



Grand Rapids Choir of  
Men and Boys  
34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season  
2023-2024  
Lent & Easter Meditations



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# Do you know a boy who loves to sing?



## **GRCMB 2024 Chorister Seven Week Summer Choir Camp**

Most of the choristers singing before you this evening found their way into the choir by attending our GRCMB Summer Camp for Choristers.

The choristers enjoy growing and learning how to become top flight professional choral singers by attending camp every Tuesday morning throughout the summer months of July & August. Mornings of singing and training are followed by afternoons of swimming, games and campfires.



Make this summer a life-changing one for a boy in your life. Call or email Scott Bosscher to find out how.

**[scottbosscher@grcmb.org](mailto:scottbosscher@grcmb.org) ~ 616.460.0598**

**The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys**  
**Concluding Spring Concerts**  
**of our 34<sup>th</sup> Season**

**Mayflower Congregational Church**

**2345 Robinson Rd SE, Grand Rapids**

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 3:00 PM**



**Plans are underway for the four concerts  
of Season 35 (2024-25)**

**Fall Evensong (Late October)**

**Christmas Lessons & Carols (Mid December)**

**Lenten/Easter Meditations (Mid March)**

**Spring Celebration (Mid May)**

**Always offered free of charge!**

**Visit our NEW WEBSITE [www.grcmb.org](http://www.grcmb.org)  
for date and location details as they emerge!**



## **Welcome to the second half of the 34<sup>th</sup> Season of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys**

WELCOME to this special service. We are grateful to you for coming to share this experience with us: while this will of course be a time of musicians' music making, at our music's heart lies an act of holy worship.

We appreciate that people attend our concerts for many reasons, and that we are all at very different stages on our spiritual journeys. We try to create our programs to benefit people of all faiths and backgrounds, while at the same time offering up genuine expressions of Christian worship with deep integrity and truth.



# Tune My Heart to Sing Thy Praise!



Once upon a time...there was the simple understanding  
that to sing at dawn and to sing at dusk  
was to heal the world through joy.

The birds still remember what we have forgotten,  
that the world is meant to be celebrated.

Terry Tempest Williams (b. 1955)

Read that quote again and drink it in. Our choir loves this thought and believes deeply in the difference it can make in how we live our lives. If you have experienced programs presented by the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys in recent years, you know that the continuing purpose of the choir is to be a **“songbird of faith”** in our West Michigan community. The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys sings its **“faith song”** to help all who hear it find hope, comfort, joy and purpose in their lives.

Malcolm Guite, our choir’s ‘adopted poet’ recently reflected on the four Gospels: “From the first moment that He proclaims the Kingdom of God, Jesus appeals to our imagination. He makes that appeal through the parables of the kingdom, the paradoxes of the Gospels, the enigmatic and beautiful signs he gave in His miracles and in those moments when the heavens open and the ordinary is transfigured.

**In the gift of faith, and in Christ himself, we glimpse more than we can yet understand as our imagination apprehends more than our reason comprehends.** This is not to say that the Gospels are in any way “imaginary” in the dismissive sense of “unreal” or “untrue.” **On the contrary, the Gospels are so real and so true that we need every faculty of mind and body, including imagination, to attempt to comprehend them.**

In our current age of linear, one-level readings of the word and the world, we need to recover confidence in the *baptised imagination* as a *truth-bearing faculty*. We must make the case for a faith that is *imaginatively grasped* and *imaginatively proclaimed* in order to thus consider Christ’s appeal to the poetic, the moral, and the prophetic imagination. Tonight’s music can help with this.” Guite

So, at the appointed time, with the choir robed and led to their places, will draw breath, and the miracle will begin as music fills and transfigures the place:

Music to stir and call the sleeping soul,  
And set a counterpoint to all our pain,  
To bless our senses in their very essence  
And undergird our sorrow in good ground.  
Music to summon undeserved abundance,  
Unlooked-for over-brimming, rich and strong;  
The unexpected plenitude of sound  
Becoming song.

Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)



## Jody Knol



Jody Knol began announcing classical music on 90.5 WKAR at MSU in 1982.

After receiving his degree in Interdisciplinary Humanities—music, theater and political science—Jody worked as chief announcer for WMUK in Kalamazoo for two years before returning to WKAR to host the morning program in 1986.

Trained as a singer, Jody combines his study of music and his stage experience to present the music he loves to listeners.

# **From the Cradle to the Cross**

## **Lenten & Easter Meditations**



## **The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys**

**Scott Bosscher – Director**

**Dr. Julia Brown – Organ**

**Jody Knol – Narrator/Liturgist**

**Gwen Hendrikse – Rehearsal Pianist**



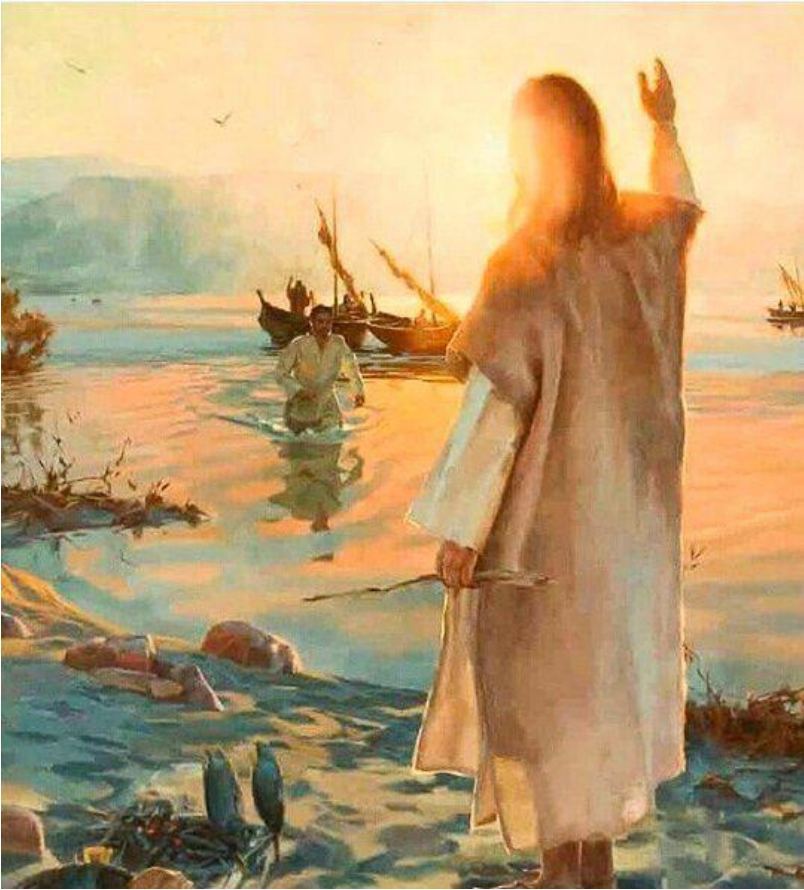
**Basilica of St Adalbert, Grand Rapids**

**Saturday, March 16 – 7 PM**

**Sunday, March 17 – 3 PM**



## Part I - Silent Procession & Introit by the Choir

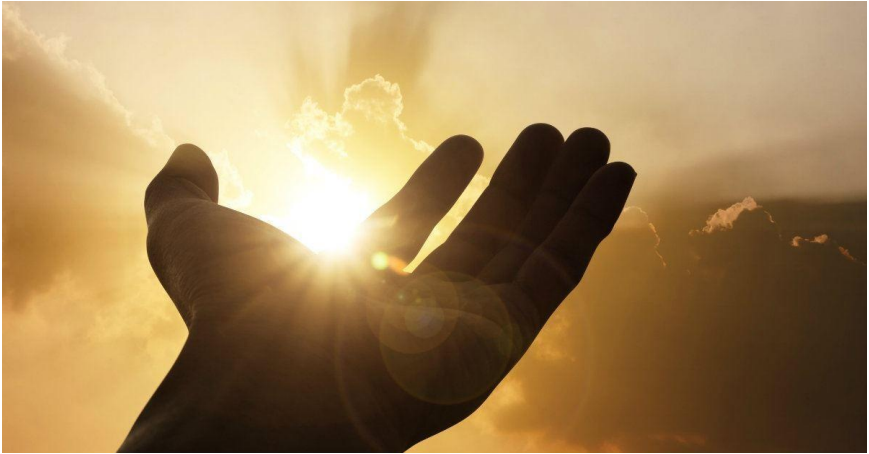


### **Psalm 139 (from Iona Abbey Worship Book)**

You search me, God and you know me;  
You know my resting and my rising;  
You discern my thoughts from afar ...  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
It is beyond my understanding.  
Is there anywhere I could go  
Where you were not there before me? ...  
If I took wings of the morning  
And lived beyond the horizon,  
Even there your hand would find me,  
Your right hand would hold me fast.

## John 3 vv 16-17

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.



### Lead, Kindly Light!

John Henry Newman(1801-1890)

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Lead, kindly Light, amid th'encircling gloom;  
Lead thou me on! The night is dark, and I am far from home;  
Lead thou me on! Keep thou my feet;  
I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step enough for me.

## Part II - Christ Enters the Manger

### Luke 2 vv 1, 3-7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while she was there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



## No Small Wonder

Paul Wigmore (b. 1925)

Paul Edwads (b. 1955)

*Treble Soloist: Francis Hillary*

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,  
The angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;  
But stable and manger for God - no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore  
The gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore;  
But God gives his life on a cross - no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,  
The power, the glory, the light of his face;  
But all to redeem my poor heart - no small wonder!



## **The Lamb**

William Blake (1757-1827)

John Tavener (1944-2013)

Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?  
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice?  
Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,  
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:  
He is called by thy name,  
For he calls himself a Lamb.  
He is meek, and he is mild,  
He became a little child.  
I, a child, and thou a lamb,  
We are called by his name.  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!



## **The Ballade of Mary's Son**

Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

It was in the Spring  
The Passover had come.  
There was feasting in the streets and joy.  
But an awful thing  
Happened in the Spring –  
Men who knew not what they did  
Killed Mary's Boy.  
He was Mary's Son,  
And the Son of God was He –  
Sent to bring the whole world joy.  
There were some who could not hear,  
And some were filled with fear –  
So they built a cross  
For Mary's Boy.



# Poor Little Jesus

Spiritual

Arr. Anne Heider

*Treble Soloist: Jude Westra*

It was poor little Jesus. Yes, yes.  
He was born on Christmas. Yes, yes.  
And laid in a manger. Yes, yes.  
And wasn't that a pity and a shame? Lord. Lord.

It was poor little Jesus. Yes, yes.  
Was a child of Mary. Yes, yes.  
And he didn't have no cradle. Yes, yes.  
And wasn't that a pity and a shame? Lord. Lord.

Oh, they whipped him up the mountain. Ooo.  
And they hung him on the cross, Lord. Yes, yes. Ooo.  
Yes, they hung him with a robber. Oh. Lord, Lord!  
Wasn't that a pity and a shame?

Well, its poor little Jesus. Yes, yes.  
Now he's risen from the darkness. Yes, yes.  
And he 'scended into glory. Yes, yes!  
Wasn't that a pity and a shame? Lord. Lord.  
Wasn't that a pity and a shame? Yes, yes.  
He was born on Christmas.  
Wasn't that a pity and a shame? Oh.



## Part III - Christ Enters Jerusalem

### Matthew 21 vv 1-11

When the disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.’ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ‘Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’



# The Poet Thinks About the Donkey

Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

On the outskirts of Jerusalem  
the donkey waited.  
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,  
he stood and waited.

*How horses, turned out into the meadow,  
leap with delight!  
How doves, released from their cages,  
clatter away, splashed with sunlight.*

But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.  
Then he let himself be led away.  
Then he let the stranger mount.

Never had he seen such crowds!  
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.  
Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark, obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.  
I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly upon him,  
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to, forward.





**Fanfare**  
**(from Three Short Pieces for Organ)**

Kevin Bylsma

**Ingrediente Domino**

Words: Palm Sunday Antiphon

George Malcolm (1917-1998)

Ingrediente Domino in sanctam civitatem,  
Hebraeorum pueri resurrectionem vitae pronuntiantes,  
cum ramis palmarum, 'Hosanna clamabant in excelsis.'  
Cumque audisset populus quod Jesus veniret Hierosolymam,  
exierunt obviam ei. Cum ramis palmarum,  
'Hosanna clamabant in excelsis.'

*When the Lord Jesus entered the holy city,  
all the Hebrews children, declaring the resurrection of life,  
with branches and palm leaves, 'Hosanna' crying 'in the Highest'.  
When all the people heard the cry that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem,  
they went forth to meet him with branches of palms,  
they were crying 'Hosanna in the highest.'*

**All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

St Theodulph (750-821)

M. Teschner (1584-1635)

Translated J.M. Neale (1818-1866)

**Congregation & Choir**

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
the King and Blessed One.**

**The company of angels is praising you on high;  
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present.**

To you before your passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.  
As you received their praises,  
accept the prayers we bring,  
for you delight in goodness,  
O good and gracious King!

## Part IV - Christ Enters Gethsemane

### Matthew 26 vv 39-41

Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”



## Gethsemane

Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

The grass never sleeps.  
Or the roses.  
Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.

Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.

The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet,  
and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body,  
and heaven knows if it ever sleeps.

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did,  
maybe the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move,  
maybe  
the lake far away, where once he walked as on a  
blue pavement,  
lay still and waited, wild awake.

Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not  
keep that vigil, how they must have wept,  
so utterly human, knowing this too  
must be a part of the story.



### **Away Vain World (from St. John Passion)**

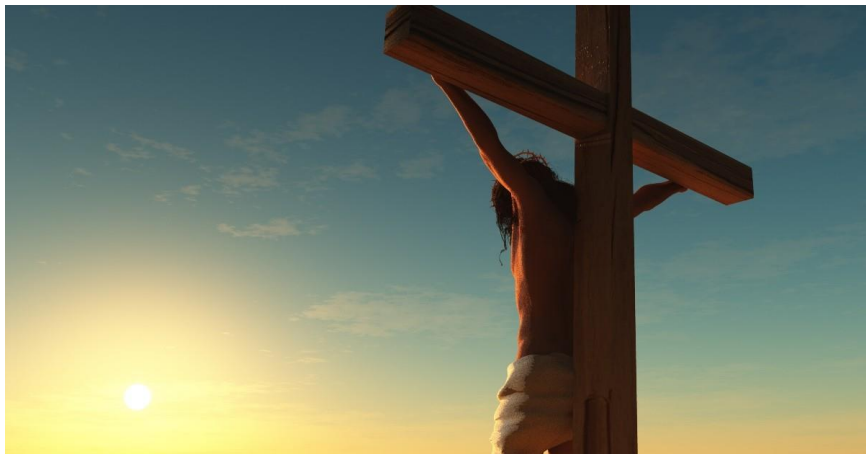
Alexander Montgomerie (1545–1610)

Bob Chilcott (b.1955)

Away vain world, bewitcher of my heart!  
My sorrow shows, my sin makes me to smart!  
Yet will I not despair But to my God repair,  
He has mercy ay, Therefore will I pray.  
He has mercy ay and loves me  
Though by his humbling hand he proves me.

Once more away, shows loth the world to leave,  
Bids oft adieu with it that holds me slave.  
Loth am I to forgo This sweet alluring foe.  
Since thy ways are vain, Shall I thee retain?  
Since thy ways are vain, I quite thee.  
Thy pleasures shall no more delight me.

What shall I say? Are all my pleasures past?  
Shall worldly joys now take their leave at last?  
Yea, Christ, these earthly toys Shall turn in heavenly joys.  
Let the world be gone, I care not.  
Christ is my love alone, I fear not.



## **Part V – Christ Accepts the Cross**

### **John 19 vv 12-22**

And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king, we have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

# **There is a Green Hill Far Away** **(from St. John Passion)**

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)

Bob Chilcott (b.1955)

There is a green hill far away,  
Without a city wall,  
Where the dear Lord was crucified,  
Who died to save us all,  
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
What pains he had to bear,  
But we believe it was for us  
He hung and suffered there,  
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiv'n,  
He died to make us good,  
That we might go at last to heav'n,  
Saved by his precious blood,  
Saved by his precious blood.

Oh, dearly, dearly has he loved,  
And we must love him too,  
And trust in his redeeming blood,  
And try his works to do.





## **Jesus, Priceless Treasure**

Johann Frank (1618-1677)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Chorale Prelude by Jean Pasquet

Jesus, priceless treasure,  
Source of purest pleasure,  
Truest friend to me;  
Long my heart hath panted,  
Till it well-nigh fainted,  
Thirsting after Thee.

Thine I am. O spotless Lamb,  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee,  
Ask for nought beside Thee.

## **Congregation & Choir**

**Hence, all thoughts of sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in;  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within;**

**Yea, what-e'er we here must bear,  
Still in Thee lies purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless Treasure!**

## **An Adapted Passion Meditation (Part 1)**

Francis Spufford (b. 1964)

From John 19: "So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them."

He cannot do anything deliberate now. The strain of His whole weight on His outstretched arms hurts too much.

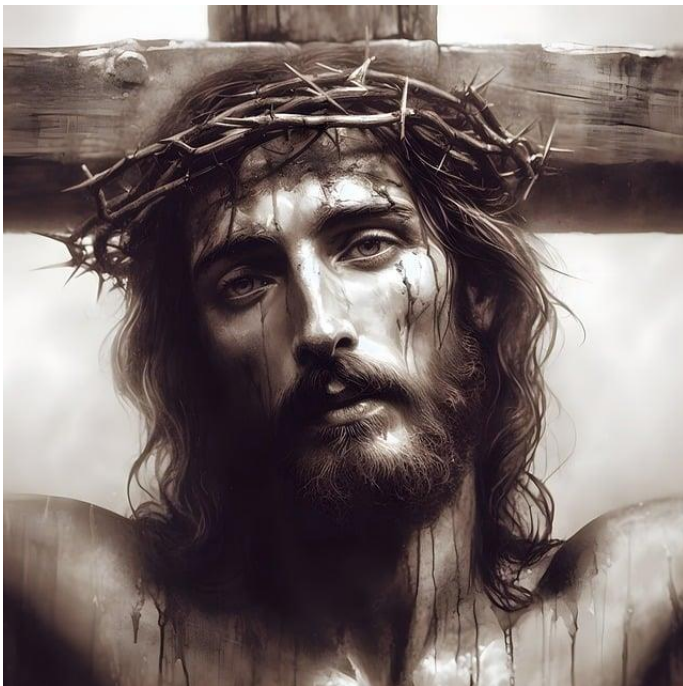
The pain fills Him up, displaces thought, as much for Him as for anyone else who dies in pain from any of the world's grim arsenal of possibilities.

And yet He goes on taking it in. It is not what He does, it is who He is. He is all open door: to sorrow, suffering, guilt, despair, horror, everything that cannot be escaped. He does not even try to escape it, He turns to meet it, and claims it all as His own.

“This is mine now,” He is saying; and He embraces it with all that is left in him, each dark act, each dripping memory, as if it were something precious, as if it were itself the loved child tottering homeward on the road.

But there is so much of it...so many injured children; so many locked rooms; so much lonely anger; so many jokes that go too far; so much vicious rhetoric and zeal; so much hurt-filled ingenuity; so much ruining greed; and so many lives stuck at roadblocks.

The world He claims, claims Him. It burns and stings, it splinters and gouges, it locks Him round and drags Him down.



## **The Crown of Roses**

Aleksey Pleshcheyev (1825-1893)

P.I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Trans. Geoffrey Dearmer (1883-1996)

When Jesus Christ was yet a child  
He had a garden small and wild,  
Wherein He cherished roses fair,  
And wove them into garlands there.

Now once, as summer time drew nigh,  
There came a troop of children by,  
And seeing roses on the tree,  
With shouts they plucked them merrily.

"Do you bind roses in your hair?"  
They cried, in scorn, to Jesus there.  
The Boy said humbly: "Take, I pray,  
All but the naked thorns away."

Then of the thorns they made a crown,  
And with rough fingers pressed it down,  
Till on His forehead fair and young,  
Red drops of blood like roses sprung.

## **Ave Verum**

Franciscan 13<sup>th</sup> Century

William Byrd (1542-1623)

Ave, verum corpus  
natum de Maria Virgine,  
Vere passum immolatum  
in Cruce pro homine,  
Cujus latus perforatum  
unda fluxit sanguine,  
Esto nobis praegustatum  
in mortis examine.

Hail, true body  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
Who truly suffered, sacrificed  
on the Cross for man,  
Whose pierced side overflowed  
with water and blood  
Be for us a foretaste  
In the test of death.

# God With/For Us: Jesus Dies for Us

## John 19:28-30

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- *A Momentary Silent Pause* -

### Were You There?

Spiritual

Arranged: Bob Chilcott (B, 1955)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



## **Solus Ad Victimam**

Peter Abelard (1079-1142)

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

Translation Helen Wadell (1889-1965)

Alone to sacrifice thou goest, Lord,  
Giving thyself to Death whom thou hast slain.  
For us thy wretched folk is any word?  
Who know that for our sins this is thy pain?  
For they are ours, O Lord, our deeds, our deeds.  
Why must thou suffer torture for our sin?  
Let our hearts suffer in thy Passion, Lord,  
that very suffering may thy mercy win.

'This is the night of tears, the three days' space,  
sorrow abiding of the eventide,  
Until the day break with the risen Christ,  
and hearts that sorrowed shall be satisfied.  
So may our hearts share in thine anguish, Lord,  
that they may sharers of thy glory be;  
Heavy with weeping may the three days pass,  
to win the laughter of thine Easter Day.'

## **Choir Procession to the Upper Rear Organ Gallery**

### **Offertory**

**'Stèle pour un enfant défunt' from Triptyque**

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)



## **34 Years of Your Caring, Generous Partnering Has Kept our Mission of Music Alive...Thank You!**

**“I dread the extinction of boys’ choirs!”** The Spectator – June 2018

So appeared a recent headline in a prominent British paper. Did you know that there are now only 11 daily-singing choirs of men and boys left — four Anglican cathedrals, one Catholic one, four Oxbridge colleges, and two Royal Peculiars. As Britain is the only country in the world that maintains the medieval miracle that is daily sung services with psalms, responses, canticles and anthem, this means that there are only 11 choirs of men and boys left in the world singing daily. (Well, 12: St Thomas’s Fifth Avenue in New York has a choir of men and boys who sing five services a week, emulating the glorious British phenomenon.)

This tradition, for those communities blessed to support it, twice blesses. Those who come to listen are given pause to re-think, re-experience, re-feel, reconnect and re-charge. And for the boys who sing, it’s not just about becoming musically literate, it is also about becoming emotionally literate and learning how to grow spiritually.

In the current climate of how the world teaches boys to behave, our sons and grandsons have very few places to turn to learn how to safely express how they feel. What the world needs now more than ever are caring, expressive boys who will grow into men with great empathy for the people and communities in which they will one day live and lead. The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys is dedicated to our boys, sharing with them how to connect their head to heart and heart to head.



*Boys will be boys* must leave our mind-set. In its place let's proclaim that ***boys will be and are caring, expressive, empathetic and open-hearted spiritual human beings.***



As to the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys and the extinction of boys' choirs, with your continued support and prayers the choir remains strong and has now returned to presenting musically and spiritually rich performances throughout the year. We are re-engaging several of the world's greatest choral conductors to take residency here in Grand Rapids to be part of our GRCMB family and to inspire the choir to be the very best that it can possibly be.

The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys receives no city or state grants or corporate support, but depends totally upon you, our choir family, for the funds to keep this sacred programming alive.



As the boys pass the red books down your row, please sign our email registry to receive future concert information.

**Donate Online at: [grcmb.org](https://grcmb.org)**

**Or at: [venmo.com/grcmb](https://venmo.com/grcmb)**

For tax purposes, GRCMB is a Registered 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit organization.  
Contributions to the Choir are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

**The Choir's tax-exempt ID# is 38-2919772.**

## Part VI - Resurrection

### An Adapted Passion Meditation (Part 2)

Francis Spufford (b. 1964)

All day long, the next day, the city is quiet. Families are indoors. The soldiers are back in barracks. The governor plays chess with his secretary and dictates letters. The free bread the temple distributed to the poor has gone stale by midday, but tastes all right dipped in water or broth.

Death has interrupted life only as much as it ever does. We die one at a time and disappear, but the life of the living continues. The earth turns. The sun makes its way towards the western horizon no slower or faster than it usually does.

Early Sunday morning, one of Jesus' friends and follower comes back with rags, a jug of water and a box of the grave spices that are supposed to cut down on the smell. She's braced for the task. But when she comes to the grave, she finds that the linen's been thrown into the corner and the body is gone. She sits outside in the sun. The insects have woken up, here at the edge of the desert, and a bee is nosing about in a lily like silk thinly tucked over itself, but much more perishable. It won't last long.

She takes no notice of the feet that appear at the edge of her vision. That's enough now, she thinks. That's more than enough.

She is weeping. The One who was crucified helps her to stand up.

**“Don't be afraid,”** says Jesus. **“Far more can be mended than you know.”**



## Now the Green Blade Riseth

Words: J.M.C. Crum (1872-1958)

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain.  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom had slain,  
Thinking that never he would wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Thy touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.



## Blessed Be the God and Father

Words: I Peter

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again  
unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled,  
that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,  
Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation  
ready to be revealed at the last time.

*Treble Soloists: Aaron Baas, Drew Barrows, Colt Kirkman*

But as he which hath called you is holy,  
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.  
Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

*Treble Soloists: Aaron Bass, Leo Ensing, Andreas Rubin*

Love one another with a pure heart fervently.  
See that ye love one another.  
Love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Being born again, not of corruptible seed,  
but of incorruptible, by the word of God.

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man  
as the flower of grass.  
The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away.  
But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Amen.





## **This Joyful Eastertide**

Words: G.R. Woodward (1848-1934)

Dutch Carol

Arranged: Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!

My Love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow:

Refrain:

Had Christ, who once was slain,

Ne'er burst His three-day prison,

Our faith had been in vain;

But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen!

My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber

Until the trumpet voice shall wake the dead in number: [Refrain]

Death's flood has lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river;

Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver: [Refrain]

## **Part VII - God Now With Us We Shall Never Be Separated from God's Love Romans 8 vv 38-39**

For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we are—high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean—nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.

## “I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)

### *We Question Christ*

How can You be the final resurrection?  
That resurrection hasn't happened yet.  
Our broken world is still bent on destruction,  
No sun can rise before that sun has set.  
Our faith looks back to father Abraham  
And toward to the 'One who is to come'  
How can You speak as though he knew Your name?  
How can You say: 'Before he was I am?'

### *Christ Responds to Our Questions*

Begin in Me and I will read your riddle  
And teach you truths My Spirit will defend  
I am the End who meets you in the middle,  
The new Beginning hidden in the End.  
I am the victory, the end of strife,  
I am the resurrection and the life.



# **Christ the Lord is Risen Today**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Lyrica David (1708)

Descant: Paul Sjolund

## **Choir & Congregation**

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!  
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise; Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!  
Where's your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head; Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!  
Praise to you by both be given; Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now; Alleluia!,  
Every knee to you shall bow. Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

**It is our tradition to remain seated until the  
postlude has finished.**

## **Finale from Symphony No. 1, Op. 14**

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

# **Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys**

## **2023-2024 Roster**

### **Senior Choristers**

Aaron Baas	Jeffrey Hasse +	Andreas Rubin +
Andrew Barrows	Francis Hillary	Noah Wallace +
Joseph Barrows +	Graham Kozminski	Jude Westra +
Leo Ensing		

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Gabriel Gupta	Levon Schultz	Jacob Wolfe
Colt Kirkman	Eric Stam	

### **Preparatory Choristers**

Mathias Schultz	Josiah Terrell	Peter Triemstra
Joseph Sedore	Liam TenHooen	Davis Vermeersch

### **Counter Tenors**

Brennen Kartes	Austin McWilliams
Michael Match	Adrian Pool

### **Tenors**

Jake Herrera	Stephen Rumler-McClusky
Phil Konczyk	Michael Steinfert
Jordan Malone	Art Wallace

### **Baritones**

Curt Day	Jim Noorman	Ben Stam
David Diephouse	Timothy Pennings	David Terhune

### **Basses**

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David Boersma	John Hibma	John Scheid
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Boerigter, George and Sibilla  
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Britcher, Eric  
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Titchenell, Paul  
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Boice, Gayla  
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Borst, Susan  
Breuker, James and Sharon  
Cammenga, Carolyn  
Christenson, Randy and Anne  
Coon, Thomas  
Dengerink, Mary  
Deupree, Barbara  
Early, Duane and Jeanne  
Engeltjes, Dr. Ira and  
Valerie Engeltjes  
Faber, Carol  
Flick, Steven  
Flugstad, Joel  
Friesen, Timothy and Tammy  
Gazan, Harold and Nancy  
Gerritsen, Mary  
Goddard, Anna  
Herrick, James and Glenna  
Homer, Kenzie  
Huisman, David and Lois  
Huissen, June  
Huizenga, Gertrude

Vander Meulen, William & Shelley  
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VanderHart, Gerald  
Vanderlaan, Douglas and Karen  
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Blackmore, David and Barbara  
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Bonzelaar, Helen  
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Brown, William and Shelly  
Brummel, Russell and Patricia  
Cammenga, Cheryl  
Carlson, Todd and Susan  
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Claytor, Judith  
Conway Terrie  
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Denk, Opal  
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Faass, Don  
Fortune, Gene  
Gallagher, Kristen  
Gargano, Moira  
Gerdes, Stephanie  
Hackney, Frances  
Herring, Vern  
Ippel, Charles  
Jekel, Barbara  
Jonker, Linda  
Kelly, Bri  
Kim, Roderick  
Knierim, Mick and  
Ethel Sundman-Knierim  
Koning, Scott and Jill  
Krell, Mary

Lanning Burch, Cynthia  
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Norton, C.  
Obetts, Arlene  
Ohman, Nate and Jodi  
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Praay, Keith and Jenell  
Prose, Betsy  
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VanDenend, Michael and Loni  
VanderWilp, Sharon  
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## **Chichester Club \$1 - \$49**

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Zuzelski, Traci

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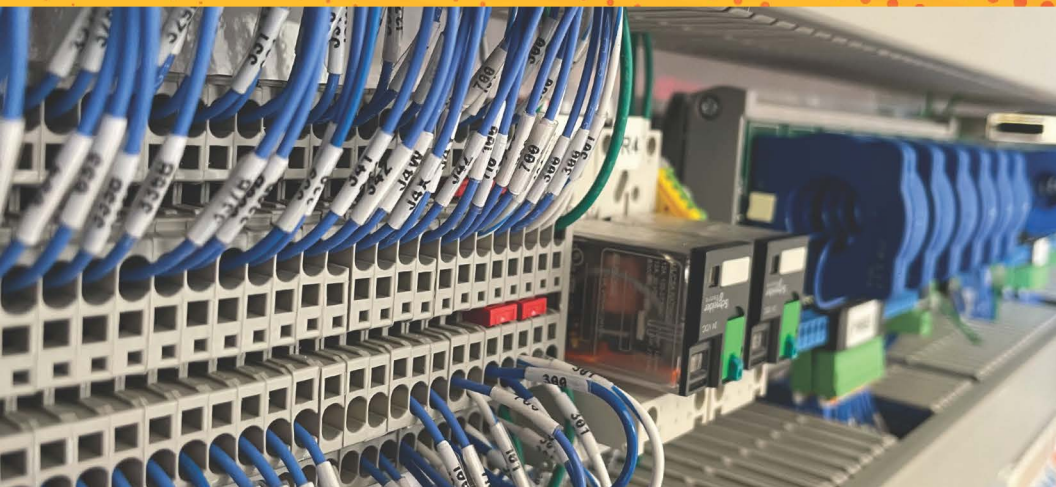


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