

The Farthest Shore

Music of aspiration and exploration

Western University Singers
Patrick Murray, conductor
Laura Altenmueller, piano

O Radiant Dawn
Gloria, from *Missa Pax*
Abendlied

James MacMillan
Timothy Corlis
Josef Gabriel Rheinberger

La Nuit en Mer
The Sounding Sea
Sure on this Shining Night

Henk Badings
Eric William Barnum
Samuel Barber

Her Beacon-Hand Beckons, from *To the Hands*
So I'll Sing With My Voice

Caroline Shaw
Arr. Dominick Argento

Program note

What does it mean to undertake a journey, either inward or outward? What does it mean to imagine a new home, either one that is far away or one that remakes where we already live? What does it mean to live a full life in the short amount of time we are given? Our program today explores these big questions through how composers, in their musical setting of texts, have addressed our aspirations, fears, and dreams.

The title of our program comes from the novel of the same name by American author Ursula K. Le Guin, known for her speculative fiction, science fiction, and fantasy. In *The Farthest Shore*, a young boy who is soon to be king takes a journey across the ocean to the border between the land of the living and the land of the dead. This coming of age story asks us to confront those moments in our own lives when, whether through choice or circumstance, we take leaps of faith beyond the realm of what we thought possible and emerge on the other side, inevitably changed. We are all journeying towards that farthest shore; the interesting story lies in how we each choose to get there.

Western University Singers

Kathleen Allan and Patrick Murray, conductors
Laura Altenmueller, pianist

Soprano

Ali Battersby
Emily DeMerchant
Grace Hakala
Leslie Higgins
Charmaine Iormetti
Anne Jean
Kaitlyn Kasha
Jo Landry
Nicole Ramos
Mary Paige St. Onge
Rachel Wohlgemut

Alto

Emma Battel
Sarah Fogh
Ell Gagner
Kelly Lin
Mary Ann McVicar
Lindsay Orlovski
Carinna Sabetti
Chiara Siraco

Tenor

Colin Bain
Matthew Bermudez
Quincy Griffith
Scott King
Cameron Mazzei
Joshua Sutherland
Tyrese Walters

Bass

Renato Araujo
Cameron Duetsch
Nathon Irving
Simon Ison
Mitchell Kukura
Stylian Michailidis
Mark Pichkur
Chris Pitre-McBride
William Snyder
Felix Stueckmann

Texts and Translations

O Radiant Dawn

O Radiant Dawn,
Splendour of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.
Isaiah had prophesied,
“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.”
Amen.

-Advent antiphon

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo	Glory to God in the highest
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.	And on earth peace to those of good will.
Laudamus te,	We praise thee,
Benedicimus te,	We bless thee,
Adoramus te,	We adore thee,
Glorificamus te,	We glorify thee,
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.	We give thanks to thee for your great glory.

-From the Mass Ordinary

Abendlied

Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend werden, und der Tag hat sich geneiget.	Abide with us, for soon it will be evening, and the day has gone in.
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- Luke 24:29

La Nuit en Mer

La brise enfle notre voile,
voici la première étoile qui luit;
sur le flot qui nous balance,
amis, voguons en silence dans la nuit.
Tous bruits viennent de se taire,
on dirait que tout sur terre est mort:
les humains comme les choses,
les oiseaux comme les roses.
Tout s'endort!

Mais la mer c'est la Vivante,
c'est l'immensité mouvante, toujours
prenant d'assaut les jetées,
dédaigneuse des nuitées et des jours.

Hormis Elle, rien n'existe
que le grand phare et son triste reflet.
À la place la meilleure, mes amis,
jetons, sur l'heure, le filet.

Puis, enroulés dans nos voiles,
le front nu sous les étoiles, dormons!
Rêvons, en la paix profonde,
À tous ceux qu'en ce bas monde
nous aimons.
Dormons sur nos goélettes
comme en nos berceuses d'enfants.
Et demain, à marée haute,
nous rallierons à la côte triomphants!

- Théodore Botrel

The breeze swells our sail,
here is the first star that shines;
on the crest (of the wave) that balances us,
friends, sail on in silence in the night.
All sounds begin to hush,
as if all on earth had perished:
humans alike to things,
birds alike to roses.
Everything is asleep!

But the sea is a Living Being,
It is the immensity of movement, always
taking by storm the jetties,
scorning the nights and the days.

Besides her (the sea), nothing exists
except the lighthouse and its sad reflection.
At the best place, my friends,
cast, at the right time, the net.

Then, enveloped in our sails,
Our brows bare under the stars, we sleep!
Let us dream, in profound peace,
Of all those who in this low world
we love.
Let us sleep in our schooners
like in our childhood cradles.
And tomorrow, at high sea,
We will rally to the coast triumphant!

The Sounding Sea

O listen to the sounding sea
That beats on the remorseless shore,
O listen! for that sound will be
When our wild hearts shall beat no more.

O listen well and listen long!
For sitting folded close to me,
You could not hear a sweeter song
Than that hoarse murmur of the sea.

- George William Curtis

Sure on this Shining Night

Sure on this shining night
Of star made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.
The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

- James Agee

Her Beacon-Hand Beckons

Her beacon-hand beckons:
give
give to me
those yearning to breathe free
tempest-tossed they cannot see
what lies beyond the olive tree
whose branch was lost amid the pleas
for mercy, mercy
give
give to me
your tired fighters fleeing flying
from the
from the
from
let them

i will be your refuge
i will be your refuge
i will be
i will be
we will be
we will

-Caroline Shaw, responding to the sonnet "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus, which was mounted on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in 1903

So I'll Sing with my Voice

If I had a harp
Like David had a harp
I'd play on that harp
'Till the glorious day!
But I got no harp,
No, I got no harp
So I'll sing with my voice,
Hallelujah!

If I had a horn
Like Gabriel had a harp
I'd blow on that horn
'Till the judgement day!
But I got no horn,
No, I got no horn
So I'll sing with my voice,
Hallelujah!

If I had a lyre
Like Jubal had a lyre
I'd strum on that lyre
'Till that beautiful day!
But I got no lyre,
No, I got no lyre
So I'll sing with my voice,
So I'll sing with my voice,
O, Hallelujah!