



RIDER UNIVERSITY
Westminster
College of the Arts

WESTMINSTER
CHOIR COLLEGE

Williamson Voices Treble Ensemble

Tom T. Shelton, Jr. *conductor*

Jaeyeon Chung, *piano and graduate assistant*

Shai Funk-Herrington, *graduate assistant*

Tuesday, April 27th, 2021 at 5:00 pm, Gill Chapel

Evolution

Music by Tom Shelton

Lyrics by Azhaneet Blackwell, Sarah Boone, Neva Moorhead,

Destiny Velez, Olivia Venier, Morgen Zwicharowski

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|------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| I. | One Year Later | Rosemary Gurak, speaker | Lyrics by Azhaneet Blackwell |
| II. | Face to Face | Ally Jurgens, Destiny Velez, soloists
Jocelyn Alam, violin | Lyrics by Destiny Velez |
| III. | I Want to Silence It | Sarah Boone, speaker | Lyrics by Neva Moorhead |
| IV. | It's Quiet Again | Grace Rykaczewski, Olivia Venier, soloists | Lyrics by Olivia Venier |
| V. | Interlude: Face to Face | Grace Comeau, solo | Lyrics by Destiny Velez |
| VI. | Forest in Mind | Sarah Boone, speaker
Shai Funk-Herrington, flute | Lyrics by Sarah Boone |

- VII. You Don't Know Me
Azhanee Blackwell, solo
Lyrics by Azhanee Blackwell
- VIII. Chaos Conscience
Sarah Boone, Rosemary Gurak, speakers
Lyrics by Sarah Boone
- IX. I Have a Dream
Morgen Zwicharowski, Chelsea Holbrook, soloists
Dr. Sharon Morrow, harp
Lyrics by Morgen Zwicharowski
- X. Reprise: Face to Face
Maryrose Canevari, Destiny Velez, soloists
Jocelyn Alam, violin
Lyrics by Destiny Velez, Tom Shelton

Program Notes

This presentation is a culmination of a composition project by the members of the Williamson Voices Treble Ensemble. Singers were asked to submit poetry and writings of their thoughts, feelings, and emotions during this past year of dealing with the Pandemic. I was able to take their writings and put together a multi-movement project that features their abundance of talent.

Heartfelt thanks to the beautiful singers in the Treble Ensemble. Even though most of this year has not been "Face to Face"; it's been a joy to work with you over ZOOM, singing outside under a tent, and the few times we could sing together in Gill Chapel. (Socially distanced, of course, with singing masks and standing 12 feet apart!)

I'm looking forward to experiencing the reprise of "Face to Face" by Destiny Velez:

There's a new hope that can wash out this suffering,

A ray of light, shining on my face.

Smiles no more on the screen.

We join our hands together, feeling joy unlike before!

Evolution

Music by Tom Shelton

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Destiny Velez, Olivia Venier, Morgen Zwicharowski

Libretto

I. One Year Later...

Lyrics by Azhaneet Blackwell

Choir One year later, we're still fighting;
New lyrics are flowing, lost loved ones in mind.
One year later, I keep on writing;
No way of knowing, who we'd leave behind.

Speaker This storm was a big one, with many aftershocks and waves.
The people were confused and helpless; and many met their graves.
One year ago today felt strange; time became fiction suspended in space.
All our hopes and plans were rearranged - our "normal" lives had ended.

II. Face to Face

Lyrics by Destiny Velez

Solo We can no longer be face to face;
All that's between us – loneliness and space.
Reaching out for what I once knew,
We can no longer be face to face.
We can not be face to face.

Choir A longing for a sense of community,
Invisible walls that separates us all.
Wanting to turn back time or go to the future;
So this loneliness is gone.

We can no longer be face to face...

III. I Want to Silence It

Lyrics by Neva Moorhead

Speaker Can you hear the universal voice of sorrow and sadness-
those minor keys caught in our throats- where only heartache has a rhythm?
I want to plug it up, rip it out. I want to silence it, to stomp on it.
I want to smash it, gouge out its life force.
For this melody has no sweet refrain, no joyful crescendo,
only the shallow and soft breaths of one's passing.

Yet, sweeping into my heart is Love's resounding;
it falls about me as feathered silence,
notes of hope rise to heights of joy and the sting of loss is tinged in hope.

IV. It's Quiet Again

Lyrics by Olivia Venier

Solo

It's quiet again - the only noise outside
Are leaves blowing on pavement
The trees in central park bloom under skies free
From the smog of the city

New life is born, many are dying.
New life is born, but nature is thriving

Choir

When we rise from the ashes,
We must not let the earth burn again
We realize, how we've hurt this planet,
We must change our ways.
We will rise.

V. Interlude: Face to Face

Lyrics by Destiny Velez

Solo

We can no longer be face to face;
All that's between us – loneliness and space.
Reaching out for what I once knew,
We can no longer be face to face.
We can not be face to face.

VI. Forest in Mind

Lyrics by Sarah Boone

Speaker

Creaking, my lonely heart
In the bed of my assumption lies hope
Stones turn over in my stomach moved by some constant stream
Light and feather to flutter my anxious thoughts
A well deep within
Crushed beneath eggshells and plans discarded
Leaves drifting through veins
Just behind my eyes
This is where I have been living

VII. You Don't Know Me

Lyrics by Azhaneet Blackwell

Solo

You don't know my mind. You don't know my heart.
You don't know my life. You don't know me.
So – why are you afraid?

Why don't you take a walk in my footsteps.
See the world through my eyes. All you want is to be happy,
All I want is to live and love, and learn - on my journey.

All the world's on my shoulders. Everyone's looking at me.
We're all going through something. Everyone wants to be free

Why don't you take a walk in my footsteps.
See the world through my eyes.
Be the person you want to be - don't be afraid to try.
If you take a walk in my footsteps and see the world through my eyes,
You will learn, we're not so different - When will you realize?

Choir

Why don't you take a walk in my footsteps.
See the world through my eyes.
Be the person you want to be - don't be afraid to try.
If you take a walk in my footsteps and see the world through my eyes,
You will learn, we're not so different - When will you realize?

VIII. Chaos Conscience

Lyrics by Sarah Boone

Speaking

Empty, alone, numb, exhausted, lonely, scared, hopeless, isolation,

Choir

Waiting, hurt, anxiety, confusion, harsh, uncertainty, grief, chaos

Speakers

The thing about chaos is	(that's new...)
That when it's happening now	(right now)
Is that it feels like order	(structure)
And it feels more like normal	(how?)
There's so much that's wrong	(right?)
That the stress	(school)
Of the things	(work)
That were normal	(life)
Seem to be all too much	(not enough...)
And the things that are appalling	(are tearing through my guts)
Are terrifying	(in what they are)
And terrifying	(that they are normal now)
Too much chaos to be normal	(But not enough to change it)
Chaos	(Is all too much)
Chaos	(it's not enough)

IX. I Have a Dream

Lyrics by Morgen Zwicharowski

Solo We live in a world of utter Chaos,
Where important people in our lives, forget us.
Where paintings of beautiful things melt away;
And the love put into them, had gone astray.

Duet We are dreamers; We are creators, of body, mind, and soul.

Choir We have been hurt, broken and alone;
We refuse to let our fire die - in a dreamers eye.

Solo We live in a world of damaged hearts;
Where no one knows where love, where love starts.
We live in a world of damaged hearts
How do we hold on to love so it does not - disappear
Until you realize, it was never there.

Duet We are dreamers; We are creators, of body, mind, and soul.

Choir We have been hurt, broken and alone;
We refuse to let our fire die.
There is no end to possibilities - in a dreamers eye.

X. Reprise: Face to Face

Lyrics by Destiny Velez

Solo We can no longer be face to face;
All that's between us – loneliness and space.
Reaching out for what I once knew,
We can no longer be face to face.
We can not be face to face.

Choir There's a new hope that can wash out this suffering;
A ray of light shining on my face.
Smiles no more on the screen;
We join our hands together feeling joy unlike before.

I can see my loved ones face to face;
No mask between us, separating space.
Singing, we are free at last;
Now we are free to be face to face.
We will be face to face.

Williamson Voices Treble Ensemble

Tom T. Shelton, Jr. conductor

Jaeyeon Chung, accompanist and graduate assistant

Shai Funk-Herrington, graduate assistant

Jocelyn Alam, *Mendham, NJ*

Hayley Ashe, *Quakertown, PA*

Sam Belinski, *Yardley, PA*

Azhaneet Blackwell, *Trenton, NJ*

Sarah Boone, *Newark, DE*

Karina Bruno, *Westfield, MA*

Maryrose Canevari, *Pawling, NY*

Grace Comeau, *Bristow, VA*

Shai Funk-Herrington, *Colorado Springs, CO*

Rosemary Gurak, *Pennington, NJ*

Chelsea Holbrook, *Quakertown, PA*

Ally Jurgens, *Allentown, NJ*

Grace Rykaczewski, *Moorestown, NJ*

Destiny Velez, *Cherry Hill, NJ*

Olivia Venier, *Gardiner, NY*

Morgen Zwicharowski, *Hagerstown, MD*

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