

Williams College Choirs Fall Concert
November 12th, 7:30pm
Program Notes, Texts, and Translations

Program Note

Tonight's concert from the Williams Concert and Chamber Choirs features music that explores themes of violence, crisis, and the search for peace. Our pieces reflect these themes through a variety of lenses: we will present music that examines immense grief, the power of rhetoric, the universal love of a mother for her child, the turning point that sets us in the right direction, the hope of a sunrise, and the ideal picture of a world in which violence no longer exists.

In addition to our work on the music for this evening, this semester, the choirs have also set out to explore how music and the performing arts can affect social change and intersect with issues of social justice. To that end, the students organized a teach-in on gun violence on our campus last week, which brought together a panel of experts with different perspectives on the topic of gun violence. The panel provided the greater Williams College community with a nonpartisan educational experience on the topic of gun violence and helped to identify how we and other members of our community can affect actionable change on this issue in our daily lives.

With tonight's concert, we hope to further that educational experience and continue connecting more deeply with our community on this important issue. There are a variety of ways that you can educate and involve yourself this evening. First, we have invited representatives from two organizations in our community that are involved either directly or indirectly with this topic: Be SMART and 18 Degrees. These organizations have staffed tables at the back of the hall tonight. Please make your way there at intermission and/or at the end of the concert to connect with those organizations, learn about the work they do, and get involved in their missions if you are so moved.

Second, the choir has chosen to encourage donations from the audience to directly benefit 18 Degrees. Programs and services provided by 18 Degrees promote the well-being and strengths of children, youth, and families to build better communities in Western Massachusetts. If you have the means to donate to this incredible cause which directly impacts the lives of young people affected by and susceptible to gun violence in our community, please consider donating via the QR Code below, or by visiting their website www.18degreesma.org. Under the menu "My donation is for", you can select "Youth Development Programs" if you would like to donate specifically to programs that support young people.



Texts and Translations

Miserere Mei

Traditional Latin prayer

Miserere mei, O Jesu

Have mercy on me, O Jesus

I Conquer the World with Words

Poem by Nizar Qabbani

I conquer the world with words,
conquer the mother tongue,
verbs, nouns, syntax.
I sweep away the beginning of things
and with a new language
that has the music of water the message of fire
I light the coming age
and stop time in your eyes
and wipe away the line
that separates
time from this single moment.

Christi Mutter

*Paraphrase of traditional Stabat Mater text
by Heinrich Bone*

Christi Mutter stand mit Schmerzen
bei dem Kreuz und weint von Herzen,
als ihr lieber Sohn da hing.
Durch die Seele voller Trauer,
schneidend unter Todesschauer

*Christ's mother, standing in pain
by the cross and weeps from her heart
For her beloved son, who hangs there.
Through her soul full of grief,
Parting under the shadow of death.*

Angst und Jammer, Qual und Bangen,
alles Leid hielt sie umfassen,
das nur je ein Herz durchdrang.

*Fear and grief, torment and fear,
She embraced more pain than ever
Pierced any other heart.*

O du Jungfrau der Jungfrauen,
woll auf mich in Liebe schauen,
dass ich teile deinen Schmerz.

*O virgin of virgins,
Look at me in love,
So that I might feel your pain.*

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Lyrics by Dolly Parton

It's been a long dark night
And I've been a waitin' for the morning
It's been a long hard fight
But I see a brand new day a dawning
I've been looking for the sunshine
'Cause I ain't seen it in so long
Everything's gonna work out fine
Everything's gonna be alright,
It's gonna be okay.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay.

The Definition of Crisis

cri·sis

/ˈkrɪsɪs/

noun

1. a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger.
2. a time when a difficult decision must be made.
3. the turning point when an important change takes place.

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

Text by A.L. Hatter

We shall walk through the valley in peace
If Jesus himself shall be our leader
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no trials there
If Jesus himself shall be our leader
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

WIPIP!!!

Haitian Creole text by Gabriel T. Guillaume

Wipip! Gade ki jan la vi-a bèl'o!

Wow! Look at how beautiful life is!

Wipip! Gade ki jan kè mwen kontan'o!
Wipip! Nan pwen Kayen, nan pwen Abèl!

Solèy taye banda sou tout la tè beni;
An ba yon sèl drapo tout nasyon reyini.
Nan pwen miray, nan pwen frontyè;
Nan pwen batay, nan pwen lagè... Wipipip!

Wipip! Gade ki jan la vi-a bèl'o!
Wipip! Gade ki jan kè mwen kontan'o!

Nan pwen Kayen, nan pwen Abèl...
Nou tout se yon fanmi'o!
Nan pwen batay, nan pwen la gè...
Nou tout se yon fanmi'o!
Nan pwen bonm, nan pwen fizi...
Nou tout se yon fanmi'o!
Nou tout se yonn, nou fè yon sèl...
Gade, gade! Wipip!

Lapè, lanmou, la jwa; wi sa bèl'o!
Wi nou kontan, kontan;
wi sa bèl'o!

Men choublak tout koulè anvayi jaden mwen;
Rosiyòl ak toutrèl ap fè
gam tout lajounen.
Bèt sovaj ak mouton
dòmi nan menm kabann;
La kontantman gaye nan mitan tout savann.

Pou tout moun ki renmen,
an nou rele "bravo!"
Pou tout moun ki sou la tè,
an nou rele "bravo!"
Pou la vi-a kap donnen, an nou rele "bravo!"
Pou mizik tout koulè, an nou rele "bravo!"

Bravo pou lanmou'a!
Bravo pou lavi'a!
Bravo pou mizik la!
Bravo pou lapè'a!
Pou tout moun kap koute!

Woy! Ala yon bèl bagay lè moun respekte
moun;

*Wow! Look how happy my heart is!
Wow! There is no Cain and Abel!*

*The sun shines all over the blessed earth;
Under one flag, all nations unite.
There are no gates, there are no borders;
There are no fights, there are no wars... Wow!*

*Wow! Look at how wonderful life is!
Wow! Notice at how my heart is so content!*

*There is no Cain and Abel...
We are all one family!
There is no fighting, there is no war...
We are all one family!
There are no bombs, there are no guns...
We are all one family!
We are all one, we all make one...
Look, look around! Wow!*

*Peace, Love, Joy; How beautiful!
We are content, we are happy;
yes, How beautiful!*

*Flowers of all colors have taken over my garden;
Nightingales and pigeons are singing scales
all day long.
Wild beasts and sheep
are sleeping on the same bed;
Happiness has spread in the midst of all deserts.*

*For all those who love,
let us call out "Hurray!"
For all people on earth,
let us call out "Hurray!"
For the blessings of life, let's cry out "Hurray!"
For music of all colors, let us shout "Hurray!"*

*Hurray for the Love!
Hurray for the Life!
Hurray for the Music!
Hurray for the Peace!
Hurray for all those who are listening!*

*Wow! What a wonderful thing when people
respect each other;*

Lè lapè ak lanmou simaye toupatou.
Kèlkilanswa lakay, ositou nan travay,
Lè nou tout fè yon sèl, se sak fè la vi-a bèl'o!

La vi-a bèl'o! Gade, gade!

Tout zanmi kap koute, nou pa dwe janm bliye,
Sak fè la vi-a bèl, se lè yonn renmen lòt.

Gade ki jan la vi-a bèl'o.
Gade ki jan kè mwen kontan'o.
Wipip!!!

*When peace and love is spread everywhere.
Whether at home or at work,
When we all become one, life is amazing!*

Life is beautiful! Look around, just look around!

*To all friends listening, we must never forget,
Life is beautiful when we love one another.*

*Look how amazing life is.
Look how happy my heart is.
Wow!!!*

Peace I Leave With You

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you,
my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled.

Jephthe

1. Historicus:
Cum vocasset in proelium filios
Israel rex filiorum Ammon
et verbis Jephthe acquiescere noluisset,
factus est super Jephthe Spiritus Domini
et progressus ad filios Ammon
votum vovit Domini dicens:

2. Jephthe:
"Si tradiderit Dominus filios Ammon
in manus meas, quicumque primus
de domo mea occurrerit mihi,
offeram illum Domino in holocaustum."

3. Chorus:
Transivit ergo Jephthe ad filios Ammon,
ut in spiritu forti et virtute Domini
pugnaret contra eos.

1. Narrator (Leah Rosenmann):
*When the king of the children of Ammon
made war against the children of Israel,
and disregarded Jephthah's message,
the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthe
and he went on to the children of Ammon,
and made a vow to the Lord, saying:*

2. Jephthe (Cooper Johnson):
*"If You will indeed give the sons of Ammon
into my hand, then whoever comes first
out of the doors of my house to meet me,
I will offer him to the Lord as a sacrifice."*

3. Chorus (Chamber Choir):
*So Jephthe crossed over to the sons of Ammon
with the spirit, strength, and valor of the Lord
to fight against them.*

4. Historicus:

Et clangebant tubae et personabant tympana
et proelium commissum est adversus Ammon.

5. Historicus:

Fugite, cedite, impii, perite gentes,
occumbite in gladio. Dominus exercituum
in proelium surrexit et pugnat contra vos.

6. Chorus:

Fugite, cedite, impii, corruite,
et in furore gladii dissipamini.

7. Historicus:

Et percussit Jephthe viginti civitates Ammon
plaga magna nimis.

8. Historicus:

Et ululantes filii Ammon, facti sunt
coram filiis Israel humiliati.

9. Historicus:

Cum autem victor Jephthe in domum suam
reverteretur, occurrens ei unigenita filia sua
cum tympanis et choris praecinebat:

10. Filia:

"Incipite in tympanis, et psallite in cymbalis.
Hymnum cantemus Domino, et modulemur
canticum.

Laudemus regem coelitum,
laudemus belli principem,
qui filiorum Israel victorem ducem reddidit."

11. Filia/Soprano:

Hymnum cantemus Domino, et modulemur
canticum,
qui dedit nobis gloriam et Israel victoriam.

12. Filia:

Cantate mecum Domino, cantate omnes populi,
laudate belli principem,
qui dedit nobis gloriam et Israel victoriam.

4. Narrator (Avi Kahn and Lea Obermüller):

*And the trumpets sounded, the drums resounded,
and battle against Ammon ensued.*

5. Narrator (Samuel Boyce):

*Flee, give way godless ones; perish, foreigners!
Fall before our swords, for the Lord of Hosts has
raised up an army, and fights against you.*

6. Chorus (Chamber Choir):

*Flee, give way, godless ones! Fall down!
And with our raging swords, be scattered!*

7. Narrator (Lea Obermüller):

*And Jephthe struck twenty cities of Ammon
with a very great slaughter.*

8. Narrator (Ellie Beams, Leah Rosenman,
Francesca Hellerman):

*And the children of Ammon howled, and were
brought low before the children of Israel.*

9. Narrator (James Blasdel):

*When Jephthe came victorious to his house,
his only daughter was coming out to meet him
with tambourines and with dancing. She sang:*

10. Daughter (Carolyn Mielke):

*"Strike the timbrels and sound the cymbals!
Let us sing a hymn and play a song to the Lord,
let us praise the King of Heaven,
let us praise the prince of war,
who has led the children of Israel back to
victory!"*

11. Filia/Soprano (Carolyn Mielke and Lea
Obermüller):

*Let us sing a hymn and play a song to the
Lord,
who gave glory to us and victory to Israel!*

12. Filia (Carolyn Mielke):

*Sing with me to the Lord, sing all you peoples!
Praise ye the prince of war,
who gave glory to us and victory to Israel!*

13. Chorus:
Cantemus omnes Domino,
laudemus belli principem,
qui dedit nobis gloriam et Israel victoriam.

14. Historicus:
Cum vidisset Jephthe, qui votum Domino
voverat,
filiam suam venientem in occursum, in dolore
et lachrimis scidit vestimenta sua et ait:

15. Jephthe:
"Heu mihi! Filia mea,
heu decepisti me, filia unigenita,
et tu pariter,
heu filia mea, decepta es."

16. Filia:
"Cur ergo te pater, decipi,
et cur ergo ego
filia tua unigenita decepta sum?"

17. Jephthe:
"Aperui os meum ad Dominum
ut quicumque primus de domo mea
occurrerit mihi, offeram illum Domino
in holocaustum. Heu mihi!
Filia mea, heu decepisti me,
filia unigenita, et tu pariter,
heu filia mea, decepta es."

18. Filia:
"Pater mi, si vovisti votum Domino,
reversus victor ab hostibus,
ecce ego filia tua unigenita,
offer me in holocaustum victoriae tuae,
hoc solum pater mi praesta
filiae tuae unigenitae antequam moriar."

19. Jephthe:
"Quid poterit animam tuam, quid poterit te,
moritura filia, consolari?"

20. Filia:
"Dimitte me, ut duobus mensibus
circumeam montes, et cum

*13. Chorus (Chamber Choir):
Let us all sing to the Lord,
let us praise the prince of war,
who gave glory to us and victory to Israel!*

*14. Narrator (Emily Ham):
When Jephthe, who had sworn his oath to the
Lord, saw
his daughter coming to meet him, with anguish
and tears he tore his clothes and said:*

*15. Jephthe (Cooper Johnson):
"Woe is me! Alas, my daughter,
you have undone me, my only daughter,
and you, likewise,
my unfortunate daughter, are undone."*

*16. Daughter (Carolyn Mielke):
"How, then, are you undone, father,
and how am I,
your only-born daughter, undone?"*

*17. Jephthe:
"I have promised to the Lord that whoever comes
first out of the doors of my house
to meet me, I will offer him to the Lord
as a complete sacrifice. Woe is me!
Alas, my daughter, you have undone me,
my only daughter, and you, likewise,
my unfortunate daughter, are undone."*

*18. Daughter
"My father, if you have made an oath to the
Lord, and returned victorious from your
enemies, behold! I, your only daughter
offer myself as a sacrifice to your victory,
but, my father, fulfill one wish to
your only daughter before I die."*

*19. Jephthe:
"But what can I do, doomed daughter,
to comfort you and your soul?"*

*20. Filia:
"Send me away, that for two months
I may wander in the mountains, and with*

sodalibus meis plangam virginitatem meam."

my companions bewail my virginity. "

21. Jephthe:

"Vade, filia mia unigenita,
et plange virginitatem tuam."

21. Jephthe:

*"Go, my only daughter,
go and bewail your virginity."*

22. Historicus:

Abiit ergo in montes filia Jephthe, et
plorabat cum sodalibus virginitatem suam,
dicens:

22. Chorus (Ellie Beams, Katie Sanborn, Noah
Robie, Theo Cohen):

*Then Jephthah's daughter went away to the
mountains, and bewailed her virginity with her
companions, saying:*

23. Filia/Echo:

"Plorate colles, dolete montes,
et in afflictione cordis mei ululate!
Ululate!

23. Filia/Echo (Carolyn Mielke/Avi Kahn and
Lea Obermüller):

*Mourn, you hills, grieve, you mountains,
and howl in the affliction of my heart!
Howl!*

Ecce moriar virgo et non potero
morte mea meis filiis consolari,
ingemiscite silvae, fontes et flumina,
in interitu virginis lachrimate!
Lachrimate!

*Behold! I will die a virgin, and shall not
in my death find consolation in my children.
Then groan, woods, fountains, and rivers,
weep for the destruction of a virgin!
Weep!*

Heu me dolentem in laetitia populi,
in/ victoria Israel et gloria
patris mei, ego, sine filiis virgo,
ego filia unigenita moriar et non vivam.
Exhorrescite rupes,
obstupescite colles, valles
et cavernae
in sonitu horribili resonate!
Resonate!

*Woe to me! I grieve amidst the rejoicing of the
people, amidst the victory of Israel and
the glory of my father, I, a childless virgin,
I, an only daughter, must die and no longer live.
Then tremble, you rocks,
be astounded, you hills,
vales, and caves,
resonate with horrible sound!
Resonate!*

Plorate filii Israel,
plorare virginitatem meam,
et Jephthe filiam unigenitam
in carmine doloris lamentamini."

*Weep, you children of Israel,
bewail my hapless virginity,
and for Jephthah's only daughter,
lament with songs of anguish."*

24. Chorus:

Plorate filii Israel,
plorare omnes virgines,
et filiam Jephthe unigenitam
in carmine doloris lamentamini.

24. Chorus (Concert Choir):

*Weep, you children of Israel,
weep, all you virgins,
and for Jephthah's only daughter,
lament with songs of anguish.*