

RACHMANINOFF

# VESPERS

OCTOBER 24-27, 2019

SKYLARK  
VOCAL ENSEMBLE



# RACHMANINOFF VESPERS

Tackling a piece that has been capably performed and recorded by many world-class ensembles requires a healthy dose of both humility and insanity. I never would have imagined programming this piece for Skylark's had it not played such a pivotal role in my own life in late 2014. Rather than write lengthy program notes (those who are keen on that hopefully attended the pre-concert talk!) I thought it would be more meaningful to share our story.

*(Written November 20, 2014)*

Carolyn and I have always loved the Robert Shaw recording of the Rachmaninoff *Vespers*. It was a favorite of her family for drives to Deer Isle, Maine when she was a child, and I've always played it when I wanted to just sit and "be" surrounded by something beautiful. Yesterday, it took on a whole new meaning for our family.

We had our portable speaker with us in the delivery room at Piedmont Hospital yesterday, and at some point during the day, we clicked over to the Shaw *Vespers* recording on the iPod, looking for something calming.

The delivery did not go "as planned." (I'm sure they never do.) After ten hours of stressful rigmarole, there came a time when something drastic needed to be done to help dear baby and dear Carolyn finish the task at hand. Suddenly, as if out of nowhere, there were ten people in our room, and the order was "We're going to the OR, stat!" The whirlwind of activity left the room in under a minute. I gave Carolyn a quick kiss goodbye and watched them leave.

Suddenly, I was alone with a nurse-in-training. The sense of emptiness in the room was palpable, my sense of disoriented confusion its highest ever. On the counter in the corner, the beautiful choir in France continued to sing.

After being told that I would not be able to go with Carolyn, because the procedure was an emergency and needed to happen so quickly that she would require general anesthesia, I gathered the suitcases, the shoes, the snacks, the clothes, and the speaker, and walked some distance I'll never recall to a descriptionless recovery room where I was to wait.

The speaker kept singing on the walk. When we arrived in the room, my companion asked someone "Do we need to turn this off?" "No, it's fine, leave it on," was the response. It was only about 15 minutes, but it was the scariest time of my life. A non-praying man uttered some prayers for his wife and child. And the choir sang on.

Little Harry was born at 7:17 p.m. When a nurse came to see me at 7:19 or so, the sixth movement, the *Bogoroditse Dyevo*, which is a setting of Ave Maria that was sung at our wedding seven years ago, was coming to a close. It's a little over three minutes long. I surmised then that the *Ave Maria*, a hymn to the miracle of birth (although a virgin one!) was playing at the moment that Harry and mom were rescued from their ordeal.

I pressed pause to talk to the nurses who told me all was well, and who then darted to the operating room to take pictures of little Harry.

After a few frantic sobs, I regained my composure and pressed play again. The seventh movement started. *Slava v vyshnikh Bogu...* "Glory to God on High, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men...open thou my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise." Ten minutes later, they brought Harry to our room. They ran his first tests, gave him a bath, and pronounced him in perfect health. I watched alone, as Carolyn was still asleep from the surgery.

After his bath, they gave Harry an adorable blanket and a little hat, and handed him to me. We sat together and waited for Carolyn for thirty minutes, just the two of us. Well, the two of us and a beautiful choir singing a beautiful piece...a meditation on beauty and the divine...a vigil. In this case, it wasn't quite all-night. But, it filled the time between when Harry was born and when he met his mother for the first time.

When they wheeled Carolyn in, the music was still playing. It had carried me through the most important hour of my life, and carried Harry through the first hour of his.

Thank you, Mr. Rachmaninoff. Thank you, Mr. Shaw. Thank you, all the lovely people who were a part of that experience. It is changing lives still today.

– Matthew Guard, Artistic Director

# SKYLARK ARTISTS

SOPRANO  
Sophie Amelkin  
Fiona Gillespie  
Sarah Moyer  
Fotina Naumenko  
Janet Stone  
Alissa Ruth Suver

ALTO  
Luthien Brackett  
Carolyn Guard  
Helen Karloski  
Clare McNamara  
Megan Roth

TENOR  
Jonas Budris  
John K. Cox  
Paul D'Arcy  
Erik Gustafson  
Nathan Hodgson  
Robbie Jacobs

BASS  
Eric Alatorre\*  
Matthew Goinz  
Christopher Jackson  
Enrico Lagasca  
Glenn Miller\*  
Adrian Peacock\*  
Peter Walker  
Dana Whiteside

*\*Oktavists*

SOLOISTS

Luthien Brackett, Mezzo Soprano  
Jonas Budris, Tenor

## PROGRAM

Sergei Rachmaninoff, *All-Night Vigil*, Op. 37

1. Приидите, поклонимся (PRIIDITE, POKLONIMSYA)
2. Благослови, душе моя (BLAGOSLOVI, DUSHE MOYA)
3. Блажен муж (BLAZHEN MUZH)
4. Свете тихий (SVETE TIKHIY)
5. Ныне отпускаеши (NĪNE OTRUSHCHAYESHI)
6. Богородице Дево, радуйся (BOGORÓDITSE DYÉVO, RÁDUISYA)
7. Шестопсалмие (SLAVA V VĪSHNIKH BOGU)
8. Хвалите имя Господне (KHVALITE IMYA GOSPODNE)
9. Благословен еси, Господи (BLAGOSLOVEN YESI, GOSPODI)
10. Воскресение Христово видевши (VOSKRESENIYE KHRISTOVO VIDEVSHE)
11. Величит душа Моя Господа (VELICHIT DUSHA MOYA GOSPODA)
12. Славословие великое (VELIKOYE SLAVOSLOVIYE)
13. Днесь спасение (DNES' SPASENIYE)
14. Воскрес из гроба (VOSKRES IZ GROBA)
15. Взбранной воеводе (VZBRANNOY VOYEVODE)

# TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

## 1. Приидите, поклонимся (PRIIDITE, POKLONIMSYA)

Аминь.

Приидите, поклонимся Цареву нашему Богу.

Приидите, поклонимся и припадем Христу Цареву нашему Богу.

Приидите, поклонимся и припадем самому Христу Цареву и Богу нашему.

Приидите, поклонимся и припадем Ему.

## 1. O COME, LET US WORSHIP / PSALM 95:6

*Amen.*

*Come, let us worship God, our King.*

*Come, let us adore and bow down to Christ our God and King.*

*Come, let us adore and bow down to the same Christ the King and our God.*

*Come, let us adore and bow down to Him.*

## 2. Благослови, душе моя (BLAGOSLOVI, DUSHE MOYA)

Аминь.

Благослови, душе моя, Господа.

Благословен еси, Господи.

Господи Боже мой, возвеличился еси зело.

Во исповедание и в велелепоту облеклся еси.

На горах станут воды.

Дивна дела Твоя, Господи.

Посреде гор пройдут воды.

Вся премудростию сотворил еси.

Слава Ти, Господи, сотворившему вся.

## 2. PRAISE THE LORD, O MY SOUL / VERSES FROM PSALM 104

*Amen.*

*Bless the Lord, my soul.*

*Blessed are You, Lord.*

*O Lord my God, exceedingly great are You.*

*You are clothed with honor and majesty.*

*On the mountains water stands.*

*Your works are wonderful, Lord.*

*In the midst of the mountains there will be water.*

*In Your wisdom, You have created all.*

*Glory to You, Lord, who created everything.*

## 3. Блажен муж (BLAZHEN MUZH)

Блажен муж, иже не иде на совет нечестивых. Аллилуйя.

Яко весть Господь путь праведных, и путь нечестивых погибнет. Аллилуйя.

Работайте Господеви со страхом и радуйтесь Ему с трепетом. Аллилуйя.

Блажени вси надеющийся Нань. Аллилуйя.

Воскресни, Господи, спаси мя, Боже мой. Аллилуйя.

Господне есть спасение и на людех Твоих благословение Твое. Аллилуйя.

Слава Отцу и Сыну и Святому Духу,

и ныне и присно и во веки веков. Аминь.

Аллилуйя. Слава Тебе, Боже.

## 3. BLESSED IS THE MAN / VERSES FROM PSALMS 1-3

*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked. Alleluia.*

*The Lord knows the way of the righteous, and the way of the wicked will perish. Alleluia.*

*Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling. Alleluia.*

*Blessed is he who puts his trust in Him. Alleluia.*

*Arise, Lord, save me, my God. Alleluia.*

*The Lord is the savior of the people of His blessing. Alleluia.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever and forever more. Amen.*

*Alleluia. Glory to You, God.*

## 4. Свете тихий (SVETE TIKHIY)

Свете тихий, святяя славы Безсмертнаго Отца Небеснаго,

Святаго, Блаженнаго, Иисусе Христе!

Пришедше на запад солнца,

видевше свет вечерний.

Свете тихий, святяя славы достоин еси пет быти гласы преподобными,

Свете тихий, святяя славы достоин еси во вся времена,

Сыне Божий, живот дай:

темже мир Тя славит.

Поем Отца, Сына и Святаго Духа, Бога.

## 4. GLADSOME LIGHT / CHRISTIAN HYMN, THIRD CENTURY

*Gentle light, immortal glory of our holy Father in heaven,*

*Holy, blessed, Jesus Christ!*

*Those who come from the sunset,*

*have seen the evening light.*

*Gentle light, holy glory, worthy to be sung by undefiled voices.*

*Gentle light, holy glory, You are worthy at all times,*

*Son of God, who gives life:*

*the whole world glorifies You.*

*Sing to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, God.*

## 5. Ныне отпускаеши (NINE OTRUSHCHAYESHI)

Ныне отпускаеши раба Твоего,

Владыко, по глаголу Твоему, с миром;

яко видеста очи мои спасение Твое,

еже еси уготовал,

пред лицом всех людей,

свет во откровение языков

и славу людей Твоих Израиля.

## 5. NOW, LET YOUR SERVANT DEPART IN PEACE / NUNC DIMITTIS

*Now let Your servant depart in peace,*

*Lord, by Your word;*

*My eyes have seen Your salvation,*

*Which You have prepared,*

*In view of all the people,*

*A light revealed to all tongues*

*and to the glory of Your people, Israel.*

## 6. Богородице Дево, радуйся (BOGORODITSE DYÉVO, RÁDUISYA)

Богородице Дево, радуйся,

благодатная Марие, Господь с тобою.

Благословена ты в женах,

и благословен плод чрева твоего,

яко Спаса родила еси душ наших.

## 6. AVE MARIA / ORTHODOX PRAYER

*Rejoice, virgin mother of God,*

*Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.*

*Blessed are you among women,*

*and blessed is the fruit of your womb,*

*for you have borne the Savior of our souls.*

7. Шестопсалмие (SLAVA V VĚSHNIKŮ BOHU)

Слава в вышних Богу, и на земли мир,  
в человецех благоволение.  
Господи, устне мои отверзеш,  
и уста моя возвестят хвалу Твою.

8. Хвалите имя Господне (KHVALITE IMYA GOSPODNE)

Хвалите имя Господне. Аллилуйя.  
Хвалите, рабы, Господа.  
Благословен Господь от Сиона,  
живый во Иерусалиме.  
Исповедайтесь Господеви, яко Благ.  
Яко в век милость Его.  
Аллилуйя Исповедайтесь Богу Небесному.  
Аллилуйя, аллилуйя.

9. Благословен еси, Господи (BLAGOSLOVEN YESI, GOSPODI)

Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием Твоим.  
Ангельский собор удиви ся, зря Тебе в мертвых вменившаяся,  
смертную же, Спасе, крепость разорившая,  
и с собою Адама воздвигшая и от ана вся свободившая.  
Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием Твоим.  
Почто мира с милостивными слезами, о ученицы растворяете?  
Блестаясь во гробе, Ангел же:  
видите вы гроб и уразумейте: Спас бо воскре от гроба.  
Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием Твоим.  
Эло рано мироносицы течаху ко предста к ним Ангел и рече:  
рыдания время преста, не платите воскресение же апостолом рычите.  
Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием Твоим.  
Мироносицы жены, с мрыри пришедши ко гробу Твоему Спасе, рыдаху.  
Ангел же к ним рече, граголя: что с мертвыми живаго помышляете?  
Яко Бог бо воскре от гроба.  
Слава Отцу и Сыну и Святому Духу. Поклонимся Отцу и Его Сынови,  
и Святому Духу, Святы Твоице во елином существе,  
с серафими зовуще: свят, свят, свят еси, Господи.  
И ныне и присно и во веки веков. Аминь.  
Жизнодаваца рождши, греха, Дево, Адама избавила еси.  
Радость же Еве в печали место подала еси;  
падши же от жизни к сей направи,  
из Тебе воплотивыйся Бог и человек.  
Аллилуйя, слава Тебе, Боже.

10. Воскресение Христово видевше (VOSKRESENIYE KHRISTOVO VIDEVSHE)

Воскресение Христово видевше,  
поклонимся Святому Господу Иисусу, Единому безгрешному.  
Кресту Твоему поклоняемся, Христе,  
и святое воскресение Твое поем и славим:  
Ты бо еси Бог наш, разве Тебе иного не знаем,  
Имя Твое именуем.  
Приидуте, вси вернии,  
Поклонимся Святому Христову воскресению:  
се бо прииде крестом пасть всему миру, радость;  
всегда благословяще Господа.  
поем воскресение Его: распятие бо претерпев,  
смертию смерть разруши.

11. Величит душа Моя Господа (VELICHT DUSHA MOYA GOSPODA)

Величит Душа Моя Господа,  
и возрадовася дух Мой о Бозе Спасе Моем.  
Честнейшую Херувим и славнейшую без сравнения Серафим,  
без исленяния Бога Слова рождшую,  
сущую Богородицу, Тя величаем.  
Яко призре на смирение рабы Своея,

7. GLORY BE TO GOD / LUKE 2:14; PSALM 51:15

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,  
good will to men.  
Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

8. PRAISE BE THE NAME OF THE LORD / VERSES FROM PSALMS 135-136

Praise the name of the Lord. Alleluia.  
Praise, Rabbi, Lord.  
Blessed be the Lord out of Zion,  
who inhabits Jerusalem.  
Give praise unto the Lord, as a blessing.  
As in the age of His grace.  
Alleluia to the God of heaven.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

9. BLESSED BE THE LORD / ORTHODOX HYMN

Blessed are You, Lord, teach me Your righteousness.  
The Angel host was astonished, when they saw you among the dead,  
yet you destroyed its power, Savior;  
and you yourself delivered Adam and brought us freedom from hell.  
Blessed are You, Lord, teach me Your righteousness.  
Why do you mix sweet-smelling ointment with tears, young women?  
Shining from the grave, the Angel spoke:  
you see the tomb and now understand: the Savior is risen from the grave.  
Blessed are You, Lord, teach me Your righteousness.  
Very early the women carrying myrrh were met by an angel, who said: your  
crying is over, tell the apostles what you have seen.  
Blessed are You, Lord, teach me Your righteousness.  
When the women with spices came to your tomb, they cried;  
but the angel said to them, why do you look for the living among the dead?  
For God has raised Him from the dead.  
Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Worship the Father  
and His Son, and the Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity three in one,  
as proclaimed by the seraphim:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, now and forever and ever. Amen.  
Holy virgin, gave life to the one who saved Adam from sin.  
You gave joy to Eve instead of sorrow.  
Those who have fallen from life you showed righteousness,  
from You, incarnate God and man.  
Alleluia, Glory to You, God.

10. THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS / ORTHODOX HYMN

Having beheld the resurrection of Christ,  
we worship the holy Lord Jesus, like us but sinless.  
We worship your cross, Christ,  
and your holy resurrection we sing and glorify:  
You are our God, even if we don't know  
how to name Your name.  
Come, you faithful,  
bow to the holy resurrection:  
through the cross has come joy to the whole world;  
bless the Lord always!  
Sing His resurrection, He endured crucifixion,  
died to destroy death.

11. MY SOUL EXALTS THE LORD/ MAGNIFICAT

My soul exalts the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in my Savior God.  
More holy than the Cherubim, and more glorious than the incomparable Seraphim,  
God who gave birth to the Word without corruption,  
true Mother of God, we magnify you.  
You have shone on your humble servant,

Се бо от ныне ублажат Мя вси роди.  
Яко сотвори Мне величие Сильный, и святоящи мся Его.  
Яко сотвори Мне величие Сильный, и свято имя Его,  
и милость Его в роды родов боящимся Его.  
Низложи сильныя со престол и вознесе смиренныя  
алчущия исполни благи и богатящихся отпусти тщи.  
Восприят Израиля отрока Своего, помянути милости,  
Якоже глагола ко отцем нашим,  
Аврааму и семени его, даже до века.

*see, I will be called blessed by all generations.  
He who is mighty has done great things for me, and his name is holy.  
You have done great things for me, and holy is His Name,  
and His mercy is from generation to generation to those who fear Him.  
He has deposed the mighty from their thrones,  
and exalted the humble and meek.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, and let the rich become empty.  
Consider your servant Israel and remember your mercy,  
promised to your servant Abraham and his descendants, even forever.*

12. Славословие великое (VELIKOYE SLAVOSLOVIYE)

Слава в вышних Богу, и на земли мир, в человецех благоволение.

Хвалим Тя, благословим Тя, кланяем Ти ся, славословим Тя,  
благодарим Тя, великия ради славы Твоея.

Господи Царю Небесный, Боже Отче Вседержителю,  
Господи, Сыне Единородный, Иисусе Христе, и Святыи Душе.

Господи Боже, Агнче Божий, Сыне Отець,  
вземляй грехи мира, помилуй нас;  
вземляй грехи мира, приими молитву нашу,  
Седяи одесную Отца, помилуй нас.

Яко Ты еси един Свят, Ты еси един,  
Иисус Христос, в славу Бога Отца. Аминь.

На всяк день благословлю Тя и восхваляю имя  
Твое во веки и в век века.

Сподоби, Господи, в день сей без греха сохранитися нам.

Слодоби, Господи, в день сей сохранитися нам.

Благословен еси, Господи. Боже Отец нашихи  
хвално и прославлено имя Твое во веки, Аминь.

Буди, Господи, милость, Твоя на нас,  
якоже уповахом на Тя. Помилуй мя. Исцели душу мою.  
Благословен еси, Господи, научи мя оправданием Твоим.

К Тебе прибегох, Господи,  
прибежище был еси нам в род и род.

Азрех, Господи, помилуй мя,  
исцели душу мою, яко согреших Тебе.

Господи, помилуй мя творити волю Твою,  
яко Ты еси Бог мой: яко у Тебе источник живота,  
во свете Твоем узрим свет.

Пробави милость Твою ведущим Тя.

Святыи Боже, Святыи Крепкий, Святыи Безсмертный, помилуй нас.

Слава Отцу и Сыну и Святому Духу,  
и ныне и присно и во веки веков, Аминь.

13. Днесь спасение (DNES' SPAZENIYE)

Днесь спасение миру бысть,  
поем Воскресшему из гроба Начальнику жизни нашея:  
разрушив бо смертную смерть,  
победу даде нам и велию милость.

12. GLORIA IN EXCELSIS / THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, to men of grace.  
We praise You, we bless You, we bow before You, we give you thanksgiving,  
we thank You for the greatness of Your glory.*

*Lord, heavenly King, God the almighty Father,  
Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.*

*Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
have mercy on us, inhabitants of earth.*

*He who lives at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us, inhabitants of earth.*

*For You are holy, You are the only One,  
Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*All the day long I will bless You, and praise  
Your name for ever and ever and ever.*

*Keep us from sin, O Lord, in our day.*

*Keep us safe, O Lord, in our day.*

*Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers,  
Your name be praised and glorified for ever and ever, Amen.*

*Blessed Lord, have mercy on us,  
we put our trust in You.*

*Have mercy on me. Heal my soul.*

*Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me Your righteousness,  
that I might come running to You.*

*Lord, you have been our hiding place from generation to generation.*

*I said, Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.*

*Lord, have mercy on me, that I may do Your stated will,  
for You are my God: You are my source of sustaining.*

*In Your light we will see light.*

*We trust in the mercy of your leadership.*

*Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever more. Amen.*

14. Воскрес из гроба (VOSKRES IZ GROBA)

Воскрес из гроба и узы растерзал еси ада,  
разрушил еси осуждение смерти, Господи,  
вся от сетей врага избавивый;  
явивый же Себе апостолом Твоим,  
послал еси я на проповедь,  
и теми мир Твой подал еси вселенней,  
едине Многомилостиве.

13. THE DAY OF SALVATION / ORTHODOX HYMN

*Today salvation is in the world,  
sing to the One raised from the grave, Head of our life:  
who destroyed death by His death,  
and has given us the victory, and great mercy.*

15. Взбранной воеводе (VZBRANNOY VOYEVODE)

Взбранной воеводе победительная,  
яко избавльшися от злых,  
благодарственная восписуем Ти раби Твои, Богородице;  
но яко имущая державу непобедимую,  
от всяких нас бед свободи,  
да зовем Ти: радуйся невесто невестная.

14. CHRIST IS RISEN / ORTHODOX HYMN

*When thou, O Lord, hadst arisen from the tomb and burst the bonds of hell,  
thou destroyedst the condemnation of death for all mankind,  
breaking the snare of the enemy.  
Revealing thyself to thine Apostles,  
thou didst send them forth to preach thy word,  
granting thy peace through them to all the world.  
O thou only all-merciful Lord Christ.*

15. TO THE MOTHER OF GOD / ORTHODOX HYMN

*Victorious triumphant leader,  
who has saved us from evil,  
thanksgiving hymns are sung by your servants, to You;  
[you] who have been given invincible power,  
from our troubles deliver us,  
we call to You: hail, bride-maiden.*

# ABOUT SKYLARK



GRAMMY®-nominated Skylark, “the cream of the American crop” (*BBC Radio 3*), is a premier vocal ensemble of leading American vocal soloists, chamber musicians, and music educators. Skylark’s dramatic performances have been described as “gripping” (*The Times of London*), “exquisite...thrilling” (*Gramophone Magazine*), and “awe-inspiring” (*Boston Music Intelligencer*). Skylark strives to set the standard for innovative and engaging programs that re-define the choral experience for audiences and singers alike. Artistic Director Matthew Guard’s well-researched and creative programs have been described as “engrossing” (*WQXR New York*) and “original, stimulating, and beautiful” (*BBC Radio 3*).

Since its founding in 2011 in Atlanta and Boston, Skylark has branched out to perform its dynamic programs in museums, concert halls, and churches across the United States. Skylark made its international debut in March 2018 at St. John’s Smith Square, London, as part of the UK choir Tenebrae’s *Holy Week Festival*. *The Times of London* declared that Skylark was “the highlight” of the festival that included some of the UK’s leading choirs, including The Tallis Scholars, Polyphony, Tenebrae, and the Gabrieli Consort. Skylark’s most recent three recordings all reached the top 10 of Billboard’s Traditional Classical Chart, earning praise for “imaginative” programming (*Limelight Australia*) and “singing of the highest standard for any area or any repertoire” (*Classics Today*), and its *Seven Words from the Cross* album was recently nominated for two 2019 GRAMMY®-Awards.

A not-for-profit entity with a passion for music education, Skylark performs educational outreach programs with high school and college students across the United States during its concert tours.

## ARTISTIC DIRECTION



Skylark Artistic Director **MATTHEW GUARD** is quickly earning a reputation as one of the most innovative and thoughtful programmers in American choral music. Praised for his “catalyzing leadership” (Q2/WQXR) and “musically creative and intellectually rich” programming (Opera Obsession), Matthew is passionate about communicating something unique in each concert and recording. He scours the world of available repertoire for each program, exhaustively researches each piece, and crafts concerts and printed programs that captivate audiences with their hidden connections and seamless artistry. In addition to his day-to-day leadership of Skylark and role as a conductor in concerts, Matthew is also an active arranger and editor of scores, as he rarely finds programming ideas that will truly sing without at least one piece specifically arranged or composed for the program.

## ERIC ALATORRE



Soprano, **SOPHIE AMELKIN**'s recent solo appearances include Bach's *BWV 211* with Skål Chamber Collective, guest recitalist at the University of Minnesota featuring music of Ladino and Sephardic cultures, *The Magdalene* (Libby Larsen) at SongFest in Los Angeles. Recent and upcoming stage credits include *Diana* (My Princess Diana) in New York City and *Leah (The Dybbuk)* at the Lensic Theater in Santa Fe, NM. Sophie has appeared with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, Chorosynthesis, The Thirteen, The Washington National Cathedral Choir, Brevitas, and the Twin Cities based ensemble MPLS (imPulse). Sophie loves audiobooks(!) and spending time with Lucy (the sweetest beagle).



Praised by the press for her "lushness and delicacy," **LUTHIEN BRACKETT** is in great demand as a professional chorister and mezzo-soprano soloist. She has appeared with preeminent international vocal ensembles including The Monteverdi Choir, I Fagiolini, The Choir of Trinity Wall Street, The Clarion Society, and Seraphic Fire. Her recent solo appearances include engagements with the Yorkshire Bach Soloists, Mark Morris Dance Group, and Washington Bach Consort. Her extensive discography includes four GRAMMY-nominated albums, most recently *Alexander Kastalsky: Memory Eternal*, with the Clarion Choir. Luthien was named after an elf in J.R.R. Tolkien's legendarium. She lives in England.

## JONAS BUDRIS



**JOHN K. COX** is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Reed College in Portland, Oregon where he leads the Chorus and Collegium Musicum, as well as teaching courses in theory, performance practice, and pre-modern music history. Dr. Cox holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory, University of Oregon, and a doctorate from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. A specialist in 16th and 17th century music, Dr. Cox's recent work focuses on forgotten repertoires of Italian sacred music dating from the late seventeenth century. Outside of rehearsal or the library, he can be found hiking, biking, or in a canoe.





**PAUL D'ARCY**



Soprano **FIONA GILLESPIE** is active as a soloist, and chamber and folk musician. Her band, The Chivalrous Crickets, focuses on original and traditional music from America and the Celtic nations. Her album of Scottish songs, “Wisps in the Dell”, with members of the Baroque band ACRONYM under the name Makaris, releases October 2019, and her compositional debut, a folk-rock cantata of the ballad Tam Lin, will premier in New York this January, with an album release Fall 2020. Based in Manhattan, Fiona teaches voice and directs opera at Muhlenberg College. Fiona loves to visit natural history museums wherever she goes.



Conductor, baritone, pianist, and arranger **MATTHEW GOINZ** enjoys an active, international musical career. He has performed in celebrated venues around the world, commissioned and premiered new works, and enjoyed collaborations with prominent artists of our day. Matthew has worked extensively with Cantus, Skylark, True Concord, and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and is a baritone lay clerk at Washington National Cathedral. He is pursuing his DMA in Choral Conducting at the University of Maryland and makes his home in the Washington, DC area with his wife, soprano-actor Sophie Amelkin, and Lucy, the sweetest beagle that ever was.



Mezzo-soprano **CAROLYN GUARD** is a founding member of Skylark. A life-long Episcopal church musician, she began her musical studies with the Royal School of Church Music at age 6. After attending the Eton Choral courses in the UK, Carolyn was a founding member of the Choral Fellow program in the Memorial Church at Harvard University, and was a staff singer at The Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. Carolyn’s decidedly non-musical degrees are from Harvard College and Emory University. When not singing or working on Babiators, you’ll find her at home with her four boys (Matthew, Harry, Arthur and Baxter the dog).



Tenor **ERIK GUSTAFSON** is nationally active as an oratorio soloist and choral artist, and teaches voice at University of the South in Sewanee, TN. Erik has collaborated on two GRAMMY® Award-winning recordings with the Phoenix Chorale, and albums with Bach Collegium San Diego, Conspirare, True Concord, Kinnara, Spire Chamber Ensemble, and Sounding Light. He performs regularly with Seraphic Fire and Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and is a founder of Quadrivium. Past solo highlights include Bach’s *Sz. John Passion* with Arizona Bach Festival, Handel’s *Messiah* with Tucson Symphony Orchestra, and Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* with Oregon Bach Festival. Erik is a connoisseur of craft beer.



**NATHAN HODGSON** is a New York-based tenor specializing in early and chamber music. He sings with the Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and performs regularly with ensembles across the nation. Recent performances include appearances with Ensemble VIII in Austin, TX and with Bricolage Ensemble in a series of workshops and performances in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Before moving to New York, Nathan sang in the Dallas area with the Orpheus Chamber Singers, Dallas Bach Society, and Denton Bach Society. Nathan is an avid traveler but also loves spending time at home with his dog, Pippa.



**CHRISTOPHER**, Bass, is Skylark's Director of Educational Outreach and in his sixth year as a core member of the ensemble. He is a professional singer, conductor, and music educator, now beginning his third year as the Head of Choral and Vocal Studies at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Christopher is regularly sought as guest conductor for high school festivals, and he has sung with a variety of professional ensembles across the country, including Roomful of Teeth, South Dakota Chorale, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Kinnara, and Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity Lutheran of NYC. Cat-person, cook, reader, traveler, and whiskey enthusiast.



**ROBBIE JACOBS** studied Music at King's College Cambridge, where he was the Senior Choral Scholar under Stephen Cleobury, and holds a Master's in Choral Conducting from the Royal Academy of Music. He has sung with Tenebrae, The Sixteen, and The Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula at the Tower of London. As a conductor, he is the Co-Artistic Director of Reverie Choir, was the Acting Artistic Director of the London Youth Choir, has worked extensively with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, and was the inaugural Conducting Scholar for Genesis Sixteen, under Harry Christophers and Eamonn Dougan. He is currently Director of Artistic Programming for the Boston Children's Chorus.



**HELEN KARLOSKI**



**ENRICO LAGASCA** sings with the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, Bach Choir of Holy Trinity Lutheran, Musica Sacra New York, Choir of Trinity Wall Street, and The Metropolitan Opera Extra Chorus in New York, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Conspirare, Ensemble VIII, Bach Collegium San Diego, and Seraphic Fire. His performances include those with the New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Israel Philharmonic at the Salzburg Festival, and Oregon Bach Festival, to name a few. He appears on recordings with the Philippine Madrigal Singers, ACRONYM, Bach Choir of Holy Trinity, Trinity Wall Street, American Symphony, and Santa Fe Desert Chorale. Enrico enjoys traveling & cooking and is a Social Media addict @enricolee.



Praised for her “otherworldly” singing, **CLARE MCNAMARA** engages audiences in wide variety of repertoire throughout the United States and abroad. Ensemble affiliations include Lorelei, Cut Circle, Handel + Haydn Society, and The Boston Camerata. As a soloist, Clare debuted at Boston’s Symphony Hall in Handel+Haydn Society’s 2018 performance of Bach’s *Mass in B minor* (Harry Christophers); she made her New York soloist debut alongside the St. Thomas Fifth Avenue Choir of Men and Boys in their 2018 performance of Handel’s *Messiah* (Daniel Hyde). Clare will happily accept your reading recommendations, especially when it comes to science fiction. [www.claremcnamara.com](http://www.claremcnamara.com)



Soprano **SARAH MOYER**’s recent and upcoming solo work includes performances with Aspen Chamber Symphony, Bourbon Baroque, Lost Dog New Music Ensemble, Emmanuel Music, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Mistral, and Les Bostonades. She has performed American premieres by Melani and Nørgård, and world premieres by Harbison, Kallembach, Theofanidis, and Runestad, among others. As a choral artist, she appears with other GRAMMY® nominated groups Seraphic Fire, Conspirare, Clarion Music Society, True Concord, as well as Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Lorelei Ensemble, The Thirteen, Spire, and Ensemble Origo. She enjoys running triathlons with her husband, Skylark’s #1 groupie, Josh. [www.sopranosarahmoyer.com](http://www.sopranosarahmoyer.com).

**FOTINA NAUMENKO**

**ADRIAN PEACOCK**



**MEGAN ROTH**, mezzo-soprano enjoys a varied career performing opera, oratorio, and art song. Recently she performed the role of Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Summer Garden Opera, Meg in Adamo's *Little Women* with MASSOpera, and Handel's *Messiah* with Rhode Island Civic Chorale. As a choral artist, she performs regularly with renowned national ensembles including Skylark Vocal Ensemble, Conspirare, True Concord, Yale Choral Artists, and The Thirteen. Megan is also the artistic director of Calliope's Call, a non-profit art song performance group. She enjoys reading, practicing yoga, and hiking with her husband Adam and their rambunctious Boston Terrier, Moxie.



Boston-based soprano **JANET STONE** was recently soloist in Bach's Mass in B Minor, Handel's *Messiah*, and Britten's *The Company of Heaven*. She is a singer on staff and frequent soloist at Trinity Church, Copley Square and also sings with Handel + Haydn Society and Cappella Clausura, with whom she recently recorded *Exultet Terra: Choral Music of Hilary Tann*. Upcoming solo engagements include Fauré's *Requiem* and Bach's *Cantata 140: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*. In her spare time, Janet continues her quest to be a professional cat-lady. You can follow her feline friend on Instagram @obiewancatnobi.



Nashville, Tennessee-based soprano **ALISSA RUTH SUVER** enjoys performing a wide variety of repertoire across the United States. She can be heard regularly with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Conspirare, The Crossing, Kinnara, and True Concord, and her most recent solo credits include Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Mass in B minor*, and Couperin's *Leçons de ténèbres*. In addition to her performance work, Alissa is an active teacher and conductor; she is on faculty at Brentwood Academy, where she teaches middle and upper school chorus. When she isn't singing, she can be found running, cooking, and enjoying time at home with her husband.



Described as a “commanding” singer by a recent Boston Globe review, **PETER WALKER** performs with the Handel + Haydn Society, Three Notch'd Road, Chapter House, GRAMMY-nominated Clarion Society Choir, Kuhmo Kamarimusiiki, Staunton Music Festival, Early Music New York, Blue Heron, Pomerium, Apollo's Fire, and Texas Early Music Project. Peter has lectured on early music at Vassar College and the University of Virginia, and is a member of the schola cantorum at the Oratory of Saints Cyril and Methodius. He holds degrees from Vassar College and McGill University, where he studied with Drew Minter and Sanford Sylvan.



**DANA WHITESIDE**'s solo appearances include concert, opera and recital. A product of Longy School of Music, New England Conservatory and Tanglewood Music Center, he has received critical acclaim for his voice of “noble clarity throughout powerful and resonant” (*The Washington Post*). Recent highlights include *The Magic Flute* with Boston Baroque; the role of Count Carl Magnus in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*; *Carmina Burana* at Mechanics Hall; Verdi's *Requiem*; and *Sea Symphony* at the Kennedy. Dana holds a degree in economics and parlays his skills and interest organizational development as President of the Board of Directors of Emmanuel Music.

# 2019-2020 SKYLARK SEASON

## RACHMANINOFF VESPERS

An Epic Collaboration with Renowned Basses Glenn Miller, Adrian Peacock, And Eric Alatorre

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019 | 7 PM

Simon Center for the Arts | Falmouth MA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019 | 7 PM

Church of the Redeemer | Chestnut Hill MA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019 | 7 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport MA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 | 2 PM

St. Paul's Harvard Square | Cambridge MA

## BACH AND FORTH

with The Cape Symphony

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019 | 7:30 PM

Performances at Barnstable Performing Arts Center | Barnstable MA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019 | 3 PM

Performances at Barnstable Performing Arts Center | Barnstable MA

*\*Note: These performances are ticketed by The Cape Symphony and are not available as part of the Skylark subscription package*

## A CENTURY OF CAROLS

Back by Popular Demand

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019 | 6 PM

Simon Center for the Arts | Falmouth MA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019 | 7 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport MA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019 | 6 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | Chatham MA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019 | 4 PM

First Parish Church | Weston MA

## ONCE UPON A TIME

Skylark's Debut Storytelling Album

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020 | 7:30 PM

The Morgan Library and Museum | New York NY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020 | 4 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport MA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020 | 7 PM

Church of the Redeemer | Chestnut Hill MA

## SUB ROSA: SECRETS REVEALED

Collaboration With Best-Selling Author Dan Brown and Composer Gregory W. Brown

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 | 7 PM

Phillips Exeter Academy | Exeter NH

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020 | 7 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Newburyport MA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020 | 7 PM

Simon Center for the Arts | Falmouth MA

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020 | 6 PM

Mahaive Center | Great Barrington MA

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020 | 7 PM

Houghton Chapel | Wellesley MA

## BECOME A SKYLARK SUBSCRIBER

Partial Subscriptions for the Remaining Season Available Today!

The only way to ensure seats for all the remaining performances this season is to become a Skylark subscriber today. Skylark subscribers also lock in ticket prices at a 25% discount, avoid ticketing fees, do not need printed tickets, and benefit from our flexible exchange policy.

After our GRAMMY® nominations earlier this year, our subscriber base has grown by 300%+, and we expect a large number of our concerts to be sold out.

Order forms are available at today's concerts – see Skylark staff after the performance to join our subscriber family!

# SUPPORT SKYLARK

Even the best musical groups in America can only count on ticket sales to cover 50% of operating costs. We rely on your generous donations to help us with the balance of our operating budget. As a supporter, you ensure that we continue to:

- Provide career opportunities for the most talented ensemble singers in the U.S.
- Offer educational workshops and opportunities for young singers
- Expand the reach of Skylark's inspiring and engaging programming to audiences across the U.S. and the world

Skylark is a registered 501(c)(3) organization – gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

*The names listed below reflect gifts received between July 1, 2018 and October 15, 2019. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list – please accept our sincere apologies for any mistakes or omissions.*

Beth Anke  
Scott Asher  
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Margaret Becker & Russ Lemcke  
Priscilla Bellairs  
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Heidi Boas & Simon Peter Muyanja  
Dorothy & Frank Bock  
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Catherine Boyle  
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Murray & Hazel Somerville  
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Episcopal Church, Chatham  
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Morgan Wolbe  
Isabel Yoder  
Carla & Vincent Zavorskas

# SKYLARK ORGANIZATION

Matthew Guard | *Artistic Director*  
Carolyn Guard | *Executive Director*  
Sarah Moyer | *Ensemble Manager*

Christopher Jackson | *Educational Outreach*  
Cory Klose | *Marketing & Design*  
Ben Perry | *Choral Intern*

## ARTISTIC ADVISORY BOARD

Simon Carrington | *Professor Emeritus, Yale University; Co-Founder, The King's Singers*  
Pamela Elrod | *Director of Choral Activities, Southern Methodist University*  
Vance George | *Conductor Emeritus, San Francisco Symphony Chorus*  
Jameson Marvin | *Director of Choral Activities, Harvard University (retired)*  
Geoffrey Silver | *Co-Founder, New York Polyphony*

## BRING SKYLARK HOME

"...gorgeous, evocative, and other-worldly..."  
-Maggie Stapleton, *Second Inversion*

### NOMINATED FOR TWO 2019 GRAMMY AWARDS:

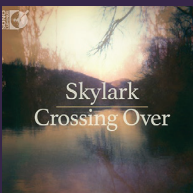
#### BEST CHORAL PERFORMANCE AND BEST IMMERSIVE AUDIO ALBUM



Skylark's newest release, *Seven Words from the Cross*, was released in March 2018, was described by *Gramophone Magazine* as "passionate...eloquent...radiant...exquisite...ethereal...heartfelt...thrilling...stunning," and charted at #2 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Chart. Conceived for Skylark's international debut Tenebrae's prestigious Holy Week Festival in London, this highly original album progresses through the scriptural seven last words of Christ on the Cross. This dramatic recording features uniquely American choral works and choral music from other regions of the world, pairing the music of William Billings and the Sacred Harp with the music of contemporary composers Anna Thorvaldsdottir and Jaakko Mäntyjärvi.



Skylark's first Christmas album, *Winter's Night*, released in December 2017 to international acclaim, with singing "of the highest standard for any area or any repertoire" (*Classics Today*). *Winter's Night* was chosen as one of the top new classical Christmas albums by *WFMT Chicago*, and charted at #7 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Chart, closely behind Yo-Yo Ma and Plácido Domingo. Praised by the BBC for its program, the recording features all seven of Distler's variations on the timeless Christmas hymn *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*, interwoven with works that share a historical or compositional connection to Distler's, including music by Herbert Howells, Elizabeth Poston, John Tavener, and Peter Warlock, as well as three world premiere recordings.



Skylark's second commercial album, *Crossing Over*, was released in March 2016. Produced in collaboration with the GRAMMY® Award-winning team from Sono Luminus, *Crossing Over* debuted at #4 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Chart, reached #5 on the iTunes Classical Chart, and was the #1 New Release on Amazon Classical. In *Crossing Over*, Skylark shares texts and compositions that depict the dream state at the end of life. Featuring unique voices in choral composition from around the world, and including several world premiere recordings, *Crossing Over* takes audiences on a musical and emotional journey that taps deeply into the human spirit.



Skylark's debut album, *Forgotten Dreams* features inspiring, but seldom-heard, Romantic part-songs by Brahms, Debussy, Saint-Saëns, and Holst. Released in the spring of 2014, it introduced Skylark to the world of recorded music at its romantic best, performing music the group truly loves.



SKYLARK  
VOCAL ENSEMBLE



[www.skylarkensemble.org](http://www.skylarkensemble.org) | [info@skylarkensemble.org](mailto:info@skylarkensemble.org)