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"In Thanksgiving for music ... that heals & celebrates!"

Singers of Summerville is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.



SINGERS OF SUMMERVILLE
presents

Breath of Ecstasy

THE WORDS OF SARA TEASDALE

Friday, April 10, 2026 | 7:30 pm
Peace Church

Saturday, April 11, 2026 | 4:00 pm
Bethany United Methodist Church

Emily Reeves Bohl
Artistic Director

Austin Bates
Collaborative Pianist

Our 2025 - 2026 season has been graciously sponsored by Ameriprise Financial, Edgeworth Capital Group of Summerville.



www.singersofsummerville.org
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PROGRAM

The Music of Stillness

Elaine Hagenberg

The Great Clear Twilight

Austin Schend

Julia Miller, *conductor*

To See the Sky

Jocelyn Hagen

May Wind

Jacob Narverud

I Am Not Yours

David N. Childs

Prelude to Peace

Z. Randall Stroope

Grace Before Sleep

Susan LaBarr

Chamber Ensemble

Refuge

from Sing Evermore!

Gwyneth Walker

- INTERMISSION -

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In loving memory of Barbara's mother, Patricia Rice, who was and is her musical inspiration, by Allen & Barbara Dobbs.



Cheryl R. Canonge

In memory of Cheryl Canonge, who loved music and all things beautiful. By Casey Canonge.



Gregory Scott Goodkowsky

In loving memory of our son Greg, by Sharon & Vincent Napoleone "Always loved, never forgotten, forever missed."



Steve Helms

"I am wearing your glasses so I can see the world as you did, and have you with me today and always."
By Andi Stem



Ruth Evelyn Houghton

For my mother... my singing inspiration.
Diane Rodwell



Herm Uyak

In loving memory of Herm Uyak by SueEllen Byers, Carol Ann Uyak. Thank you, Dad, for sharing your love of music and teaching me "We can't always choose the music life plays for us, but we can choose how we dance to it." I miss you every day!

IN MEMORY OF:

In memory of Robert & Nelda Storm by Susan Pomeroy
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PROGRAM, Cont.

For a Breath of Ecstasy

Michael John Trotta

1. Wealth Enough for Me

2. Peace Flows Into Me

Lauryn Kay, *solo*

3. Who Gave My Soul to Me

4. For You I Am Still

5. Spend All You Have On Loveliness

Valeri Dougherty, Emry Kunzler,
Hannah Rosselle, Val Swabb, *solis*

6. And I For You

7. Let Me Love

INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Michelle Buchanan, *violin I*
Walker Menkus, *violin II*
Samantha Clark, *viola*
Aaron McLaughlin, *cello*
Sarah Teuscher, *oboe*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Breath of Ecstasy, features beautiful choral settings of poems by the celebrated American poet Sara Teasdale (1884 - 1933). These choral settings are by various composers. The second half of the program features the South Carolina premiere of “For a Breath of Ecstasy”, a 7-movement work by **Michael John Trotta**, which draws texts from ***Love Songs***, the anthology of Sara Teasdale.

Sara Teasdale was born in St. Louis, Missouri to a wealthy family, and as a young woman she traveled to Chicago and grew acquainted with Harriet Monroe and the literary circle around poetry. Teasdale wrote seven books of poetry in her lifetime and received public admiration for her well-crafted lyrical poetry which centered on a woman’s changing perspectives on beauty, love, and death. In 1918, she won a Pulitzer Prize for her 1917 poetry collection ***Love Songs***.



ARTISTIC STAFF

Emily Reeves Bohl was appointed Artistic Director and Conductor of the Singers of Summerville in January 2025. She has held the position of Director of Choral Activities at Berkeley Center for the Arts at Goose Creek High School since 2020 and additionally serves as Adjunct Faculty at The College of Charleston, where she teaches courses in the Master of Arts in Teaching Program and directs the Concert Choir. Choirs under her direction have consistently received superior ratings in adjudicated settings and have been invited to perform at the annual conferences of both SC ACDA (2023, 2025) and SCMEA (2024). Emily was awarded the Emerging Scholar Award by the SC American Choral Directors Association in 2024, and the Outstanding Young Music Educator Award by the SC Music Educators Association in 2025.

She enjoys serving choral music in South Carolina through various committee appointments in both SC ACDA and SCMEA. Emily frequently serves as a choral clinician and is active as a presenter, especially in the area of the Kodály concept and its applications to Choral Pedagogy. Outside the classroom and away from the podium, Emily maintains an active performing schedule throughout South Carolina. She can be heard regularly as staff soprano at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, and with the choirs of The King’s Counterpoint. Emily holds the Master of Music in Kodály Pedagogy from Holy Names University, the Master of Education in Administration and Curriculum Supervision from The University of Oklahoma, and the Bachelor of Arts in Choral Music Education from Charleston Southern University.

SINGERS OF SUMMERVILLE

Now in its 22nd year, Singers of Summerville was formed in August 2003 by the Greater Summerville Music Forum of South Carolina. Singers of Summerville strives to present the very best sacred and secular music from the past to the present, to bring joy, transform lives, and nourish the soul of the greater Summerville community. Our members, ages 18-80+, are a diverse group – teachers, musicians, medical professionals, attorneys, business leaders, retirees, and students – all sharing a passion for choral singing. We are a non-profit organization, funded by our generous donors and sponsors.



Visit our website for more info:
singersofsummerville.org

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Please help us promote our vision of choral music excellence and awareness in the Lowcountry and beyond.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to the following for their assistance:

Bethany United Methodist Church, rehearsal & performance space
Peace Church, Goose Creek, performance space
Summerville Presbyterian Church, program printing
Our ushers, ticket crew, and all who make this concert possible

SINGERS OF SUMMERVILLE

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Mail to:
Singers of Summerville
P.O. Box 2991
Summerville, SC 29484

ARTISTIC STAFF, cont.

Austin Bates, Collaborative Pianist, is in his third year as director of choral activities at Alston Middle School in Summerville, SC. He also serves as the head choir director at Tri-City Baptist Church in Moncks Corner and teaches piano and vocal lessons locally. Austin is a 2022 graduate of Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC. He and his wife, Caroline, live with their two dogs in Goose Creek, SC.

Austin's experience as a collaborative pianist in the community includes playing for school choral concerts within Dorchester School District Two, playing for Summerville High School's musical productions, and serving as the pianist for the DD2 Middle School Honor Choir. While in college, his job at the university was serving for four years as a collaborative pianist for vocalists, instrumentalists, and many different ensembles. Austin loves being a part of the Summerville artistic community and is excited to work alongside the Singers of Summerville.

Julia Miller, Assistant Conductor, grew up in the Goose Creek area and is proud to now serve her community as the Choral Director at College Park Middle School. She earned her bachelor's degree in Music Education with a concentration in Choral Music from Charleston Southern University. In addition to teaching, she is the Co-Director of the Praise Band at Summerville Presbyterian Church. Music has always been a central part of her life - from the classroom to the stage to Sunday mornings - and she's grateful to share that passion with her students and community everyday.



POETIC TEXT

The Music of Stillness from "There Will Be Rest"

There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,
The music of stillness holy and low.

I will make this world of my devising
Out of a dream in my lonely mind.
I shall find the crystal of peace, - above me
Stars I shall find.

The Great Clear Twilight from "Winter Dusk"

I watch the great clear twilight
Veiling the ice-bowed trees;
Their branches tinkle faintly
With crystal melodies.
The larches bend their silver
Over the hush of snow;
One star is lighted in the west,
Two in the zenith glow.
For a moment I have forgotten
Wars and women who mourn,
I think of the mother who bore me
And thank her that I was born.

POETIC TEXT, cont.

To See the Sky from “Leaves”

One by one, like leaves from a tree
All my faiths have forsaken me;
But the stars above my head
Burn in white and delicate red,
And beneath my feet the earth
Brings the sturdy grass to birth.
I who was content to be
But a silken-singing tree,
But a rustle of delight
In the wistful heart of night—
I have lost the leaves that knew
Touch of rain and weight of dew.
Blinded by a leafy crown
I looked neither up nor down—
But the little leaves that die
Have left me room to see the sky;
Now for the first time I know
Stars above and earth below.

May Wind

I said, "I have shut my heart
As one shuts an open door,
That Love may starve therein
And trouble me no more."

But over the roofs there came
The wet new wind of May,
And a tune blew up from the curb
Where the street-pianos play.

My room was white with the sun
And Love cried out in me,
"I am strong, I will break your heart
Unless you set me free."

I Am Not Yours

I am not yours, not lost in you,
Not lost, although I long to be
Lost as a candle lit at noon,
Lost as a snowflake in the sea.

You love me, and I find you still
A spirit beautiful and bright,
Yet I am I, who long to be
Lost as a light is lost in light.

Oh plunge me deep in love—put out
My senses, leave me deaf and blind,
Swept by the tempest of your love,
A taper in a rushing wind.

Prelude to Peace from “Love Songs”

I have remembered beauty in the night,
Against black silences I waked to see
A shower of sunlight over Italy
And green Ravello dreaming on her height;
I have remembered music in the dark,
The clean swift brightness of a fugue of Bach's
And running water singing on the rocks
In English woods I heard a lark.
But all remembered beauty is no more
Than a vague prelude to the thought of you
You are the rarest soul I ever knew,
Lover of beauty, knightliest and best;
My thoughts seek you as waves that seek the
shore, And when I think of you, I am at rest.

Grace Before Sleep

How can our minds and bodies be
Grateful enough that we have spent
Here in this generous room, we three,
This evening of content?

Each one of us has walked through storm
And fled the wolves along the road;
But here the hearth is wide and warm,
And for this shelter and this light
Accept, O Lord, our thanks tonight.

Refuge

From my spirit's gray defeat,
From my pulse's flagging beat,
From my hopes that turned to sand
Sifting through my close-clenched hand,
From my own fault's slavery,
If I can sing, I still am free.

For with my singing I can make
A refuge for my spirit's sake,
A house of shining words, to be
My fragile immortality.

For a Breath of Ecstasy

1. Wealth Enough For Me from “Riches”

I have no riches but my thoughts,
Yet these are wealth enough for me;
My thoughts of you are golden coins
Stamped in the mint of memory;

And I must spend them all in song,
For thoughts, as well as gold, must be
Left on the hither side of death
To gain their immortality.

2. Peace Flows into Me from “Peace”

Peace flows into me
As the tide to the pool by the shore;
It is mine forevermore,
It will not ebb like the sea.

I am the pool of blue
That worships the vivid sky;
My hopes were heaven-high,
They are all fulfilled in you.

I am the pool of gold
When sunset burns and dies—
You are my deepening skies;
Give me your stars to hold.

3. Who Gave My Soul to Me from “Gifts”

I gave my first love laughter,
I gave my second tears,
I gave my third love silence
Through all the years.
My first love gave me singing,
My second eyes to see,
But oh, it was my third love
Who gave my soul to me.

4. For You I Am Still, from “The Tree of Song”

I sang my songs for the rest,
For you I am still;
The tree of my song is bare
On its shining hill.

For you came like a lordly wind,
And the leaves were whirled
Far as forgotten things
Past the rim of the world.

The tree of my song stands bare
Against the blue —
I gave my songs to the rest,
Myself to you.

5. Spend All You Have on Loveliness, from “Barter”

Life has loveliness to sell,
All beautiful and splendid things,
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,
Soaring fire that sways and sings,
And children's faces looking up
Holding wonder like a cup.

Life has loveliness to sell,
Music like a curve of gold,
Scent of pine trees in the rain,
Eyes that love you, arms that hold,
And for your spirit's still delight,
Holy thoughts that star the night.

Spend all you have for loveliness,
Buy it and never count the cost;
For one white singing hour of peace
Count many a year of strife well lost,
And for a breath of ecstasy
Give all you have been, or could be.

6. And I For You from “To-Night”

The moon is a curving flower of gold,
The sky is still and blue;
The moon was made for the sky to hold,
And I for you;

The moon is a flower without a stem,
The sky is luminous;
Eternity was made for them,
Tonight for us.

7. Let Me Love from “A Prayer”

Until I lose my soul and lie
Blind to the beauty of the earth,
Deaf though shouting wind goes by,
Dumb in a storm of mirth;

Until my heart is quenched at length
And I have left the land of men,
Oh, let me love with all my strength
Careless if I am loved again.