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*Reverend Joy*  
*From the Spirit, With*  
*Imagination*  
*Chamber Choir*

**GIVING IDEAS VOICE**  
DIRECTED BY LEONARD ENNS

# starry night

**March 1, 2025 - 7:30pm**

**March 2, 2025 - 3:00pm**

Trillium Lutheran, Waterloo

featuring the music of  
**Matthew Emery**  
**Ēriks Ešenvalds**  
**Jake Runestad**  
**Eric Whitacre**  
and more

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## Program

**Ah! Sun-Flower – Sven-David Sandström**

**Earthrise – Nicholas Kelly**

**Nocturne – Leonard Enns**

**Stars – Ēriks Ešenvalds**

*~intermission~*

**Sure On This Shining Night\*** – Morten Lauridsen

**Be Music, Night** – Laura Hawley

**Water Night** – Eric Whitacre

**Choose Something Like a Star\*** – Randall Thompson

**Let My Love Be Heard** – Jake Runestad

**Night On A Starry Hill** – Matthew Emery

**The Day is Done** (premiere) – Leonard Enns

\*with pianist, Kento Stratford

We'd love to visit with you after the concert...  
please join us to chat in the reception area!

*Most of us are here today as settlers on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples.*

*Both our venue today and our choir's rehearsal space is built on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted in 1784 to the Six Nations that includes 10 kilometres on each side of the Grand River from its source in Dundalk to its mouth at Lake Erie.*

## Overview

Winter, with its long dark nights, is actually a special season of lights. As the cold deepens the sky often clears and the nights are sparkling with magic. The sun gives way at night to myriads of other stars, planets, some satellites (of which our moon is one) and occasionally northern lights. Today's concert opens with two pieces related to our nearest lights, the sun and the moon. Sandström's *Sunflower* takes Blake's poem as its text, which sees the sunflower, as it turns toward the light, as a metaphor for the longing of the traveller *seeking after that sweet golden clime / where the ... journey is done*. As contrast, the second piece, *Earthrise* by Nick Kelly, puts us on the moon, looking back to the earth.

Most of our program, though, goes beyond sun and moon, and takes the stars and the night sky as theme. We are blessed, living here on this tiny planet, to be part of this amazing, unimaginably vast universe. The stars delight us, teach us, bring hope and comfort, guide us, and give us perspective. Perhaps, if we allow ourselves, we even hear the "music of the spheres." Sara Teasdale wrote (see the text of Ešenvalds' *Stars*): *I know that I / am honored to be / Witness / Of so much majesty*. How true!

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## Notes & Texts

Program notes written by Leonard Enns

### **Ah! Sun-Flower – Sven-David Sandström**

On our way to the starry night, first there is daytime with the most important star of all, the sun. Like the sunflower, much of life turns toward the sun for nourishment. Blake sees this as aspiration, as seeking for that point where journey will end among the stars.

Ah Sun-flower! weary of time,  
Who countest the steps of the Sun:  
Seeking after that sweet golden clime  
Where the travellers journey is done.

Where the youth pined away with desire,  
And the pale virgin shrouded in snow:  
Arise from their graves and aspire,  
Where my Sun-flower wishes to go.

~ William Blake

## **Earthrise – Nicholas Kelly**

*commissioned by DaCapo; premiered November 2022*

While the perspective for this concert will be a view from the earth to the heavens, here we have a sobering reversal, with a view from our most important satellite, the moon, back to the earth. Composer Nick Kelly writes: *“Earthrise” is based on a famous photograph of Earth taken from Apollo 8, in orbit around the moon. Rhea (Rhea Rose, the poet friend of Nick’s) and I imagined what this same view of our home might mean 100 years in the future, to someone who has left an environmentally unstable earth in search of a better home on another world.*

I left home.

Here there are no temples to the earth,  
no sacred space to embrace her delights.  
I walk not in moonlight but on the old man’s face.

From here I spy my distant home turning on a dark dais,  
her blue eye blinded by her city lights.

I left home.

Here no old stone pillars stand to honour her.  
No hymns are sung to her green passages.  
No ocean mornings on white sand beaches.  
No praises to her nature’s legacy.

While in this tranquil sea,  
standing in an astronaut’s debris,  
somewhere out there, she stands alone in space.  
Somewhere out there stars shine upon her face,  
somewhere out there her rituals fall silent  
in her hot deserts getting hotter.

I left home.

From this moon’s base  
I watch my blue mother rise alone.

I carry forward her water,  
lift her air to the cosmos,  
burn her bones to part the horizon.

I left home.

Earth had kids who left her like children do,  
left home to sing new hymns to the firm.  
A terra corps in kind, in time.  
There's no return.

I left home too.  
~ Rhea Rose

### **Nocturne – Leonard Enns**

*nominated JUNO "Classical Composition of the Year," 2010  
recorded on DaCapo's ShadowLand CD*

In *The Merchant of Venice*, in what amounts, perhaps, to Shakespeare's version of a "date," Lorenzo — infatuated with Jessica — holds forth about the amazing beauty and music of the nighttime sky, "the floor of heaven." In Shakespeare's world the balance and interplay of the universe was literally a music of the heavenly spheres. Lorenzo, having rhapsodized about this glorious music to Jessica, ends with the lament that though we are inhabited by a similar harmony, as mortals, trapped in this "*muddy vesture of decay*," we do not hear this music.

Here will we sit, and let the sounds of music  
Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night  
Become the touches of sweet harmony.

... look, how the floor of heaven  
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold:  
There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st  
But in his motion like an angel sings,  
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubim;

Such harmony is in immortal souls;  
But, whilst this muddy vesture of decay  
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.  
~ William Shakespeare, "*The Merchant of Venice*"

## Stars – Ēriks Ešenvalds

Alone in the night  
On a dark hill  
With pines around me  
Spicy and still,

And a heaven full of stars  
Over my head  
White and topaz  
And misty red;

Myriads with beating  
Hearts of fire  
The aeons  
Cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven  
Like a great hill  
I watch them marching  
Stately and still.

And I know that I  
Am honored to be  
Witness  
Of so much majesty.  
~ Sara Teasdale

***Sure On This Shining Night* – Morten Lauridsen**

Sure on this shining night  
Of star made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.  
The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.  
Sure on this shining night  
I weep for wonder  
Wand'ring far alone  
Of shadows on the stars.  
~ *James Agee*

***Be Music, Night* – Laura Hawley**

Be music, night,  
That her sleep may go  
Where angels have their pale tall choirs.

Be a hand, sea,  
That her dreams may watch  
Thy guidesmen touching the green flesh of the world.

Be a voice, sky  
That her beauties may be counted  
And the stars will tilt their quiet faces  
Into the mirror of her loveliness.

Be a road, earth,  
That her walking may take thee  
Where the towns of heaven lift their breathing spires.

O be a world and a throne, God,  
That her living may find its weather  
And the souls of ancient bells in a child's book  
Shall lead her into thy wondrous house.  
~ *Kenneth Patchen*

## **Water Night – Eric Whitacre**

Night with the eyes of a horse that trembles in the night,  
night with eyes of water in the field asleep  
is in your eyes, a horse that trembles,  
is in your eyes of secret water.

Eyes of shadow-water,  
eyes of well-water,  
eyes of dream-water.

Silence and solitude,  
two little animals moon-led,  
drink in your eyes,  
drink in those waters.

If you open your eyes,  
night opens doors of musk,  
the secret kingdom of the water opens  
flowing from the center of the night.

And if you close your eyes,  
a river, a silent and beautiful current, fills you from within  
flows forward, darkens you:  
night brings its wetness to beaches in your soul.

~ *Octavio Paz; trans. Muriel Rukeyser*



## **Choose Something Like a Star – Randall Thompson**

O Star (the fairest one in sight),  
We grant your loftiness the right  
To some obscurity of cloud –  
It will not do to say of night,  
Since dark is what brings out your light.  
Some mystery becomes the proud.  
But to be wholly taciturn  
In your reserve is not allowed.  
Say something to us we can learn  
By heart and when alone repeat.  
Say something! And it says "I burn."  
But say with what degree of heat.  
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.  
Use language we can comprehend.  
Tell us what elements you blend.  
It gives us strangely little aid,  
But does tell something in the end.  
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,  
Not even stooping from its sphere,  
It asks a little of us here.  
It asks of us a certain height,  
So when at times the mob is swayed  
To carry praise or blame too far,  
We may choose something like a star  
To stay our minds on and be staid.

~ *Robert Frost*

## **Let My Love Be Heard – Jake Runestad**

Angels, where you soar  
Up to God's own light  
Take my own lost bird  
On your hearts tonight;  
And as grief once more  
Mounts to heaven and sings  
Let my love be heard  
Whispering in your wings

~ *Alfred Noyes*

**Night On A Starry Hill – Matthew Emery**

*winning work of the 2014 DaCapo NewWorks competition  
recorded on DaCapo's NewWorks CD*

Give me a few more hours to pass  
With the mellow flower of the elm-bough falling,  
And then no more than the lonely grass  
And the birds calling.

Give me a few more days to keep  
With a little love and a little sorrow,  
And then the dawn in the skies of sleep  
And a clear to-morrow.

Give me a few more years to fill  
With a little work and a little lending,  
And then the night on a starry hill  
And the road's ending.

*~ Marjorie Pickthall*

**The Day is Done – Leonard Enns**

*premiere performance*

The day is done, and the darkness  
Falls from the wings of Night,  
As a feather is wafted downward  
From an eagle in his flight.  
I see the lights of the village  
Gleam through the rain and the mist,  
And a feeling of sadness comes o'er me  
That my soul cannot resist:  
A feeling of sadness and longing,  
That is not akin to pain,  
And resembles sorrow only  
As the mist resembles the rain.  
Come, read to me some poem,  
Some simple and heartfelt lay,  
That shall soothe this restless feeling,  
And banish the thoughts of day.  
And the night shall be filled with music,  
And the cares, that infest the day,  
Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs,  
And as silently steal away.

*~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

### **Special note**

As many of you have heard, just under a month ago, one of our founding members, Jennie Wiebe, was tragically killed in a car accident, along with her daughter Zoe. We want to thank everyone who has reached out to send a note of condolence or share a story about Jennie. She was a rock in our choir - a beautiful soul that felt music deeply. We have felt your support as we try and sing our way through our shock and grief and loss. Our *Starry Night* concert is dedicated to Jennie.

## The Artists

### Leonard Enns, Artistic Director

Enns is the founding director of the DaCapo Chamber Choir and Professor Emeritus of Music at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo. He is also active as composer. Upcoming premieres include his new half-hour environmentally themed composition, *Taiga*, a triple-choir commission from Victoria Choral Society, Chronos Vocal Ensemble (Edmonton), and University of Guelph choirs, in separate concerts by each of those choirs during their 25/26 performance seasons.

### DaCapo Chamber Choir

The DaCapo Chamber Choir was founded in 1998 in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario under the direction of Leonard Enns. The mission of the choir is to promote the best of contemporary choral music through public performance and recordings, including the intentional championing of music of Canadian and local composers. The choir's NewWorks choral composition competition for Canadian composers (which ran for over a decade) aided in establishing a vibrant and vital presence for recent and emerging Canadian choral music.

The choir has released three CDs: *NewWorks* (2019); the award-winning *ShadowLand* (winner of the 2010 ACCC's National Choral Recording of the Year award, including the Juno-nominated *Nocturne* by Leonard Enns); and *Still* (2004).

For more information about the choir, including photos, sound clips, and more, visit our web site at [www.dacapochoamberchoir.ca](http://www.dacapochoamberchoir.ca) or join our eList by emailing [info@dacapochoamberchoir.ca](mailto:info@dacapochoamberchoir.ca).

### We're Social!

For behind-the-scenes photos, rehearsal insights, and online savings, follow us on one of our socials!

## Choir Members

### **Soprano**

Sara Fretz  
Maria Geleynse  
Cathleen Leone  
Marlys Neufeldt  
Sydney O'Brien  
Janelle Santi

### **Alto**

Theresa Bauer  
Sarah Flatt  
Sara Martin  
Caroline Schmidt  
Susan Schwartzentruber

### **Tenor**

Brian Black  
Curtis Dueck  
Marcus Kramer  
Stephen Preece  
Art Winter

### **Bass**

Nick Allen  
Dan Cockayne  
Dan King  
Kento Stratford  
Tavis Weber  
Lukas Winter

## Acknowledgements

Graphic Design – Heather Lee

Choir Manager – Sara Martin

Board of Directors:

Rachel Harder  
Lawrence McNaught  
Tom Nagy  
Dave Switzer

## DaCapo thanks the following organizations and individuals:

 **PeaceWorks** – for hosting our Web site  
TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS



We are grateful to Conrad Grebel University College for providing rehearsal space in its beautiful Chapel, where DaCapo was shaped as a child of the Grebel Chapel Choir, and which continues to be our rehearsal home.

There is a strong historic and ideological relationship between DaCapo and Grebel. Artistic director, and Grebel Professor Emeritus, Leonard Enns directed the Grebel Chapel Choir for 33 years; out of this grew the DaCapo Chamber Choir, beginning in 1998 with a dozen alumni.

DaCapo has grown to extend beyond its Grebel origins, but organic connections remain. Even after more than 25 years, a number of the singers are Grebel alumni, and our music continues to be grounded in spiritual and healing convictions shared with the College.

## Donors

DaCapo thanks all of our donors, including the many individuals and organizations who wished to remain anonymous.



Paul Born & Marlene Epp  
Anne Brubacher  
Dale & Cheryl Brubacher Cressman  
Len & Sue Enns  
Cher Farrell  
Susan Fish  
Ron Flaming & Ingrid Regier  
Arlene & John Groh  
Jack & Magdalene Horman  
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Angie Koch  
Bert & Martha Lobe  
Jim & Goldine Pankratz  
Nancy Pauls  
Ernie & Nancy Regehr  
Lorna Sawatsky  
Henry & Irene Schmidt  
Debra Simpson & Tim Wichert  
Matt Snider & Racher Harder  
Hania & Peter White

**Thank you to the over 75 individuals who have made a donation to DaCapo in memory of Jennie. We will be passing along your names and comments to Jennie's family.**

**Help us keep exceptional music accessible to all!**

You, too, can become a DaCapo season supporter. Simply visit our web site at [www.dacapochamberchoir.ca](http://www.dacapochamberchoir.ca) and click on Support.





# sing me home

**Sat. May 10 - 7:30pm**

**Sun. May 11 - 3:00pm**

Trillium Lutheran, Waterloo