



Kira Adams/Chris Gorgio, Used with permission

Spring 2024 Concert

FEATURING

Soulbeatz Oakland &
Members of the Oakland Symphony Chorus

Saturday April 6, 2024 7:30 PM
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

*I went to the Garden of Love,-
And saw what I never had seen:
A Chapel was built in the midst,
Where I used to play on the green.*

*And the gates of this Chapel were shut,
And Thou shalt not writ over the door;
So I turn'd to the Garden of Love,
That so many sweet flowers bore.*

*And I saw it was filled with graves,
And tomb-stones where flowers should be.
And Priests in black gowns, were walking their rounds,
And binding with briars, my joys & desires.*

William Blake, 1794

I first learned of William Blake's poem *The Garden of Love* while we were wrapping up our Oakland Symphony *Bodies on the Line* performance last May. I immediately wanted to dig deeper. What was the meaning and purpose of these words? What context and experience was Blake drawing from when he wrote this?

When crafting programs, I try to look at where we've been as a people and how we're moving forward to navigate challenges with new understanding. We can look to art to escape reality. I believe it can better help us by aiding our recognition of the beauty around and in us. This is true even in dark times. Blake knew this 230 years ago when he wrote this poem. A master of allegory, he referred to well-known ideals to produce a message of hope. And at the root of this poem are two things: love and hope.

In life, we often try to hold onto the things we love most. We fear changes that loom over things we treasure. This is much like the *Priests in Black Gowns who keep the Chapel gates shut* in Blake's poem. But, how do we learn and grow if we refute any changes? How do we encourage our young people to process and accept these changes? Especially when those changes seem out of our control.

My mother raised five of us on her own for most of my life. She always told us, "love and learning require growth." This advice was crucial for our emotional development. We got it when we struggled with change, from letting go of houses to changing friendships. She'd give us that moment to process, and then encouraged us to move forward through love.

This practice taught me patience and acceptance. It let me see more of the beauty around me and take time to heal after loss. I feel like this advice extends to us all today. We can still lead with love and encouragement. We can inspire others to do the same. We can learn to love without singular ownership, and allow others to experience what we love as well. Like singing!

I hope you allow this message to stay with you as you enjoy our program today. Thank you for your continued support of Pacific Edge Voices' music and love.

Lead from love,
Ash

The Sound Garden of Love

Saturday, April 6, 7:30 pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco

Ash Walker, *Artistic Director*
Dr. Jeremiah Trujillo, *Accompanist*
Caitlin Zittkowski, *President*
Joey Carini, *Assistant Artistic Director*

featuring
Soulbeatz Oakland &
Members of the Oakland Symphony Chorus

SOPRANO

Rachel Chin
Katie Craddock
Claudine Jones
Sarah King⁺
Amelie Mel de Fontenay
Alyssa Meurer⁺
Rose Rubel[‡]
Hend Saadeh
Margarit Shetreat-Klein
Meghan Joyce Tozer
Caitlin Zittkowski[‡]

ALTO

Kira Adams
Joey Carini
Jiyoun Chung[‡]
Lynne Frame
Polly Ikonen
Niveta Iyer
Kim Keeton
Suzy Logan
Rebecca Monson
Ruthie Nelson⁺
Annemaria Rajala⁺
Anna-Linnéa Rödegård⁺

TENOR

Sam Bock⁺
Eric Dodds^{‡+}
Evan Gologorsky[‡]
Aaron Gustafson
Eric Hill
Rick Hoskins
Claudia Landivar
Bryan Matheson
Neil Wade⁺

BASS

Steve Bicknese
Ben Carman⁺
Tom Carpender
Doug Jackson
Don Kelley⁺
Yoni Landau⁺
Daniel Lee
Ron Losk
Dustin Swonder^{‡+}

Denotes Section Leader
[‡] Denotes Board Member
⁺ Denotes *Lux Aeterna* soloist

Accompanists:
Dr. Jeremiah Trujillo, *piano*
Tom Carpender, Lynne Frame, Kim Keeton, *percussion*

The Priests in Black Gowns:
Sarah King, Caitlin Zittkowski, Annemaria Rajala,
Anna-Linnéa Rödegård, Eric Dodds, Sam Bock

PROGRAM

"I went to the Garden..."

Spring 1: Recomposed (Vivaldi's Four Seasons, 2012

Max Richter (1966)

The Garden of Love (read by Balthazar Tobes)

William Blake (1757 - 1827)

Panda Chant II

Meredith Monk (1942)

Anna-Linnéa Rödegård, soloist

Gaur Akelarre

Josu Elberdin (1976)



"The Briars..."

God's Great Dust Storm

Katzenjammer. Arr. by Henrik Dahlgren (1991)

Annemaria Rajala, Caitlin Zittkowski, Sam Bock & Eric Dodds, soloists

Tom Carpender, percussion

"Rain"

Marcos Leite (1952)

Somagwaza (Swahili folk song)

Arr. by J. Maselwa

Shosholoza (Nguni South African folk song)

Arr. by Ash Walker (1984)

Soulbeatz, percussion, accompaniment



"In the Chapel..."

If Music Be the Food of Love

Dylan Tran (1994)

Meghan Joyce Tozer, soloist

The Hymn of Axiom

Vienna Teng (1978)

Performed with members of the Oakland Symphony Chorus

Lux Aeterna

E. Elgar (1867 - 1934); Arr. by John Cameron

Joey Carini, conductor



"...My Joys and Desires!"

Denko (Malian folk song)

Arr. by Ash Walker & Don Kelley

Lynne Frame & Kim Keeton, percussion

Make our Garden Grow (from Candide)

Leonard Bernstein (1918 - 1990); Arr. by R. Page

Dr. Jeremiah Trujillo, piano

BIOS



Ash Walker was named Music Director of Pacific Edge Voices in August 2020. He succeeded Dr. Lynne Morrow, who retired from the position at the end of the 2019-2020 season, PEV's 40th.

Ash Walker currently serves as chorus director for the Oakland Symphony and as interim Artistic Director for ChoraNova in Berkeley. He earned a masters degree in choral conducting at California State University East Bay. While there, Walker won the Trustees Scholarship and on two occasions co-presented research at the National American Choral Directors Association Conference with his mentor Dr. Buddy James.

A Pennsylvania native, Walker began his musical career singing and touring internationally with the Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale. He attended Millersville University of Pennsylvania, where he completed a B.A. in music. While an undergraduate, he co-founded and directed the Men's Choir and served as vice president of the American Choral Directors Association, Lancaster Chapter.

In 2009, Ash founded and served as artistic director of the 'Music for Everyone' Lancaster Community Chorus, a community choir open to singers of every age and stage, with a mission of cultivating the power of community and music in Lancaster City, Pennsylvania.



Meghan Joyce Tozer is a soprano, writer, and music historian who uses every capacity of her voice to advocate for social change. Her voice has been called "haunting" and "thrilling" by The Santa Barbara Independent, "groundbreaking" by Katie Couric, and "dangerous" by Tucker Carlson.

She is an award-winning #MeToo documentary storyteller and author of the critically acclaimed novel *Night, Forgotten* (2022). She holds a B.A. in Music and English from Harvard University, as well as a M.M. in voice performance and a Ph.D. in musicology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

www.meghanjoycetozer.com.

Soulbeatz Oakland is a community drum circle that creates community through drumming—sharing drums with everyone from master drummers to children. Participants/members include people from Cape Verde, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, France, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Mexico, Nepal, USA, and beyond.



Upcoming PEV concerts and events:

For information and tickets visit <https://pacificedgevoices.org/concerts>

Selections from the Sound Garden

April 7, 3-4 pm

The Pergola at Lake Merritt, *free*

Annual A Cappella Jazz & Pop Concerts

June 8 & 14, 7:30 pm

June 16, 4 pm



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Donations to Pacific Edge Voices are fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

PEV DONOR COMMUNITY

Everything PEV does would not be possible without the ongoing financial support from PEV's generous community of donors. In alphabetical order, we gratefully thank:

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INDIVIDUALS

Akiko Kobayashi	Dustin Frazier	Kim Keeton & Steve Hand	Rachel Chin
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Alexander Bauer	Elizabeth Churchill	Laura Maestrelli	Rhishikesh Limaye
Alyssa Meurer	Ellen & Klaus Porzigg	Laura Morgan	Richard Shapiro & Patricia Sakai
Andrew Davis	Eric Dodds	Leah Swiler	Sandra Gafney
Ann Glusker & Peter Hunsberger	Eric Lipsitt	Len Bargellini	Sarah King
Anna Rodegard	Eric Siegel	Linda Lipner	Scott Sklar
Annamaria Rajala	Erica Peng	Linda Vasquez	Sean & Deborah O'Hara
Armando Fox	Gerard Ramm	Lisa Bauer	Sean Dowdall & David Landis
Ash Walker	Gretchen Krueger	Liza Batallones	Sina Cross
Bill Jackson	Heather Imboden	Lloyd Elliott & Annette Cayot	Sophia Giuliano
Brian Morris	Howard Mel	Loren & Rachel Kertz	Susan Getman & Don Kelley
Brianne Miller	James Nelson & Margery Erikssson	Lucy Anemone	Susan Purcell
Carah Herring	Jeanne Mische-Feldman	Lynn Eve Komaromi	Susan Spence
Carl Duisberg	Jeff Craddock	Lynne Frame & Rick Hoskins	Suzy Logan
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Charles & Margaret Dollbaum	Jim Hale	Mary Joyce	Tiffanie DeLiberty
Charles Hostetter	Jiyoun Chung	Mary Maestrelli	Todd & Judy Macmorran-Logan
Christiana Tiedemann	Joanne Attard	Meghan Tozer	Tom Carpender & Gretchen Nicholson
Corinne Spingarn & Steve Bicknese	Joanne Spalding	Michael Usem & Georgeanne Walker	Tommy Bonk
Craig MacLellan	John Di Bene	Mike Prior	Trish Prior
Daniel Smith	John Pang	Natalie Lenz-Acuna	Una Elias
Davy Crockett	John Stenzel & Amelie Mel de Fontenay	Nelia White	Vikki & G.K. Hart
Debra & Wesley Gologorsky	Judy Cayot	Nicholas Weiler	Will Welch
Diana Haven	Karen Gafney	Patrick Aragon	Yonatan Landau
Dick Shapiro & Patricia Sakai	Karen Ivy	Peter & Joyce Thompson	Yousef Elias
Dolores Dwyer	Kate Harps	Polly & Greg Ikonen	Yvonne Merrigan
	Kent Stewart	Quynh-Chi Tran	
	Kevin Smead		

This concert would not have been possible without the support of the following individuals and organizations. Thank you so much!

Dr. Buddy James, Cal State East Bay	Oakland Symphony Chorus & Committee
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Jaco Wong, clinician	PEV programming committee
Sara Vreeland, Mieko Hatano, Linda Steele	St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco