

masterworks *Matters*

MASTERWORKS CHORALE • TOLEDO, OHIO • MAY 2022



Shaker basket manufacture, Ministry Shop, Hancock Shaker Village, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Part of a photo by BestBudBrian, downloaded from Wikimedia Commons

chorale to present a plea for

peace

including four shaker songs

*Love ye, love ye,
Love ye one another.*

*Text adapted from the Shaker song "Benediction"
arranged by Kevin Siegfried*

shaker lyrics reveal utopian vision

You'll hear a broad variety of music in our Connections Concert, entitled *A Prayer for Peace*. Nestled in among works by composers as diverse as Antonio Vivaldi (Italian, 1678–1741), Felix Mendelssohn (German, 1809–1847), and Eleanor Daley (Canadian, b. 1955) is a set of four songs from the Shaker tradition, arranged by Kevin Siegfried (American, b. 1969).

Part of the Shaker tradition is their charismatic worship. Also known as "shaking Quakers," they broke off from the much less expressive Quakers in England around 1747. A small group came to New England in 1774. The Shaker movement reached its "golden age" around 1830, with communities throughout New England and the Midwest. Today, there is but one Shaker community, near New Gloucester, Maine, with only a handful of members. Says Wikipedia, "They practice a celibate and communal utopian lifestyle, pacifism, uniform charismatic worship, and their model of equality of the sexes."

The lyrics of the songs that the Chorale will sing reveal a Shaker vision of utopia, or Zion. "When Zion shall be cleansed, she shall flourish as a rose.... And their sorrows shall cease." Heavenly music rolls in Zion, like "the waves of the ocean," and love flows like "the wheels of a timepiece." It's a place "where the Lord can find me, where the Lord can own me, where the Lord can bless me." So "love ye, love ye, love ye one another." "O le ul lum ul la!"

"O le ul lum ul la"? This is the musical equivalent of speaking in tongues, also part of Shaker worship. Each of the four songs the Chorale will sing has a distinct feel, from the exuberantly marchlike "Heavenly Display" to the achingly beautiful and soothing "Lay Me Low."

Join us for these Shaker songs and so much more, our plea for peace in a troubled time. Epworth United Methodist Church, Saturday, June 11, 8 p.m. — Tom Sheehan, tenor



Brother Ricardo Belden, making oval wooden boxes in 1935. The Shakers are a Christian sect. Known for their simple living, architecture, technological innovation, music, and furniture, they practice celibacy and pacifism. One tiny Shaker community survives today.

Photo by Samuel Kravitt, from Wikimedia Commons



we're experiencing connections with poets and composers who have also longed for peace and searched for hope

Tim
 Tim Cloeter,
 Artistic Director

*from the artistic director
 a concert marked by beautiful imagery and hopeful reassurance*

To me it feels like peace and hope are in short supply these days. The war in Ukraine, Covid-19, economic uncertainty, polarized politics—all weigh heavily on us, and suffering and discord threaten to overwhelm us. It is under these circumstances that Masterworks Chorale gathers each Monday night to focus on music that expresses our desire for peace and our need for hope.

I especially like Heinrich Schütz's "Die mit Tränen säen" (composed in 1648 with a text from Psalm 126: "Those who sow with tears will reap with joy") because he honors both the suffering and the joy with highly expressive music that speaks clearly across the centuries. I'm moved by the warmth and quiet confidence of Moses Hogan's "We Shall Walk Through the Valley of Peace," and Eleanor Daley's "In Remembrance" (which includes the text "Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there, I did not die") is full of beautiful imagery and hopeful reassurance. Gjeilo's cinematic "Across the Vast, Eternal Sky," set for choir, piano, and string quartet, uses the story of the phoenix to remind us of renewal.

Piano and string quartet appear in a number of other pieces as well, including two pieces that turn their texts on their heads: "Et in terra pax" from Vivaldi's *Gloria* is the most plaintive setting I know of the angels' joyous Christmas announcement ("peace on earth, good will to all"), as if Vivaldi were earnestly praying for a peace he did not yet have, and Josef Haydn breaks with tradition in his "Mass in Time of Uncertainty" by setting the end of the normally somber "Agnus Dei" movement with such joyful music for the words "dona nobis pacem" (grant us peace) that it reveals his deep confidence that the peace we seek is sure to come.

In a more normal season, our Connections Concert would feature connections with other performing arts organizations, but it occurs to me that the connections we're experiencing this season are instead connections with poets and composers who have also longed for peace and searched for hope. We'll offer those connections to you at our concert on June 11, and I hope that you'll join us to find reassurance in this turbulent time.

*chorale baritone: patrick bowman
 award-winning data scientist, all-round helpful guy*



Baritone Patrick Bowman

If you've ever been driving in Michigan and seen a "Click It or Ticket" billboard, you've seen some of Baritone Patrick Bowman's work. As lead statistician at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, one of Patrick's duties is to manage the stats on those billboards. He's been in the job for ten years, and he's good at it. So good, in fact, that he has just been awarded the 2022 University of Michigan Research Data Management and Analysis Staff Recognition Award. "I guess I'm gonna get a plaque," he jokes. Yes, he is, and he's also going to get a \$1,000 honorarium, so it's kind of a big deal.

One criterion for this award is "service within the University or broader community." Service is important to Patrick. He was the guy, for example, wrangling the microphones at the Chorale's outdoor concert last spring. In addition, Patrick devoted many volunteer hours to setting up and tearing down the stage for the event. He is joined by his husband, Michael, in volunteering at the annual Old West End Festival. They share a home in the Old West End with their two cats.

Patrick grew up in Ida, Michigan. In middle school, he started playing saxophone in the band. He also participated in choir and dramatics. He excelled at band, and his band teacher told him about the Warren (Ohio) Junior Military Band. He spent two summers in Warren. "If you practice all summer long, you become a better musician," he says. He has happy memories of performing around Wisconsin with that band.

*service is clearly
 important to patrick*

After graduating from high school in 2005, Patrick attended Monroe Community College for two years and then transferred to Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he sang with the University Arts Chorale. After graduation with a biology major, he stayed at Grand Valley for a master's degree in biostatistics.

In 2016, Patrick and Michael suffered a terrible setback. Their apartment building burned to the ground, and they lost everything, including their beloved cat. Patrick heard about the Chorale from Soprano Michelle Keller. He joined in 2018, and "it was sort of like therapy," he says.

Patrick seems to make positive contributions wherever he goes. The Chorale needed a stagehand last spring; Patrick was there. This spring, the Chorale needs help in the tenor section, and Patrick is filling in. He's contributing to the Chorale's 50th Anniversary Celebration by helping out with the website. The Chorale is a better organization for his presence. Welcome, Patrick! And thanks! — Tom Sheehan, tenor

new book coming soon
sneak preview of early years from **history of masterworks chorale**

As part of the Chorale's 50th Anniversary Celebration, *The History of Masterworks Chorale* will be published later this year. The book will include factual articles, interviews, and recollections by members and others. There are also dozens of images and extensive appendices. Bass Elliot Tramer developed the concept for the book and is doing most

of the writing. Tenor Tom Sheehan is designing it and writing captions to images. This project is possible thanks to Anne Morris, alto, who has been maintaining the Chorale's archives since about 1990. Below is a preview of the first section of the book, which covers the early years, from 1971 to 1980, when Benjamin Locke was the group's director.



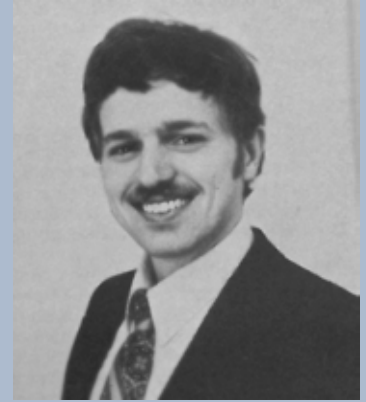
*The Benjamin Locke Chorale in 1980. **Front row:** Benjamin Locke (Director), Ellie Seifried, Shelly Hirsch (now Shelly Schaefer)*, Susan Craig, Tom Sheehan*, Carl Welch, Al Lipton, Meg Keller, Dorcas Hantula, Judy Stead. **Second row:** Rose Mary Locke, Diane Pribor, ___, Dave Stead, Jim Scott, Brooke Taylor, Liz Birkholtz, Rhoda Hess. **Third row:** Debbie Pipes, Sr. Gertrude Marie, Henry Wentte, Bill Jones, Dean Niswander, Steve Taylor, Joanne Niswander, Jane Lawton, Elizabeth Wilson. **Back row:** Jan Jopez, Martha Carver, Beckey Rabbitt, Sandy Craig*, Chet Chambers, Elliot Tramer*, Bill Locke, Dick Entenmann, Donna Chambers, Susan Bailey, Nancy Sasse. Not in this picture but a member at the time, Anne Reese (now Anne Morris)*.*

**Still on the roster today!*

connecting lives
and
celebrating singing
past, present & future

Originally, Ben's mother, Rose Mary, was planning to conduct the group. "But Mom had a splitting headache on that day, so she asked me to conduct while she served as accompanist," Ben wrote for *The History of Masterworks Chorale*. "And it just stayed that way." That was 1971.

The young conductor did well. In June of 1980, after Ben's farewell concert, *Blade* reviewer Boris Nelson wrote: "It is difficult to describe in a few words what Mr. Locke has accomplished with his chorale.... Above all, he set for himself very high musical standards and he steadfastly worked toward them and held on to them. His programs...have been innovative, imaginative, fascinating, and no less daring."



Benjamin Locke, founding director, in 1980. The name of the group at that time was The Benjamin Locke Chorale. Ben writes: "I can't recall the moment when it was decided to call the group The Benjamin Locke Chorale, but it was sort of the mode of the day in the seventies—the Gregg Smith Singers, the Norman Luboff Choir, the Roger Wagner Chorale—and the name fit so comfortably into 6/8 meter, I went with it!"

benjamin locke donates scores to chorale

The Chorale's founding director, Benjamin Locke, donated 150 titles, roughly forty copies of each, to Masterworks Chorale in January. "This generous donation has great depth and breadth! It includes repertoire from all Western classical style periods, from Victoria to Argento and everything in between." said the Chorale's current Artistic Director, Tim Cloeter.

Ben led the Chorale from 1971 to 1980, when he left to pursue a Doctorate in Musical Arts at the University of Wisconsin. Ben explained his decision to give away the scores: "I kept a lot of the music that I bought in the early years of the Chorale, mostly with the idea that if my DMA failed to provide a position in higher ed, I would have a stock of pieces on hand if I formed another ensemble somewhere."

Well, the DMA did pan out, and Ben has

been Professor of Music at Kenyon College, in Gambier, Ohio, since 1984. And what an interesting career! From the Kenyon College website: "Benjamin R. Locke directs the Kenyon College Chamber Singers, the Kenyon Community Choir, and the Knox County Symphony. In recent years, Locke's work has centered around South Africa and the Libertas Choir, a mixed-race choral ensemble based near Capetown. He has served as guest conductor for the group while in Capetown, collected material for his College ensembles to perform, and helped to coordinate the Libertas Choir U.S. tour."

"I am not interested in retiring," he wrote in an email, "but I do know that my career is going to play out entirely at Kenyon."

From all of us in the Chorale you started all those years ago, thank you, Ben!



one singer's playlist
inspired by the theme
of our
upcoming concert
a prayer for peace

MWC Spring 2022

[Click here](#) to hear a playlist of music inspired by the theme of our upcoming concert, *A Prayer for Peace*. The list was curated by Baritone Patrick Bowman (profiled on page 2).

Don't have a Spotify account? [It's easy to sign-up](#), and there's a free version. Problems? Visit <https://tinyurl.com/MWCPlaylistSpr2022> with a different browser.



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50!

We're looking forward to (finally!) celebrating our 50th anniversary! We've been holding off because of the pandemic, but we're hopeful that we can begin the celebrations of our 50th Anniversary in the fall. Stay tuned, and be ready to join us!

Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!

Our Connections Concert

A Prayer for Peace
Saturday, June 11 at 8 p.m.
Epworth United Methodist Church
Valleyview at Central, Toledo

Broadcast of *A Prayer for Peace*

Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 8 p.m.
WGTE-FM

This May Be Your Year to Audition for Masterworks Chorale!

Adult Singers: Have you always wanted to sing with Masterworks Chorale? We are hoping to add singers in all voice parts for our exciting 50th Anniversary Season. Auditions are in August. [Click here](#) for more information. **High-School Singers:** Rehearse and sing one or more concerts with the Chorale during our exciting 50th Anniversary Season. See [details](#) and sign up for the intern program. **Questions?** Leave a message at (419) 742-2775.

Tickets and Other Details

Tickets \$20. Students \$10. All seats assigned. Order by phone at (419) 742-2775 or at www.masterworkstoledo.com.

Accessibility

If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please advise the Chorale's business office at (419) 742-2775 at least two weeks before the concert. For TYY/TDD use Ohio Relay Service 1 (800) 750-0750.



We're dedicated to taking care of our community! To protect you and your neighbors, all performers and audience members must wear masks. We're happy to provide a comfortable, ear-loop KN95 mask, so you don't even need to bring your own! We also urge you to be vaccinated if you aren't already, but vaccination is not required for admission to this concert. [Click for more safety information.](#)



Masterworks Chorale of Toledo

www.masterworkstoledo.com