

Classical Movements Presents:
**“Sounds of Hope &
Harmony”**

***Intimate, outdoor one-hour concerts
for socially distanced audiences***

“A Brand New Day”

August 30, 2020, 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM

The Choir of Hope & Harmony
Anthony Blake Clark, conductor

Salmo 150

Ernani Aguiar
(b. 1950)

Laudibus in sanctis

William Byrd
(1543-1623)

Kyrie

from *Mass for Five Voices*

Byrd

Kyrie after Byrd

Roxanna Panufnik
(b.1968)

Choral Dances

from *Gloriana*

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

Sommerpsalm

Waldemar Ahlen
(1894-1982)

Summer is Gone

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
(1875-1912)

MLK

Paul David Hewson
(b. 1960)
arr. Robert “Bob” Chilcott
(b.1955)

Jacob Perry Jr., *tenor*

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Dolly Parton
(b. 1946)
arr. Craig Hella Johnson
(b. 1962)

Janna Critz, *mezzo-soprano*

By and By

Carol Barnett
(b. 1949)

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The Choir of Hope & Harmony

Soprano

Sara MacKimmie †
Julie Bosworth † ‡
Baajah Mohammed

Tenor

Jacob Perry Jr. ‡
Michael Fili †
Andrew Sauvageau ‡

Alto

Hannah Baslee †
Janna Critz ‡
Carter Sligh

Bass

James Mayo III
Corbin Phillips ‡
Ross Tamacci †

Anthony Blake Clark, Conductor

† Byrd: Laudibus in sanctis

‡ Byrd: Kyrie

Introduction and Program Notes

Classical Movements welcomes you back to our “Secret Garden” the Rectory, our home in Old Town Alexandria. It is with particular pride that we present this very special concert, a joyous celebration of live choral singing, and to share with you this captivating program of 400 years of diverse choral repertoire, reflecting the power of finding hope in times of uncertainty.

-- **Classical Movements**

The program begins with the Brazilian composer Ernani Aguiar's *Psalm 150*, which has become one of his most popular works since it was written in 1993. Aguiar's characteristically insistently accented music makes a particularly dynamic setting of this biblical song of praise – which calls on listeners to use a number of musical instruments in their worship.

The text of *Laudibus in sanctis* is freely adapted from the same Psalm 150, set four centuries earlier by the English renaissance composer William Byrd, particularly remembered his polyphonic vocal music. Published in 1591, this motet is one of many works that reflect his Byrd's Roman Catholicism – controversial at the time due to high tensions during the English Reformation. It was due to this tension that when Byrd published his three Mass settings, including the one containing this brief *Kyrie*, that follows comes from one of three masses Byrd published towards the end of the 16th century, separately and in physically small editions that would be easy to hide.

Inspired by the unexpected direction she heard in this setting, British composer Roxanna Panufnik premiered her *Kyrie after Byrd* in 2016, reimagining the contour of Byrd's original in harmonic language that is considerably more modern, but no less beautiful.

Arguably the most revered English composer of the 20th century, Benjamin Britten produced powerful and adventurous works in a number of genres and is particularly celebrated for his operas. His three act opera *Gloriana* was composed for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, to a libretto by the novelist and poet William Plomer. Despite the opera's limited success at its premiere, a number of excerpts have enjoyed greater popularity since, including this set of choral dances representing allegorical and rustic scenes.

We move now from Britain to Sweden, to the serenely beautiful *Summer Psalm* by Swedish composer, organist and conductor Waldemar Ahlen. A setting of the best-known work by Ahlen's contemporary and compatriot Carl David af Wirsén, the serene lushness of the music matches the poem's reverence of natural beauty and then religious faith.

Ahlen's hymn ends by musing on the inevitable fading of summer – a theme central Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's "Summer is Gone," to a poem by Christina Rossetti. Coleridge-Taylor's considerable success as a composer and conductor is particularly remarkable due to the racism he

faced at home in England and abroad as a musician of color at the end of the 19th century.

As the lead singer and guitarist of Irish rock band U2, “MLK” by singer-songwriter and humanitarian Paul David Hewson, better known under his stage name of Bono, might make an unexpected addition to the program – but in this arrangement by eminent English choral composer Bob Chilcott, this touching elegy to Martin Luther King, Jr. is a stunning tribute to one of the most famous figures in the fight for Civil Rights in the 1960’s. Chilcott’s breathtaking setting captures the hopeful simplicity of Bono’s lyrics, contrasting compellingly with Dr. King’s iconic and still elusive dream.

Another optimistic work with roots in popular music, American composer and conductor Craig Hella Johnson’s setting of Dolly Parton’s “Light of a Clear Blue Morning” brings additional depth to Parton’s unshaken hopefulness – a song that has taken become particularly meaningful for many during the uncertainties of the past months with its faith in the coming of “a brand new day.”

The program closes with an arrangement by another acclaimed American composer, Carol Barnett, who describes her setting of the spiritual “By and By” as expressing, “irrepressible high spirits, joyfully overflowing the bounds of key and time signatures.”

Performer Biographies

Currently leading embarking on his fourth season as Music Director of the nationally acclaimed and Emmy Award-winning Baltimore Choral Arts Society, conductor and composer **Anthony Blake Clark** enjoys a reputation as one of the freshest young voices in classical music. Winner of the 2019-2020 American Prize for choral conducting, Clark has led Choral Arts to several recognitions including the Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award, a second American Prize nomination for best choral performance, and an Emmy nomination for the televised “Christmas with Choral Arts” holiday production. In 2020 Mr. Clark led BCAS on a sold-out tour of the UK and prepared them for performances of Mahler’s 8th Symphony with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Clark is also Director of Choral Activities in The George Washington University where his choirs have performed at the Kennedy Center and the Washington National Cathedral.

Appreciated for his scrupulous attention to detail, Clark has prepared choruses for Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Simon Halsey CBE, and Marin Alsop for performances with the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, CBSO, and Rundfunkchor Berlin. At New York City's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, he was recently one of several conductors for David Lang's 1,000-voice *the public domain* and returned as chorusmaster for the 2018 premiere of John Luther Adams' *In the Name of the Earth*. Clark is equally adept in the orchestral field and has served as cover conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra, where he has worked under esteemed maestri Ton Koopman, Gianandrea Noseda, and Teddy Abrams.

Mr. Clark studied under three-time Grammy Award winner Simon Halsey, CBE at the United Kingdom's University of Birmingham, which conferred his Master's of Music Degree in 2015. While in Birmingham, he helped administer the choral ensembles on campus, conducted the University Camerata and was a member of the famed City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus, singing under the batons of Sir Simon Rattle, Edward Gardiner, and Andris Nelsons.

Coming Soon to **“Sounds of Hope & Harmony”**

Saturday, September 19, 2020: “An Evening of Novel Ensembles”
Innovative and Groundbreaking Chamber Music

Members of the National Symphony Orchestra:
Ira Gold, bass | Alexander Jacobsen, bass
Charles Nilles, bass | Jeffrey Weisner, bass
Jamie Roberts, oboe | Paul Cigan, clarinet | Ying Fu, violin
Daniel Foster, viola | Alexander Jacobsen, bass

An ambitious, imaginative and eclectic program featuring Prokofiev’s famous Quintet in G minor for oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, and double bass and one-of-a-kind arrangements for double-bass quartet of classical and pop hits by Gershwin, Bach, O’Connor, Bjork, A-Ha, Seal and the Beatles.

Saturday, September 26, 2020: “Cabaret in the Twilight”
Jazz and Musical Theatre

Awa Sal Secka | Christian Douglas

The night lights up with jazz, musical theater and popular music, featuring the music of George Gershwin, Stephen Sondheim, Billy Joel, Sara Bareilles and original music by the artists.

Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4, 2020:
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Special Event
Classical Favorites and Tango

ASO Music Director Jim Ross
Members of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

Beethoven’s uplifting Septet for winds and strings and Piazzolla’s iconic tango “Oblivion” will mingle in the fresh outdoor air. Featured bandoneonist Emmanuel Trifilio will transport us to a night club in Buenos Aires, even as Beethoven’s melodies linger in the atmosphere.

[Click here for tickets and more information:](https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/)
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About Classical Movements

The premier concert tour company for the world's great [orchestras](#) and [choirs](#), Classical Movements creates meaningful cultural experiences through music in 145 countries. An industry leader for 28 years, Classical Movements organizes more than 60 tours every year, producing some 200 concerts every season. Producer of two international choral festivals—Ihlombe! in South Africa and Serenade! in Washington, D.C.—and the Prague Summer Nights: Young Artists Music Festival, in addition, Classical Movements' Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program has commissioned 97 works from Grammy, Oscar and Pulitzer Prize-winning composers. Winner of Americans for the Arts' BCA10: Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts Award, since its founding in 1992, as a truly global company, Classical Movements remains committed to facilitating cultural diplomacy across the world—promoting peace through the medium of music.

About the Rectory

Built in 1785 and the home of Classical Movements' offices since 2014, the building formerly served as the rectory of the nearby historic Christ Church, once the church of George Washington. Since then, it has been owned by several distinguished Virginians and has been a commercial space since the 1960's. Located in the heart of beautiful Old Town Alexandria at 711 Princess Street, the Rectory is minutes away from the shops and restaurants of bustling King Street and is easily accessible by bus and metro.

Seating at the Secret Garden

