



CAPPELLA Twelve Centuries of New Music
Amelia LeClair, Director CLAUSURA

The Shift Orchestra Project Presents

Mass for the Endangered



Presented in Collaboration with Cappella Clausura

September 11th, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Emmanuel Church in Boston



Got Emerald Bracelets in Your Neighborhood?

The Ocean River Institute's goal is for more natural lawns to provide refuge and natural corridors for more wildlife to create bigger and more emerald bracelets for municipalities to compliment Boston's Emerald Necklace.

Our Natural Lawn Care for Healthy Soils Challenge is a friendly competition with towns to pledge to keep established lawns natural by forgoing the use of quick-release fertilizer and chemical pesticides and herbicides. Established lawns do not need quick-release fertilizer. The Department of Agricultural Resources recommends one application of 100% slow-release fertilizer in the spring or fall.

ORI summer interns have found sixteen reasons why not put fertilizer on the lawn during summer months. In Brookline, the top seven reasons for not spreading fertilizer on established residential lawns were:

- #Seven. Save Water, need not water natural lawns. The grass browns while roots live.
- #Six. Save Money (save time, effort, and less fossil fuel use).
- #Five. Stop nutrient (fertilizer) runoff polluting waterways, feeding algae blooms.
- #Four. Natural lawns have greater biodiversity, more animal species.
- #Three. Living in natural, non-watered lawns were found 94 species of bees.
- #Two. Mycorrhizal fungi networks, the wood wide web, capture more carbon.
- #ONE. Improved wildlife habitats when fertilizer is not applied to established lawns.

Take the challenge, make the pledge, and tell us about your priorities for your lawn.

Visit www.oceanriver.org

Director's Note

In the year 2022, it is easy to channel the zeitgeist and craft art that justifiably betrays an impending sense of doom. *Don't Look Up* is a perfect example of this. Without spoilers, it used to be considered incredibly brave to use such a sardonic conclusion—even today the critics were not entirely amused. But now, there's a depressing impression that writers can seldom imagine any other ending. Creators can also run the opposite risk. The term “toxic positivity” has become mainstream these past few years and now many audience members are suspicious of optimistic attitudes within art. Even Sam's monologue at the end of *The Two Towers*—one of my favorite speeches in film and literature—has been overshared through a tumultuous political climate, an unending pandemic, terrifying geo-political shifts, and of course, the looming climate crisis. Today's artists must navigate the turbulent waters of social-awareness and self-awareness, and the competing senses of obligation to provide meaningful commentary or escapism from the torrent of current events. This concert displays music that I believe has hit the sweet spot.

We begin with Sven-David Sandström's setting of a fragment from a William Blake poem. “To see the world in a grain of sand”, gently undulating and expanding until we grasp the meaning of what it would be to be pondering the simple gifts of the earth and suddenly witness the beauty and complexity of the universe, in the same manner of being awe-struck when seeing the starry sky in the mountains for the first time. The magnitude and grandeur of it all making you feel small and yet so lucky to be here, able to experience it all with your senses. The music grabs us here and lulls us into a sleep.

Then we move into the Mass itself, written not to G*d but to the Earth. Sarah Kirkland Snider and Nathaniel Bellow have crafted a work which breathes and reflects. Snider creates mesmerizing textures that mimic the breathing of the Earth itself. Deborah Johnson has crafted a visual partner that builds on the imitative quality of Snider's writing by referencing mandala-like figures—circular, fractal and impermanent art, with cycloramas—looped early animation styles—to build effervescent sequences. You'll find your own breathing synchronize with the vocalists and then you will be carried away into an experience that will be at times pensive, mournful, adoring, and determined.

And then we will awake to a movement by my dear friend Ayanna Woods, the opening of which sounds like that beam of sunlight that gently wakes you up on the mornings for which you were able to unplug your alarm clock. When I was more dedicated to my Interfaith practice, I was fortunate enough to hear Valerie Kaur, a Sikh activist, speak about the importance of finding fuel for your inner fire. Ayanna's libretto in the original context respects a civil rights movement standing on the shoulders of giants. “We are Bound” is the resounding refrain and conclusion for this piece... and this concert. Ayanna once explained to me that the phrase works in several directions. We are at once bound by our obligations to those that came before us and our present circumstances to work and build that for which we are all bound: our future.

We invite you into this space to rest, reflect, and recover. And we hope this concert offers you the opportunity to breathe, and maybe give you some fuel to carry on.

Program Information

Sven-David Sandström: "To see a world"

Sarah Kirkland Snider: "Mass for the Endangered"

I. Kyrie

II. Gloria

III. Alleluia

IV. Credo

V. Sanctus/Benedictus

VI. Agnus Dei

Ayanna Woods: "Bound" from *Shift*

Performance Roster

Conducted by David Allen Flowers

Flute: Ceora Jaffe

Oboe: Christian Paniagua

Clarinet: Yhasmin Valenzuela

Bassoon: Francesca Panunto

Piano: Tianhong Yang

Harp: Yvonne Cox

Percussion: Casey Voss

Violin 1: Ming-hang Tam

Violin 2: Kristina Sharra

Viola: Roselyn Hobbs

Cello: Anna M. Seda

Bass: Moises Carrasco

Choir

Sopranos

Yunouna Tabala

Erin Matthews

Janet Stone, Cappella Clausura

Laura Thomas, Cappella Clausura

Altos

Mary Kray

Maria Whitcomb

Lisa Hadley, Cappella Clausura

Lisa Bloom, Cappella Clausura

Tenors

Xiao Shi

Joshua Glassman

Kartik Ayyola

Connor Vigeant, Cappella Clausura

Frankie Campfelice, Cappella Clausura

Basses

Eric Ritter

Lawson Daves, Cappella Clausura

Anthony Garza, Cappella Clausura

Texts & Translations

"To see a World" by Sven-David Sandström
Texted by William Blake (1757-1827)

To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.

"Mass for the Endangered" by Sarah Kirkland Snider

1. Kyrie

Kyrie Eleison

On earth, air, and water
Have mercy
On stone, tree, and flower
Have mercy, world have mercy

Kyrie Eleison

Give mercy to all wing and paw
Mercy to all creed and claw
On flower, seed, leaf and root

Give mercy to all broods and tribes
Mercy to all nests and prides
To tide and spring, squall and breeze
To those who plead for calm and peace
not hunted, hounded, poisoned, fleeced.

To barren, poisoned land
Forgive us
To the vanished, and the left
Forgive us, world forgive us
Mercy on this refuge,
this braided boundless stone

Mercy for their old
Mercy for their young

And mercy now for what we've done

Kyrie Eleison

2. Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis

Laudamus te; benedicimus te;
adoramus te; glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis
Deus Pater omnipotens
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris

Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis
Qui tollis peccata mundi,

Texts & Translations

"Mass for the Endangered" (Continued)

suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dextram Patris,
O miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
to solus Dominus
to solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.

Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris

Amen.

3. Alleluia

Sea of cradle, foundling,
current, cold and quelled as morning.

Braids of vaped ashes,
shadowed creche, collapsing

Contour, carve, corrode--
breathe through camphor, coalition
seed each breeze with gold.

Poison, parch, pollute--
plow the coast, the dune,
flow toward constant moon

Alleluia

Hearth of stone, of tar, of lava,
shelter shielding mother.

Oh, save us mother!

She who is sleeping
Is she who will wake.

Fracture, foist, defoul--
shatter cliff and shoal,
sand each stone to whole.
Harbored, held, unharmed--
She'll wake, rise, rejoin,
her daughters and her sons.

Alleluia

4. Credo (on a ground by Caroline Shaw)

We believe in stone and moss,
sand and grass, Land limned on loam,
haven to the harmed and the whole,
the lesser and the left, the spirit housed
in the opposite.

We believe in all who are offset.

We believe in the blessing of wing,
angelic, ingenious--every
soaring thing. We believe in the holy
pelt and fin, hoary hide and shell.
The armor of every beast is blessed,
adorned in their own regalia.

Mercy, now,
on all animalia.

Take no tooth or tusk, steal no
heart, hair, or husk.

Et expecto....

No shark robbed of its fin, no mink
denied its skin

Texts & Translations

"Mass for the Endangered" (Continued)

resurrectionem mortuorum et vitam venturi
saeculi...

No bath in bowls of slated blood
And I await the life of the world to come
no cove for corpse, no reddened veldt.

A flora fashioned, valued, known
to heal the mind and mend the bone.

We believe in all who are at risk.
We believe in all who are voiceless.
We believe in all who are helpless.
We believe in all who are at risk.

Lay down the spear, lay down the hook,
lay down the gun, the knife, the net.
No majesty in poiston. No virtue in
the snare. No salvation in a strangled spirit.

We believe in songs at daybreak,
cries and calls at dusk.
In quell and coo, drone and hum,
in hovel, hollow, river, pond.

We believe in listen. We believe
in wish. And to be worthy of
their gift: this chance to look
within ourselves and change how
we have lived, to change
how we have lived.

We believe in all who are offset.
We believe in all who are outcast.
We believe in all who are voiceless.

We believe in all who are stranded.

We believe in all who are stalwart.

We believe in all who are fearless.

Expecto vitam venturi saeculi....

We believe in all who are dauntless
And I await the life of the world to come

We believe in all offset, outcast, voiceless,
stranded, stalwart, fearless, dauntless, promised.

We believe in all who are silenced.

We believe in all silenced.

We believe in all who are promised.

We believe in all promised.

And I await...

5. Sanctus/Benedictus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Domine Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

6. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi
Lamb of God,
of longing, loss,
have mercy on us.

Texts & Translations

"Mass for the Endangered" (Continued)

Accept, embrace
these sins—release
the callous,
the conquering,
replace this
hardened wrath,
with calm.

Lamb of God,
in calling, call,
grant them peace.

The deepest sleep
of safety, the unencumbered
yawn. To bathe and breed

with no threat or risk—
trade our sins
our trespasses
for bliss.

Let, allow, admit, accord:
The slumbering of gods
The wandering unbound
The hunted hunting whole
The grazing under moon
The breathing boundless breath
The freedom found in self
The feeling life is whole
The meaning known, unknown

Lamb of God,
of goodness, gold
share your mercy.

Enslaved by sordid
time—the inward-turning
eye, in scarcity, with
lie. They who take our
basest acts—Lamb of
God—no punishment
no cruel attack.

They who rise from
all we lack—Lamb of
God—give wonder, wish
give kindness back.

Agnus Dei

"Bound" by Ayanna Woods

for my grandmother
for my grandmother's hands
for the work of her hands
for her loving labor
for my grandfather
for my grandfather's feet
for the pounding of his feet
for his loving labor
for the transformation
their loving labor brought we inhabit
for a transformation we are bound
right now
with our hands with the work of our hands with our
feet with the pounding of our feet
Right Now!

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Thank you to the following individuals for your
help in making this program possible:

Amelia LeClair, Cappella Clausura Artistic Director

Abby Lass, Cappella Clausura Executive Director

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Amelia LeClair, Director **CLAUSURA**

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Mass for the Endangered



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