

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS OF RIDER UNIVERSITY

Westminster Choir College

PRESENTS

Afterglow

Music for Our Westminster Family

Remembering Joe Flummerfelt

Westminster Williamson Voices

James Jordan, *conductor*

Gregory Stout, *accompanist*



Friday, May 17, 2019
Bristol Chapel
Westminster Choir College
Princeton, NJ

To Our Westminster Family,

As Donald Nally said in comments prior to *The Crossing* program “For Joe,” we all feel as musicians that we have to do something; we are just not certain what it is we should do. But do something, express something...that is what we must do as artists at times like these. And as we all know, music speaks to us at times of loss and remembrance in ways that only it can. In this time of precariousness for our school and the place we all love, it seems only appropriate that we ponder a piece of our communal fabric, of which many squares in this human/musical quilt that are of Joe’s making. This is Williamson Voices way of “doing something” to allow us to sit in the afterglow of this incredible person who gave so much to so many, and whose passion for this place and what we do is now in our collective heart’s memories.

I have found great comfort in recent days having lost people deeply close to me in my life, and in the larger world, to focus not on sadness but the afterglow that becomes imprinted on each life that was touched in big ways and small by a life well-lived with a passion for things that are larger than any one of us. It was the privilege of my life to be invited to join this faculty in 1991. To be sure, it was both daunting and slightly intimidating to serve on this faculty with Joe. Joe’s love of this place and its mission of organic and spontaneous music-making led us all forward to continue and grow the magical work of this place. His passion for Symphonic Choir being the yeasting force of our community was always the center of what we all did.

And we are deeply fortunate to have recordings and writings to remind us of these things Joe held sacred and hoped that we all would share in those same music-making passions. Let this Westminster family never forget that all we do is stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us. *That is THE miracle of this place.* The illuminating spirit of Joe and all who came before him that will sustain and nourish us in the days ahead.

— James Jordan

Program

Please hold applause until the end of the program

Annelies

8. Kyrie

James Whitbourn

(b. 1963)

(Recorded by Westminster Williamson Voices. Naxos 8.573070)

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Help us. Rescue us from this hell.

(27 November 1943)

We must be brave and trust in God.

(11 April 1944)

Texts from Libretto by Melanie Challenger taken directly from the Diary of Anne Frank

The Dreams That Remain**Thomas LaVoy '13****1. Song of a Dream****(b. 1990)**

Text: Sarojini Naidu (1879 – 1949)

(Recorded for *Aurora* CD by Westmintser Williamson Voices. Release: Fall 2019)**1. Song of a Dream**

Once in the dream of a night I stood
 Lone in the light of a magical wood,
 Soul-deep in visions that poppy-like sprang;
 And spirits of Truth were the birds that sang,
 And spirits of Love were the stars that glowed,
 And spirits of Peace were the streams that flowed
 In that magical wood in the land of sleep.

Salutation**Ēriks Ešenvalds****(b. 1977)**

Text: Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941)

In one salutation to thee, my God,
 Let all my senses spread out
 and touch this world at thy feet.

Like a raincloud of July hung low
 with its burden of unshed showers,
 let all my mind bend down at thy door
 in one salutation to thee.

Let all my songs gather together
 Their diverse strains into a single current
 And flow to a sea of silence
 In one salutation to thee.

Like a flock of homesick cranes
 Flying night and day back to their mountain nets,
 let all my life take its voyage to its eternal home
 in one salutation to thee.

I Shall Not Live In Vain**LaVoy**(Recorded for *Aurora* CD by Westminster Williamson Voices. Release: Fall 2019)

If I can stop one heart from breaking,
 I shall not live in vain;
 If I can ease one life the aching,
 Or cool one pain,
 Or help one fainting robin
 Unto his nest again,
 I shall not live in vain.

O Great Beyond**LaVoy****III. In Silence**Robin Massie, *soprano*

Voice Faculty, Westminster Choir College

Member of Westminster Choir from 1985 – 1988

(Recorded by The Same Stream Choir (thesamestreamchoir.com on CD *To Hold The Light*, to be released in later 2019)(New Edition of *In Silence* published in memory of Joseph Flummerfelt)**III. In Silence—Verse 61**

Peace, my heart, let the time for the parting be sweet.

Let it not be a death but completeness.

Let love melt into memory and pain into songs.

Let the last touch of your hands be gentle like the flower of the night.

Stand still, O Beautiful End, for a moment, and say your last words in silence.

I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.

*An Afterglow from Joe to Us All**An Offering in Thanks for Joe and “from” Joe*

Grammy®-nominated conductor **JAMES JORDAN** is recognized and praised throughout the musical world as one of America's pre-eminent conductors, recording artists, writers, music psychologists and innovators in choral music. He was described as a "visionary" by *Choral Journal*, which cited his book *Evoking Sound* as a "must read." His more than 40 books explore both the philosophical and spiritual basis of musicianship, as well as aspects of choral rehearsal teaching and learning, and they are considered to be essential references in the conducting profession. He is professor and senior conductor at Westminster Choir College where he conducts Westminster Schola Cantorum and the critically acclaimed Westminster Williamson Voices. He is also director of the Westminster Conducting Institute and co-director of the Choral Institute at Oxford (rider.edu/Oxford). He is artistic director and conductor of the professional choral ensemble, The Same Stream (thesamestreamchoir.com).

His recordings with the Westminster Williamson Voices have garnered wide critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic. *Choir and Organ* wrote about their Grammy®-nominated recording *Annelies*, "Jordan's instinctive understanding of the score makes this a profound and emotionally charged experience." 2018 – 19 will mark the release of three new recordings with him as conductor: *Silence into Light* with the Westminster Williamson Voices; *Serenity — The Music of Paul Mealor* and *Songs of the Questioner* featuring the music of Thomas LaVoy, Dan Forrest, Peter Relph and Paul Mealor with The Same Stream Choir. The 10 CDs under his direction are available through iTunes and Amazon. His work with The Same Stream Choir will also be seen in a new video documentary and profile released by J.W. Pepper and available for viewing at thesamestreamchoir.com.

Dr. Jordan's career and publications have been devoted to innovative educational changes in the choral art, which have been embraced around the world. 2017 – 18 marked the publication of six new books. *Inside the Choral Rehearsal* is a landmark book applying the Music Learning Theory of Edwin Gordon to the choral rehearsal. Additional new titles are *Conductor as Prism*, *The Complete Choral Warm-Up Exercises* (with Jesse Borower and Brian Sengdala), *The Anatomy of Tone* (with Sean McCarther and Kathy Price) and *The Moral Acoustics of Sound*. Learn more at GIAMusic.com/Jordan. 2019 will see the publication of four new books: *The Musician's Abundance*, *Movement Warm-ups for Choral Ensembles*, *Conductor as Architect* and *Discovering Improvisation through Chant*, co-authored with Gary Graden and Westminster students Ari Carillo and Christian Koller.

His residencies, master classes and guest conducting have taken him throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.

He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2015, conducting the New York premiere of Paul Mealor's *Stabat Mater*. He will begin touring with The Same Stream later in 2018. In November 2015, Dr. Jordan conducted the world premiere of Paul Mealor's First Symphony: *Passiontide*, in Scotland. In 2016, he conducted the Westminster Williamson Voices, the first college choir to appear in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's MetLiveArts series, in a performance of the virtuosic *Kanon Pokajanen* by Arvo Pärt. James Jordan has been honored as a distinguished alumnus of Temple University, where he has been inducted into the University's Hall of Fame. In 2016, he received the distinguished alumni medal from Susquehanna University. He was awarded the distinguished Doctor of Music degree by the University of Aberdeen in Scotland in 2014 to honor his artistry and contributions to choral music throughout the world. The University, established in 1485, has awarded degrees throughout its history to only two Americans: Dr. Jordan and Morten Lauridsen. He shares this honor with Gustav Holst, Benjamin Britten and Dame Joan Sutherland.

ROBIN LEIGH MASSIE (*member of Westminster Choir from 1985 – 1988 under Joseph Flummertfelt*) has established herself as a versatile artist in opera, concert and musical theatre. She made her New York City Opera debut as Flora in Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of The Screw*. She has also performed with the Tulsa, Kentucky, Glimmerglass and Princeton Opera companies. In musical theatre, she performed the role of Jellylorum in Andrew Lloyd Weber's *CATS* in Hamburg, Germany. She has also sung with the Bucks County, Pocono and Gateway Playhouses and toured South America singing the role of Christine in Ivan Jacobs' *The Phantom of the Opera*. In concert repertoire, Ms. Massie has performed with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra for 11 consecutive seasons in Yuletide Celebration. In other concert repertoire, she performed with the Utah Symphony Orchestra in Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* for the farewell concert of Maestro Keith Lockhart. Other performances include the Susquehanna Valley Chorale, The Bucks County Choral Society and Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with The New York City Ballet. She can be heard on a recording with the Westminster Choir (*Like As a Hart*) as the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Laudate Dominum*. In August 2010, she served as both stage director of opera scenes and voice teacher for the Crescendo Summer Arts Institute in Sárospatak, Hungary. In August 2013, she traveled to Changsha, China to perform and teach private voice lessons and masterclasses with The MasterWorks Festival China. She was the soprano soloist in Mahler's Fourth Symphony with the Masterworks Festival Orchestra, Summer 2015. Recent performances include the soprano soloist in Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with The Harrisburg Choral Society, Handel's

Messiah with The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and Barber's *Knoxville Summer of 1915* with the All Souls Festival Orchestra, Indianapolis, Indiana. A native of Austin, Texas, Ms. Massie has a bachelor's degree in voice performance from Westminster Choir College and a master's degree in voice/opera performance from Yale University. Ms. Massie is the chair of vocal studies and director of Opera Theater at Cairn University and a priority adjunct assistant professor of voice at Westminster Choir College. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

The Grammy®-nominated **WESTMINSTER WILLIAMSON VOICES**, named for the founder of Westminster Choir College, John Finley Williamson, is praised by reviewers on both sides of the Atlantic. The ensemble is the resident choir of the Choral Institute at Oxford (CIO), now in its sixth year. The CIO is one of the leading institutes in the world for the training of conductors that emphasizes artistry in performance. Founded by James Jordan, the ensemble has distinguished itself in the choral world for its distinctive artistry, recordings, educational outreach and its mission to perform new music. The choir is also recognized as a living choral laboratory. It is one of the few ensembles in the world that use chant as the center of their musicianship study and performance. This emphasis has grown out of its residencies and study at the Choral Institute at Oxford. Beginning in 2014, the choir embarked on a three-year project studying the performance practice and spirituality surrounding the works of Arvo Pärt in conjunction with the Arvo Pärt Project. This project culminated in the performance of his monumental *Kanon Pokajanen* in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Temple of Dendur as part of the prestigious MetLiveArts series (the first college ensemble invited to participate the series) and at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

Reviewers on both sides of the Atlantic are of one voice in praising the ensemble for its world premiere recordings on the Naxos label. *Gramophone* magazine has described the Westminster Williamson Voices as an ensemble of "intimate and forceful choral artistry," with a tone that is "controlled and silken in sustained phrases as they are vibrantly sonorous in extroverted material." *American Record Guide* praised the ensemble as "without peer." *Choral Journal* has described the Westminster Williamson Voices as an ensemble of "supreme artistry" and a choir that performs with "truth and precision." And from the Arvo Pärt Project's publication: "The Westminster Williamson Voices under his (Jordan's) direction are coming into their own in the American choral scene both here and abroad."

Westminster Williamson Voices has established itself as a voice of composers of our time, and it has been acclaimed for its creative programming and collaborations with other art

forms. Most notable are the ensemble's performance at The Philadelphia Cathedral of Eric Whitacre's *Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine* with the renowned Spiral Q Puppet Theater and the premiere of James Whitbourn's *Luminosity* with The ArcheDream Blacklight Dance Theater Company of Philadelphia.

The choir has premiered more than 40 choral works and presented several early performances and premieres by noted composers Jackson Hill, William Duckworth, Paul Mealor, Tarik O'Regan, Roger Ames, Robert Moran, Blake Henson, Jaakko Mäntyjärvi, Uģis Prauliņš, Gerald Custer, James Whitbourn, Thomas LaVoy, Cortlandt Matthews, Kile Smith, Thomas LaVoy, Anthony Bernanducci, Anthony Maglione, Sam Scheibe and Dan Forrest. The choir has premiered three major works by British composer James Whitbourn that have attracted international attention. In 2007, it performed the world premiere of the chamber version of *Annelies*, the first major choral setting of the *Diary of Anne Frank*. In 2008, it shared in a commission of *Luminosity*, a work for triple choir, dancers, viola solo, organ and tanpura. In 2010, the choir premiered Whitbourn's *Requiem Canticorum*. Past seasons have also included performances of Debussy's *Nocturnes* with The Princeton Symphony Orchestra conducted by Rossen Milanov. In 2013, the choir performed the U.S. premiere in New York of Paul Mealor's *Crucifixus* for choir, orchestra and baritone soloist. In April 2014, the choir made its Lincoln Center debut at Alice Tully Hall performing James Whitbourn's *Annelies*.

The choir has also assembled an impressive recorded discography, with more than 10 discs. It has recorded more than 50 choral masterworks on the *Teaching Music through Performance* CD box sets that are used by conductors around the world. The ensemble can also be seen and heard in the DVD *The Empowered Choral Rehearsal: Choral Masterclasses with Simon Carrington*. The choir has seven world premiere recordings to its credit, including its 2011 recording on the Naxos label, *Living Voices: The Music of James Whitbourn*. James Whitbourn's *Annelies*, performed with The Lincoln Trio; Arianna Zukerman, soprano; and Bharat Chandra, clarinet; was released by Naxos in 2013 and received a Grammy® nomination in 2013 for "Best Choral Performance." London's *Guardian* wrote about the recording "The performance as a whole...is well prepared and palpably committed as befits a premiere recording." *Gramophone* lauded Westminster Williamson Voices on the *Annelies* recording as "exhilarating" and described the ensemble as singing "with a precision and finesse normally found in the best of the UK's large chamber choirs."

In 2016, the choir released *Carolae*, its third recording on the Naxos label. The choir also released another recording, *A Hole*

in the Sky, on the GIACHoralworks label late that summer. Both CD's charted on Billboard iTunes and Amazon Classical List. The *Guardian* in the UK listed *Carolae* as one of the five best Christmas CD releases for 2016, calling the performance a "knockout." In 2017, the choir released *Silence to Light*. That disc includes movements from Arvo Pärt's *Kanon Pokajanen*, as well as definitive performances of Whitacre's *Lux Arumque*, Jackson Hill's *When Spring is Born at Last* and James Whitbourn's *Pater Noster*. A DVD release of the *Kanon Pokajanen*, filmed at its Philadelphia Basilica performance, is planned for 2019.

As the resident choir for the Choral Institute at Oxford (CIO), the Westminster Williamson Voices has inspired and taught more than 200 conductors. Additionally, for the past two years the

choir has been a part of the Oxford Festival of the Arts, which has presented other leading choral ensembles, including Tenebrae and Voces8. Last summer, the choir performed *Luminosity*, a work commissioned for the Williamson Voices and conducted by the composer as part of that Festival.

The ensemble's 2018 – 2019 season included a new recording, *Aurora*, in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and a performance of Paul Mealor's *Requiem*. In April it will perform *Annelies* with full orchestra at The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. under the baton of the composer and friend of the choir, James Whitbourn. Please check the Westminster Choir College website for ticket information in early Spring 2019.

Westminster Williamson Voices

James Jordan, *conductor*

Levi Tarrant Pratt, *graduate assistant conductor*

Gregory Stout, *accompanist*

SOPRANO

Felicia Betts, *Mays Landing, NJ*
Elizabeth Boyle, *Drexel Hill, PA*
Taylor Cullen, *Moorestown, NJ*
Wendy Darr, *Little Rock, AR*
Olivia Dowden, *Rockville Centre, NY*
Francesca Fioravanti, *Wilmington, DE*
Jessica Forbes, *Fort Myers, FL*

Julianne Fournier, *North Attleboro, MA*
Amia Langer, *Fanwood, NJ*
Alexa Lucchesse, *West Babylon, NY**
Maddie Murphy, *Levittown, PA*
Jennifer O'Brien, *San Jose, CA*
Paige Pendleton, *Pennsville, NJ*
Juliet Rafanelli, *Westbury, NY*

Lindsey Reinhard, *Yardley, PA**
Hannah Schreffler, *Hamburg, PA*
Kathryn Smith, *Lumberton, NJ*
Alexandra Thomas, *State College, PA*
Danielle Verguldi, *Quakertown, PA*
Camille Watson, *Kent, WA*
Lindsey Wildman, *Santa Cruz, CA*

ALTO

Rhiannon Charney, *Boothwyn, PA*
Jessica Dalrymple, *Wellesley, MA*
Ashley Dupont, *Wellington, FL**
Sarah Engel, *Rochester, NY*
Jaclyn Gisondi, *Shrewsbury, NJ*

Samantha Gordon, *Cranford, NJ*
Leah Kun, *Easton, PA*
Julianna Massielo, *Yardley, PA*
Katrina Roberts, *Moorestown, NJ*
Rebecca Smith, *Sanatoga, PA*

NicolePaige Uvenio, *Roxbury, NJ**
Caroline Voyack, *Moorestown, NJ*
Kelly Zuzic, *Waretown, NJ*

TENOR

Devon Barnes, *Willingboro, NJ*
Noah Bram, *Westfield, NJ*
Ari Carrillo, *Philadelphia, PA*
Matthew Delre, *Robbinsville, NJ*

Paul David Flood, *Campbell Hall, NY**
Zachary Fulcher, *Medford, NJ*
Palmer Haffner, *Fort Myers, FL**
Christian Koller, *Cape Coral, FL*

Joshua Lisner, *Bridgewater, NJ*
Guillermo Pasarin, *Scranton, PA*
Levi Tarrant Pratt, *Tucson, AZ*
Jorddy Romero, *Newark, NJ*

BASS

Jonathan Bligh, *Adelaide, South Australia*
Karl Cepeda, *Guam, USA*
Alex Garcia, *Saint Petersburg, FL*
Alex Miller, *Dingmans Ferry, PA*
Ryan Newsome, *Wall, NJ*

Joel Noonan, *River Vale, NJ**
Anthony Pinkerton, *Orlando, FL*
Alex Pino, *Ashburn, VA*
Sam Scheibe, *Moorestown, NJ**
Bennett Spotts, *Rising Sun, MD*

Alex Thomlinson, *Dahlonega, GA*
Marcus Timpane, *Berkeley, CA*
Zachary Wilson, *Norwalk, CT*
Gabe Woods, *Dryden, NY*

Rider University's **WESTMINSTER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS** inspires and empowers innovative artists and leaders to transform their communities through the arts. With world-class programs in art, dance, music, music theatre and theatre, and based in Princeton and Lawrenceville, New Jersey, the College consists of three divisions: **Westminster Choir College**, **The School of Fine and Performing Arts**, and **Westminster Conservatory of Music**, a music school

for pre-college students. **RIDER UNIVERSITY** is a private co-educational, student-centered university that emphasizes purposeful connections between academic study and real world learning experience. Rider prepares graduates to thrive professionally, to be lifelong independent learners, and to be responsible citizens who embrace diversity, support the common good and contribute meaningfully to the changing world in which they live and work.

THE WESTMINSTER FUND



THE WESTMINSTER FUND directly supports the College's most critical needs and touches every area of College life. It benefits the Westminster community by providing scholarships, campus enhancements and additional support for new academic programs. The Westminster Fund also underwrites travel expenses for recording sessions, tours and concert run-outs.

For assistance in connecting with alumni and/or making a gift, please contact **Gabrielle Rinkus** at 609-921-7100, ext. 8216 or by email at grinkus@rider.edu. To make a contribution online, please visit: alumni.rider.edu/wccgive.