



# masterworks

# Matters

MASTERWORKS CHORALE • TOLEDO, OHIO • FEBRUARY 2024



march 16 classics concert  
a continued exploration of  
season theme of

twinkle,  
twinkle

night & day

# MOON & STARS

goodnight,  
moon

fauré's  
requiem

Gabriel Fauré lost his father in 1885 and his mother in 1887. He wrote most of his *Requiem* between 1887 and 1890, but when asked if he had written the piece for his parents, he replied that he had written it simply "for pleasure." Well, from this tenor's point of view, the composer succeeded magnificently. In all choral literature, is there any more pleasurable melody to sing

*immerse yourself in the light of day after a long night of winter*

than Fauré's gift to the tenors in the "Agnus Dei" of this mass for the dead? A flowing melody in the strings intertwines with the simple yet haunting tenor strain. Similarly, at the beginning of *Requiem*, the strings lovingly support the tenors' prayer: "Requiem æternam dona eis Domine" (Grant them eternal rest, O Lord).

*Requiem* will make up the second half of our March 16 Classics Concert, entitled *Moon & Stars*, an exploration of our season theme, *Night*

& Day. The first half of the concert is an eclectic mix inspired by the light of the moon and the stars. Who can resist Eric Whitacre's touching setting of Margaret Wise's 1947 bedtime book *Goodnight Moon*? More philosophically, we learn from a 2010 poem by Jan Richardson, set for choir by Susan LaBarr, that we can take heart from the moon, which "waxes and wanes, but does not die,... knowing it will emerge whole once more."

And yes, we really *will* sing a charming choral version of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star!" More profoundly, Sara Teasdale's "Stars I Shall Find," set for choir by David Dickau, reassures us in troubled times: "There will be rest, and sure stars shining."

This concert will warm your heart. Please join us. Immerse yourself in the light of

day after a long night of dreary winter.  
— Tom Sheehan, Tenor

## Moon & Stars

*The Stars are with the Voyager*,  
Daley (b. 1955)

*Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, Elder (b. 1986)

*Stars I Shall Find*, Dickau (b. 1953)



*Goodnight Moon*, Whitacre (b. 1970)

*Sonnet of the Moon*, Childs (b. 1969)

*The Wisdom of the Moon*, LaBarr (b. 1981)



*Requiem*, Fauré (1845–1924),  
with orchestra and organ





*“fauré’s requiem is the most light-filled requiem I know”*

*Tim*  
 Tim Cloeter,  
 Artistic Director

*from the artistic director*

*light from heaven itself*

As you know, Masterworks Chorale is progressing through a concert season entitled “Night and Day.” For our upcoming Classics Concert, I’ve chosen the theme “Moon and Stars,” and for most of this concert you’ll have no trouble seeing the obvious connection between that theme and the repertoire we’re singing. However, you might wonder “why a Requiem Mass?” that is, why a mass for the dead? In truth, not just any Requiem would fit, but Fauré’s *Requiem* is filled with light that outshines and out-distances even the moon and stars, light from heaven itself.

In the Catholic tradition, the Requiem Mass is a worship service that commemorates the faithful deceased. The service has prescribed components, but composers through the centuries have made personal choices that reveal their own outlook and theology. Obviously, composers create the music to which the required texts will be sung, but they also decide what text to emphasize, and even what text to omit or add. Fauré’s *Requiem*, for instance, is the most light-filled Requiem I know because of the personal choices he made. He focusses on the sentiments of the very first sentence of the mass: “Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis” (Grant them **rest**, Lord, and let perpetual **light** shine on them.)

So opposed is Fauré to terrifying judgement and the wrath of God that the original version of his *Requiem* included no text about judgement day. The required Sequence that begins “Dies irae” (Day of wrath), for instance, is a long poem full of the threat of condemnation and torment, but Fauré omitted all but the final sentence “Pie Jesu Domine, dona

eis requiem” (Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest), and the music he composed for soprano soloist to carry that text conveys peace and the assurance of the rest for which the singer prays.

There is a remarkably beautiful example of Fauré’s emphasis on light in the “Agnus Dei” (Lamb of God) movement. In the middle of the movement, the texture suddenly drops to a single pitch held only by the sopranos on the word “Lux” (light). After a few seconds, when the rest of the choir and the orchestra resume, that pitch, which fit the harmony of the previous chord in a mundane and expected way, quite surprisingly but just as logically fits a new harmony. It’s as if a beam of light escapes an opening door and then the listener enters an otherworldly space filled with light. Also otherworldly is the final movement, “In Paradisum” (Into Paradise), which isn’t actually part of the Requiem Mass, so Fauré’s decision to include this text as the final word for his *Requiem* is significant in itself. In this movement the organ accompanies the sopranos with a repeating stepwise motion that evokes a happy procession and with repetitive arpeggios that evoke for me bubbles or clouds. And when the tenors and basses join the sopranos with the word “Jerusalem” (code here for heaven), they do so with harmonies worthy of a heavenly barbershop quartet.

I first performed this work as a singer in a touring high school honor choir, and even at that young age I was charmed by its evocative harmonies and beautifully singable lines and heavenly light. I hope that you’ll join me on March 16 to be charmed yourself!

*former intern joins as adult*

Tenor Alan Jimenez, who was an intern with the Chorale last season, has rejoined as an adult member. Alan graduated from Perrysburg High School last year and is now in his first year of mechanical engineering studies at the University of Toledo. We are thrilled that Alan is making time for choral singing with us again!

Three other former interns are now adult members: Tenor Chad Ackerman, who was one of the Chorale’s very first interns in 1998, Soprano Alyssa Steider, who was an intern in 2013, and Soprano Sophia Wilson, who interned in 2019.



*Tenor Alan Jimenez*

*outreach to youth*

*soprano is now third intern*

Peyton Gardner, a freshman at Sylvania Northview High School, is the Chorale’s newest intern. She will rehearse with us all winter long and sing in the March 16 Classics Concert. Peyton’s Chorale mentor is Soprano Lindsay Andrews, who was also Peyton’s choir teacher at Sylvania’s McCord Junior High School. Recently, Peyton sang in The Toledo Opera Children’s Chorus in the company’s *Celebrazione del Coro*. Peyton has been an honor student every marking period since sixth grade. She is the daughter of Alicia and Alan Starkey. Peyton wants her mom and her step-dad to know that she is very grateful for their support.



*Soprano Peyton Gardner*

Two other interns are returning to sing our next concert. Soprano Evvie Van Vorhis, a freshman at Bowling Green High School, and Tenor Leo Roehl, a senior at Southview High School. Welcome back Evvie and Leo!



outreach to the community

## chorale members spread christmas cheer at four events



*at a senior residence*

A small group caroled at The Commons, a 55-and-up residence in Perrysburg where Soprano Michelle Keller (right) works.



*at the wildwood manor house*

Led by Tim Cloeter, this gang took a short break from caroling at the Manor House at Wildwood Metropark. The photo was taken by the teenaged greeter, who told everyone to stand on one foot and look silly.



*at the zoo tree lighting*

Twenty-two singers, led by Artistic Director Tim Cloeter, who serenaded the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Toledo Zoo in November.

### *at the youth treatment center, where no photos were allowed this time*

This year, no photography was allowed when ten Chorale singers, Artistic Director Tim Cloeter, and Accompanist Kevin McGill performed excerpts from our Christmas concert for the kids at the Lucas County Youth Treatment Center (YTC). The kids at YTC are convicted felons; kids who have gotten the roughest start in life. It's a high-security setting: background checks for visitors, metal detectors, locks everywhere. We've performed there many Decembers, in the YTC rec room. After our warm-up, the kids are shepherded in, groups of five or six, strictly supervised by their monitors and security guards.

Yes, they're felons. But it's obvious that they are also just kids, some tough posturing, some friendly faces. For Chorale singers, the experience is often an emotional one. Here's how Alto Shelly Schaefer,

who has performed there many times, describes it:

"It's a great privilege to be invited into someone's heart-space, and it's especially true when singing at YTC. There is an intimacy in live performance that is even more pronounced. And a thread of trepidation in this setting of strict supervision for the kids.

"The connection builds slowly. You catch a stray glance from a few kids, and it begins. The shy boundary between us starts to melt, and I drop my worry that we will bore them.

"This year, Tim crafted an especially profound program moving from darkness to light, helping us risk being more authentic and vulnerable. They can tell when it's real.

"I wish I could linger and hear their stories. I hope they know."

### *chorale tenor: adam steider*

## *thoughtful, passionate singer, pediatric nurse, family man*

"In a choir people can come together from all different backgrounds to focus on the single purpose of creating art," says Chorale Tenor Adam Steider. He loves singing with the Chorale, which he joined in 2019. "The members are very passionate about music and producing something great and meaningful for themselves and for their audience."

Adam's journey to the Chorale started in Archbold, Ohio. He was in school choir, starting in the eighth grade. From that time on, he always sought to sing in as many groups as possible, from the Fulton County Honors Choir, to the Ohio District 1 Honors Choir, and, in his senior year, the Ohio All State Honors Choir. At each level, he loved the participants' "drive to sing at higher and higher levels."

After high school, Adam decided to pursue an Associate's Degree of Nursing at Northwest State Community College in Archbold. While excited about his studies, he missed having a choir to sing in. "But the Lord led me to two other groups, a church choir and a barbershop chorus."

After completing his Associate's degree in December of 2016, Adam started working at ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital as a pediatric bedside nurse. He then took classes from Chamberlain University and received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 2022.

He currently works as a pediatric endocrinology nurse, still with ProMedica. He is also taking an advanced research course at Chamberlain as he pursues his Masters of Science in Nursing specializing in nursing education. "A large part of what I do is education," he explains. Most of

his patients are children with type one diabetes, a disease that has no cure at present. "I work with patients and their families, teaching them how to give injections and check their blood sugar. Being with patients as they go through a difficult time has been very meaningful," he says. He explains that patients who take proper care of themselves can go on to have full lives.

Adam is married to Chorale Soprano Alyssa Steider. Their daughter, Alexandria Rose, was born last June. Adam is pleased that Alyssa's mother, Soprano Debbie Horner, also sings with the Chorale.

When not working, studying, tending to family, or practicing music, Adam loves to be involved with food, sampling new dishes, learning recipes, or cooking. He loves whipping up his grandfather's pancake recipe for family gatherings.

I've enjoyed getting to know Adam. His gentle and thoughtful approach to life is inspiring. We are so lucky to have him singing with us.

— Tom Sheehan, Tenor



*Tenor Adam Steider*





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# Masterworks Chorale

connecting lives through choral music

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## Go Ahead! Slit the Seal! Here's What's Inside!

A preview of our Classics Concert. • A profile of one of our tenors, Adam Steider • A look back at our holiday outreach to the community • One new intern, three returning (one as an adult member) • An inspiring message from our artistic director

### Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!

**Our Classics Concert**  
*Moon and Stars*  
Saturday, March 16 at 8 p.m.  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
915 North Reynolds Road, Toledo

**Cabaret Night Fundraiser**  
See details in ad below!


**Radio Broadcast of *Moon and Stars***  
Thursday, May 23 at 8 p.m.  
WGTE FM, 91.3

**Our Connections Concert**  
*Here Comes the Sun*  
Sunday, June 16 at 4 p.m.  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
316 Adams Street, Toledo

### Tickets

Tickets for the March 16 Concert are \$25 or \$15 for students. Order at [www.masterworkstoledo.com](http://www.masterworkstoledo.com) or call our box office at (419) 742-2775.

### 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.

### Contact the Chorale

(419) 742-2775  
[masterworkstoledo@gmail.com](mailto:masterworkstoledo@gmail.com)



*An Evening of Delectable Diversions*

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 • 6-9 p.m.

Carranor Hunt and Polo Club • Perrysburg

For tickets, visit [www.masterworkstoledo.com](http://www.masterworkstoledo.com)

Help raise funds for your favorite chorus, and we'll show you a great time!



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