

74TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

FEBRUARY 7, 2016 • NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART





Photo by Curtis Johnson

PROGRAM

3:30 • West Building, West Garden Court

Cantus

The Four Loves

Jimmy Van Heusen (1913–1990)

But Beautiful

Arr. Paul John Rudoï

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Lux Aurumque

Malcolm Dalglish (b. 1952)

Little Potato

Bobby McFerrin (b. 1950)

23rd Psalm

(dedicated to my mother)

Ysaye Barnwell (b. 1946)

Tango with God (Premiere)

Joseph Willcox Jenkins (1928–2014)

Sim Shalom, op. 159, no. 1

Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)

From *Quatre petites prières de Saint François d'Assise*

III. Lord, I pray you

William Walker (1809–1875)

From *Southern Harmony*

Wondrous Love

Kurt Elling (b. 1967)

Those Clouds Are Heavy, You Dig?

Arr. Blake Morgan

A. R. Rahman (b. 1967)

Zikr

Arr. Ethan Sperry

Joseph Gregorio (b. 1979)

To My Brother (Premiere)

Maura Bosch (b. 1958)

From *The Turning*

III. If I could say

Ysaye Barnwell

Wanting Memories

Intermission

Roger Treece (b. 1963)

Philia (Premiere)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Abschiedsgesang, WoO 102 (Farewell Song)

Richard Peaslee (b. 1930)

When I Would Muse in Boyhood

Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)

Brothers, Sing On!

Arr. Howard McKinney

Arnold Schoenberg (1874–1951)

Six Pieces for Male Chorus, op. 35, no. 6

Verbundenheit (Obligation)

Lee Hoiby (1926–2011)

Last Letter Home

Michael McGlynn (b. 1964)

Ceann Dubh Dìlis (Her Sweet Dark Head)

David Lang (b. 1957)

Manifesto (Premiere)

Bobby Troup (1918–1999)

Their Hearts Were Full of Spring

A. R. Rahman

Wedding Qawwali

Arr. Ethan Sperry

The Musicians

The nine-member men's vocal ensemble Cantus is known worldwide for its trademark warmth and blend and its engaging performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the twenty-first century. Cantus performs more than sixty concerts each year both in national and international touring, and in its home of Minneapolis–St. Paul, Minnesota. Past performances have brought Cantus to the stages of Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, UCLA, San Francisco Performances, Atlanta's Spivey Hall, and Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival. The 2015–2016 season sees Cantus perform twice in New York with Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concerts and Music Mondays, and in Denver, Tucson, Detroit, and Washington, DC, among other North American engagements. The ensemble made its first visit to Colombia in September 2015.

As one of the nation's few full-time vocal ensembles, Cantus has grown in prominence with its distinctive approach to creating music. Working without a conductor, the ensemble members rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing to the entirety of the artistic process. This collaborative work style allows the group to be more flexible, adaptive, and ready to embrace new ideas.

Committed to the expansion of the vocal music repertoire, Cantus actively commissions new music for men's voices. In addition to composers commissioned for *The Four Loves* — David Lang, Roger Treece, Ysaye Barnwell, and Joseph Gregorio — Cantus has commissioned Sarah Kirkland Snider, Nico Muhly, and Byron Adams. Cantus has received commissioning grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, American Composers Forum, and Chamber Music America. The ensemble also actively unearths rarely performed repertoire for men's voices such as the music written by Antonín Dvořák and Leoš Janáček, heard on the ensemble's 2013 album *Song of a Czech*.

Cantus has a rich history of collaborations with other performing arts organizations, including the Minnesota Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the Guthrie Theater, the James Sewell Ballet, and Theater Latté Da. The ensemble is heard frequently on public radio as regular guests on *A Prairie Home Companion*, with Garrison Keillor, *Performance Today*, and the annual Thanksgiving program *Thanksgiving with Cantus*, heard each year on more than three hundred public radio stations nationwide. In the fall of 2014, Cantus released *A Harvest Home* — the seventeenth recording on the group's self-titled label — of repertoire from the *Thanksgiving with Cantus* program.

Integral to the Cantus mission is its commitment to preserve and deepen music education in the schools. Cantus works with more than five thousand students each year in master-class and workshop settings across the country. Now in its eighth year, the award-winning High School Residency program brings Cantus into Minnesota schools several times a year for mentoring with a culminating public concert in the spring.

Tenors

Zachary Colby

Adam Fieldson

Paul John Rudoj

Paul Scholtz

Joe Shadday

Baritones

Matthew Goinz

Matthew Tintes

Basses

Chris Foss

Samuel Green

Program Notes

Love has been the inspiration for artistic expression since the dawn of time. It is such a complex idea that the ancient Greeks broke it down into four different kinds of love: romantic, familial, friendly, and unconditional. In *The Four Loves*, Cantus regards this unquantifiable emotion — our greatest and most fragile gift — from all sides, with music by Poulenc, Grieg, Beethoven, and Bobby McFerrin, paired with newly commissioned works exploring each of the four loves by Pulitzer Prize-winner David Lang, as well as Roger Treece, Joseph Gregorio, and Ysaye Barnwell. In their trademark excellence of programming juxtaposition, Cantus shapes *The Four Loves* to span multiple cultural traditions, including pairing the Beach Boys' "Their Hearts Were Full of Spring" with Indian composer A. R. Rahman's "Wedding Qawwali" and Michael McGlynn's setting of the traditional Gaelic "Ceann Dubh Dílis" (Her Sweet Dark Head).

Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Fourth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin Concerts

Cann Duo

Music by Leonard Bernstein, Margaret Bonds, Jeffrey Mumford, Richard Rodgers, and Michael Leibowitz. Presented in honor of African American History Month
February 14, Sunday, 3:30
West Building, West Garden Court

Bennewitz Quartet

Music by Czech composers
February 21, Sunday, 3:30
West Building, West Garden Court

BEETHOVEN TRIO FEST

Complete instrumental trios of Ludwig van Beethoven in four days. Sponsored by the Billy Rose Foundation.
Concerts in the West Building,
West Garden Court

Members of Inscape

Beethoven Trios
February 25, Thursday, 12:00 and 2:00

Mendelssohn Piano Trio

Beethoven Trios
February 26, Friday, 12:00 and 2:00

DEKA Trio

Beethoven Trios
February 27, Saturday, 12:00 and 2:00

North Carolina Symphony Trio

Beethoven Trios
February 28, Sunday, 12:00 and 2:00

West Garden Trio

National Gallery of Art Orchestra
Dingwall Fleary, guest conductor
Triple Concerto
February 28, Sunday, 4:00

General Information

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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