

Concert Singers of Cary Symphonic Choir

The American Soul: Folk songs, hymns, and new works celebrating the wonders of nature

November 5, 2022, Cary Arts Center Theater

7:30 pm

Nathan Leaf, conductor

Allen Bailey, piano

with

Mary-Elizabeth Thompson, flute

Bobby Burkett, oboe

Concert Order (revised Nov. 1)

American Triptych

Jake Runestad (b. 1986)

Reflections (text by Henry David Thoreau, adapt. Runestad)

The Peace of Wild Things (text by Wendell Berry)

Come to the Woods (text by John Muir, adapt. Runestad)

-Intermission-

I Would Be True

Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989)

Text by Howard A Walter

She Lingers On

Zanaida Robles (b. 1970)

Appalachian Folk Songs

arr. Dwight Bigler (b. 1974)

Cluck Old Hen

Poor Wayfarin' Stranger

Shenandoah

American Folk Song

Arr. Victor C. Johnson (b. 1978)

Three Hymn Arrangements

Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (American folk hymn, text-Psalm 23)

Softly and Tenderly (original hymn and text by Will Thompson)

Saints Bound for Heaven (from Southern Harmony)

Some notes on this evening's concert...

Defining “The American Soul” is a pretty tall order. Just as soon as you think you might have an idea of what it means and what it encompasses, you’ll encounter someone new whose story and perspective lets you know there is more to it than you thought, and maybe more than you could possibly realize. And then it dawns on you that in a country as big as this one, it’s hard to expect that it could possibly be any other way.

The composers and authors included in the concert tonight represent different historical eras, genders, races, orientations, parts of the country, and philosophies of life and living. We have famous historical figures, such as Thoreau, and goldie-oldie sacred music derived from the *Southern Harmony* hymn book. We have living composers and authors. We have the fresh West Coast voice of Zanaida Robles and music by Undine Smith Moore, considered the Dean of Black American Women composers. The music and texts were written by city folk, country folk, mountain folk, people from the northern Minnesota prairie, and by common folk who will forever be unknown to us. This mosaic of perspectives is but a mere taste of the many views and voices that all together comprise our American story, and an opportunity to begin to comprehend the full depth of the spirit that inspires them.