

WE

Celebrating Connection

Everyone experienced to some degree the isolation or separation of the early days of the pandemic. Most everything shut down and if we interacted with others, it was more likely via zoom or just phone than in person. Even families had to make hard choices about how they could be together. So, I thought it would be appropriate to do a concert of music and texts about “WE;” about the various kinds of people and things to which we (as humans) seem drawn to connect with.

You will buy and keep all of this music save for the large complete score of Considering Matthew Shepard, which we will sing complete in the spring. The cost for everything except CMS will be \$15.00. The CMS score can be “checked out” and returned or purchased later for the cost of \$20.00. I do not know the cost of the Holiday music for the Philharmonic but most of what they are considering are repeats that you might already own.

Eric Whitacre: Five Hebrew Love Songs

Beautiful music about the magic of romance for chorus with piano and solo violin with texts by his then-girlfriend but now wife, Hila Plitmann.

[Five Hebrew Love Songs - Salt Lake Choral Artists - YouTube](#)

Daniel Kallman: Life Has Loveliness to Sell (women)

A wonderful poem (titled “Barter”) by Sara Teasdale about the joy and value of connecting to beauty, for our women’s voices with piano and solo flute. The composer later set 2 other Teasdale poems on commission from us for our Cantare Choir.

[Life Has Loveliness to Sell \(Live\) - YouTube](#)

Lee Dengler: Things That Never Die (men)

A great text, perhaps by Charles Dickens, about our connections to high ideas.

[Things that Never Die - YouTube](#)

Craig Hella Johnson: Three Songs of Community (from Considering Matthew Shepard)

“We Tell Each Other Stories” considers the value of connecting to the past while “Meet Me Here” speaks of walking with one another (over and over it uses the word “we”) toward the new horizon/future. “All of Us” is an uplifting anthem about starting a new present.

[Considering Matthew Shepard: Prologue, 3. We Tell Each Other Stories - YouTube](#)

[Considering Matthew Shepard: Epilogue, 30. Meet Me Here - YouTube](#)

[All Of Us \(from Considering Matthew Shepard\) \(SATB divisi Choir\) - by Craig Hella Johnson - YouTube](#)

Lloyd Larson: The Lord's My Shepherd

A simple arrangement of the great Psalm 23 text attached to the famous melody called "Brother James' Air."

[The Lord's My Shepherd \(SATB \) arr. Lloyd La | J.W. Pepper Sheet Music \(jwpepper.com\)](#)

Jake Runestad: The Peace of Wild Things

Our first attempt at some music by the choral world's new rock-star composer. You might recall doing Joan Szymko's wonderful setting of this great Wendell Berry poem about connecting with nature some years ago. Runestad's setting is also lovely and a nice showpiece for our Ron Stabinsky.

[American Triptych: No. 2, The Peace of Wild Things - YouTube](#)

Craig Hella Johnson: Cattle, Horses, Sky and Grass

This is the opening movement of Considering Matthew Shepard and to my mind, the most fascinating poem in the cantata, about the "life" and "death" that connects all things.

[Considering Matthew Shepard: Prologue, 1. Cattle, Horses, Sky and Grass - YouTube](#)

Mark Sirett: Auld Lang Syne

We associate this traditional text with New Year's Eve, but it is really about friendship and goodwill. Sirett uses here the original Scottish melody written down by Robert Burns and adds solo violin and piano. Tears will flow!

[Auld Lang Syne arr. Mark Sirett - YouTube](#)

Imant Raminsh: Put, Vejini (Blow, Winds)

We will close with a simple arrangement of a Latvian folksong that during the 50-year Soviet occupation of Latvia became that small nation's unofficial national hymn. Still today at summer song festivals in Latvia, massed choirs of as many as 25,000 singers and 100,000 spectators stand and sing it, making it a lovely representation of the power of connecting to one's homeland.

[Put vejini \(Ramins\) - YouTube](#)