Baby, don’t You cry. Don’t you see the tear in Your mother’s eye.
Tears will come, her heart is full, looking down at her miracle.
O what wonderful things she heard when she listened to the angel’s words,
“God is with You, blessed one. You shall have a holy Son.”
Hush, little Baby, it’s time to rest. Slow the rhythm of Your breath.
Now Your heart is keeping time; Your heartbeat flows with the rhythm of mine.

VI. Go Sing It on the Mountain
Let’s go up to the mountain to celebrate the birth.
We’ll sing the proclamation and share with all the earth.
Let’s go up, sing it on the mountain, over hills and ev’rywhere.
Go sing it on the mountain and sing it ev’rywhere that Jesus Christ is born.
For you shall go with a joyful song. The mountains and the hills will sing along.
The trees of the fields will clap their hands with joy.
Sing it, go and sing it on the mountain and over the hills.
Go sing it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
That Jesus Christ is born.

VII. Star Eternal
Star of eternal, fill the skies. Light the road before our eyes.
Piercing star in deepest blue, give us faith to follow you.
Star eternal, now we ask, shine your light upon our path.

Star eternal, help us see visions of eternity.
You were there before our birth. You’ll be shining when we leave this earth
When the time comes to travel on to the land that lies beyond.
Star eternal, now rise and soar! Lead us closer to the Lord
‘Til one day, we’ll bring our praise when we see the Savior face to face.
In His presence, we’ll bow before the King of Kings, the mighty Lord of Lords.
Star of wonder, star of light, star of royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.
Star eternal, through the night, guide us to Thy perfect light.

**VIII. Scottish Worship Carol**

Sweet Child from heaven, promised One,
You stir our souls and warm our hearts.
And so we rise to do our part and worship You, O Lord.
Alleluia.
We follow the wise men’s ancient path to bow before You, Holy Child.
We’ll sing a carol for a while and worship You, O Lord.
Alleluia.
A thousand generations pass, their journey leads from birth to death.
So while we still breathe our living breath, we worship You, O Lord.
Alleluia.

**IX. Joyous Nowell to the World**

Nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.
Joy to the world, the Lord of light is come.
Let earth receive her great and mighty King.
Let every heart prepare Him room and heav’n and nature rise and sing.

Joy to the earth, the loving Savior reigns,
Let all the earth their joyful songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.
He rules the world with truth and wondrous grace,
And makes the mighty nations prove the glories of his holy love.

The first Nowell the angel did say to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell. Born is the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Come sing for joy.
The Lord has come!
Meet the Artists

James D. Moyer

James D. Moyer, a native of Easton, Pennsylvania, is a veteran teacher of 30 years and is in his 18th year as director of choral music at Pennsbury High School. An inaugural inductee into the Westminster Choir College Music Education “Hall of Fame” in 2014, Mr. Moyer holds degrees from Westminster Choir College (B.M. music education voice/organ) and the University of Oklahoma (M.M. choral conducting).

The Concert Choir is made up of junior and senior students from the nearly 400 singers in the Pennsbury High School Choral Music Department. It is one of seven choirs at Pennsbury. Recent performances venues include Thomaskirche (Leipzig, Germany), Leipzig Gewnadhaus, Smetana Hall (Prague, Czech Republic), Carnegie Hall and annual performances at the Princeton University Chapel. The Concert Choir has worked under guest conductors Joseph Flummerfelt, Dennis Shrock, James Jordan, Ron Dirk-Entleutner, Joe Miller, and James Whitbourn. The Pennsbury Concert Choir was hailed by Joseph Flummerfelt as “one of the finest high school programs in the country” in 2013.

The Pennsbury Community Chorus (PCC) was founded in September 2000 by Mr. Moyer and John McDonnell to provide a forum for talented singers in Lower Bucks County. Mr. Moyer serves as the artistic director of the PCC. The group typically comprises 50–75 area residents, including Pennsbury students, graduates, teachers, parents, staff, and friends of the Pennsbury Community. Performances include a variety of choral repertoire and literature, often with guest soloists and orchestras. Recent works have included the Requiems of Mozart and Fauré, the Magnificats of Pergolesi, Bach, and Rutter, and Orff’s Carmina Burana.

Pepper Choplin

Pepper Choplin is a full-time composer, conductor, and humorist. He has gained a reputation as one of the most creative writers in church music today. Beginning his music training at the age of four, he grew up singing and playing piano, trumpet, guitar, and banjo. With a bachelor of music degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, he went on to earn a master of music degree in composition from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

With a diverse musical background, Mr. Choplin incorporates varied styles such as folk, gospel, classical, and jazz. His published work includes more than 275 anthems for church and school choir with 19 church cantatas and a book of piano arrangements. More than 100 groups have commissioned him to write original works for them. The original hymn “Come to the Water” appears in the recent hymnal Celebrating Grace. His anthems consistently appear in the top-seller lists of publishers and distributors. Since 1991 his choral music has sold several million copies. Each week thousands of singers present his music in churches and schools in the United States and around the world.

In 2013 he made his Carnegie Hall debut in a joint concert with Joseph Martin on the DCINY concert series. His Lincoln Center presentations include Our Father in 2015.
and Go Sing It on the Mountain in 2016. He visits many schools, churches, and conferences to conduct and to entertain. Beyond his choral music, Mr. Choplin has produced two humorous CDs and an inspirational recording. In his solo concerts he moves audiences with his powerful ballads and his clever humor.

Emily Drennan

Emily Drennan was most recently seen in the New York Spectacular starring the Rockettes at Radio City Musical Hall and prior was seen touring Europe and the Caribbean playing Tanya in Mamma Mia! She has also been a guest soloist at Carnegie Hall; Mezzo in VOCA PEOPLE Off-Broadway and its Israel, Japan, and Dubai tours; as well as a featured guest on The Jimmy Fallon Show, The MDA Telethon, and with Sting. In New York and regionally, Ms. Drennan has been seen in: NBC’s Celebrity Apprentice; Radio City Christmas Spectacular (soloist: NBC/PBS/DVD); Toxic Audio (New York, Drama Desk Award; Las Vegas tours); Hunka Hunka Burnin’ Love; Joseph… (Narrator); Swing! (Ann); Aida (Amneris); Hair (Sheila); and Smokey Joe’s Café (Pattie). She also is a frequent guest soloist with various symphonies including: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (u/s both Ann and Liz Callaway); Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra with Sandi Patty; OKC Philharmonic; Hendersonville Symphony; Muncie Symphony; Tulsa Signature Symphony; and Winston-Salem Symphony. She was a National Presidential Scholar in the Arts at the White House and is a published ASCAP and Recording Academy (Grammy) producer, lyricist, composer, studio singer, and recording artist with two degrees and four minors, summa cum laude, from Oklahoma State University who also just named her a Hall of Fame Outstanding Youth Alumni. She can be heard on various television toy commercials, her debut double-disc album Two-Way Street, as well as her upcoming A Mother Daughter Christmas album, which will be available this season on iTunes and on her official website www.emilydrennan.com.

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Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor
Danuta Gross, Director of Finance & Administration
Kevin Taylor, Director of Program Development
James M. Meaders, Associate Artistic Director & Conductor
Jason Mlynk, Associate Director of Program Development
Mark Riddles, Program Development
Katie Sims, Program Development
Julia Falkenbury, Program Development
Maria Braginsky, Program Development Assistant
Kimberly Preiss, Program Development Assistant
Jeff Binner, Program Development Assistant
Andrea Niederman, Associate Director of Marketing, Box Office & Promotions
Katherine Shen, Box Office & Marketing Assistant
DeAnna Choi, Office Operations Manager, Accounting & Billing
Samm Vella, Interim Production Manager
Marisa Tornello, Concert Operations Associate
Thomas Reiman, Concert Operations
Gary Crowley, Graphic Design & Website
Hannah Damron, Intern

For PR and media inquiries, please contact Andrew Ousley of Unison Media at Press@DCINY.org or (212) 707-8566 Ext. 316.