

CHORAL INSPIRATION

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2007 — 3:00 PM
FIRST FREE METHODIST CHURCH

ORCHESTRA SEATTLE
SEATTLE CHAMBER SINGERS
George Shangrow, conductor

GEORG FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685–1759)
Sinfonia from *Belshazzar's Feast*
Allegro Postillions

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685–1750)
Concerto for Two Violins in d minor, BWV 1043
Vivace
Largo ma non tanto
Allegro
Stephen Provine and Jennifer Caine, violins

HUNTLEY BEYER (b. 1947)
Songs of Illumination, Part One
Inside This Clay Jug
Seashell
Dirty Dinky
At a Child's Baptism
The Lost Voice

– Intermission –

ANTONIO VIVALDI (1675–1741)
Concerto in g minor, F. XII no. 6
Allegro
Largo
Allegro

Melissa Underhill, flute, David Barnes, oboe, Fritz Klein, violin, Jeff Eldridge, bassoon,
Matthew Wyant, 'cello, George Shangrow, harpsichord

HUNTLEY BEYER (b. 1947)
Songs of Illumination, Part Two
The Avowal
Guardian Angel – Jessica Robins-Milanese, soprano
The Beatitudes
If in Your Heart – Jessica Robins-Milanese and Kaye Kofford, sopranos
Magnificat
The Lord's Prayer
WORLD PREMIERE

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Use of cameras and recording equipment is not permitted in the concert hall.



OUR SOLOISTS

STEPHEN PROVINE, violin, grew up in England and studied with Richard Deakin of the Royal Northern College of Music. Stephen was concertmaster of the National Children's Orchestra, Northern Junior Philharmonic and Young Sinfonia, and a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, performing in major venues throughout the country and in Europe. While attending Harvard University, he studied chamber music performance with Robert Levin and was a member of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra and concertmaster of the Bach Society Orchestra. Stephen is currently co-concertmaster of Orchestra Seattle and works as a software design engineer at Microsoft.

JENNIFER CAINE, violin, completed graduate studies in England, where she received Masters degrees in Performance Studies from the Royal College of Music and in Musicology from Oxford University. She also holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard in Music and Slavic Languages and Literatures. Jennifer has performed throughout the U.K. as a founding member of the Knox Piano Trio and in orchestral concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Oxford Philomusica. Jennifer is currently an active chamber musician in the Northwest, having performed with the Odeon Quartet, Sanssouci Ensemble, and on the Simple Measures and Second City chamber music series. For the past two summers, she has also performed at the Olympic Music Festival.

JESSICA ROBINS MILANESE, lyric coloratura soprano, is a magnetic performer who brings a natural, grounded depth to her characters and is known for her sense of humor both on and off the stage. Praised by the *Seattle Times* as a singer "vocally vibrant and admirably graceful...even under fire," she is a versatile artist, comfortable on the opera, concert, musical theater and even puppet theater stage. Most recently, Jessica performed the roles of Héro (*Béatrice et Bénédicte*), Blonde (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*) and Lucy (*The Telephone*) all with Tacoma Opera. Other recent operatic roles include Norina (*Don Pasquale*), Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Marie (*Daughter of the Regiment*) and Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*) which she performed with the 2005 Astoria Music Festival where she was named winner of the Astoria Music Festival Vocal Competition. As a preview artist for the Seattle Opera Guild, Jessica has sung the roles of Olympia (*Les Contes d' Hoffmann*) and Nanetta (*Falstaff*). Jessica joined the Seattle Opera Young Artist's Program in 2004. She performed the role of Pamina in their adaptation of *The Magic Flute* and returned as a guest artist the following season to sing the role of Barbarina in their production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. On the concert stage, Jessica has performed as a soloist with the Bremerton Symphony, Orchestra Seattle, Northwest Sinfonietta, the Yakima Symphony and the Olympia Chamber Orchestra where she recently sang the role of Gabriel in Haydn's *The Creation* and Lieschen in J.S. Bach's *Coffee Cantata*. Jessica grew up in Missoula, Montana, received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Colorado, Boulder and has studied with William Eddy of Tacoma, Washington for the past nine years.

TEXTS

Songs of Illumination

1. **The Clay Jug** by Kabir, trans. Robert Bly
Inside this clay jug are canyons and pine mountains,
and the maker of canyons and pine mountains!
All seven oceans are inside, and hundreds of
millions of stars.
The acid that tests gold is there, and the one who
judges jewels.
And the music from the strings no one touches, and
the source of all water.

If you want the truth, I will tell you the truth:
Friend, listen: the God whom I love is inside.

2. **Seashell** by Frederico Garcia Lorca, trans. Bly
Someone brought me a seashell.
Singing inside
is a sea from a map.
My heart
fills up with water
and little tiny fish,
silvery, shadowy.
Someone brought me a seashell.

3. **Dinky** by Theodore Roethke
O what's the weather in a Beard?
It's windy there, and rather weird,
And when you think the sky has cleared
--Why, there is Dirty Dinky.

Suppose you walk out in a Storm,
With nothing on to keep you warm,
And then step barefoot on a Worm
--Of course, it's Dirty Dinky.

As I was crossing a hot hot Plain,
I saw a sight that caused my pain,
You asked me before, I'll tell you again:
--It *looked* like Dirty Dinky.

Last night you lay a-sleeping? No!
The room was thirty-five below;
The sheets and blankets turned to snow.
--He'd got in: Dirty Dinky.

You'd better watch the things you do.
You'd better watch the things you do.
You're part of him; he's part of you
--*You* may be Dirty Dinky.

4. **At a Child's Baptism** by Vassar Miller
Hold her softly, not for long
Love lies sleeping on your arm,
Shyer than a bird in song,
Quick to fly off in alarm.

It is well that you are wise,
Knowing she for whom you care
Is not yours as prey or prize,
No more to be owned than air.

To your wisdom you add grace,
Which will give your child release
From the ark of your embrace
That she may return with peace

Till she joins the elemental.
God himself now holds your daughter
Softly, too, by this most gentle
Rein of all, this drop of water.

5. **The Lost Voice** by Lorca, trans. Bly
The small boy is looking for his voice.
(The King of the Crickets had it.)
The boy was looking
in a drop of water for his voice.

I don't want the voice to speak with;
I will make a ring from it
that my silence will wear
on its little finger.

The small boy was looking
in a drop of water for his voice.
(Far away the captured voice
was getting dressed up like a cricket.)

6. **The Avowal** by Denise Levertov
As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall, and float
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns
that all-surrounding grace.

7. **Guardian Angel** by Rolf Jacobsen, trans. Bly
I am the bird that flutters against your window in the
morning,
and your closest friend, whom you can never know,
blossoms that light up for the blind.

I am the glacier shining over the woods, so pale,
and heavy voices from the cathedral tower.
The thought that suddenly hits you in the middle of
the day
and makes you feel so fantastically happy.

I am the one you have loved for many years.
I walk beside you all day and look intently at you
and put my mouth against your heart
though you're not aware of it.

I am your third arm, and your second
shadow, the white one,
whom you cannot accept,
and who can never forget you.

8. **The Beatitudes**, Matthew 5: 3-12
Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be
comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the
earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be
called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and
persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you
falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your
reward is great in heaven, for so people persecuted
the prophets who were before you.
9. **If in Your Heart** by Angelus Silesius
trans. Stephen Mitchell
If in your heart you make
a manger for his birth,
then God will once again
become a child on earth.
10. **Magnificat**, Luke 1: 46b-55
My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my savior,
for he has regarded the low estate of his
handmaiden.
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me
blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm,
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts,
he has put down the mighty from their thrones,
and exalted those of low degree;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.

11. The Lord's Prayer

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day thy daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever.
Amen

Huntley Beyer

Huntley Beyer, born in 1947 somewhere in the Garden State, migrated to Seattle in 1969, ostensibly to go to grad school in music at the UW (where he did receive his DMA). Once in Seattle, he ran into George Shangrow. He began playing oboe and recorder in Shangrow's ensembles, including being a second oboist in Orchestra Seattle for 15 years. Shangrow's Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers have commissioned and premiered many of Huntley's works over the years, including 3 symphonies, a flute concerto, the *Mass of Life and Death, Requiem for Children*, and the *St. Mark Passion*. Other works of Huntley's include *Tales Told in the Winds* (recorded by the Rainier Chamber Winds), *Enantiodynamia High* (recorded by the Kronos String Qt), two flute sonatas, a piano trio and an Easter cantata. Huntley currently teaches music at Seattle Preparatory School and is music director at the Bellevue First United Methodist Church. He lives somewhere east of Redmond with his wife Jody and their three children, Sophia, Gus and Eva. Oh, and Archie, the dog.

Program Notes for Songs of Illumination

There are certain inalienable, fundamental truths about life, such as: nobody likes to watch you pick your nose. Or: coffee is not a primary food group. Or: life is a gift. Most of us know life is a gift. Sometimes when we get sick or our cat runs away or something unnerving happens we go to the closet and get out the box this truth is in and look at it. It's beautiful. Life is a gift. We are lucky. We

know we shouldn't keep this thought wrapped up in a box, but truths come wrapped in thought, and we don't know how to un-think the wrapping and take the gift and run. How can thought outsmart thought? That sounds like a zen koan, like what is the sound of one hand clapping, or why does peanut butter taste good on bananas?

Thank God for the poets. Poets know how to free truth from thought. They do it with beauty. Beauty is just "pow" or "gasp." One rides into the center of truth on the arrows of beauty, and finds there is no solid center, no single atom of truth, but a collection of quaver quarks and syncopated electrons and parallel universes and feelings and pictures and memories and desires all resonating together like strings on a cosmic cello. Pow.

I call my piece Songs of Illumination because in every poem the truth "life is a gift" is unwrapped. Sometimes the images are specifically religious ("if in your heart you make a manger for his birth..."), sometimes secular ("someone brought me a seashell"), sometimes playful ("You may be Dirty Dinky") and sometimes spiritual ("I am the bird that flutters against your window"). But all the images bear a reverence for life. And as for the music which bears the images, well, other than noting the composer's intention for the notes to fly in on arrows of beauty, one can never say. Because writing program notes for a composer is like trying to draw a map to your left elbow, starting at your left elbow.

Notes by the Composer

ORCHESTRA SEATTLE

Violin	Viola	Bass	Bassoon
Sue Carpenter	Deborah Daoust	Steve Messick	Jeff Eldridge
Lauren Daugherty	Audrey Don	Jo Hansen*	
Stephanie Endy	James Lurie		Trumpet
Sue Herring	Katherine McWilliams*	Flute	Janet Young
Jason Hershey	Robert Shangrow	Melissa Underhill	
Fritz Klein**			Harpichord
Pam Kummert	Cello	Oboe	Robert Kechley
Mark Lutz	Julie Reed	David Barnes	
Susan Ovens	Annie Roberts		* principal
Stephen Provine*	Valerie Ross	Clarinet	** concertmaste
Nicole Tsong	Matthew Wyant*	Alan Lawrence	

SEATTLE CHAMBER SINGERS

Soprano	Wendy Moi	Carol Burleson	Ronald Carson	Bass
Sue Cobb	Nancy Shasteen	Ann Erickson	Ralph Cobb	Stephen Brady
Crissa Cugini	Robyn Pruitt-Hamm	Deanna Fryhle	Alvin Kroon	Andrew Danilchik
Dana Durasoff	Melissa Thirloway	Ellen Kaisse	Jon Lange	Douglas Durasoff
Cinda Freece	Liesel Van Cleeff	Lorelette Knowles	Timothy Lunde	Mark Fitchette
Kiki Hood	Alto	Theodora Letz	Thomas Nesbitt	Larry Maloney
Kaye Kofford	Sharon Agnew	Adrienne McCoy	Vic Royer	Paddy McDonald
Jill Kraakmo	Julia Akoury-Thiel	Laurie Medill	Brian Russell	Dennis Moore
Jana Marlow	Carolyn Cross Avery	Christine Rickert	Jerry Sams	Jeff Thirloway
Lila Woodruff May	Jane Blackwell	Tenor	David Zapolsky	Richard Wyckoff