

GRAND CITIES CHILDREN'S CHOIR
2008-2009



REFLECTIONS
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Friday, November 21st, 7:00 p.m.
United Lutheran Church
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Reflections

Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything. —Plato

Our theme celebrates the wondrous ability of song to express all of the colors of the world around us. In its mirror hope, love, longing, joy, and every subtle emotion are interpreted into the brilliant spectrum of pure imagination.

Special thanks to Brittany Molmen, GCCC Alum, for her artistic representation of this year's theme, Reflections.

PROGRAM

The Moon Andy Beck
Child of Tomorrow Mark Patterson
Two by Two Donnelly/L.O. Strid

Poco Voce

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed And Burnin'arr. Greg Gilpin
The Path To The Moon Eric H. Thiman
You Raise Me Up..... arr. Roger Emerson

Canto Voce

Fairest Lady from *The Nursery Rhyme Cantata* Nick Page
My Lord, What a Morning..... arr. Sue Ellen Page
O Salutaris Hostia from *Missa Brevis* Leo Delibes

Rachel Abbe, Violin; Cody Oss, Cello; John Peterson, Violin

Galop from *Solfege Suite* Ken Burns

Accordo Voce

How Can I Keep From Singing..... Andy Beck
O Nata Lux Tom Porter
Michael Row That Gospel Boat..... Greg Gilpin

Primo Voce

Give Us Hope Jim Papoulis/Francisco J. Nunez
Speakers: Alexie Randall, Maggie Nistler, Kaitlin Mankie, & Mary Lockett

Carino Voce

A Trilogy of Knighthood..... Julie Garnder Bray

Maschio Voce

Psalm 100..... Rene Clausen/Drew Collins
Lynn Liepold & Rachel Abbe, piano

Workin' for the Dawn of Peace..... Civil War Songs/Ron Jeffers
Coffee in a Cardboard Cup Fred Ebb & John Kander/Kevin Robison

Divo Voce

How Many Christmases Music by Jim Papoulis, Lyrics by Mike Greenly
featuring Job Christensen, soloist

Here's To Song..... Allister MacGillivray/Lydia Adams

Grand Cities Children's Choirs

GRAND CITIES CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Poco Voce

Connie Stordalen, director
Roxanne Gessler, accompanist
Darrel Corey, GG Coordinator

Rebecca Avery
Adele Benoit
Alexis Brown
Emily Denman
Sarah Ellsworth
Sarah Fortman
Nick Hovey
Maia Jackson

Jakob Jonasson
Erika Jones
Isabel Krogh
Lauryn MacLeod
Nathan Mankie
Mercedes McGee
Madison Musich
Brianna Myrold

Emilee Nelson
Mya Patridge
Katherine Pauls
Nathan Peasland
Lauren Ritterman
Anthony Schreier
Madison Schultz
Nicholas Smith

Gabriel Trottier
Sydney Warcup
Kloe Wavra
Trevor Weiland
Alexis Welsh
Julia Werth
Maeve Williams

Canto Voce

Ruth Ann Tuseth, director
Lynn Liepold, accompanist
Laurie Holcomb, GG Coordinator

Anna Amundson
Emily Anderson
Michael Anderson
Jacob Austin
Emma Bostrom
Jordan Brucklacher
Tiahna Burian
Seth Cline
Ben Davis
Elizabeth Dessellier
Emma Dietrich

Katie Gabik
Talazia Garceau
Frankie Good
Elliot Grant
Tina Gray
Chelsea Grew
Hannah Holt
Jarrett Ladd
Alyssa Lambrecht
Elaine Larson
Shannon Lee

Gabrielle Mangan
Myah Martin
Grace Netz
Ava Niemeier
Madisynn Noeldner
Sophia Oen
Rebecca Rage
Calvin Schaumburg
Gretchen Schreiner
Kasidi Scott
Anna Shallman

Jaryn Stading
Jenson Thompson
Rebecca Warnke
Caitlin Weeks
Galina Weeks
Ashley White
Peter Wysocki
Xiaolan You
Kristen Zettler
Emily Zilka
Sarah Zilka

Accordo Voce

Geoff Mercer, director
Cassel Everson, accompanist
Jeanne & Kim Thibert, GG Coordinators

Megan Anderson
Alexis Antonenko
Kyra Bostad
Shanlee Cox
Lauren Craig
Madison Dangerfield
Francine Dong
Emily Dosch
Kaytlin Frisch

Alexandra Hoff
Jared Hollingworth
Maggie Jensen
Jessica Johnson
Kendra Jones
Elizabeth Lockett
Whitney Longie
Michelle Manthei
Breanna McLain

Brianna Molmen
Elizabeth Netz
Brinna Richtsmeier
Cali Richtsmeier
April Roeder
Grace Roehl
Melanie Schindler
Abby Scorsone
Brianna Seeba

Emily Shimpa
Alyssa Smith
Zachary Straw
Alex Stroth
Amanda Torok
Bryce Weeks
Tony Wek
Ellen Werth

Primo Voce

Becky Mercer, director
Mary Ann Devig, accompanist
Darrel Cory, GG Coordinator

Kaitlin Anderson
Brianna Becks
Zane Borth
Ana Brakel
Lena Brakel
Julia Brucklacher
Brenna Dessellier
Jessica Ellingboe
Nicholas Ewens
Christian Feldmann-Steele
Samantha Fortman
Chris Frech

Joe Frech
Felicia Gerszewski
Hayden Holt
Kathren Humble
Jack Jenó
Carly Kasowski
Poyi Lai
Shayna Lambrecht
Chloe Larson
Rebecca Laturmus
Sarah Lockett
Abbi Machart

Erin MacLeod
Kaitlin Mankie
Jessica Marynik
Sam Mattice
Ivy McGurran
Eric Millette
Holly Mitzel
RJ Morin
Maggie Nistler
Alaina Patry
Joseph Peterson
Alexie Randall

Kaitly Randall
Camron Roehl
Ryan Schuster
Rachel Scorsone
Lindsey Shimpa
Jaden Stading
Katie Svendsen
Angel Vondal
Angela Vrolyk

Divo Voce

Melanie Popejoy, director
Lynn Liepold, accompanist
JoAnn Cory, GG Coordinator

Laura Allensworth
Jill Ames
Leah Biberdorf
Phillip Brockman
Sarah Coen-Tuff
Michael Colenso
Nina Coster
Beau Cummings

Matthew Davis
Kenneth Dessellier
Kenzie Dorsher
Audra Hendrickson
Andrea Hollingworth
Ramsey Jones
Connor Joseph
Ryan King

Mariah Kuntz
Chris Liepold
Mary Lockett
Lynsi Machart
Kameron McGregor
Evan Moser
Rachel Quanbeck
Tori Remer

Jonathan Schindler
Cole Sherwood
Ian Sherwood
Rachel Svendsen
Marina Tahtamouni
Lynneah Thompson
Tyler Wicken

Grazioso Guidares (GGs)

JoAnn Cory – GG Program Director
Darrel Cory, Laurie Holcomb, Jeanne Thibert, & Kim Thibert – GG Coordinators

Rachel Abbe
Megan Ault
Rachel Biberdorf
Joel Braxton
Niall Davis
Rose Dennis
David Ewens
Carly Flaagan

Danika Gjerding
Malena Hackett
Shane Harlow
Alison Holcomb
Daniel Holcomb
Taylor Holm
Brandon Howe
Mary Jenó

Jacob Jensen
Amelia Klaus
Nathaniel Lockett
Alexa Lovelien Marto
Katherine McNamara
Brock Moser
Michon Pritchett

Anna Pung
Mary Pung
Brent Shrum
Jenna Spicer
Caitlin Staples
Jacy Thibert
Laura Woods

Grand Cities Children's Choir Faculty, Staff, & Parent Board

Directors

Melanie Popejoy, Founder & Artistic Director
Becky Mercer, Associate Director
Geoff Mercer, Associate Director
Ruth Ann Tuseth, Associate Director
Connie Stordalen, Associate Director

Accompanists

Mary Ann Devig
Cassel Everson
Roxanne Gessler
Lynn Liepold

Parent Board & Staff

Peg Biberdorf, Performance Chair
Peter & Karla Coen-Tuff, Concert Masters
JoAnn Cory, GG Program Director
John & Beth Davis, Co-Vice Presidents
Val Jensen, Financial Assistant
Lynn Liepold, Uniform Chair
Kevin & Peggy Lockett, Co-Presidents
Greg Nelson, Finance Manager
Barb Nistler, Social Chair (7-9)
Kecia Peters, Managing Director
Sharilyn Richtsmeier, Social Chair (3-6)
Carol Svendson, Member At Large
Jeanne Thibert, Secretary
Anne Wysocki, Historian

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Job Christensen is currently the Artistic Director of North Dakota Ballet Company and Apprentice School and one of the producers of Crimson Creek Collegiate Players. He trained at the Musical Theatre Department at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He has danced and performed all over the world and on Broadway/ national tours of "Cats", "Ragtime", "Nancy LaMott and Friends", "25 years of Broadway", and regionally with Music Theatre of Wichita, Chicago Shakespeare, Marriott Lincolnshire, Frost Fire Mountain, and the Crimson Creek Players. He has directed and choreographed shows such as "Falsettoland", "Barnum", "Meet Me in St. Louis", "Jesus Christ Superstar", "Pump Boys and Dinettes", "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", "Oliver", "Annie", "Cinderella", "Chicago", "The Boyfriend", "Hello, Dolly", "And the World Goes Around", "Oklahoma", "She Loves Me", "Good News", "Peter Pan", "The Fantasticks" with Bismarck's Sleepy Hollow Summer Theater, "Grease" at UND Theatre Arts Department, "Sweeney Todd", "Phantom", "Cabaret" and produced, directed and choreographed "Sweet Charity", "Candide." He has also worked with numerous elementary schools, high schools, middle schools, and colleges all over the North Dakota region including Central High School Drama Department, Red River High School Department, West Fargo High School, Wahpeton High School, SPA Co., Sleepy Hollow Summer Theatre, North Dakota State University and UND Department of Theatre Arts to name a few.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS & ACCOMPANISTS

Mary Ann Devig studied piano with Sergio Gallo while a student at UND and graduated in 2006 with a BA degree in music. Mary Ann also accompanies the Senior Choir, directs the bell choir and coordinates traditional worship services at Calvary Lutheran Church. Prior to beginning her study of music at UND, Mary Ann worked as a registered nurse for 18 years. She resides in Grand Forks with her husband Pat, and daughter Vienna.

Cassel Everson has been teaching elementary and middle school band students in the Grand Forks Public Schools since 1982. Her degrees include a Bachelor of Science from North Dakota State University, and a Masters of Education from the University of North Dakota. She is the principal bassoonist with the Greater Grand Forks Symphony and a charter member of Higher Ground, the contemporary worship team of Sharon Lutheran Church. Cassel is an accomplished instrumentalist in percussion, woodwinds, and brass. She has been a proud parent supporter of the Grand Cities Children's Choir since the inaugural season and an equally proud SPA parent supporter since 1992.

Roxanne Gessler received her Bachelor of Music degree from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN and her Masters of Music degree from the University of Arizona, Tucson. She is currently the Director of Music Ministries at Sharon Lutheran Church. Mrs. Gessler has been a private piano instructor for the past 26 years. Her past experiences include teaching at UND and U of A, accompanying the Tucson Children's Choir, and performing in many piano, vocal, and chamber concerts. Her daughter, Lacey, is a charter member of GCCC. Mrs. Gessler has enjoyed every concert and thoroughly embraces the nurturing philosophy of GCCC and the opportunity to be a participating member.

Lynn Liepold is an accomplished pianist and organist with over 30 years of musical experience. She has served as accompanist for numerous choirs and soloists, both vocal and instrumental throughout the upper Midwest. She is currently the Director of Music Ministries at United Lutheran Church. Mrs. Liepold is also a gifted seamstress and is currently working with UND Space Studies and NASA in the creation of a new space suit for the upcoming missions to the moon and mars. She also owns and operates Lynn's Sewing for You. She and her husband, Loren, are proud supporters of GCCC. Their son, Chris, is a singer in the Divo Voce choir. Their daughter, Bonnie, a sophomore at Minn. State Univ. - Mankato is a graduate of the GCCC program. They also have a son, Mark, who is a senior at the U of M, Minneapolis.

Geoff Mercer is excited to join the Grand Cities Children's Choir. He has been involved in many capacities in the Summer Performing Arts Program over the last 4 years, most recently as the musical director of "Oklahoma!". Geoff is starting his third year as a choir director at Grand Forks Central and 8th year teaching vocal music. Mr. Mercer's duties at Grand Forks Central include teaching Training Choir, Women's Choir, Chamber Choir, and voice lessons. A Grand Forks native, Geoff is proud to be a product of the Grand Forks Public Schools music

programs. Geoff graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocal Music Education from North Dakota State University. He is currently working on a Master of the Arts degree in Choral Conducting at the same institution. Mr. Mercer is a member of North Dakota Music Educators Association, American Choral Directors Association, and the Chicago Bears Fan Club. Geoff lives in Grand Forks with his wife Becky, son Tommy, and golden retriever, Jake.

Becky Mercer is very excited to be spending her fourth year with the Grand Cities Children's Choir. She received her Bachelor of Science in Music Education from North Dakota State University. Mrs. Mercer taught four years in Pierz, MN where she directed choral music for grades six through twelve. She has been a member of the SPA voice faculty since 2005 and is currently teaching her fourth year of sixth grade music at Valley Middle School. Mrs. Mercer loves spending her free time with her husband Geoff, son Tommy, and golden retriever Jake.

Melanie Popejoy is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Grand Cities Children's Choir. She holds bachelors and masters degrees in music education from Central Missouri State University, and has taught in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas prior to coming to North Dakota. In her 28 years of teaching, Mrs. Popejoy has taught at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. She has earned many teaching awards, conducted honor choirs, and regularly serves as a guest clinician and adjudicator. She was the 2006 Athena Award recipient from the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce, and the 2004 Sam's Club North Dakota "Teacher of the Year." She is currently the Director of Choirs and Vocal Music Instructor at Valley Middle School in the Grand Forks Public School District.

Connie Stordalen earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from North Dakota State University in 1998. She is an elementary music specialist and is currently in her 11th year of teaching at Century Elementary School in the Grand Forks Public School district. Some of her additional musical experiences include teaching private piano and voice lessons for 11 years, vocal instructor with Grand Forks SPA and Musical Assistant for the production of "Babes on Broadway" in the SPA 1999 season. Mrs. Stordalen has been a member and featured soloist with the Grand Forks Master Chorale, performing in a CanAm chorus in Winnipeg and Handel's Messiah. Mrs. Stordalen enjoys spending time with her husband Erik, son Konnor and daughter Samantha. Mrs. Stordalen is thrilled to be starting her second year as director of Poco Voce and looks forward to a wonderful year of making music together.

Ruth Ann Tuseth teaches elementary music at Lewis and Clark and Winship Elementary Schools in Grand Forks. She is also the Director of Traditional Worship/Organist at the First Presbyterian Church. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Iowa and her Master of Music degree from the University of North Dakota. Ruth Ann is looking forward to her second year as the director of Canto Voce.

ABOUT GRAND CITIES CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Founded in 2002, the Grand Cities Children's Choir is a performance based, music education program. The mission of the choir is to offer children of the Greater Grand Forks Area the experience of musical artistry and excellence through choral singing in a child centered atmosphere.

The program operates five performing choirs: *Divo Voce*, *Primo Voce*, *Accordo Voce*, *Canto Voce*, and *Poco Voce*. Membership in the program is by audition and offered to boys and girls in grades three through nine. All of the choirs rehearse one evening a week during the academic school year. The Grand Cities Children's Choir program strives to create a spirit of community and understanding through the universal language of music in which all children are encouraged to participate regardless of ethnic, social or economic background.

The Grand Cities Children's Choir program is a division of the Summer Performing Arts Company (SPA). SPA is an educational program that channels the energy of students into positive creativity and teamwork. These aspects, with a greater appreciation for the arts, help shape students into more active members of the Grand Forks Community.

MEMORIES IN MUSIC PROGRAM

The Grand Forks Public Schools Music Program has a program designed to supplement the cost of printed and performed music used in the schools and also provide people with a way to memorialize or honor friends and loved ones. Allison Brooks, a former director for the Grand Cities Children's Choir, suggested the idea of allowing donors to purchase pieces of music to be used in various vocal music programs in the public schools. That idea has expanded to include music used in individual School Choirs, Bands, Orchestras, or Musical Theatre productions. The program also includes the purchase of music, scripts, and costuming for Summer Performing Arts (SPA) productions and music used in the Grand Cities Children's Choir.

The "Memories in Music" program would allow a donor to choose an individual school's music program if they desired to, such as Red River Concert Choir for example. Donors could also ask that funds be used wherever needed most in the School District Music Program. Once a choice has been made for the use of the donated funds, musical selections will be made, and a label will be placed on the music chosen. The label will identify the music, script, or costuming as a "Memories in Music" selection purchased by the donor in honor or in memory of a friend, group, or loved one. Use of this music in the School District will allow the honoree to be remembered every time the selection is performed. All "Memories in Music" selections will be noted in concert and production programs, listing the donor and honoree.

For more information on this great way to preserve the arts in the Grand Forks Public Schools, please contact Mr. Brad Sherwood, Program Administrator, at Red River High School.

GCCC Donors

The Grand Cities Children's Choir is made possible through grants sponsored by the following organizations:



***Myra Foundation
Grand Forks Foundation for Education***

On behalf of the Grand Cities Children's Choir, we wish to recognize the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their support, donations, and financial contributions:

- Grand Forks Public School District
- Red River High School
- United Lutheran Church
- Paulette Tobin & Grand Forks Herald
- Summer Performing Arts
- Josh Anderson, Recording Engineer
- B&N Oil Co.
- Grand Forks Air Force Base
- Sharon Lutheran Church
- Area Music Educators
- Jim Popejoy, Guest Lecturer
- Optimist Club



Concert Etiquette

Out of respect for our musicians and other audience members, we ask that you would enter and exit your seat only between selections. If possible, wait until the audience is applauding before moving. The only exception to this is if you need to remove a restless or crying child. An audio feed of the concert is available in the narthex or in the basement for anyone wishing to enjoy the concert in those settings. Please turn cell phones off or to vibrate and refrain from texting during the performance.

Finally, it is customary to provide vigorous applause for our children at the end of each song and as they enter the performance space. They've worked hard for this day! Thank you!