HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Home for the Holidays is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Barbara McNeil and Rita Killoran DeRosa.
ORDER OF PROGRAM

O VEZZOSETT’E BELLA
Giovanni Gastoldi, Composer; Patrick M. Liebergen, Arranger

STARS I SHALL FIND
Victor C. Johnson, Composer; Sara Teasdale, Lyrics
Matthew Holliday, Choreographer and Dancer

Men’s Ensemble Kristopher Burke, Conductor
Rachel DeVore Fogarty, Pianist

CORNER OF THE SKY (from Pippin)
Stephen Schwartz, Music and Lyrics; Teena Chin, Arranger

Concert Ensemble Dianne Berkun Menaker, Conductor

SANDMAN AND EVENING PRAYER
(from the opera, Hansel and Gretel)
Engelbert Humperdinck, Composer
Rebecca Ringle Kamarei, Soloist

IMPOSSIBLE DREAM (from Man of La Mancha)
Mitch Leigh, Composer; Joe Darion, Lyrics; Mark Hayes, Arranger

Junior Ensemble Dianne Berkun Menaker, Conductor
Aleeza Meir, Pianist

AS LONG AS WE LIVE
Missy Mazzoli, Composer; Walt Whitman, Lyrics

IN PARADISUM (REQUIEM, OP. 48)
Gabriel Fauré, Composer; Doreen Rao, Arranger

Concert Ensemble Dianne Berkun Menaker, Conductor
Aleeza Meir, Pianist

YOU’LL NEVER WALK ALONE (from Carousel) with
CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN (from The Sound of Music)
Richard Rodgers, Composer; Oscar Hammerstein II, Lyrics;
Mark Hayes, Arranger

All School Dianne Berkun Menaker, Kristopher Burke,
Kiena Williams, Jean Kim, Tegan Miller,
Nicholas Prior, Eric Williamson Conductors
TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

O Vezzosett’e Bella

O sweet charmer,
most honorable of all,
don’t let me die of love!
I know well my unworthiness
that bars me from your heart.
Yet I welcome this charge
that leads me to cruel hopelessness.

In Paradisum

May the angels lead you into paradise;
may the martyrs receive you at your arrival
into the holy city, Jersulam.
May choirs of angels receive you
and, with once-poor Lazarus,
may you have eternal rest.
**CONCERT ENSEMBLE**

Sasha Abner  
Maya Baijal  
Maya Barth  
Trilliane Bergeron  
Lauren Berthoumieux  
Kaitlyn Bovell  
Maya Chatterjee  
Alexandra Conklin  
Mekaeli Cox  
Maya Degnemark  
Senlee Dieme  
Elana Field  
Simona Freed  
Sofia Galperin  
Isa Gilabert  
Kestrel Goldberg Little  
Lila Hasenstab  
Avery Hudgins  
Quinci Huston  
Amelie Jacobs  
Stevie Kim-Rubell  
Harmonie Lirenman  
Madison Loughlin  
Melanie Macleod  
Bianca Martinez  
Quyn McCaffrey  
Daniella Micalizzi  
Lyric Miller-Chin  
Sicile Naddeo-Gjergji  
Ella Ondrick  
Stella Ortega  
Violet Paris-Hillmer  
Ash Parker  
Jadesola Pedro  
Lila Penenberg  
Maya Renaud-Levine  
Blessing Reynolds  
Cecilia Rivkin Brennan  
Reaiyah Roberts  
Amelia Sammons  
Sonja Sergeant  
Tatyana Sgaraglino  
Josie Shehadi  
Naia Shepherd  
Nadia Tamayo  
Joan Marie Varous  
Mariana Weaver  
Aliyah Weiss  
Bebe Yaffe

**MEN’S ENSEMBLE**

AJ Aiken  
Aedan Alexander-Mullen  
Joshua Allwood  
William Brady  
Joseph Brooks  
Osei Dunlap  
Samuel Fishman  
Victor Garcia  
Joshua Gatlin  
Gabriel Hawkins  
Francisco Hodgson  
Sylas Hollander  
Elijah Ilkay  
Akinola Pedro  
Liam Robinson  
Thomas Rose  
Satya Shaw  
Caviezell Sullivan  
Samuel Vega  
Teddy Winters

**JUNIOR ENSEMBLE**

Rebecca Adeleke  
Allegra Advincula  
Miette Alt  
Malaya Angeles  
Olivia Auffret  
Amor Azor  
Siena Bird  
Leah Brown  
Shania Brown  
Bianna Charles  
Gwen Daly  
Josie Devlin  
Pia Dorosin  
Margot Ehrsam  
Sadie Gesser  
Ursula Gillingham-Ryan  
Michaela Greene  
Talia Greenland  
Sheen Heady  
Layne Heady  
Maya Lu-Heda  
Pilar Lu-Heda  
Faith Monroe  
Zora Mussen  
Sylvie Oates  
Priyanka Oomman  
Sophie Penenberg  
Niara Philips  
Ellie Powell  
Renee Ricevuto  
Clementine Shelsky  
Beloved Lilly-En  
Slaughter  
Scarlett Staiano  
Elise Strathers  
Vivienne Swenson  
Milena Vasilyeva  
Frida Velez  
Clementine Vonnegut  
Saadiya Watkins
**PREP**

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TEEN LEVEL 6
Willow Abney
Aine Alexander-Mullen
Emily Avram
Bozhidara Azmanova
Maalak Bouzraa
Palmares Bustamante
Margaret Callahan
Emma Callahan
Owen Casey
Ishani Chatterjee
Oliver Claussell-Carlsen
Hannah Dawes
Brune de Vivie
Kathryn Dicus
Ruby Foster
Nathalie Gilrain Portillo
Maxine Goods
Selayah Gray
Shekinah Griffith
Josephine Hausig
Hannah Hojraj
Victoria Johnson
Leah Josephson
Georgiana Kriegsmann
Palma Leth
Holly Marescot
Sasha Medvinsky
Nia Nelson
Kaitlin Pearson
Kharla Pinney-Lopez
Sayuri Shoykhet
Gracie Silverman
Malana Simms
Livia St. Lewis
Aya Stern
Jossette Sullivan
Vaikuntha Tamayo
Marisa Triola
George Truman
Chaya Weinshenker
Michelle Zaikina
Danielle Zinman

Recordings of the Chorus have been featured in major motion pictures, commercials, and live events, including several tracks in The National’s new concept album I Am Easy To Find, a new work by Radiohead’s Thom Yorke for rag & bone’s Spring 2016 collection, Chanel Paris’s 2019 Capsule campaign featuring Pharrell Williams, and Beyoncé and Jay-Z’s OTR II World Tour. As a bold commissioner and producer of new music, the Chorus has introduced into the repertoire more than 120 original works and world premieres by contemporary composers, including collaborations with Pulitzer Prize-winner Caroline Shaw, Blues and R&B powerhouse Toshi Reagon, iconic British DJ Bishi, The National’s Bryce Dessner, and ubiquitous indie-classical superstar Nico Muhly.

Brooklyn Youth Chorus has garnered a strong reputation as an arts producer. In 2019, Silent Voices: Lovestate premiered Off-Broadway at The New Victory Theater. Previous productions include the first two installments of the inclusive, social justice-oriented Silent Voices series (BAM 2017; National Sawdust 2018); Black Mountain Songs (BAM Next Wave Festival 2014); and Tell the Way (St. Ann’s Warehouse 2011). The Chorus has released two albums through New Amsterdam Records—Silent Voices (2018) and Black Mountain Songs (2017)—and has appeared at important contemporary music festivals including the Ecstatic Music Festival, MusicNOW, 21c Liederabend, Barbican Mountain and Waves Festival, and the PROTOTYPE Festival.

Founded in 1992, Brooklyn Youth Chorus has served nearly 6,000 students over the course of its history, currently involving more than 700 students in its core after-school and public-school outreach programs. The Chorus’s professional faculty teach a wide range of repertoire and styles using founding artistic director Dianne Berkun Menaker’s proven Cross-Choral Training® method, emphasizing healthy and versatile vocal technique, music theory, sight-singing and ear training. Classes take place at their Cobble Hill headquarters and neighborhood locations in Bay Ridge, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Brooklyn Heights, Crown Heights, Red Hook, and Sunset Park, Brooklyn.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DIANNE BERKUN MENAKER is the Founder & Artistic Director of Brooklyn Youth Chorus. Under her visionary leadership, the Chorus has become one of the most highly regarded ensembles in the country and has stretched the artistic boundaries for the youth chorus. Hailed by The New York Times as "a remarkable choral conductor," Ms. Berkun Menaker has prepared choruses for performances with acclaimed conductors, including Alan Gilbert, Gustavo Dudamel, and Marin Alsop.

Most notably, she prepared the Chorus for its 2002 debut with the New York Philharmonic in John Adams's On the Transmigration of Souls, the recording for which the Chorus won a Grammy Award in 2005. Ms. Berkun Menaker has also prepared the Chorus for appearances and recordings with artists such as Barbra Streisand, Sir Elton John, Philip Glass, Grizzly Bear, John Legend, Natasha Bedingfield, and Alicia Keys.

She has developed an active commissioning program, born out of a desire to showcase the Chorus’s versatility and uniquely beautiful sound and has collaborated with some of the most important composers of our time.

Ms. Berkun Menaker is a regular choral clinician and teaching artist for such organizations as the New York Philharmonic and The Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall and has also presented workshops and master classes for New York University, New York State School Music Association, the American Choral Directors Association, and the New York City Department of Education. She is the creator of the Chorus’s Cross-Choral Training® program, a proven holistic and experiential approach to developing singers in a group setting encompassing both voice and musicianship pedagogy.

Mezzo-soprano REBECCA RINGLE KAMAREI’s performances have brought acclaim for her “outstanding” (Washington Post) voice of “otherworldly luminousness” (The New York Times) on international opera and concert stages. During her 2019-2020 season, she returns to the Metropolitan Opera for productions of Manon, Akhnaten and La Cenerentola. On the concert stage, she performs four programs celebrating Erich Korngold’s legacy with Bard Music Festival and Orchestra NOW, Ravel’s 3 poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé with the Norwalk Symphony and Berlioz’s Les nuits d’été with the Missoula Symphony. She appears in recital with Bryan Wagorn in works by Gustav and Alma Mahler with the renowned Aspect Chamber Music Series. Outside of the classical music world, Ringle Kamarei contributes as part of the PERFORMA Biennial art festival in New York with artist Tara Subkoff presented by the Hole Gallery. The 2020-2021
season brings a return to the Metropolitan Opera and a debut with Boston Baroque.

In 2013, Ringle Kamarei debuted with the Metropolitan Opera as Rossweise in Die Walküre and has joined them for productions including Marnie, Cyrano de Bergerac, The Death of Klinghoffer, Elektra, The Nose, Nixon in China, and Rigoletto. Other performances include art song and oratorio at Carnegie and Avery Fisher Halls and with Marlboro, Ravinia, and Bard Music Festivals, title roles in Handel’s Ariodante with the Princeton Festival and Marnie with Metropolitan Opera Workshops, Dido in Dido and Aeneas with the Macau International Music Festival in China and further appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Oratorio Society of New York, Orchestra Giuseppi Verdi di Milano, New York City Opera, American Opera Projects, and Washington National Opera.

Ms. Ringle Kamarei attended Oberlin College where she received highest honors in Comparative Literature, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, and Yale School of Music.

Program Director and Men’s Ensemble Conductor, KRISTOPHER BURKE has been a member of the Brooklyn Youth Chorus staff since 2011. While under his direction, the Men’s Ensemble has performed with the New York Philharmonic, C4 Choral Music Collective, Young at Heart Chorus and others at BAM, Lincoln Center, the United States Capitol Building, the National Hispanic Caucus’s Annual Awards Gala, Kings Theatre, (le) poisson rouge, WQXR’s The Greene Space, and most recently at the Brooklyn Museum with the Metropolitan Opera. As a singer Mr. Burke has performed with Os Ensemble and C4 Choral Music Collective. He received his B.M. in Music Education from Shepherd University and a M.M. in Vocal Performance from Shenandoah Conservatory. He has also studied with conductor Rudolph Palmer; voice teachers Barbara Stenger and Dr. Byron Jones; and is a former member of Carnegie Hall’s Music Educators Workshop.

Conductor and pianist JEAN SOPHIE KIM has performed as a concerto soloist, recitalist and chamber player throughout the world. She has performed at the Alcazar Palace in Seville, Weill Recital Hall in New York, Fine Arts Building in Chicago and the Banff Centre in Canada, among others. She has degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and the University of Western Ontario. Ms. Kim’s piano teachers include James Tocco, Constance Keene, and Sonja Behrens. Her vocal coaches include Veronica Villaroel and Matthew Anchel. She has studied conducting with Simon Carrington and
collaborated with songwriters from the Songwriting Academy in the UK and also Foxgrove Studios in New York. She has worked on the creative team for the David Lang’s Mile Long Opera in 2018 for the architecture firm Diller, Scofidio and Renfro. Ms. Kim will return this summer resident singer and pianist at the Montparnasse Piano Bar in Mykonos, Greece. Ms. Kim teaches music theory, piano and ear-training at CUNY’s Borough of Manhattan Community College. She also maintains a private studio of piano and music theory students in Manhattan.

Originally from Kentucky, **TEGAN MILLER** is a voice teacher, conductor, music director, and performer. She believes with her whole being that music is for everyone and that everyone can sing. Tegan is the Founder and Artistic Director of MTC Music Academy, New York’s premier online school for private lessons. Prior to founding her company, Tegan conducted choirs of all ages and levels and was also the Assistant Conductor and professional singer with the innovative chorus, Choral Chameleon. Her most unusual, but memorable choral directing experience to date involved being one of 25 conductors of over 1000 voices in ‘The Public Domain’ project at The Lincoln Center in 2016. As a Music Director, she most recently directed the off-Broadway hit ‘The Office - the Musical Parody’. As a vocalist, Tegan is a multi-genre performer who has been fortunate enough to sing all over the world, from Carnegie Hall to the Vatican. She was a Semi-Finalist and was awarded the People’s Choice Award at the American Traditions Competition this past February in Savannah, Georgia. Tegan holds a degree in Music Education from the University of Kentucky and has studied Conducting and Ear Training at Juilliard School of Music and the European American Musical Alliance in Paris. She is currently getting her Masters in Choral Conducting at Simpson College and has attended all three levels of training in Somatic Voicework, the Lovetri Method™ and also received training at the CCM Institute at Shenandoah University.

**NICHOLAS PRIOR**, originally from central New Mexico, received his Bachelors and was awarded Outstanding Music Education Graduate from the University of New Mexico, and received his Master of Arts in Music and Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. His choirs were lauded in New Mexico, named the 2016 NMMEA State Honor Choir. Nicholas was recognized by the New Mexico Music Educators Association as the New and Emerging Music Educator of the Year in 2015. Nicholas has also conducted with the Canticum Novum Singers of NYC, the Albuquerque Boy Choir, the New Mexico Kodály Institute, the UNM Children’s Chorus, SCMEA, Regional Honor Choirs all throughout New Mexico, and was the 2019 NMACDA
All-State Elementary Chorus Conductor. He also works as a professional singer, arranger, composer, adjudicator, panelist, and producer here in Brooklyn.

**KIENA WILLIAMS** is a versatile, classically trained vocalist and conductor born and raised in Brooklyn. She is a Prep and Teen Level 6 conductor. She also currently serves as a chorus manager for the Junior Ensemble. Prior to joining Brooklyn Youth Chorus, she served as the department head of the arts program at Camp Matoaka for Girls in Smithfield, ME for four summers. There she provided vocal instruction, choreographed, and assistant directed over ten fully-staged musicals with young girls aged 8-15. As a young artist her diverse musical background and experiences greatly influence her teaching style. Ms. Williams continues to travel nationally and internationally as a featured soloist and chorister. She recently performed with the International Lyric Academy in Tarquinia, Italy during the 2017 Tuscia Opera Festival. She also currently serves as a section leader at The First Unitarian Congregational Society of Brooklyn. She received her B.A. from Penn State University.

**ERIC WILLIAMSON** serves as Director of Music at Mount Holiness Temple in Hackensack, NJ. Choirs under his direction have performed at churches in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. As an active member of the American Choral Director’s Association, Music Educators Association of New York City, Chorus America, and the Gospel Music Workshop of America, he has performed at regional and national conferences. Mr. Williamson is a young lyric tenor who has performed nationwide and overseas as a soloist. Recent performances include New York Fashion Week with designer Pyer Moss, the Mile Long Opera on the New York City High line, domestic/international tours with the Essence of Joy Alumni Singers, and recurring roles with the International Lyric Academy in Italy. A native of Teaneck, NJ, Mr. Williamson received a B.A. in Music and a minor in African & African American studies from the Pennsylvania State University. He is currently finishing a M.A. in Music & Music Education at Teachers College, Columbia University and teaches 4th-7th grade choir at the Teachers College Community School.

**RACHEL DEVORE FOGARTY** (piano) is a collaborative pianist and composer. In addition to her work at Brooklyn Youth Chorus, she also serves as Pianist/assistant artistic director to the Young New Yorkers’ Chorus Women’s Ensemble. Ms. DeVore Fogarty has accompanied master classes for
Shirlee Emmons, Sharon Sweet, Cliff Jackson, Bob Kline, Michael Cassara, Jen Waldman, and Merri Sugarman as well as serving as rehearsal pianist for the national tours of the musicals Elf and Anything Goes. Her choral works have been performed by ensembles in the U.S. and internationally, including VocalEssence, St. Olaf’s College, Oklahoma State University, the University of Kentucky, Baylor University, Hollins University, and the ACDA National High School Women’s Honor Choir. She received her M.M. in Composition and B.M. in Piano from Belmont University in Nashville, TN.

**ALEEZA MEIR** (piano) From the greenhouse of a homeschooled childhood through intensive personal mentoring from acclaimed artists including Malcolm Bilson and Steven Stucky, Aleeza Meir is accomplished on piano, organ and harpsichord. She began her career as a staff pianist at the Ithaca College School of Music at the age of 16. Besides all the major concert halls of NYC, she has performed nationally and internationally in a wide variety of venues and capacities ranging from continuo player to concerto soloist. She placed second in the International Piano Festival competition in Bechyně (CZ) and the Otto B. Schoepfle national organ competition (USA). She served as pianist for the Boys Choir of Harlem, and has been John Rutter’s go-to keyboardist in NYC since arriving in 2002, performing in more than 50 concerts at Carnegie Hall. She is faculty pianist for Middlebury Language Schools’ professional ‘German for Singers’ program and music director for historic Old First Reformed Church in Park Slope. As pianist for BYC’s Concert and Junior Ensembles she regularly performs premieres of works of today’s leading composers, and appears in festivals including MusicNOW, Ecstatic Music Festival, Bang on a Can, and numerous broadcasts on WQXR. Aleeza is also the founder and director of Baroquelyn, a Brooklyn-based baroque chamber orchestra that marries historic performance practice with a fresh, modern, and local take on well-loved old music. Please visit www.baroquelyn.com.

**MATTHEW HOLLIDAY** (choreographer/dancer) is a multidisciplinary artist and Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy alumnus from Brooklyn, NY. A recent graduate of Amherst College, Matthew majored in Theater & Dance and Black Studies and completed his senior honors thesis in choreography, which won the Raymond Keith Bryant Award for best performance of the 18-19 academic year. During his time at Amherst, Matthew participated in several repertory projects including Camille A. Brown’s New Second Line and Bill T. Jones’ Story/Time. He continues to create projects rooted in both contemporary and Afro-diasporic styles of movement and storytelling. He is super excited about the “Stars I Shall Find” Men’s Ensemble project and would like to thank conductor Kris Burke for the opportunity to collaborate and create more magic!
BROOKLYN YOUTH CHORUS ANNUAL SUPPORT

Brooklyn Youth Chorus is supported in part by: public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, in addition to the following generous institutions and individuals. Annual Fund contributions are from January 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020.

This year, we offer very special thanks to our family of supporters. Your generosity has kept hundreds of young voices raised together in song across all five boroughs and beyond. While concertizing may look a little different this year, our work is full of the same excitement and excellence as ever, thanks to your support. We salute your kindness, dedication, and steadfast belief in us during our 29th season.

PLATINUM CIRCLE
$100,000 and over
The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Commissioner Gonzalo Casals
Charles J. and Irene F. Hamm

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE
$50,000 and over
The Howard Gilman Foundation
The New York Community Trust
The New York State Council on the Arts
The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation

GUARDIAN CIRCLE
$25,000 and over
Jacqueline* and Joseph Aguanno
The Altman Foundation
Sara and Sam* Nana-Sinkam
The National Endowment for the Arts
Jennifer Sage & Nicolas Grabar*
The Tiger Baron Foundation
Dick Yancey*

VISIONARY CIRCLE
$5,000 and over
The Aaron Copland Fund for Music
Raquel A. Alejandre & Daniel Gastel
Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel
The BMI Foundation

HONOR CIRCLE
$10,000 and over
Anjali* and Hemant Baijal
The Barker Welfare Foundation
Katherine* and Gary Bartholomaeus
Con Edison
Marie Derosa* & Richard McNeil
The Fannie and Morris Sklaw Foundation
Gail Erickson*
Goldman Sachs

The Hyde and Watson Foundation
The Jean and Louis Dreyfus Foundation
New York City Council, Speaker Corey Johnson
The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation
Karen Rockey*
Narcissa Titman*
Joyce Wu

The Altman Foundation
Sara and Sam* Nana-Sinkam
The National Endowment for the Arts
Jennifer Sage & Nicolas Grabar*
The Tiger Baron Foundation
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