

THE
AMERICAN
OPERA
PROJECT
PRESENTS

in association with
Opera on Tap



OF THEE I DREAM:
CREATING A BRIDGE TO UNITY

NOVEMBER 8, 2020 • 4PM

PROGRAM

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 8, 2020 • 4PM

PROGRAM ORDER IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Music as the Message Theme Song** Drew Hemenger
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano
Drew Hemenger, Piano

Soon a Will Be Done Traditional
Nicole Mitchell, Contralto

I Dream a World Langston Hughes
*(In order of appearance: Nicole Mitchell, Contralto; Chabrelle Williams, Soprano;
Katie Dunne McGrath, Alto; Patrice P. Eaton, Mezzo-Soprano; Eric McKeever, Baritone;
Scott Tomlinson, Bass; La'Shelle Allen, Contralto; Adrienne Danrich, Soprano)*

Light of a Clear Blue Morning Dolly Parton
Chabrelle Williams, Soprano
MaM Ladies Choir: (Jasmine Muhammad, Nicole Mitchell,
Katie Dunne McGrath, Patrice P. Eaton, La'Shelle Allen)

What a Wonderful World. Bob Thiele and George David Weiss
Eric McKeever, Baritone
Mila Henry, Piano

What's Going On Marvin Gaye
Bernard Holcomb, Tenor
Paul Greenwood, Piano

When the Body (excerpt)* Linda Hogan of the Chickasaw Nation
Patrice P. Eaton, Mezzo-Soprano

Lullaby and Estados Unidos* Shawn Mullins and Katie Dunne McGrath
Katie Dunne McGrath, Alto
Paul Greenwood, Piano

• CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE •



PROGRAM

SUNDAY · NOVEMBER 8, 2020 · 4PM

· CONTINUED ·

Korean Lullaby. Traditional
Paul An, Bass

Bridge Over Troubled Water Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano
Paul Greenwood, Piano

Prayer of St. Francis* adapted by Adrienne Danrich
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano

Let Us Not Become Weary Ben Kornelis
Adrienne Danrich, Soprano
Jim Ahrend, Piano
MaM Choir (Chabelle Williams, Jasmine Muhammad, Katie Dunne McGrath,
Nicole Mitchell, Patrice P. Eaton, La'Shelle Allen, Bernard Holcomb,
Eric McKeever, Paul An, Scott Tomlinson)

Peace Like A River Traditional Spiritual adapted by Gwyneth Walker
Adrienne Danrich Soprano
MaM Choir (Chabelle Williams, Jasmine Muhammad, Katie Dunne McGrath, Nicole Mitchell,
Patrice P. Eaton, La'Shelle Allen, Bernard Holcomb, Eric McKeever, Paul An, Scott Tomlinson)

*Spoken Word

**Commissioned by The American Opera Project
for Music as the Message



POEMS AND LYRICS

SOONA WILL BE DONE

Traditional

Soona will be done
With the Trouble of the world
Trouble of the world
Trouble of this world
Soona will be done
With the Trouble of the world
Going home to live with God

No more! Weepin' an wailin'
No more! Weepin' an wailin'
No more! Weepin' an wailin'
Going home to live with God

LIGHT OF A CLEAR BLUE MORNING

by Dolly Parton

It's been a long dark night
And I've been a waitin' for the morning
It's been a long hard fight
But I see a brand new day a dawning
And I've been looking for the sunshine
Cause I ain't seen it in so long
everything's gonna work out just fine
everything's gonna be alright
That's been all wrong

'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay

It's been a long long time
Since I've known the taste of freedom
And those clinging vines
had me bound, well I don't need 'em
I've been like a captured eagle, you know an eagle's born to fly
Now that I have won my freedom,
like an eagle I am eager for the sky

Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of brand new day
everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay

I can see I can see the light of a morning
I can see I can see the light of brand new day
I can see I can see the light
Everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay
Everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay

I DREAM A WORLD

by Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss

I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

I see skies of blue
And clouds of white
The bright blessed day
The dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow
So pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces
Of people going by
I see friends shaking hands
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying
"I love you"

I hear babies cry
I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
Than I'll never know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world



POEMS AND LYRICS

• CONTINUED •

WHAT'S GOING ON

by Marvin Gaye

Mother, mother
There's too many of you crying
Brother, brother, brother
There's far too many of you dying
You know we've got to find a way
To bring some lovin' here today - Ya

Father, father
We don't need to escalate
You see, war is not the answer
For only love can conquer hate
You know we've got to find a way
To bring some lovin' here today

Picket lines and picket signs
Don't punish me with brutality
Talk to me, so you can see
Oh, what's going on
What's going on
Yeah, what's going on
Ah, what's going on

Mother, mother, everybody thinks we're wrong
Oh, but who are they to judge us
Simply because our hair is long
Oh, you know we've got to find a way
To bring some understanding here today.
Oh

Picket lines and picket signs
Don't punish me with brutality
Talk to me
So you can see
What's going on
Yeah, what's going on
Tell me what's going on
I'll tell you what's going on

WHEN THE BODY (EXCERPT)

By Chickasaw Nation poet, Linda Hogan

When the body wishes to speak, she will
reach into the night and pull back the rapture of this
growing root
which has little faith in the other planets of the
universe, knowing
only one, by the bulbs of the feet, their branching of
toes. But the feet
have walked with the bones of their ancestors over
long trails
leaving behind the roots of forests. They walk on the
ghosts
of all that has gone before them, not just plant, but
animal, human,
the bones of even the ones who left their horses to
drink at the
spring running through earth's mortal body which has
much to tell
about what happened that day.

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER

by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel

When you're weary, feeling small,
When tears are in your eyes
I will dry them all
I'm on your side
Oh when times get rough
And friends just can't be found

Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

When you're down and out
When you're on the street
When evening falls so hard
I will comfort you
I'll take your part
Oh when darkness comes
And pain is all around

Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

Sail on, silver girl
Sail on by
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way
See how they shine
Oh if you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind

Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

adapted by Adrienne Danrich

I AM an instrument of peace:
where I SEE hatred, I sow love;
where I SEE injury, pardon;
where I HAVE doubt, faith;
where I SEE despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

I DO NOT so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
I DO NOT so much seek
to be understood as to understand,
I DO NOT so much seek
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.



POEMS AND LYRICS

• CONTINUED •

LET US NOT BECOME WEARY

by Benjamin Kornelis

Let us not become weary
Weary in doing good
for at the proper time
we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.
Therefore, as we have opportunity
Therefore, as we have opportunity
let us do good
let us do good to all people

Let us not become weary
Weary in doing good
for at the proper time
we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.
Therefore, as we have opportunity
Therefore, as we have opportunity
let us do good
let us do good to all people

And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice
And to love kindness
And walk humbly with your God?

And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice
And to love kindness
And walk humbly with your God?

Let us not become weary
Oh, weary in doing good
for at the proper time
we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.
Therefore, as we have opportunity
Therefore, as we have opportunity
let us do good
let us do good to all people

let us do good
let us do good
let us do good
let us do good
let us do good to all people
Walk humbly with your Go

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

traditional, adapted by Gwyneth Walker

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean in my soul
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean in my soul
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

The following compositions and arrangements were commissioned by
The American Opera Project for Music as the Message:

MUSIC AS THE MESSAGE THEME SONG



ARTISTS

CREATORS



Adrienne Danrich
Creator, Host, &
Executive Producer



Kimille Howard
Series Producer

ARTISTS



Chabrelle Williams
Soprano



Jasmine Muhammad
Soprano



Patrice P. Eaton
Mezzo-Soprano



Katie McGrath
Alto



La'Shelle Allen
Contralto



Nicole Mitchell
Contralto



Bernard Holcomb
Tenor



Eric McKeever
Baritone



Paul An
Bass



Scott Tomlinson
Bass

CREATIVE TEAM

Adrienne Danrich, creator, host, & executive producer
Kimille Howard, series producer
Jascha Narveson, audio engineer
Mila Henry, music director & pianist
Drew Hemenger, composer of MaM original theme song



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Founded in 1988, The American Opera Project (AOP) has been at the forefront of contemporary opera for over 30 years. The Brooklyn-based producing organization commissions, develops and produces music-theatre projects, trains emerging composers and librettists, and creates personal connections within its community. Its works have received critical acclaim at opera companies and venues around the world, establishing a new musical canon that recognizes the operatic story in every life. AOP further expands the operatic field through its training programs The NYU Opera Lab, in partnership with NYU and for students and alumni in The NYU Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, and Composers & the Voice, AOP's in-house, two-year fellowship program for emerging composers and librettists. www.aopopera.org



Opera on Tap (OOT) was born in 2005 at Freddy's Bar and Backroom in Brooklyn and incorporated in 2007 to promote opera as a viable, living and progressive art form and to support the developing artists who continue to keep the art form alive. What began as a small monthly gathering of ambitious, classically trained singers looking for more performance opportunities, has grown into a producing organization that has gained a loyal audience base and national recognition as an innovative force on the classical music scene. Through its Chapter program, which now has over twenty vibrant national (and international!) chapters, OOT has created a large network of performers, creators, and supporters. Our mission is to expose new audiences to opera and classical music by taking opera and classical music out of the concert hall and performing it in alternative venues, to aid young performers in their development by giving them the opportunity to perform and to promote and support them through our organization and to help promote new classical works of contemporary classical and operatic composers. www.operaontap.org

Past episodes of **Music as the Message** are available for viewing. To watch, or for more information, visit:
<https://www.aopopera.org/music-message-past>

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