

MLK

*Matthew Onigman*

Kawouno Wan Gi Pi (Water Song)<sup>1</sup>

Rorate Caeli Desuper

Da Bei Rami Scendea

The Rainy Day *world premiere*

As Torrents in Summer

Lok Sui Tien

Prší, Prší

There Will Come Soft Rains

*Shannon McGovern*

Cloudburst

*Dan Malloy, Marilyn Kitchell*

U2, arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Vivian Aluoch & Vivian Anyango

arr. Brian Tate (b. 1954)

Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

Jacques Arcadelt (c. 1507-1568)

Michael Bussewitz-Quarm (b. 1971)

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

arr. Toh Ban Sheng (b. 1970)

arr. Miroslav Hroněk (1923-1986)

Rob Teehan (b. 1982)

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

INTERMISSION

From *Frogs*

Ho, for the May Rains

Frog-School Competing

*Alyssa Casazza, Matthew Onigman*

Rise Up, My Love, and Come Away

Skyfall

*Emilie Bishop; Jake Sachs, vocal percussion*

CHAMBER SINGERS

Norman Dinerstein (1937-1982)

Jake Sachs (b. 1991)

Adele Adkins & Paul Epworth

arr. J.A.C. Redford

El Progreso Honduras

Lay Waste *Grand Prize Winner*

Elliot Z. Levine (b. 1948)

Theo Trevisan (b. 1999)

In Time of Silver Rain

*Matthew Lee*

Barso Re<sup>2</sup>

Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)

A. R. Rahman (b. 1966)

arr. Ethan Sperry (b. 1971)

Famine Song

*Emily Wolper, Jenna Miller, Adam Aguanno*

VIDA

arr. Matthew Culloton (b. 1976)

Africa

*Will Roper, Matthew Shurts*

Toto, arr. Charles Harrison

<sup>1</sup> Aja Baitey, choreography

<sup>2</sup> Era Atre & Gayatri Gupta Casale, choreography

Instrumentalists

Helen Raymaker, piano John Leister, percussion

Comfort, life-source, transporter of spiritual presence, reflection of inner turmoil, curse of the homeless, thanksgiving for the farmer, joyful harbinger of spring, metaphor for love ... these are some of the different manifestations of rain that this concert touches upon. We will take you on a journey from Gregorian chant to pop icons, across Europe and to Africa and China, and into some of the great poetic minds of many eras from Kabir to Sara Teasdale and Langston Hughes, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow to Octavio Paz. We have all experienced rain; all of us share these experiences wherever we live on the globe in whatever age. I find the variety of music ultimately shows that there is more that unites us, across the globe and through the ages, than divides us, as our common humanity is drawn to creatively respond to the power of the natural world.

*MLK* is the last track on **U2's** *The Unforgettable Fire*, and like another track on the set, "Pride (In The Name Of Love)," the song is about Martin Luther King, Jr. As in "Pride," Martin Luther King is not mentioned by name in the lyrics, but using his initials as the title of this song made it clear that the song was about him and his ideals. This became a live favorite for U2, which was played on most stops of both their *Unforgettable Fire* and *Joshua Tree* tours, and revived in 2009 for their 360° tour. Lights in the venues were typically dimmed for the song. **Robert "Bob" Chilcott** is a British choral composer, conductor, and singer based in Oxford, England. He sang in the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, both as a boy and as a university student. In 1985, he joined the King's Singers, singing tenor for 12 years. Chilcott is well known for his compositions for children's choirs, and larger works as well. He has worked with choirs all around the globe, and is Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Singers. This arrangement was written for the King's Singers.

Sleep,  
Sleep tonight,  
And may your dreams  
Be realized.  
If the thunder cloud  
Passes rain,  
So let it rain,  
Rain down on him.  
So let it be.  
So let it be.

*Kawouno Wan Gi Pi (Water Song)* is a song from Kenya, in the Dholuo language, written by **Vivian Aluoch** and **Vivian Anyango**. As noted by **Brian Tate**, a Vancouver-based vocalist, composer/arranger, pianist, percussionist, choir director, and educator: "the words express joy and gratitude for receiving the gift of water, and the importance of making peace with our surroundings and with ourselves." The dancers have been choreographed by our *Vocalista* scholar, Aja Baitey, who teaches West African Dance at Morristown High School.

Kawouno wan gi pi.	Today we have water:
Erokamano.	Thank you.
Wololore.	La, la, la, la.

Kawouno wan gi pi.                    Today we have water:  
Erokamano.                            Thank you.  
Wamor ahinya.                        We are so happy.

Imiyo wan gi pi.                        You have given us water:  
Erokamano.                            Thank you.  
Wololore.                                La, la, la, la.  
Imiyo wan gi pi.                        You have given us water:  
Erokamano.                            Thank you.  
Wamor ahinya.                        We are so happy.

**Paul Caldwell** and **Sean Ivory** began arranging music together spontaneously in the early 1990s when they were both working with a community-based youth choir in Grand Rapids, MI. Their musical partnership was further cultivated from 1993 to 1997 during summers spent together at the American Boychoir School in Princeton, NJ. Their works have become staples in the repertoire of many of the world's finest ensembles, telecast on PBS and A&E and performed at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the Sydney Opera House, and throughout Europe, Asia and Africa. Sean directs the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Chorus, and is also the choral director at Forest Hills Central High School and an affiliate artist with the Youth Choral Theater of Chicago. Paul is Artistic Director of the Youth Choral Theater of Chicago, a member of the Board of Directors of Chorus America, and on the Advisory Board of the New Orleans Children's Chorus. He was recognized for his contribution to the choral community nationwide at the 2008 National Performing Arts Conference when he was selected as the recipient of Chorus America's Michael J. Korn Founders Award for Philanthropic Contribution to the Arts. *Rorate Caeli Desuper* (2012) originated as an improvised piano accompaniment, evocative of rain, to an existing Gregorian chant.

O heavens, send your rain upon us,  
send down the Just One to Israel.  
Do not be angry with us, Lord,  
remember no longer all our past transgressions.  
See your city of Holies now has been deserted;  
Zion has been abandoned, Jerusalem has been made desolate;  
the house of your kind and merciful blessing and of your glory,  
the place where abundant praise rose from our fathers.

**Jacques Arcadelt** was a Franco-Flemish composer of the Renaissance, active in both Italy and France, one of the most famous of the early madrigal composers. His first book of madrigals was the most widely printed collection of madrigals during that era. Most of his madrigals are for four voices, like *Da Bei Rami Scendea*, which sets a text by Petrarch. It is sometimes misattributed to Philippe de Monte.

Da bei rami scendea (dolce ne la memoria) una pioggia di fior sovr' al suo grembo; et ella si siede	A rain of flowers descended (sweet in the memory) from the beautiful branches into her lap; and she sat there
--	--

humil in tanta gloria,  
coperta gia de l'amoroso nembo.  
Qual fior cadea sul lembo,  
qual su le treccie bionde,  
ch'oro forbito e perle  
eran quel di'a vederle:  
qual si posava in terra,  
e qual su l'onde,  
qual con un vago errore  
girando pareva dir: 'Qui regna Amore.'

humble amongst such glory,  
covered now by the loving shower.  
A flower fell on her hem,  
one in her braided blonde hair,  
that was seen on that day to be  
like chased gold and pearl:  
one rested on the ground,  
and one in the water,  
and one, in wandering vagary<sup>1</sup>,  
twirling, seemed to say: 'Here Love rules.'

1- an unpredictable, erratic action

Passionate about advocacy through choral music, **Michael Bussewitz-Quarm** is a New York-based composer, conductor, and educator. Michael's most recent works include *The Road That Has No End*, commissioned by the Huntington Choral Society, and the 3rd (and final) edition of *Requiem Dies Magna*, to be premiered in September by Long Island Voices and Sound Symphony under Michael's direction. Michael is currently organizing the *Don't Call Me 'Refugee'* Choral Consortium Project, to premiere in the fall of 2017, and *The Great American Choral Reef* to be premiered on Earth Day 2018. Michael can be reached through his website, [www.MBQStudio.com](http://www.MBQStudio.com). ***The Rainy Day*** sets a famous poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882). After the Chamber Singers presented the New Jersey premiere of *I'll Fly Away* in April, with the composer present, we are thrilled to present the world premiere of *The Rainy Day* here tonight.

The day is cold, and dark, and dreary;  
It rains, and the wind is never weary;  
The vine still clings to the moldering<sup>1</sup> wall,  
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,  
And the day is dark and dreary.

My life is cold, and dark, and dreary;  
It rains, and the wind is never weary;  
My thoughts still cling to the moldering Past,  
But the hopes of youth fall thick in the blast,  
And the days are dark and dreary.

Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;  
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;  
Thy fate is the common fate of all,  
Into each life some rain must fall,  
Some days must be dark and dreary.

1- disintegrating

**Edward Elgar**, England's great late-19th century composer, is remembered chiefly for his orchestral works and *Pomp and Circumstance* marches, but he also wrote a variety of choral

music, from the huge cantata *The Dream of Gerontius* to smaller anthems and large cathedral-scale psalm settings such as *Give Unto the Lord*.

*As Torrents in Summer* is excerpted from *The Saga of King Olaf*, a cantata for soprano, tenor and bass soloists, full choir and orchestra, based on the epic poem by H. W. Longfellow, arranged by H. A. Ackworth. The saga tells the story of the life, battles and eventual death of King Olaf, a Norse crusader in his own country. While performed regularly in the years immediately following its composition, it has been largely neglected since then. A pity, since the work contains some of Elgar's most engaging melodies and is regarded by many as his best pre-Enigma composition, foreshadowing the great oratorios that were to follow. The unaccompanied and soulful final chorus brings the work to a moving climax, which Elgar hardly equaled in any of his later works. (www.elgar.org)

As torrents in summer, Half dried in their channels,  
Suddenly rise, though the sky is still cloudless,  
For rain has been falling,  
Far off at their fountains;

So hearts that are fainting Grow full to o'erflowing,  
And they that behold it, Marvel, and know not  
That God at their fountains  
Far off has been raining!

The traditional Hakka folksong *Lok Sui Tien* was popular in the Guangdong Province in southern China. Hakka is one of the major dialects spoken among Chinese immigrants in Southeast Asia. The simple melody, using only scale degrees 1, 2, 3, and 6, communicates deep emotion with its rise and fall. It sings of a pitiful situation of street children during rainy days. (notes by the arranger)

**Toh Ban Sheng** was born in Kuala Lumpur and has become a prominent choral conductor in Singapore. Starting out as an essentially self-taught musician, the former physics teacher completed double masters degrees in music in the United States. He has garnered many awards for his choirs, and has published a book, *The Accidental Conductor*.

Lok sui tien, lok sui tien.	Rainy days, rainy days.
Lok sui lok do ngai ge sin bien.	The rain falls next to my body.
Sib le yi son you, mao za goi,	Clothes are drenched, there is no shelter,
gong ze tel loi zin ko lien.	and my head is bare. How pitiful!

**Miroslav Hroněk** was a Czech musician and choirmaster known for his attractive high quality arrangements of folk songs, three of which, including *Prší, Prší*, have become a permanent part of the repertoire for mixed choir.

Prší, prší, len sa leje,	It's raining, raining, pouring down,
nězatváraj milá dvere,	don't shut the door

milá má, duša má,  
nězatváraj pred nama.

my dear, my soul, on us;  
don't shut the door on us.

Keď som išiel od Zuzičky,  
ždrngaly mi ostroštičky,  
ždrngaly, drngaly,  
sivé očka plakaly.

When I was going from Susan's,  
my spurs jingled and jangled;  
jingled and jangled,  
and then grey eyes were crying.

Svätý Jene, ja t'a prosím,  
ja to dievča dostať mosím,  
hoc mi bráni otec mať,  
ja to dievča mosím mať.

St. John, I beg you, please,  
I must have that girl,  
even though my father and mother object;  
I must have that girl.

**Rob Teehan** is a Toronto-based composer and tuba player, active in film scoring, commercial music, arranging, and concert music. He has written for choirs across the United States and Canada, and was nominated for a JUNO award in 2010 for “Classical Composition of the Year.” He provides the following notes:

To modern readers alarmed by the accelerating crises of climate change and war, Sara Teasdale's *There Will Come Soft Rains* presents, initially, a comforting vision of the natural beauty of a world returning to equilibrium – comforting, that is, until we realize that it can only happen after we ourselves are removed from the equation. Written a century ago in the wake of the mechanized horror of World War I, Teasdale's poem eerily foresees the real and dangerous potential of mankind to engineer our own destruction, a problem we have clearly not outgrown.

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,  
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night,  
And wild plum trees in tremulous<sup>1</sup> white,

Robins will wear their feathery fire  
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;

And not one will know of the war, not one  
Will care at last when it is done.

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,  
If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn,  
Would scarcely know that we were gone.

1- fearful/timid

**Eric Whitacre** has become one of America's most widely commissioned, published and performed choral and symphonic composers, and an accomplished conductor and clinician. He received his M.M. in composition from the Juilliard School, studying with John Corigliano and David Diamond. Whitacre has received composition awards from ASCAP, the Barlow International Foundation and the American Composers Forum. His "virtual choir" YouTube performances have gained him international popular acclaim. *Cloudburst*, for mixed chorus, piano, hand bells and percussion, received first prize in the American Choral Directors Association's "Composers of the Future" competition in 1993. It is one of several Whitacre works that sets the poetry of Octavio Paz, Mexican poet, diplomat, and winner of the 1990 Nobel Prize in Literature. *Cloudburst* is full of color, with typical Whitacre added tones, body percussion, and improvisation sections, as well as Debussy-like moments. "The Cloudburst is a ceremony, a celebration of the unleashed kinetic energy in all things," writes Whitacre.

La lluvia...

Ojos de agua de sombra,  
ojos de agua de pozo,  
ojos de agua de sueño.

Soles azules, verdes remolinos,  
picos de luz que abren astros  
como granadas.

¿Dime, tierra quemada, no hay agua?  
¿Hay sólo sangre, sólo hay polvo,  
sólo pisadas de pies desnudos sobre la espina?

La lluvia despierta...

Hay que dormir con los ojos abiertos,  
hay que soñar con las manos,  
soñemos sueños activos de río  
buscando su cauce,  
sueños de sol soñando sus mundos,  
hay que soñar en voz alta,  
hay que cantar hasta que el canto eche raíces,  
troncos, ramas, pájaros, astros,  
hay que desenterrar la palabra perdida,  
recordar lo que dicen la sangre y la marea,  
la tierra y el cuerpo,  
volver al punto de partida...

The rain...

Eyes of shadow-water,  
eyes of well-water,  
eyes of dream-water.

Blue suns, green whirlwinds,  
birdbeaks of light pecking open  
pomegranate stars.

But tell me, burnt earth, is there no water?  
Only blood, only dust,  
only naked footsteps on the thorns?

The rain awakens...

We must sleep with open eyes,  
we must dream with our hands,  
we must dream the dreams of a river  
seeking its course,  
of the sun dreaming its worlds,  
we must dream aloud,  
we must sing till the song puts forth roots,  
trunks, branches, birds, stars,  
we must find the lost word,  
and remember what the blood and the tide,  
the earth and the body say,  
and return to the point of departure...

**Norman Dinerstein** taught at Princeton, New England Conservatory and Hartt School of Music before becoming professor and then Dean of the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, for whose Chamber Choir the set of modern madrigals *Frogs* was

composed. Setting Japanese Haiku in translation with a lot of text painting, *Ho, for the May Rains* is number 3 and *Frog-School Competing* is number 5 of the set.

### **Ho for the May rains**

Ho, for the May rains  
when frogs swim in my open  
door for a visit!

### **Frog-School Competing**

Frog-school competing  
with lark-school at dusk softly  
in the art of song.

**Jake Sachs** is a singer, instrumentalist, songwriter, composer, arranger, music producer, and audio engineer from Maplewood, NJ. He is a graduate of the Audio Technology Program at SAE Institute, the tenor section leader at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown, NJ, and the sole proprietor of Jake Sachs Sounds, his home studio. Jake recently recorded and produced an album with *All of the Above*, Drew University's co-ed *a cappella* group. Jake has been writing original music since he was 14; however, *Rise Up, My Love, and Come Away* is only his third original *a cappella* composition and his second choral one. Jake wrote this piece in November 2016, when he decided he wanted to set a religious text for the choir at St. Peter's to perform. He chose text from the *Song of Songs* because he could relate to it and he'd always admired its romanticism. The Chamber Singers premiered this in their April concert and are thrilled to perform it again!

Rise up, my love, my fair one.  
Rise up, and come away.  
For lo, the winter is past,  
The rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear upon the earth,  
and the time of the singing of birds is come.  
The time of the singing is come!

*Skyfall* is the theme song of the 2012 James Bond film *Skyfall*, originally performed by British singer **Adele**. It was co-written by Adele and producer **Paul Epworth** and features orchestration by **J.A.C. Redford**, who also arranged this choral version.

This is the end,  
Hold your breath and count to ten,  
Feel the earth move and then,  
Hear my heart burst again.  
For this is the end.  
I've drowned and dreamt this moment,  
So overdue I owe them,  
Swept away, I'm stolen.

Refrain:

Let the sky fall,  
When it crumbles,  
We will stand tall,  
And face it all together.  
Let the sky fall,  
When it crumbles,  
We will stand tall,  
And face it all together  
At skyfall.

Skyfall is where we start,  
A thousand miles and poles apart.  
Where worlds collide and days are dark,  
You may have my number, you can take my name,  
But you'll never have my heart.

Refrain

Where you go I go,  
What you see I see.  
I know I'd never be me  
Without the security  
Of your loving arms,  
Keeping me from harm.  
Put your hand in my hand.  
And we'll stand.

Refrain

**Elliot Levine** was the baritone for the Western Wind Vocal Ensemble from its inception in 1969 until 2016. He received his M.M. from the Manhattan School of Music and his B.A. from Queens College. He also studied music at the Orff School in Salzburg and composition with Robert Starer at Brooklyn College. He was composer-in-residence at the Church of St. Thomas More in New York City and has been awarded five Meet-the Composer grants. His longest work, *The Cantata of the Animals* (1996), was commissioned and premiered by Harmonium Choral Society, and has since been performed by leading choruses across the East Coast and in Tokyo, Japan. *El Progreso Honduras* was written in 1989 for the Mark Twain Junior High School Chorus and the Western Wind Vocal Ensemble, to provide a unique opportunity to combine an advanced madrigal group with a young SAB chorus. The text, written by Sheila Maldonado when she was an eighth-grader at Mark Twain, describes her parent's native village of El Progreso in Honduras.

Sobre las montañas  
vimos las nubes  
y nosotros nos preparamos para la lluvia.

Above the mountains [far ahead]  
we saw the clouds  
and we prepared ourselves for the rain.

Pusimos la ropa lavada adentro,  
las gallinas en sus casitas,  
y desamarramos la hamaca de los árboles  
y la guardamos  
hasta que la lluvia dejó de caer.

We put the laundry inside,  
the chickens in their coop,  
and we untied the hammock from the trees  
and stored away  
until the rain stopped falling.

Luego vino la lluvia  
y nos alivió del calor del día.

Then the rain came  
and relieved us of the day's heat.

Jugamos sin zapatos en la lluvia.  
Mojados nuestros pies  
cubiertos en el lodo que era la calle.

We played barefoot in the rain.  
Our feet wet  
covered in the mud that was the road.

**Theo Trevisan** is a current senior at Princeton High School. Theo is an alumnus of the American Boychoir School, where he learned about singing and theory. Currently, in addition to composing, he sings in his school's Chamber Choir and all-male *a cappella* group *The Testostertones*, and also does debate. Last year, he placed second in the Harmonium Composition Contest, and he also had the opportunity to write for the International Contemporary Ensemble and have the piece be performed at Lincoln Center. He currently studies composition with New School faculty member Elliot Cole, and over the summers he studies composition at the Walden School, a five-week-long composition and musicianship camp. He will attend Princeton University in the fall. *Lay Waste* sets the poetry of Kabir in a poetic translation by Harmonium bass Jabez Van Cleef (who also wrote the libretto for Levine's *Cantata of the Animals*). Kabir was a 15<sup>th</sup>-century weaver and mystic from Northern India, whose poetry formed a bridge between the Muslim and Hindu religions.

The clouds cry out,  
Lay waste!<sup>1</sup> Lay waste!  
A gray rain flies in from the east,  
Hissing, as it cuts the dust.  
Take care of fences and of walls,  
Watch the boundaries of the fields,  
Lest the streams exceed their bounds;  
Now renunciation turns  
And grips you with its thorny vines;  
Let the creepers of love advance,  
Soaked in an endlessness of rains.

1- destroy

Award-winning composer **Rollo Dilworth** holds a B.S. in Music Education from Case Western Reserve University, a M.Ed. in Secondary Education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and a D.M. in Conducting from Northwestern University. He is an active conductor, educator, and clinician who has taught choral music at the elementary, secondary, and university levels. He currently teaches at Temple University. His research interests are in the areas of African-American music and music education curriculum and instruction. His performing endeavors have

taken him to Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. *In Time of Silver Rain* was written in a gospel ballad style for the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia in 2013 as part of a three movement *Rain Sequence*. The text is by Langston Hughes (1902-1967), considered one of the most prolific and powerful African-American writers in 20<sup>th</sup>-century American literature, whose poems Dilworth also set in *Dream Trilogy*, which we performed in 2011.

In time of silver rain  
The earth puts forth new life again,  
Green grasses grow  
And flowers lift their heads,  
And over all the plain  
The wonder spreads of life, of life, of life!

In time of silver rain  
The butterflies lift silken wings  
To catch a rainbow cry,  
And trees put forth new leaves to sing  
In joy beneath the sky,  
As down the roadway  
Passing boys and girls  
Go singing, too,  
In time of silver rain  
When spring and life are new.

**Allah-Rakha Rahman** (born A. S. Dileep Kumar) is an Indian composer, singer-songwriter, music producer, musician, and philanthropist. A. R. Rahman's works are noted for integrating Indian classical music with electronic music, world music and traditional orchestral arrangements. Among his accolades are two Academy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe, four National Film Awards, and fifteen Filmfare Awards. In 2009, Rahman was included on the *Time 100* list of the world's most influential people. He is often referred to as "The Indian Mozart," and has written over 100 film scores since 1992, including *Slumdog Millionaire*. **Barso Re** originally appeared as the soundtrack to the 2007 film *Guru*, and is an Indian take on how beautiful it can be to sing in the rain. The original version of this song features a musical flirtation between a solo flute and female vocalist. Arranger **Ethan Sperry**, who holds degrees from Harvard and USC and is Director of Choral Activities at Portland State, often collaborates with Rahman. His arrangement uses different sections of the choir on the melody with nonsense syllables imitating various instrumental parts.

Naare megha barso re, megha barso Meetha hai kosaa hai, baarish ka bosa hai	Rain, O clouds, please rain! It's sweet, it's the kiss of the rain, it's sweet and warm.
--	---

Jal jal thal jal...	O water...
---------------------	------------

Chal chal chal chal...	Flow...
------------------------	---------

Chal chal behta chal...	Continue to flow...
-------------------------	---------------------

Re beh ke chali, main toh beh ke chali      I am swimming, going ashore.

Written by a quartet of women named **VIDA** and inspired by the stories of Sudanese basket weavers who expressed the pain and hope experienced by those in the famine of the 1980s, ***Famine Song*** is an emotional piece. Arranger **Matthew Culloton** is the Founding Artistic Director and Conductor of The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists. He holds degrees from Concordia College and the University of Minnesota (M.M. in Choral Conducting, D.M.A. in Conducting). Composer, conductor, celebrated music educator, Matthew has received numerous commissions. From 1999 to 2004, Matthew was a member of The Dale Warland Singers, and worked closely with Warland on artistic programming and recording projects, including the editing preparation for that organization's final four recordings.

Ease my spirit, ease my soul,  
please free my hands from this barren soil.  
Ease my mother, ease my child,  
earth and sky be reconciled.

Rain, rain, rain.  
Rain, rain, rain.  
Weave, my mother, weave, my child,  
Weave your baskets of rushes<sup>1</sup> wild.

Out of heat, under sun,  
comes the hunger to ev'ry one.  
Famine's teeth, famine's claw,  
on the sands of Africa.

1- grass-like plants with cylindrical, often hollow, stems

**Toto** is an American rock band formed in 1977 in Van Nuys, CA, known for a musical style that combines elements of pop, rock, soul, funk, progressive rock, hard rock, R&B, blues, and jazz. David Paich and Jeff Porcaro had played together as session musicians on several albums and decided to form a band. David Hungate, Steve Lukather, Steve Porcaro and Bobby Kimball were recruited before their first album release. The band enjoyed great commercial success in the late 1970s and 1980s, beginning with their eponymous debut album in 1978. With the release of the critically acclaimed and commercially successful *Toto IV* (1982), (which included ***Africa*** and ***Roseanne***), Toto became one of the best-selling music groups of their era.

Many years ago I did an *a cappella* version of Toto's *Africa* with the Chamber Singers, but I wanted to have everyone sing this time. I went searching and didn't have to look too far before I found this version on YouTube by the Angel City Chorale of Los Angeles, whose arranger, **Charles Harrison**, graciously shared it with us. This video has gone amazingly viral (5 million views last I checked) and is filled with spirit and joy that I hope we capture as well.

I hear the drums echoing tonight,  
She hears only whispers of some quiet conversation.

She's coming in, 12:30 flight,  
The moonlit wings reflect the stars that guide me towards salvation.  
I stopped an old man along the way,  
Hoping to find some old forgotten words or ancient melodies.  
He turned to me as if to say, "Hurry boy, it's waiting there for you."

Refrain:

Gonna take a lot to drag me away from you,  
There's nothing that a hundred men or more could ever do.  
I bless the rains down in Africa,  
Gonna take some time to do the things we never had.

Wild dogs cry out in the night,  
As they grow restless, longing for some solitary company.  
I know that I must do what's right,  
Sure as Kilimanjaro rises like Olympus above the Serengeti.  
I seek to cure what's deep inside, frightened of this thing that I've become.

Refrain

**Harmonium's 20th Annual New Jersey High School Student Composition Contest** seeks to encourage young composers and create new repertoire. The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has said "this contest fills a niche in Music Education in the state of New Jersey and offers clear goals for musically talented students to strive towards, introduces them to artistic peers and musical mentors, and for the winners, provides a financial incentive and a much-coveted CD recording by the Chorus." Chorus America's 2009 Education Outreach Award was presented to Harmonium Choral Society for this contest. This award is presented to a Chorus America member ensemble whose education outreach program demonstrates mission-based program development, viable music education, effective management and fiscal integrity, a commitment to artistic excellence, and a collaboration that is sustainable, beneficial, and meaningful for all partners. "Most inspiringly, most of Harmonium's past contest winners have stayed involved in music and most have continued to compose," said Joyce Garrett, founder of the Washington Youth Choir, and the award's presenter. "The contest engages young people, builds bridges within the education and performing arts communities in New Jersey, and contributes to the vitality of our art form." "The exemplary leadership demonstrated by Harmonium and other deserving individuals and organizations serves as a model for all choruses as they strive for success in their communities," said Ann Meier Baker, president and CEO of Chorus America.

This year's judges were **Anne Matlack**, the Artistic Director of Harmonium, organist, flutist and frequent choral adjudicator; **Thomas Juneau**, composer and conductor (St. Joseph's University, Summit Chorale); **Matthew Harris**, Manhattan musicologist and composer; and **Amanda Harberg**, award-winning Juilliard-educated New Jersey composer whose *Apparitions* was commissioned and premiered by Harmonium in 2009. Composer-in-residence **Martin A. Sedek** offered tutorials to the first registrants. All contestants receive written comments from the judges. The contest was coordinated by volunteer Harmonium alto **Crary Brooks**.

**Congratulations to our \$1,000 Grand Prize winner - Princeton High School's Theodore Trevisan** for his composition *Lay Waste*. His sponsor is Vincent Metallo.

**Second Prize of \$250** is a tie between **Reshma Kopparapu** and **Carl Hausman**.

**Reshma Kopparapu**, 16, is a current 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Newark Academy in Livingston, NJ. She has been studying the piano for over 10 years. She also plays the oboe and violin along with other instruments. Reshma has participated in numerous music competitions in the area and has performed on the piano at Carnegie Hall and other venues in New York City on numerous occasions. She is an active member of Chameleon, her school's auditioned jazz band (on piano); Combo, her school's most select jazz group (on piano); and her school's wind ensemble (on oboe). She has participated in the New Jersey Youth Symphony for many years, playing the violin in Philharmonia. Reshma enjoys composing music and was the second place winner in the 2015 Harmonium contest for her composition *Fire and Ice*. Some of her recent music achievements include her composition for clarinet, *The Crimson Flight*, at the Pictures 2014, and her composition *The Pride of Sea*, for soprano and piano, at the Pictures 2013, both conducted by NJ Arts Collective. She was also the winner of 2013 MTNA New Jersey State Junior Composition Contest, and the 2013 Eastern Division runner-up. Reshma has also successfully participated in the Eric Steiner Composition Contest conducted by NJMEA.

Second Prize is also awarded to **Carl Hausman**, 16, of Flanders for his composition *Einsamkeit* ("Solitude"). "Like the words of the poem, the music is intended to convey wistfulness and nostalgia-- and, at the same time, eerie stillness," he says. "It's meant to evoke a feeling akin to the somberness of gentle rain." The piece was composed in a late romantic style. Carl is a junior at Mount Olive High School, where he plays first cello in the school orchestra and studies with Victor Heifets. Previously, he studied cello and composition with Peter Moffitt of Jersey City. Carl began composing music, mostly instrumental, as a middle school student and received an honorable mention in the last two years of the Harmonium contest. His piece for cello and piano, *Eclipse*, received a world premiere at Church of the Messiah in Chester in October 2015.

**Honorable Mention (\$100)** goes to **Justin Witwick**, an 11th grader at Cranford High School. He participates in many choirs including concert choir, madrigals, and the *a cappella* group the Noteworthy Gentlemen. He was also selected for the New Jersey All-State choir. Justin just recently started arranging music, and *Solitude like Rain* is his first choral piece.

A graduate of Rutgers, University of Illinois, and Juilliard, **John Leister** is a teacher, drummer, and percussionist. He is honored to have played with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the American Classical Orchestra, and in the pit orchestras for several Broadway musicals. This past year he played in orchestras behind artists ranging from Sting to Bruce Springsteen to Yo-Yo Ma. John taught music in the Madison School system from 1995 to 2007.

**Helen Raymaker** has been accompanying musicians in schools, churches, and communities since fifth grade. Since moving to New Jersey, she has served as accompanist for choral groups at Drew University, Light Opera of New Jersey, school groups in Madison, Chatham, and

Morristown, and various churches including Grace Church in Madison. She loves playing live classical music for toddlers at the Madison Public Library and maintains a teaching studio in Madison. Helen has music and business degrees from Northwestern University. She is the President of Madison Music & Arts, a fundraising and advocacy group for the arts in Madison schools.

**Aja Baitey**, choreographer, has been training in West African dance for nine years. She received her training from Reverend Eyesha Marable, a former dancer at Dance Theatre of Harlem. Aja teaches a West African dance class at Morristown High School and hopes to have more dance opportunities in the future.

Dancers for *Kawouno Wan Gi Pi*: Jill Alexander, Jeri Herbert, Murray Spiegel, Randi Spiegel, Nancy Watson-Baker, Nicole Williams

**Era Atre** is a junior at Basking Ridge High School, and **Gayatri Gupta Casale** is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Governor Livingston High School. They both sing in the New Jersey Youth Chorus and have choreographed Indian Classical dance for that ensemble as well.

Congratulations and best wishes to our seniors!

**Aja Baitey** graduates from Morristown High School and will attend Pace University

**Eva Endahl** graduates from Morristown High School and will attend American University

**Josh Gonzalez** graduates from Parsippany High School and will attend Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts

**Andrew Von Dongen** graduates from Hackettstown High School and will attend Rowan University

**Nicole Williams** graduates from Morristown High School and will attend Princeton University

SAVE THE DATES (2017-18): Subscription Concerts

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 8pm & 10<sup>th</sup>, 3pm - Morristown

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8pm & 4<sup>th</sup>, 3pm - Chatham

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm (Chamber Singers) - Madison

June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30pm – Madison

[www.harmonium.org](http://www.harmonium.org)