



Conductors **Chris Shepard, Artistic Director, CONCORRA**
Dr. Gaylon Robinson, Director of Choral Activities, CCSU

Accompanist **Allan Conway**

Program

Program run time is 80 minutes with no intermission.

CONCORRA, CCSU & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Chris Shepard, Conductor

Ride the Chariot

Hear My Prayer

CCSU & CONCORRA

Gaylon Robinson, Conductor

I Can Tell the World

This Little Light of Mine—Jermaine Woodard

Chris Shepard, Conductor

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

Ezekiel Saw de Wheel

SOLO VOICES

Walk Together Children—Katherine Henriques

Deep River—Jermaine O. Woodard, Jr.

My Good Lord's Done Been Here—Margaret Tyler

CONCORRA

Gaylon Robinson, Conductor

Good News, the Chariot's Comin'

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me—Steven Mitchell

The Battle of Jericho

Chris Shepard, Conductor

Elijah Rock

Abide With Me

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

CONCORRA, CCSU & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Gaylon Robinson, Conductor

Ride On King Jesus

Music Down In My Soul

CONCORA Singers

Soprano

Nancy Hemstreet Eaton
Louise Fauteux
Jennifer Ferrand-Kelly
Stacey Grimaldi
Jennifer Lamson
Christine Fote Macaluso

Alto

Katie Hart
Linda Helmke
Kelley Elizabeth Kelly
Cynthia Mellon
Debi Newirth
Margaret Tyler

Tenor

Travis Benoit
Michael Bogatay
Richard Diamond
Steven A. Mitchell
Peter Perkins

Bass

Jonathan Clune
Ken Downes
Evan Lambert
Ethan Nash
Andrey Stolyarov
Jermaine O. Woodard, Jr.

For singers' bios,
see the link on our home
page at www.concora.org
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you there



CCSU Choir

Soprano

Thea Collins
Liliana Cruz
Brynn Kelly
Andrea Rodriguez
Marilyn Tuil

Alto

Ericka Alfred
Matylda Biskupska
Katherine Henriques

Bass

Logan Foular
Nathaniel Hintz
Ezekiel Zurita

HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS

CONCORA is pleased to welcome the participation of nine students from area high schools in this concert. We deeply appreciate the support of their music teachers.*

Soprano

Hannah Brunje
Janina Howard

Oxford High School, Emily Marquardt*
RHAM High School, Bailey McKiernan*

Alto

Kilee Simon
Ailyn Tiul

Guilford High School, Rachael Allen*
Litchfield High School, Peter Perkins*

Tenor

Nate Cason
Julian Diamond

Ledyard High School, Melanie Cometa*
Ellington High School, Richie Diamond*

Bass

Henry Denton
Issac Mancini
William Zeppieri

Ledyard High School, Melanie Cometa*
Farmington High School, Leslie Imse*
Glastonbury High School, Ethan Nash*

PROGRAM NOTES

Dr. Gaylon Robinson

Perhaps no arranger has been more instrumental in revitalizing the spiritual than Moses Hogan. During his lifetime, he published 88 arrangements of spirituals – most of which are for mixed voices. Of these arrangements, eight are for solo voice. Thanks to his work as a director of several choral ensembles, these pieces have become further entrenched in the repertoire and the public consciousness.

Hogan's spirituals reflect an elevated sense of creativity and craftsmanship where the melodic line is largely maintained. At the same time, the lower voices provide dynamic rhythmic contrast previously not seen in the arrangements of earlier arrangers. When asked about his spiritual arrangements, Hogan first points to his upbringing in the African American Baptist Church. He was particularly interested in and intrigued with the *a cappella* settings of the spirituals he heard as part of his religious worship experience. When he later penned arrangements of those spirituals, he worked to preserve the melody and meaning but was not necessarily concerned with replicating the sounds he heard at church. Thus, these arrangements became the fusion of Hogan's classical and Baptist training.

Created during slavery, these folk songs frequently used religious subjects for much of their expression.

Many spirituals contain themes from Jewish (Old Testament) religious traditions, with Moses, David, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Elijah making frequent appearances. In the life of the slave, Jesus represents the ultimate hero. *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* is an example of Hogan's ability to reimagine the traditional setting of this spiritual and offer a new treatment of the harmonic palate beneath the soloist. *Ride On King Jesus* is a rousing multiple division setting which features one of the few occasions where he writes for choir and piano. The syncopated piano accompaniment further enhances the imagery of Jesus riding proudly on a white horse. His *Elijah Rock* also represents the departure from the traditional harmonization of the spiritual while adding imaginative rhythmic lines intricately woven into the fabric of the melodic statements.

Hogan founded and conducted three ensembles that primarily performed his arrangements: the New World Ensemble, the Moses Hogan Chorale, and the Moses Hogan Singers – an exceptional group. Still, Hogan felt the need to develop an ensemble of professional singers; he did just that after the Chorale completed its final touring season in 1999. This new ensemble, the Moses Hogan Singers, was nationally auditioned; all were professional musicians. He conducted this group until he fell ill. However, the hundreds of performances and recordings by the Moses Hogan Singers helped to cement his arrangements as an essential staple in the repertoire of every choral library.

Dr. Gaylon Robinson is Director of Choral Activities at Central Connecticut State University. A passionate advocate of music education and a veteran public school music teacher, he has led his choirs to appearances at the state, regional and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association. Dr. Robinson has had the privilege of conducting choral performances in noted concert venues including David Geffen Hall in New York's Lincoln Center, the Knight Concert Hall in Miami, FL, and the Cannon Center in Memphis, TN. He will make his Carnegie Hall debut in March, 2024.

Chris Shepard is in his eighth season as Artistic Director of CONCOR. He also leads the Worcester Chorus and the Masterwork Chorus in New Jersey, which performs Handel's *Messiah* each year at Carnegie Hall. With these choirs, Chris has performed a wide range of repertoire, collaborating with a number of major orchestras in venues that include Lincoln Center

and Radio City Music Hall in New York, as well as the Royal Festival Hall in London and the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. As guest conductor, Chris has led the New Haven Symphony, Sydney's Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and the Al-Kamandjati Choir and Orchestra in Palestine; he was also a chorusmaster for the Sydney 2000 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

A conductor with a particular affinity for the choral music of J. S. Bach, Chris founded the Sydneian Bach Choir in Sydney, Australia, an ensemble that has performed all of Bach's choral cantatas as well as all of his major choral works. He has taught at the Taft School, Sydney Grammar School, and Holy Cross College; he is currently Music Director at St. John's Episcopal Church in Stamford, CT. As a pianist and keyboard continuist, Chris holds degrees from The Hartt School, Yale and University of Sydney. His Ph.D. dissertation won the American Choral Directors Association's 2012 Julius Herford Prize for outstanding doctoral thesis in choral music.

CONCORA gratefully acknowledges the generous funders of this concert



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CONCORA (Connecticut Choral Artists) has been praised as “one of the premier musical forces in the state,” “one of our region’s priceless musical assets,” and “a model of choral artistry.” Founded by Richard Coffey in 1974 and now in its 49th season, the ensemble of professional singers is renowned throughout the region for artistic excellence and enriching performances.

Under the direction of Chris Shepard, the ensemble’s versatility is displayed in its wide range of repertoire. Ensembles from the choir’s roster of singers produce an extraordinary range of choral color and dynamic range for each program and performance space.

Choral music has the power to cross cultural boundaries and to move hearts. CONCORA’s mission to reach a broad and diverse audience extends not only to the choral aficionado, but also to those who may be touched by the beauty of the choral art for the first time.



CONCORA
c/o South Church
90 Main Street, New Britain CT 06051
www.concora.org

John Avignone, Managing Director
admin@concora.org (860) 313-1410

Sunday, March 19 • 4:00 pm at South Church, New Britain

Fauré’s Requiem and Beatitude Mass for the Homeless by Henry Mollicone
Members of The South Church Chancel Choir and CONCORA

Earth Day - Saturday, April 22 • 3:00 pm

A Passion for the Planet by Geoffrey Hudson
Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford

