

The Spectrum Singers present

Requiem for the Living

Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 7:30pm

First Church Congregational
11 Garden Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Years ago while teaching music at a penitentiary in upstate New York, an inmate asked me, "Why does music send shivers down my spine?" Why, indeed?! Though the answer may be ineffable, the feeling is real and immediate—something we have all experienced. If not, why would we be here tonight?

For tonight's program, guest conductor Katherine Chan has selected works in Korean, German, French, and English inspired by light as a symbol of hope. The closing work is Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*. The traditional Requiem Mass opens with the text "Requiem aeternam dona eis"—Rest eternal grant them. A requiem, or rest, for the living grants us, the living, a chance to pause, to rest. To experience this power of music, this shivering down our spines. To allow us, in these times of darkness and uncertainty, to pause in peace and to re-engage the hope that fuels us to join together and let the light shine.

~ Dan Epstein, Board Chair

Please join The Spectrum Singers at a post-concert reception in Margaret Jewett Hall, located through the right-hand door at the front of the sanctuary.

Kindly silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.



The Spectrum Singers

Katherine Chan, Guest Conductor James R. Barkovic, Assistant Conductor and Accompanist

Requiem for the Living

Saturday, March 15, 2025 First Church Congregational, Cambridge

Hail, Gladdening Light Charles Wood (1866–1926)

How Calmly the Evening Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Nachtlied Max Reger (1873–1916)

Hymne au Soleil Lili Boulanger (1893–1918)

Elisabeth Jas, *alto* James R. Barkovic, *piano*

Still With Thee Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

Evocation (Mon-Nee-Joh) Hye-Young Cho (b. 1969)

James R. Barkovic, piano

Brief Pause

Requiem for the Living

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Kim Soleski Ward, *mezzo-soprano*Kaitlyn Hess, *soprano*Ian Fox, *tenor*chamber ensemble

This organization is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

THE SPECTRUM SINGERS

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Luellen Best Jill Fekete Valerie Gibson Kaitlyn Hess Leslie Horst Tricia Kennedy

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Percussion

Desiree Glazier-Nazro

Organ

James Barkovic

^{*} Section Leader

^{**} Guest Singer

Hail, Gladdening Light

Wood

Hail, gladd'ning Light, of His pure glory poured, Who is th'immortal Father, heav'nly, blest, Holiest of holies, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest, The lights of evening round us shine, We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.

Worthiest art Thou at all times to be sung with undefiled tongue, Son of our God, giver of life, alone; Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own. Amen.

~ Translated from the original Greek by John Keble

How Calmly the Evening

Elgar

How calmly the evening once more is descending, As kind as a promise, as still as a prayer; O wing of the Lord, in Thy shelter befriending, May we and our households continue to share.

We come to be soothed with Thy merciful healing; The dews of the night cure the wounds of the day; We come, our life's work and its brevity feeling, With thanks for the past, for the future we pray.

Lord, save us from folly; be with us in sorrow; Sustain us in work till the time of our rest; When earth's day is over, may heaven's tomorrow Dawn on us, of homes long expected possest.

~ Thomas Toke Lynch

Nacthlied Reger

Die Nacht ist kommen, Drin wir ruhen sollen; Gott walt's, zum Frommen Nach sein'm Wohlgefallen, Daß wir uns legen In sein'm G'leit und Segen, Der Ruh' zu pflegen.

Treib, Herr, von uns fern Die unreinen Geister, Halt die Nachtwach' gern, Sei selbst unser Schutzherr, Schirm beid Leib und Seel' Unter deine Flügel, Send' uns dein' Engel!

Laß uns einschlafen Mit guten Gedanken, Fröhlich aufwachen Und von dir nicht wanken; Laß uns mit Züchten Unser Tun und Dichten Zu dein'm Preis richten!

~ Petrus Herbert

The night has fallen, And we should rest; God is there, to care for us By his good will, So that we settle In his company and blessing, To maintain the peace.

Father, drive the evil spirits Far away from us; Keep the night watch; Be our protector; Shield both body and soul Under your wings; Send us your angels!

Let us go to sleep
With good thoughts,
Happily awaken
And never waver from you;
Let us, with thoughtful cultivation,
Focus our deeds and words
On your glory!

~ English translation from ChoralWiki, with emendations by John W. Ehrlich

Hymne au Soliel

Boulanger

Du soleil qui renaît bénissons la puissance. Avec tout l'univers célébrons

Avec tout l'univers célébrons son retour.

Couronné de splendeur, il se lève, il s'élance.

Le réveil de la terre est un hymne d'amour.

Sept coursiers qu'en partant le Dieu contient à peine, Enflamment l'horizon de leur

O soleil fécond, tu parais!

brûlante haleine.

Avec ses champs en fleurs, ses monts, ses bois épais, La vaste mer de tes feux embrasée, L'univers plus jeune et plus frais, Des vapeurs de matin sont brillants de rosée.

~ Casimir Delavigne

Let us bless the power of the reborn sun.

With all the universe let us celebrate its return.

Crowned in splendour, it rises, it soars.

The awakening of the earth is a hymn of love.

Seven steeds, whose departure God can scarce delay, Enflame the sky with their blazing breath.

O fertile sun, you break through!

With fields in bloom,
dense woods and mountains,
The wide ocean kindled by your fire,
The universe rejuvenated
and freshened,
The morning mists are gleaming
with dew.

~ Translation by Nick Flower

Still With Thee

Hagenberg

Still, still with Thee, when purple morning breaketh, When the bird waketh and the shadows flee; Fairer than morning, lovelier than the daylight, Dawns the sweet consciousness, I am with Thee!

When sinks the soul, subdued by toil, to slumber, Its closing eye looks up to Thee in prayer; The sweet repose beneath the wings o'ershading, But sweeter still to wake and find Thee there.

The Spectrum Singers

Shall it be when that bright morning breaketh, When the soul waketh and life's shadows flee; Oh fairer than the morning, lovelier than daylight, Rise the glorious thought to Thee!

Still with Thee, when the bright morning breaketh, When the soul waketh and life's shadows flee; I am with Thee.

~ Harriet Beecher Stowe

Evocation Cho

못 잊어 생각이 나겠지요. 그런대로 한세상 지내시구려, 사노라면 잊힐 날 있으리다.

못 잊어 생각이 나겠지요. 그런대로 세월만 가라시구려, 못 잊어도 더러는 잊히오리다.

그러나 또 한긋 이렇지요, `그리워 살뜰히 못 잊는데, 어쩌면 생각이 떠지나요.

~ Kim Sowol

Unable to forget, you will miss them. Let it be, that will be a life all its own. There will come a day when you forget.

Unable to forget, you will miss them. So be it, just let the years pass on by. You will one day forget some, if not all.

Yet, for all that, is it not also true, With blood and bones yearning alike, How can the thought ever leave you.

Requiem for the Living

Forrest

1. Introit - Kyrie

(Choir)

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Exaudi orationem meam,

ad te omnis caro veniet. Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Hear my prayer, for unto Thee all flesh shall come. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

2. Vanitas Vanitatum

(Choir)

Vanitas vanitatum, omnia vanitas!

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem. Lacrimosa,

et locutus est, pereat dies in qua natus sum.

Vanity of vanities, all is vanity! (from Ecclesiastes) Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest. Full of tears, (from the Dies Irae) he said, Let the day perish wherein I was born. (from Job 3:2-3)

3. Agnus Dei

(Soprano solo)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis, dona eis requiem. (Choir, and solo) Agnus Dei, qui tollis

peccata mundi,

dona nobis pacem, miserere nobis, dona eis requiem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. have mercy on us; grant them rest.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace; have mercy on us; grant them rest.

4. Sanctus

(Choir)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,

Holy, Holy, Holy,

The Spectrum Singers

Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis! Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of
Thy glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

5. Lux Aeterna

(Soprano solo, and choir)
Lux aeterna luceat eis,
Domine:
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum:
quia pius es.

Et lux perpetua luceat eis.

May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord, in the company of Thy saints forever: for Thou art merciful. Let perpetual light shine on them.

(Tenor Solo)
Come unto me,
all ye who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.
(Matthew 28:19)

(Choir, and soprano solo)
Requiem aeternam dona eis,
Domine,
et lux perpetua
luceat eis.
Dona nobis pacem.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Grant us peace.



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We are a proud member of the Greater Boston Choral Consortium, a cooperative association of diverse choral groups in Boston and the surrounding areas.



BOSTONSINGS.ORG

PROGRAM NOTES

Music and text have the power to provide us with healing and comfort as we struggle through these challenging times. Tonight's concert, Requiem for the Living, centers around "light" as a symbol of hope and comfort for those of us here on Earth, the living.

We begin with *Hail Gladdening Light* by Charles Wood–a musical meditation on darkness and light. This double choir setting is a hymn of praise to the giver of light, light as a sign of hope, healing the troubled soul. *Nachtlied* (Night Song), a sacred motet, was composed in 1914 in Meiningen by German composer Max Reger. It was not published until 1916, after Reger's death, as part of a larger set of works–*Acht geistliche Gesänge* (Eight Sacred Songs). The libretto is written by Petrus Herbert, beginning with the text "*Die Nacht ist kommen*" (the night has come), offering a prayer-like mood, leading the listener to retreat to their own world to find a sense of closure and inner calm amongst the dark night. *How Calmly the Evening*, written by British composer Edward Elgar, speaks to the tranquility of the night, a prayer setting for peace and comfort.

Lili Boulanger's *Hymne au Soleil* (Hymn to the Sun), composed when she was eighteen, is like a metaphor for the new day rising. The harmony is particularly striking as chords are stacked in fourths and often transitions are between seemingly unrelated chords. Elaine Hagenberg's setting of *Still With Thee* is an "anthem that exudes confidence, comfort and assurance." *Evocation (Mon-Nee-Joh)*, written by Korean composer Hyo-Young Cho, is a piece that reminds us while our loved ones have departed, beautiful memories remain, and they will never be forgotten.

We conclude the concert with Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* (2013). Forrest combines text taken from the Requiem Mass with Biblical text from Ecclesiastes and the Book of Job. The opening movement takes after the traditional *Introit* and *Kyrie* text, pleading for rest and mercy. Instead of using the *Dies Irae*, the second movement speaks of the turmoil and sorrow which humanity faces while evoking the character of the *Dies Irae*. The third movement (*Agnus Dei*), breaking away from the liturgical order of a requiem, pleads for deliverance and peace. *Sanctus* follows, a movement that offers glimpses of the "heavens and earth, full of Thy glory." The opening section

is inspired by images of space from the Hubble Space Telescope, the middle section by images of Earth viewed from the International Space Station, and the final section by images that bring the listener down to Earth. The work draws to closure with *Lux Aeterna*, portraying light, peace, and rest for both the deceased and the living.

~ Program Notes © 2025 by Katherine Chan

THANK YOU!

The Spectrum Singers would like to thank Katherine Chan, our guest conductor this winter; and Jim Barkovic, our rehearsal accompanist. We also thank Rozann Kraus, house manager; and the rest of our front-of-house team for house management and ticketing assistance.

Many thanks to Kirsten Manville, Parish Administrator, and Peter Sykes for their assistance at First Church Congregational.

Additional thanks to Paul Dredge for Korean language help and Paul Perfetti for contracting our instrumentalists.

Special thanks to the Cambridge Massachusetts Stake, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for their generosity in hosting our rehearsals in their Kendall Square Chapel.

Thanks also to our volunteers for their contributions as ushers and stage assistants.

Instrumentalists playing this program appear through the courtesy of the Boston Musicians' Association Local 9-535 of the American Federation of Musicians.

THE SPECTRUM SINGERS

The Spectrum Singers is an acclaimed Boston-area chorus performing repertoire from the Renaissance to the present day. John W. Ehrlich formed the ensemble in 1980 and led the chorus for 44 seasons until his retirement in May 2024. The chorus is frequently joined by professional vocal soloists and orchestral musicians, and has been invited to collaborate with Emmanuel Music, the Cantata Singers, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Indian Hill Symphony, and several other musical organizations. The chorus has also been invited to perform on many concert series throughout New England.

In recent seasons, The Spectrum Singers has continued its commitment to contemporary music, offering the New England premiere of a new work by Mohammed Fairouz and the world premiere of *Novum Decus Oritur*, by our composition contest winner, Joshua Hummel. It has offered rich programs ranging from more familiar, large-scale masterpieces to lesser known but deserving works of all eras. The chorus has also performed a broad exploration of requiems, from the familiar (Mozart, Fauré, Duruflé) to the lesser known (Alfred Desenclos and John Rutter).

The Boston Globe has praised John W. Ehrlich and The Spectrum Singers for "unfailingly dramatic performances that grappled with real issues in the music and real issues the music is about." Now in its 45th season, the chorus continues its mission of performing both familiar and lesser-known works in programs of compelling depth and professional execution for an audience of appreciative listeners.

This season the chorus is pleased to welcome three final candidates for the position of Music Director, each presenting one concert in the 2024-2025 season.



KATHERINE CHAN



Guest Conductor and Music Director Finalist Katherine Chan, a native of Australia, is known for her energy and enthusiasm on the podium. As Director of Choral Activities and Associate Teaching Professor of Music at Northeastern University, Chan conducts the Northeastern University Choral Society Chorus, Chamber Singers, and Mosaic Advance Treble Ensemble. A sought-after choral clinician, Chan also serves as the Artistic Director of Boston Choral Ensemble.

Chan's unique blend of talent and energy has also been on display at numerous festivals, including the Australia National Choral Association's Choralfest (2010), Oregon Bach Festival (2011), Taipei Bach Festival (2012), Hong Kong SingFest (2012), and the National Conductors' Symposium, Canada (2016). Chan was recognized as top-12 finalist in the World Choral Conducting Competition 2019, and top-6 finalist at the Romano Gandolfi International Competition for Choral Conductors, Italy, in 2023.

Known for her highly innovative collaborations, Chan partnered with librettist Michael Dennis Browne in 2015 to present a semi-staged performance of Fauré's *Requiem* with singers from the Minnesota Chorale. Other engagements include guest conducting Xi'an Symphony Chorus (China), Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Cantata Singers, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, and Back Bay Chorale.

Prior to her relocation to the United States, Chan was extensively involved in Australia's choral community. She was musical director of Choral Connection and choir director at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Brisbane. In addition to conducting, Chan also actively performs as a soprano and pianist/accompanist.

Chan received her Bachelor of Music Performance and Pedagogy in piano from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University. She received her Master of Music degree in choral conducting from the University of Washington, and Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of Minnesota (UMN) under the mentorship of Kathy Saltzman Romey and Matthew Mehaffey.

JAMES R. BARKOVIC



James R. Barkovic has been active in the Boston area as a conductor, pianist, organist, violist and accompanist for more than thirty years. In addition to serving as the Assistant Conductor and Accompanist for The Spectrum Singers, he is the Music Director of the Westford Chorus. He serves as Music Director at Holy Family Parish and West Concord Union Church, both of Concord, Mass. Mr. Barkovic is the Chapel Organist and Instructor of Organ at Middlesex School, also of

Concord. He is also the Choir Director at Congregation B'nai Shalom of Westborough, Mass.

Mr. Barkovic received his Master of Music in Piano Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Stephen Drury, performed in master classes for Leonard Shure and Veronica Jochum, and studied organ improvisation with William Porter. A native of Minnesota, he received his undergraduate diploma from St. Olaf College, with concentrations in music theory and history.

This is Mr. Barkovic's 33rd season as Assistant Conductor and Accompanist of The Spectrum Singers.





Sing with Spectrum!

The Spectrum Singers, one of Boston's top choral ensembles, has openings for experienced singers.

The Spectrum Singers perform in Harvard Square and rehearse in Kendall Square on Monday evenings.

Auditions are by appointment. For more information about the Spectrum Singers or to schedule an audition, please visit our website: *spectrumsingers.org/auditions* or call 617-492-8902

TO OUR HONORED DONORS

The purposes of The Spectrum Singers include bringing the gift of wonderful *live* music to our audiences, preserving and enhancing our cultural inheritance, and giving our chorus members opportunities to grow, and serve our audiences. We want to get better at each of these over time as we find ways to improve our performances and our venues, grow and renew our audience, learn and perform additional pieces, improve our talents, and attract a new generation of singers. We have a long-term view that extends well into the future.

For years our average spending has been slightly less than our income; we aim to continue carefully to base our expenditures on our income. Donations have averaged 53% of income. Ticket sales and dues from members are most of the rest.

We are grateful to those who make our work possible. We like to acknowledge you. We celebrate your generosity. As you give, we can do more toward fulfilling our purposes.

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- Be listed in Spectrum's program book
- Attend donor event
- Attend a rehearsal and be acknowledged
- Have dinner with our Music Director

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To make such an impact, reach James Cannon Johnston, board member of The Spectrum Singers (at 781-862-7595 or jim.johnston@spectrumsingers.org), or other Spectrum board members.

We will collaborate with you to design your gift and how to acknowledge you or someone you wish to honor or remember. For example, you could underwrite:

- A performance by the entire chorus or a subset at a selected locale or occasion
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The Spectrum Singers 2024 - 2025 Season



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MARCH 15, 2025
Requiem for the Living
Katherine Chan
Guest Conductor



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