The College Choir and Camerata Puerto Rico Tour Home Concert

Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 8:00pm
Christ Chapel at Gettysburg College

Robert Natter, conductor
with special guest James Day, guitarist
The Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College presents

The Gettysburg College Choir and Camerata
Puerto Rico Tour Home Concert

conducted by Robert Natter

The College Choir tours each year, and travels internationally every four years, employing a model that combines cultural engagement and education with performance. When the effects of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico became prominent in the news, it seemed important to explore this place that few of us knew much about. Our goals were to discover the rich culture, music, history and politics of Puerto Rico, to share our music and community, and to offer our friendship in the face of the havoc wreaked by the hurricane.

Puerto Rico is an island overflowing with the beauty of nature and surrounded by water. Much of the music in our concert encompasses themes of nature and water, inspired both by the significance of water in the landscape, and by the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. “My Soul is a River” is a metaphor for a course through life that strives for justice and peace. “La Puerta Íntima” is saturated with imagery about the sea (see the program note on the opposite page). The Camerata sings clear examples of water themes with “Soon It’s Gonna Rain” and “Over the Rainbow,” and other music from both choirs (“Let’s Do It,” “Son de Camaguey,” “A Farewell,” and “El Guayaboso”) includes nature imagery.

The concert includes some traditional songs. We wanted to honor the culture of Puerto Rico by learning their national anthem, “La Borinqueña.” (The title refers to Borinquén, the aboriginal Taíno name for the island.) We also present music from our own traditions, the Gettysburg College Alma Mater, and Beautiful Savior.

In Puerto Rico we sang in beautiful churches, including the cathedrals in San Juan and Ponce. We also had exchanges with choirs in four schools in San Juan, Ponce and Bayamon, and these experiences were among the highlights of the tour. We were delighted (and humbled) by the high quality of music and singing that these choirs presented, and we were also thrilled by their reaction to our performances. Everywhere we went we were greeted with warm hospitality, affection, and appreciation for our friendship and for our music. We had the opportunity to visit a beautiful place and culture, but the most important outcome of the tour was to meet the people of Puerto Rico, and to share our community with them.

Want to know more about the tour? Visit our blog with writings and pictures from student contributors at https://choir.sites.gettysburg.edu/puertorico
Alleluia!
Jacob Naverud (b. 1986)

My Soul is a River
Ben Allaway (b. 1958)

My soul is a river, winding through a weary land.
Let justice roll, roll down like waters,
Righteousness, like a mighty stream, washin’ o’er a thirsty land.
My soul is a river, your soul is a river,
Come join up down the river, fill a mighty ocean with peace.

La Puerta Íntima
Matt Carlson (b. 1991)
Texts by Julia de Burgos (1914-1953)
Translations by Jack Agüeros

James Day, guitarist
Elizabeth DeVito ‘19, soprano soloist

La Puerta Íntima (The Intimate Door) sets three poems by Puerto Rican writer Julia de Burgos (1914-1953), whose poetry is known for promoting feminism, social justice, and Puerto Rican/Nuyorican identities. As a woman of African descent from a working-class family, de Burgos was met with her fair share of resistance from Puerto Rican intellectuals of her time. “¡Amaneceres!” can be viewed as her response to this criticism. It crackles with the energy of discovering one’s purpose in life, inspiring the reader to defy the establishment and create space for new ideas.

The second poem is a dialogue between nature and the sea. Despite its initial apprehension, nature is destined to return to the water, and its protests are met only with incessant repetition of the ocean’s siren song: “Almamarina…”

“Mar” is an introspective meditation on de Burgos’ relationship with the sea, a place where she finds solace and is able to process deeply personal feelings. De Burgos’ poetry allows us to peer through the keyhole of her intimate door, and challenges us to find our own within ourselves.

-Matt Carlson

Commissioned by the Gettysburg College Choir
World Premiere Performance
1. ¡Amaneceres! (Dawnings)

Dawnings in my soul! Dawnings in my mind!
When the intimate door is opened to enter one's self, what dawnings!
To gather the hour that passes trembling at our side,
and make it now, and make it robust, and make it universal.
And let it sing, and let it scream, and let it penetrate in all the
anonymous corners awakening rebellions;
and let it sweep the face of the eternal hunchbacks of time, sick of not thinking;
and let it hand all the songs of bourgeois ways
and break its seconds into a million proletarian hymns.
Dawnings in my soul! Dawnings in my mind!
When the intimate door is opened to enter one's self, what dawnings!
There inside, deep inside, to approach life.
To see… to listen… to smell… to taste… and touch… earth.

2. Almamarina (Seasoul)

—Seasoul… seasoul…
    That’s what the wind said when I gave it my hand in the mountains.
—If my name is… I don’t know what my name is.
          Don’t you see there my name hanging from the petals, pronounced on the fresh
          “good morning” of the stream, or opening in the light of some swallow?
—Seasoul
          That’s what the sea said blushing in my eyes, nervous, courting me.
—But if I belong to the mountain…
—Seasoul…
—But if I already gave my heart to the river…
—Seasoul…
          And it took me in its arms, flooding my name with oceans.
—Seasoul…
          —Why have you stopped the orb?
—Seasoul…
          —Why have you challenged the wild cliff?
—Seasoul…
          —Why do you paint my name blue?
—Leave me green!
          And it tore my laugh from the woods.

Later, in silence, there was something like a surge of a water-girl in the thirst of the valleys.
The supersea voice rose over the mountains and left forever with the girl on its waist.
3. Mar (Sea)

Sea mine, sea profound that begins in me,
sea subterranean and alone of my field of tightened swords.
Sea mine, sea without name, turbid strait of my shredded song,
broken and dislocated transmarine silence, desperate blue, sea bed, sea sepulcher…
Blue, livid blue, for my bloody buds, for the absence of my laughter,
for the voice that hides my death with poems.
Sea mine, sea bed, sea nameless, sea untimely, sea in the foam of the dream,
sea in the solitude marrying twilights, sea wind unshoeing my last circling flights,
sea you, sea universe…

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Camerata

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Let’s Do It


When the little Bluebird, who has never said a word, starts to sing “spring, spring!”
When the little bluebell at the bottom of the dell starts to ring, “ding, ding!”
When the little blue clerk in the middle of his work starts a tune to the moon up above,
It is nature, that’s all, simply telling us to fall in love.
Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas do it. Let’s do it, let’s fall in love!
In Spain, the best upper sets do it, Lithuanians and Letts do it. Let’s do it, let’s fall in love!
The Dutch in old Amsterdam do it, not to mention the Finns.
Folks in San Juan do it, that’s not where it begins!
Some Argentines, without means, do it; people say in Boston even beans do it....
Electric eels I might add do it, though it shocks ‘em I know.
Why ask if shad do it, waiter bring me shad roe.
In shallow shoals English soles do it, goldfish in the privacy of bowls do it,
Let’s do it, let’s fall in love

Soon It’s Gonna Rain, from The Fantasticks

Jones/Schmidt, arr. Shaw

Soon it’s gonna rain, I can see it, soon it’s gonna rain, I can tell.
Soon it’s gonna rain, what are we gonna do?
Soon it’s gonna rain, I can feel it, soon it’s gonna rain, I can tell
Soon it’s gonna rain, what will we do with you?
We’ll find four limbs of a tree, we’ll build four walls and a floor
We’ll bind it over with leaves, then duck inside and play.
Then we’ll let it rain, we’ll not feel it, then we’ll let it rain pell mell.
And we’ll not complain if it never stops at all;
We’ll live and love within our own four walls.
Over the Rainbow

Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, arr. Beck

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high
There’s a land that I dreamed of once in a lullaby.
Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue,
And the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.
Someday, I’ll wish upon a star and wake up where the clouds are far behind me,
Where troubles melt like lemon drops, high above the chimney tops
That’s where you’ll find me.
Somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow, why oh why can’t I?

Son de la Vida (sung in Spanish)
José Galván Castañeda (b. 1969)

To all I propose: let’s enjoy life!
Do not suffer for the future, the past is already a joke;
Better enjoy your present, the present is what is real!
Therefore, let’s enjoy the delicious sound of life!
At times tears overwhelm me, because the heart aches;
But it already hurts less when I sing this song!
When I have money, I enjoy it wholeheartedly;
And when I have nothing, I still have fun dancing to this song!
This is how we sing in Puerto Rico, with love and passion;
And the throat opens up to give the heart away!

College Choir

La Borinqueña (sung in Spanish)
Félix Astol Artés (1813-1901)  
arr. Stephen Caldwell

The national anthem of the commonwealth of Puerto Rico

The land of Borinquén, where I was born, is a flowery garden of magical beauty.
The sky, always clear, serves as a canopy,
And placid lullabies are sung by the waves at its feet.
When at her beaches Columbus arrived, he exclaimed in adoration:
“Oh! This is the beautiful land that I seek!
Borinquén is the daughter of the sea and the sun!”
Son de Camaguey (sung in Spanish)  
Stephen Hatfield (b. 1956)

Vannessa Case ’19, Alexandra Charney ’22, Julia Chin ’21,  
Eric Gabriel ’22, and James Lamb ’21, percussionists

There is no specific translation for this piece, which is derived from a Cuban folk song. The Spanish word “son” translates as “sound,” but here can encompass rhythm too. The various phrases praise the beauty and traditions of Camaguey.

A Farewell  
Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

Once more, once more into the sunny fields let me stray!  
And drink the joy that young existence yields on a bright, cloudless day.  
Once more let me behold the summer sky, with its blue eyes,  
And join the wild wind’s voice of melody, as far and free it flies.  
Once more, once more, oh let me stand and hear the gushing spring,  
As its bright drops fall starlike, fast and clear, and in the sunshine sing.  
Once more, oh let me list the soft sweet breeze at evening mourn:  
Let me say farewell!  
Bright hill and bosky dell, clear spring and haunted well,  
Night-blowing flowers pale, smooth lawn and lonely vale,  
Flowery land and sunny sky, and echo sweet, my playmate shy;  
Sleeping lakes and sparkling fountains, sheltering woods and mountains,  
Fare ye well!

-Frances Anne Kemble (1809-93), adapted

The Gettysburg College Alma Mater  
Paul S. Gilbert ’22 and F.E. Reinartz ’24

As softly the evening shadows are veiling the campus towers  
We come a band of good fellows to sing in the twilight hours.  
The silvery moonlight mantles the worn walls of chapel anew;  
The wind in the trees sweetly echoes our praises of orange and blue.

Whenever thy loyal ones gather to waken fond memory  
Our thoughts shall be turned Alma Mater, old Gettysburg back to thee:  
Forever am I thy debtor, and whatever else I may do,  
I’ll love, I’ll defend, and I’ll honor the glorious orange and blue.
Beautiful Savior

Soloists: the seniors of the Gettysburg College Choir
Olivia Benson, Elizabeth Buscher, Vannessa Case, Elizabeth DeVito, Rebecca Holden, Olivia Lambert, Robby Napoli, Michael Preston, Logan Santiago, Aaron Thompson, Erik Wendt, and Abigail Winston

Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands,
Robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!

El Guayaboso (sung in Spanish)

Guido López-Gavilán (b.1944)

I saw a mosquito wearing trousers dance a danzón on the edge of a knife,
And a fly dressed in a shirt.
I saw a crab plowing, a pig blowing a whistle,
And an old growling woman sitting in an armchair.
And a skinny little calf die laughing
Upon seeing a one-eyed goat mending a sandal.

The Parker B. and Helen D. Wagnild College Choir Tour Fund

The Parker B. and Helen D. Wagnild Fund for College Choir Tour was established in 2010 by the Wagnild family and alumni and friends of the Gettysburg College Choir. The purpose of the fund is to strengthen the experience of students in choir tours by providing resources to support tour expenses. To date the fund has received donations from hundreds of individuals and families, and has raised over $460,000 for the cause. Proceeds from the endowment significantly subsidized the costs of the Puerto Rico tour. We are profoundly grateful for the generosity of generations of College Choir alumni and friends. Contributions can be made to the fund by giving to Gettysburg College and specifying that your gift be designated for the Parker B. and Helen D. Wagnild College Choir Tour Fund.
### The Gettysburg College Choir and Camerata

**Robert Natter, Conductor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Benson ‘19</td>
<td>Music Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Bochenek ‘22</td>
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<td>Zachary de Besche ‘22</td>
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<td>Abigail Winston ‘19</td>
<td>Music, History</td>
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* indicates membership in the Camerata
Robert Natter is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Gettysburg College, where he has taught since 1998. He conducts the Gettysburg College Choir, Concert Choir, Audeamus (upper-voice choir), and Camerata (vocal chamber music), and teaches conducting. The Gettysburg College Choir and Camerata have toured widely in the eastern United States and internationally, with excursions to Nicaragua, Brazil, Canada and Puerto Rico. Many of these tours have included cultural immersion and community development. The College Choir has also performed for state conferences of The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Natter is active as a choral clinician and guest conductor in the region, and serves on the executive board for the Eastern Region of ACDA. Natter earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in music from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and a D.M.A. in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

James M. Day is Director of the Sunderman Conservatory of Music and Associate Professor at Gettysburg College. His work as performer, scholar, and teacher has spanned venues and institutions in Europe, Australia, and across the United States. As a promoter of new music, Dr. Day has worked closely with composers in the creation and performance of new solo and chamber music, including collaborations with Eric Sessler, James Lentini, Michael Karmon, and Paul Lansky. His discography includes the world-premiere recording of Laurie Altman's Octet on the album On Course (Albany Records) and Night and Dreams: Franz Schubert Lieder with Guitar with tenor Robert Swensen (Clear Note Publications). He frequently performs as guitar soloist with choral ensembles; past seasons have included performances with Princeton ProMusica, Kinnara Ensemble, and Young People's Chorus of New York City. Day received his BM from North Carolina School of the Arts and MM and DMA from Eastman School of Music. Previously, he served as Assistant Dean and Interim Dean of the School of the Arts and Communication at The College of New Jersey, where he directed guitar studies from 1997-2014.

Matt Carlson teaches vocal music in the Bermudian Springs School District (York Springs, PA). He is a graduate of Gettysburg College (B.S. Music Education) and Michigan State University (M.M Choral Conducting). In his current position at the Bermudian Springs School District, Matt teaches high school choir, fourth grade general music and choir, and serves as music director for the spring musical. In 2017, he received the Outstanding Young Conductor award from the American Choral Directors Association of Pennsylvania. He is an active composer and arranger, whose music has been commissioned and performed by the Gettysburg College Choir, Gettysburg Children’s Choir, the Adams County (PA) Junior High Honor Choir, the Frederick County (MD) Elementary Honor Choir, and the Tucson Girls Chorus.
These businesses have financially supported individual students to help pay for their tour. We encourage you to patronize their establishments.

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Please Join Us For These Upcoming Events

March 25 • 12pm Notes at Noon: Faculty Recital, Ari Isaacman-Beck, violin and Dan Levitov, cello, Musselman Library Apse
March 29 • 8pm Stan Scott and the Rangila Ensemble, Paul Recital Hall
March 30 • 2:30pm Sr. Recital: Brian Ruether, clarinet, Paul Recital Hall
March 30 • 8pm Jazz Dispatch, College Union Junction
March 31 • 1pm From XIX to ’19: Faculty Recital, Paul Recital Hall
April 5 • 7:00pm Sr. Recital: Lindsey Paszczuk, oboe, Paul Recital Hall
April 6 • 8pm Jazz Ensemble, Majestic Theater
April 7 • 2:30pm Sr. Recital: Sophia Rostock, cello, Paul Recital Hall
April 7 • 4pm Sr. Recital: Vannessa Case, soprano, Paul Recital Hall
April 8 • 12pm Notes at Noon: James Day, guitar and Teresa Bowers, flute, Musselman Library Apse
April 12 • 8pm Wind Symphony Masterworks Concert, Majestic Theater
April 13 • 8pm Spring Choral Concert, Christ Chapel
April 14 • 3pm Symphony Band, Majestic Theater
April 16 • 12pm Brown Bag Jazz, College Union Junction
April 17 • 12pm Notes at Noon: Opera Workshop Preview, Musselman Library Apse
April 19 • 7:00pm Sr. Recital: John Glennon, trumpet, Paul Recital Hall
April 20 • 7pm Sr. Sr. Recital: Camille Iorio, soprano, Paul Recital Hall
April 25 & 26 • 7:30pm Opera Workshop, Majestic Theater
April 27 • 8pm Symphony Orchestra, Majestic Theater
April 28 • 2:30pm Sr. Recital: Sebastien Ridore, viola, Paul Recital Hall
April 28 • 4pm Sr. Recital: Olivia Higgins, harp, Paul Recital Hall
May 3 • 4:30pm Gamelan Gita Semara, Musselman Library Steps
May 4 • 8:00pm Faculty Recital: Ari Isaacman-Beck, violin and Jocelyn Swigger, piano, Paul Recital Hall