



Foris Choir Presents

PASSAGES

A performance of original works by emerging local composers

Friday, August 23, 2019
Taborspace
Portland, Oregon

Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting Foris, a new Portland area chamber choir established to spotlight emerging local composers!

We do so through performances and by creating a welcoming space for them to engage with one another and with experienced singers as they further develop their craft.

Foris believes choral music is an exciting, limitless art form that should be accessible to everyone. Yet emerging composers have few opportunities to hear their work performed. U.S. choirs primarily perform music by established composers (and most frequently those who are cis, white, male, and deceased).

To hear their music sung, composers must compete through calls for submissions which typically require hefty fees; investment of time and labor to create original work that fits narrow guidelines (with no guarantee of performance); meeting definitions of "emerging" that apply only to youth; classical music training; and use of expensive composition software.

These barriers exclude so many artists – not only from sharing their original compositions, but from pursuing choral music in general. The community in turn misses out on imaginative local voices.

Foris is excited to create an open platform for composers, conductors, and singers alike to grow their skills, voices, and confidence together. Singers love performing new works and engaging directly with the composers and audiences have enjoyed the warmth and variety of our performances.

In just one year, Foris Choir has established itself as a dynamic and vital arts organization. With your support, we'll continue to promote and inspire new, local music through our composer-choir exchanges, workshops, conductor residencies, and performances.

Portland residents of all ages have unique stories to tell through the infinite variety of expression offered by a choir – with its ever-changing harmony of human voices. Thank you for helping us bring those stories to life!

*Kate Sattler
Founder & Executive Director*

*Marisa Wildeman
Artistic Director*

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

INTRO

EMILY!.....Gwyneth Walker
"My Letter to the World" & "All I Have to Bring" from Walker's "Emily!" song cycle, musical settings of Emily Dickinson poems, performed by Lynn Mendoza-Khan

WELCOME

WHOOH!.....Jeffrey Gordon Evans^{1A}

TIME FLOWING.....Chad Dickerson¹
A selection from Dickerson's forthcoming musical "The Belongings!"

AMAZING GRACE.....Joan Szymko

EVENINGJeffrey Gordon Evans^{1A}

INTERMISSION

TEACH YOURSELF TO FLY.....Pauline Oliveros

REQUIEM.....Jacob Mashak¹
"Kyrie" & "Lux Aeterna" movements from Mashak's Requiem

PUPPIES ARE NATURE'S RAINBOWS.....Alison Dennis¹
Heather Alexander, Alison Dennis (lead vocals), Sharayaha Guy, Kirsten Webb

FIELDS OF GOLD.....Naama Friedman¹
Arrangement of Song by Sting. Soloists: Heather Alexander, Lori Kovacevic, Kate Sherbo

SHE LOVED.....Matt Navarre^{1A}
Text by Rita Navarre. Audience, please join in on the second chorus (lyrics in back of program)

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

¹Emerging local composer. For many, tonight is among the first performances of their choral work.

^AForis Conductor-in-Residence

FORIS CHOIR

Heather Alexander	Sharayaha Guy	Matt Navarre
Curtis Brooks	Patti Harelkin	Diego Ordenez Rojas
Mia Brown	Kaya Hellman	Emyli Poltorak
Matthew Bugado	Lori Kovacevic	Alyssa Reget
Alison Dennis	Matthew Mathis	Kate Sherbo
Elena Duggan	Lynn Mendoza-Khan	Kirsten Webb
Jeffrey Gordon Evans	Ben Murphy	

LEADERSHIP

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KATE SATTLER is a musician, composer, multi-instrumentalist, and creative producer with roots in Minneapolis and Portland. Kate writes, performs, and records music as a solo artist under the name Sweet Freeze. She's also an emerging choral music composer, whose works have now been performed a handful of times, including a piece sung by a citywide children's choir for a cause marketing campaign and a song cycle performed by some of the Twin Cities' most celebrated singers. Kate runs a creative agency for social justice organizations and has 25 years of experience in nonprofit strategy, program design, communications, advocacy, fundraising, and more. She loves collaborating with and connecting artists, producing music and film projects, and promoting storytelling and social justice through the arts.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARISA WILDEMAN is a young American composer, vocalist, and educator. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Music Composition from Portland State University in 2016, followed by private composition studies with world-renown composer Ēriks Ešņvalds in Riga, Latvia. Wildeman was chosen as runner up in the Chamber Music Northwest Spring 2016 Composition Competition. As a vocalist, she has competed internationally, including in Spain and Italy with the Portland State Chamber choir and Marylhurst University Choir. As a soloist, she made her debut performance with the Oregon Symphony in the 2015 Symphony of Heroes concert. She sings with a number of Portland ensembles including Humanis, an *cappella* ensemble which promotes peace and human rights by raising funds for local nonprofits, and Silver Linings, a jazz duo in which she performs standards and reimagined contemporary songs. Marisa also teaches voice, piano, and composition lessons to students of all ages in the Portland area.

EMERGING COMPOSERS & CONDUCTORS-IN-RESIDENCE

JEFFREY GORDON EVANS is a composer, conductor, educator, and performer based in the Pacific Northwest. Jeff earned his Bachelor's in Music Education at Portland State University where he's currently pursuing his Master's in Choral Conducting. With mentorship from Ethan Sperry and Deborah Glaze among others, Jeff has established a successful career teaching middle, high school, and university students while conducting church and community choirs in the area. Jeff was born and raised in Arizona, where he sang with the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus under the direction of Dr. Julian Ackerley. Jeff's compositions are exploratory and eclectic in their use of rhythm, harmony, extended vocal techniques, and experimentalism.

MATT NAVARRE is an experienced software developer and company owner, with a love of choral music that has been greatly on the rise in the last few years. He sings in several choirs, including Portland State University, Portland Gay Men's Chorus, and Oregon Repertory Singers. He studied composition and has a Bachelor's in Music from Cal State Fullerton. This concert is the first performance of his choral works, and also his conducting debut.

FEATURED ESTABLISHED COMPOSERS

GWYNETH WALKER

is an American composer whose music is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. A graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music, Walker taught at Oberlin College Conservatory until 1982, when she began composing full time. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Vermont; she now divides her time between Vermont and Connecticut. Walker has been recognized with numerous awards and residencies and travels often to collaborate with soloists and ensembles as they rehearse and perform her music.

JOAN SZYMKO

is a celebrated composer and conductor from the Pacific Northwest. With a catalog of over 100 published choral works, her music is performed by ensembles and in festivals and competitions around the world. Abundant lyricism, rhythmic integrity, and a vigorous attention to text are hallmarks of Szymko's diverse and distinctive choral writing. Especially significant is Szymko's contribution to the body of quality literature for women's voices. Szymko has inspired community and church choirs in Seattle and Portland for over 30 years as a choral director.

PAULINE OLIVEROS

(1932-2016) was a composer, performer, and humanitarian, whose career spanned 50 years of boundary-dissolving music making. Oliveros, an openly queer Tejana, moved to San Francisco during the 50s, forming part of a circle of iconoclastic composers, artists, and poets. In the 60's she influenced American music through her founding of "Deep Listening ®" and Sonic Meditations, incorporating improvisation, meditation, electronics, environmental sounds, myth and ritual into musical performance. Oliveros championed artists' needs, artistic experimentation, diversity, and goodwill.

FEATURED EMERGING COMPOSERS

ALISON DENNIS is a long-time Portland musician, artist, and writer who composes and performs chamber pop music under the name Dr. Something and has also performed in a number of other local bands. Alison strives to create songs that blur the line between art and novelty, using imaginative instrumental and vocal textures alongside humorous, emotionally trenchant lyrics.

CHAD DICKERSON is an Oregon-born composer, playwright, vocalist, and stage actor who enjoys performing with theatre companies in Portland, Seattle, and San Francisco. He has played in/written music for several party bands, made the Guinness Book of World Records in the largest drum ensemble ever assembled (conducted by The Grateful Dead's Micky Hart), and written and composed the musical "Alone in the Unknown," which had its workshop production in 2010 to rave audience reviews.

NAAMA FRIEDMAN is a student at Reed College, currently studying political science. She has studied music since the age of five, through piano lessons and by singing in choirs. She was heavily involved in the choir program at her high school in Evanston, Illinois, and now performs with the Reed College choir. Writing and performing music brings Naama immense joy. She has independently pursued composing choral works, initially through *a cappella* arrangements of popular songs.

JACOB MASHAK is a composer, conductor, and variable instrumentalist (principally trombone, recorder and toy piano) born in Vermont and currently living in Portland. Among other distinctions, they are recognized for having written the longest non-repetitive piano piece on record: the 11-hour long *Beatus Vir* for two pianos, premiered at Boston University in 2008. Finding the most beautiful things in the world to be the result not of human intention but of processes so complex that they appear random, their works most often use various machinations of indeterminacy to attempt to achieve some approximation of the sublime.

VISIT FORISCHOIR.ORG
TO LINK TO MORE MUSIC BY THESE
AND OTHER LOCAL EMERGING COMPOSERS!

GET INVOLVED!

COMPOSERS Call for Scores

This fall we'll issue a time-sensitive call for scores around an open-ended theme. (Our themes are intended only to help composers choose a work or two from their existing music collections – we don't ask composers to create new works for us.) As we select works for our next performance, we'll also consider scores we receive through our revolving call for submissions – see details online – so please send your music our way!

SINGERS Auditions

Our choir is limited to 20-30 people, to create an intimate experience in which singers are able to stretch themselves and grow individually and as a group. We sing new music in a wide variety of genres. Singers also share their musical expertise and feedback with emerging composers.

CONDUCTORS Residency

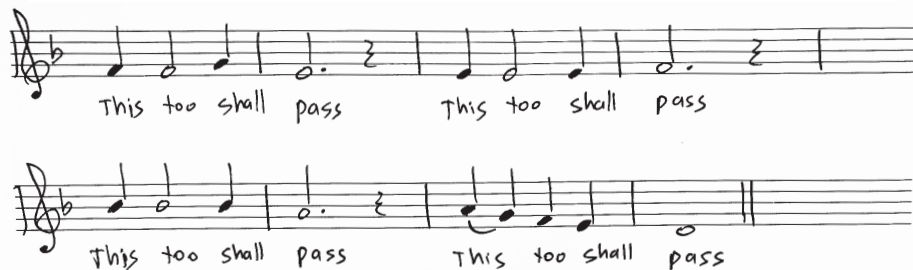
We'll repeat our emerging conductor residency in which conductors at the start of their careers lead a choir from rehearsals through performance. Conductors receive mentoring, share their expertise, and contribute to the choir's growing best practices.

FANS Donate!

Foris is a 100% volunteer effort. Our singers, conductors, composers, and staff contribute countless hours and financial resources to make Foris possible. Your ticket purchase and donations help us cover costs and supports the creation and performance of exciting new local music!

Join our email list at ForisChoir.org to be notified of these exciting opportunities.

SHE LOVED by Matt Navarre (excerpt)



THANK YOU FOR COMING!

Thanks to our singers, composers, conductors
and our generous financial & in kind supporters!

Printing contributed by Matt Navarre, along with a donation in memory of Rita Navarre.

