



FRIDAY
MAY 17, 2024

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Commencement
CONCERT

7:30 PM AUDITORIUM

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PROGRAM

Chorale

Prof. Jonathan Laabs, Conductor

Nyon Nyon

Jake Runestad

Chorale & Hosanna Ringers

Prof. Jonathan Laabs, Conductor

A Bronze Triptych

Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri
Music by Dan Forrest

- I. *Nata sum in venas altissimas.*
I was born in deepest veins of tin and copper cold.
The metal blood of mother earth.
Mined, melted, mixed,
Forged in fire,
Wrought by arms into arms.
Gladius, cetratus, hasta:
Concursus, tormento!
Sword and shield and spear!
Cannon clash and clamor,
Dealing Death!
- II. But then I was reborn.
When now my bronze strikes bronze
'Tis not in clash of arms
Or blast of fire,
But to ring the vesper hour;
Or I may toll in requiem
As those who fall asleep
Are gathered back to earth.
- III. And oh! To peal in celebration!
In victory, in festival,
In carillon of joy!
But greater still will be to sing
The dawning of that day
When war shall cease,
And on earth, peace
Everlasting I will ring!

Ella Bergemann & Kate Carlovsky, piano
Caleb Krahn & Emma Niebuhr, percussion

Hosanna Ringers
Prof. Craig Hirschmann, Conductor

I'm a Believer

Words and Music by Neil Diamond
Arranged by Sandra Eithun

Männerchor
Prof. Adrian Smith, Conductor

People around the world celebrate life and death, hope and despair, work, love, and laughter through folk songs. Such songs express the music and ideas of common people and pass from generation to generation by oral tradition. The melodies are often simple and sing-able, and the lyrics tell the stories of the culture, often changing as songs pass from one region to another. Because they come from oral tradition, original manuscripts of folk songs do not exist. In fact, folk singers regularly create their own version of a song by embellishing the melody, adding and changing words, altering form, and employing unique rhythmic patterns. It is familiarity that is the essence of all traditional songs, for they were not only learned by memory and transmitted by memory, they were invented out of memory. That is the secret of their timelessness, and the reason they are so easy to learn and impossible to forget.

Nine Hundred Miles

Traditional American Folk Song
Arranged by Philip E. Silvey

I am walkin' on this track,
I've got tears in my eyes,
I'm tryin' to read a letter from my home.

And if that train runs me right,
I'll be home Saturday night,
'Cause I'm nine hundred miles from my home.
And I hate to hear that lonesome whistle blow,
That long, lonesome train whistlin' down.

Well this train I ride on
Is a hundred coaches long.
You can hear her whistle blow a million miles.

And if this train runs me right,
I'll be home Saturday night,
'Cause I'm nine hundred miles from my home.
And I hate to hear that lonesome whistle blow,
That long, lonesome train whistlin' down.

Laura Stelljes, piano

I Got a Hog and a Pig

Traditional Appalachian Song
Arranged by John Wykoff
This edition by Alan Stevens

I got a hog and a pig in a pen, corn to feed 'em on,
All I need's a pretty little gal, feed 'em when I'm gone.

If I had a needle and a thread, fine as I could sew,
I'd sew my true love to my side and down the road I'd go.

I love the coffee pot, I love the spout.
I love the pretty little gal pours my coffee out.

Hoe Down

Words by Tom Porter
Music by W. H. Stepp and Tom Porter
Based on "Bonaparte's Retreat," an American folk song
Arranged by Tom Porter

Kick up your heels an' circle the floor.
Pick out a partner, circle once more.
Now to the middle, makin' a wheel.
Dance to the fiddle playin' a reel!

Bow to your partner, pick up an' go,
Spinnin' aroun', tap heel an' toe.
Two steps a left an' two to the right,
Dancin' a Hoe Down, dancin' all night.

Dancin' a Hoe Down, a whoopin' an' a hollerin',
A dancin' a Hoe Down, a sight to see.

Met the girl I love at a dance up in Dakota,
'Neath the stars above on a summer's eve.
As I held her tight in our dance up in Dakota,
Made her promise me that she'd never leave.

Dancin' a Hoe Down, a whoopin' an' a hollerin',
A dancin' a Hoe Down, a sight to see.
Dancin' a Hoe Down, a stompin' an' a swayin',
An' a dancin' a Hoe Down, just you an' me.

Hey, hi, fiddle eye dee. Hey, hi, fiddle eye aye.
Do-si-do, back early an' spin. Swing your partner, do it again,

An' dance to the fiddle, playin' a reel.
Now to the middle, makin' a wheel.
Kick up your heels an' circle the floor.
Show off your partner, circle once more.

Laura Stelljes & Hope Sulzle, piano

Women's Choir
Prof. Jonathan Laabs, Conductor

Niška Banja

Romani Dance
Arranged by Nick Page

The word "Niška" refers to the city of Niš in Serbia. "Banja" means bath. The song is a flirtatious dance that basically means, "Let's go to the baths of Niš, where we shall kiss, kiss, kiss." Its 2+2+2+3 meter is as common in Central Europe as 4/4 is in Western music.

Lily Dang, Hannah Bodden, Matteah Gehl & Mara Haefner, semi-chorus
Elsa Brauer & Naomi Kassulke, piano

Jack's* Valentine
(*Jack Kerouac)

Aldeen Humphreys
Libby Larsen

Hey, you!
I love you. A lot.
I love you. A whole lot.
I love you lots and lots and lots.
Hey, you!
I love you very much.
I love you a whole bunch.
Forever.

Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Words by Betsy Rose, Cathy Winter, and Marcia Taylor
Traditional Appalachian
Arranged by J. David Moore

Will the circle be unbroken, by and by, Lord, by and by?
There's a better home a-waitin' if we try, Lord, if we try.

I was singing with my sisters, I was singing with my friends,
And we all can sing together, 'cause the circle never ends.

I was born down in the valley where the sun refused to shine,
But I'm climbing up to the highland, gonna make that mountain mine!

Will the circle be unbroken, by and by, Lord, by and by?
There's a better home a-waitin' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.

Lindsay Hatton, Naomi Kassulke & Ella Schlei, soloists

College Choir
Prof. Adrian Smith, Conductor

Across the Vast, Eternal Sky

Words by Charles A. Silvestri
Arranged by Ola Gjeilo

Sunlight shines on my face;
This is my grace, to be restored, born again, in flame!

When I was young, I flew in the velvet night;
Shining by day, a firebird bathed in light!
Grey now my feathers, which once were red and gold;
My destiny to soar up to the sun.

Sunlight shines on my face;
This is my grace, to be restored, born again, in flame!

Do not despair that I am gone away;
I will appear again when the sunset paints flames across the vast, eternal sky.

Carissa Avery & Lydia Meyer, violin
Jared Dobberstein, viola
Aric Reim, cello
Laura Stelljes, piano

Lovely Day

Words by Bill Withers and Skip Scarborough
Arranged by Bill Withers

When I wake up in the morning, love,
And the sunlight hurts my eyes,
And something without warning, love,
Bears heavy on my mind,
Then I look at you and the world's alright with me.
Just one look at you and I know it's gonna be
A lovely day.

When the day that lies ahead of me
Seems impossible to face,
And someone else instead of me
Always seems to know the way,
Then I look at you and the world's alright with me.
Just one look at you and I know it's gonna be
A lovely day.

Amanda Rehberger & Luke Staude, duet

I'll Be On My Way

Shawn Kirchner

When I am gone, don't you cry for me, don't you pity my sorry soul.
What pain there might have been will now be past, and my spirit will be whole.
I'll be on my way, I'll have left my feet of clay upon the ground,
I will be glory bound. I'll be on my way.

When I am gone, please forgive the wrongs that I might have done to you;
There'll be no room for regrets up there, high above, way beyond the blue.

I'll be on my way, I'll have laid my frown and all my burdens down,
I'll be puttin' on my crown. I'll be on my way.

When I am gone, don't you look for me in the places I have been;
I'll be alive, but somewhere else, I'll be on my way again!

I will lift my wings and soar into the air; there'll be glory everywhere.
I'll have laid my frown and all my burdens down,
I'll be puttin' on my crown. I'll be on my way.
I'll have left my feet of clay upon the ground, I will be glory bound.
I'll be on my way!

Jesse Childress, solo
Lydia Meyer, violin
Tim Manning, string bass
Laura Stelljes, piano

Alumni Recognition

Michelle Markgraf, Director of Alumni Relations

10-Minute Intermission & Offering

A freewill offering will be gathered to support student financial aid at MLC.
We are offering three options:

- You may contribute at the door
- You may contribute from your cell phone: Text **AID** to 507-233-4344
- You may scan the QR code below and select the **MLC Financial Aid** designation on the dropdown menu



Wind Symphony
Dr. Miles Wurster, Conductor

Godzilla Eats Las Vegas!

Eric Whitacre

It took me seven years to get my bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. By the time I graduated I was ready to eat Las Vegas.

Tom Leslie asked me to write another piece for the group as I was leaving, and I thought it would be a blast to do something completely ridiculous. The players are called upon to scream in terror, dress like Elvises (Elvi), and play in about thirty different styles from mambo to cheesy lounge music. The audience follows a 'script' that I wrote simulating a campy, over the top Godzilla movie (is there any other kind?).

I wrote the bulk of the piece while in my first year at Juilliard, and no kidding, I used to act out the script every morning devouring animal crackers, wreaking havoc all over the breakfast table. The 'script' was originally twice as long, and had an entire subplot devoted to a young scientist and his love interest. As I started to finish the piece, however, it didn't seem that funny and that story (along with an extended Elvis tribute) ended up on the cutting room floor.

The idea that this piece is being played all over the world in such serious concert venues is the single funniest thing I have ever heard. It has been played on the steps of the Capitol by the United States Marine Band, by the Scottish National Wind Symphony (they play in kilts), and I have a video of a Japanese audience visibly confused and shaken by the whole experience.

Note from the Composer, Eric Whitacre

GODZILLA EATS LAS VEGAS!

ADVANCE COPY SCRIPT

* * * PART ONE * * *

FADE UP

It is a Bright and Sunny day as the sequined curtain rises on Tinseltown, and the excitement of a new day filled with the possibility of the Big Payoff is practically palpable. The band kicks off the show in high gear and all is well as we suddenly hear:

CUT TO DESERT

A lone shakuhachi flute ushers the arrival of something really VERY bad.

CUT BACK TO BAND

A relaxed rhumba. Showgirls blissfully jiggle.

CUT TO MILITARY COMMAND CENTER (stock footage)

Morse code signals the confirmation of approaching doom.

CUT BACK TO BAND

The players finish off their third set and head for the bar; outside we hear:

SLOW ZOOM

Oh no, oh no, oh no, it's:

CLOSE UP

Godzilla! Glorious Godzilla!

VARIOUS QUICK CUTS (stock footage)

Godzilla destroys cars, screaming tourists, etc.

CUT BACK TO BAND

The band, quasi-Greek Chorus, calls for Godzilla to mambo.

GODZILLA, FULL FRAME

Godzilla mambos, casually crushing hysterical Vegans without missing a step.

EXTREME CLOSE UP

A tiny terrier barking bravely, then:

CUT BACK TO GODZILLA

Demolishing everything in his path . . . not even the doggie escapes!

WIDE PAN

As Godzilla heads down the strip, searching relentlessly for:

CLOSE UP (stock footage)

Frank Sinatra (Stomped!)

CLOSE UP (stock footage)

Wayne Newton (Stamped!)

CLOSE UP (stock footage)

Liberace (Stepped upon!)

VARIOUS CUTS

The Village Gods destroyed, Godzilla continues his carnage until The City of Sin is leveled!

*** * * PART TWO * * ***

FADE UP

A fearless army of Elvies (Elvi) appear in the distance, formation marching through the littered streets.

VARIOUS CLOSE UPS

The Elvi attack, using bombers, missiles, etc.

EXTREME CLOSE UP

One wicked laugh from Godzilla and the Elvi scatter like mice!

QUICK CUT (stock footage)

The Sphinx sits outside The Luxor, looking seductive in a Mae West sort of way.

CLOSE UP

Godzilla takes one look and his eyes pop out of his head.

QUICK CUTS

The Sphinx (Sphinxstress?) seduces the Reptile, who instantly falls in love and begins to:

WIDE SHOT

Tango with her.

SPLIT SCREEN

As they dance, the Elvi slowly regroup and head for the:

QUICK CUT (stock footage)

Pirate ships at Treasure Island.

ACTION SEQUENCE (MONTAGE)

The Elvi approach the dancing monster and launch a ferocious volley of cannonballs directly at him.

QUICK CLOSE UPS

The cannonballs find their mark, and Godzilla:

WIDE SHOT

Falls to the ground, annihilated. The Elvi are triumphant!

CROSSFADE

The lounge is open again, and the city of Las Vegas toasts the victory. The scene climaxes with:

VARIOUS CUTS (stock footage)

People happy, tearful, etc. Stock footage, stock music.

SLOW FADE OUT AND FADE UP

A dark, ominous, and VERY familiar sound . . .

SLOW ZOOM

Godzilla lives! Godzilla lives! Complete terror (possible sequel?).

WIDE SHOT

The Show is over. The End.

FADE TO BLACK

Chorale

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Chloe Berg	Emma Arnold	Garrett Bretschneider	Alex Becker
Ella Bergemann	Alaina Bartel	Isaiah Carlovsky	Hans Boeder
Rachel Bohlmann	Caitlin Broehm	Matthew Colson	Adam Conrad
Madelyn Fischer	Eva Doebler	Silas Gawrisch	Michael Forrester
Evelyn Frantzen	Mora Enoka	Manuel Iglesias	Micah Gray
Katelyn Gilkey	Dorothea Grubbs	Benjamin Loescher	Noah Gruetzmacher
Jessica Horn	Cora Hinz	Jack Pittenger	Josiah Guenther
Elizabeth Kanzenbach	Maddilyn Holicky	Micah Schibbelhut	Grant Klas
Greta Kopp	Madelyn Italiano	Joshua Shilling	Caleb Krahn
Nina Litherland	Emma Grace Kramer	Eric Smith	Noah Kvidt
Mary Niebuhr	Anika Metzger	Micah Vanderhoof	Wenda Liu
Elizabeth Oakland	Emma Niebuhr		Timothy Manning
Susan Riedel	Kay Prigge		Alexander Moldenhauer
Katie Rosenau	Ella Rosenau		Caleb Munson
Grace Russell	Lillian Ruddat		Luke Rogotzke
Heidi Schindler	Alana Sulzle		Isaiah Ruddat
Heidi Schmidt	Hazel Wagie		Jared Schlittenhart
Magdalyn Spike	Micaiah Wagner		Peter Smith
Sandra Toyoda-Bell			Jonah Uhlenbrauck
			Mark Vogel

Women's Choir

Soprano 1	Soprano 2	Alto 1	Alto 2
Elizabeth Baade	Delaney Bargaquast	Hannah Bigelow	Ava Beilman
Priscilla Boehm	Rebecca Bieberitz	Hannah Bivens	Zoe Bethke
Elsa Brauer	Bang Dang	Anna Cloyd	Hannah Bodden
Sydney Buch	Rachel Groth	Laura Faught	Mathilde Bodenbender-Benner
Audrey deBoer	Lindsay Hatton	Mara Haefner	Allyson Bullington
Michelle Gill	Naomi Kassulke	Aubrey Hartzell	Matteah Gehl
Julianna Koehler	Anna Kieselhorst	Kristen Kamps	Emily Gronholz
Brenna Moore	Michaela Larson	Paige Kohlhoff	Hannah Heston
	Rachel McCaughna	Gretchen Lucht	Sarah Johnson
	Hope Patterson	Trinity Mulder	Elizabeth Kolar
	Alyssa Rogne	Grace Perry	Kira Lange
	Lydia Schuch	Madelyn Ponath	Myah Loberger
	Emma Schultz	Natalie Ritter	Ella Schlei
	Ella Walz	Rhiannon Schaefer	Katie Schoeneck
		Rebekah Schroeder	Isabelle Steidl
			Liberty VanDenHeuvel

Männerchor

Tenor 1

Jackson Anderson
Jacob Bergstrom
Logan Cook
Jack Pittenger
Joel Sauer**
Austin Schwab

Tenor 2

Cody Birsching
Wyatt Groskreutz
Phillip McCaskill
Zair Palacios
Isaac Roeseler
Espen Storlie
Caleb Wendland

Bass 1

Tyler Case
Matthew Curtis
Sam Hansmann
Andrew Oblender
Jude Pederson*
Samuel Plocher
Thomas Plocher
Thomas Tranberg

Bass 2

Isaac Boettcher
Jared Henning
Elijah Hutchinson
Zachary Maedke
Lucas Prange
Noah Walta

College Choir

Soprano 1

Emma Berg
Faith Blauert
Ruby Freese
Sarah Kramer
Emmalee Mindock
Isabel Monday
Nicole Schumann

Soprano 2

Carissa Avery
Carolyn Bauer
Morgan Glowicki
Abbee Olsen
Emma Pufahl
Bethany Schneekloth
Meg Stangl
Nicole Trapp

Alto 1

Lydia Hahm
Lydia Meyer
Grace Seim
Hope Sulzle
Katie Ungemach
Bethany Valleau**
Margaret Zabell

Alto 2

Meghan Johnson
Elise Nolte
Madelyn Plitzuweit
Amanda Rehberger
Olivia Robinson
Zoe Scharf
Abigail Schmitz

Tenor 1

Zachary Cole
Noah Cook
Jason Horn
Caleb Jensen
Joshua Kallies
Eli Krueger
Luke Staude

Tenor 2

Ryan Boggs
Caleb Carlovsky
Aaron Jobs
Noah Kelly
Matthew Marquardt
Seth Marquardt
Joseph Schultz

Bass 1

Joshua Bannick
Jesse Childress
Corey Deyo
Paul Frick
Jefferson Heyer
Ethan Mallow
Justin Peter
Robert Reinke
Josiah Smith

Bass 2

Jared Dobberstein
Kyle Doering
Joseph Engel
Benjamin Foster
Matthew Nygaard
Joseph Panning
Aric Reim*

*Choir President
** Choir Secretary

Wind Symphony

Piccolo

Emma Pufahl
Meg Stangl

Flute

Carolyn Bauer
Evelyn Frantzen
Emma Pufahl
Ella Rosenau
Meg Stangl
Nicole Trapp
Micaiah Wagner

Clarinet

Samuel Daley
Lillian Ruddat
Bethany Schneekloth
Nicole Schumann

Bass Clarinet

Meghan Johnson

Bassoon

Jared Dobberstein

Alto Saxophone

Joseph Panning
Hannah Ott

Tenor Saxophone

Madelyn Italiano

Baritone Saxophone

Grant Klas

Trumpet

Joshua Kallies
Ethan Mallow
Luke Rogotzke
Katie Rosenau
Eric Smith

Horn

Josiah Smith
Katie Ungemach

Trombone

Alex Becker
Reese Collins
Adam Conrad
Benjamin Foster
Nina Litherland
Grace Seim
Bethany Valleau

Bass Trombone

Micah Schibbellhut

Euphonium

Noah Gruetzmacher
Justin Peter

Tuba

Micah Gray

String Bass

Timothy Manning

Percussion

James Carter
Caleb Krahn
Emma Niebuhr
Mary Niebuhr
Robert Reinke

Hosanna Ringers

Benjamin Foster
Madelyn Italiano
Elizabeth Kanzenbach
Mikayla Kiedrowski

Grant Klas
Nina Litherland
Emma Niebuhr
Alyssa Rogne
Joel Sauer

Bethany Schneekloth
Grace Seim
William Shanks
Josiah Smith
Elijah Wohling

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MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

The mission of Martin Luther College is to train men and women to meet the public ministry needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.