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Contributions from the members of the Center for the Performing Arts and a grant from the University Park Student Fee Board make this program free of charge.

Cantus
One Giant Leap

The presentation runs approximately 45 minutes and will be available for streaming from 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, until 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 7. Following the debut of the recorded performance on March 31, Audience and Program Development Director Amy Dupain Vashaw will moderate a live discussion with Cantus singers Jacob Christopher, Alberto de la Paz, Chris Foss, Samuel Green, Alex Nishibun, and Paul Scholtz.

PROGRAM

Cantus
One Giant Leap

Stars.....Ériks Ešenvalds

“IL La Route” from Dans la Montagne.....Jean Cras

Flucht.....Franz Schubert

Follow the Drinking Gourd.....traditional, arr. Vicente Chavarria

Starry Messenger.....Z. Randall Stroope

Discoveries.....Grace Brigham

Silver Deity of Secret Night.....Catherine Dalton

Beyond.....Chris Foss

TEXTS, TRANSLATIONS, AND NOTES

Stars Ériks Ešvalds

Alone in the night	Cannot vex or tire;
On a dark hill	
With pines around me	The dome of heaven
Spicy and still,	Like a great hill,
	And myriads with beating
And a heaven full of stars	Hearts of fire.
Over my head	
White and topaz	Heaven full of stars.
And misty red;	
	I know
Myriads with beating	I am honored
Hearts of fire	To be witness
The aeons	Of so much majesty.

Text by Sara Teasdale

“IL La Route” from *Dans la Montagne* Jean Cras

*De la crete, parmi les branches,
Une blancheur droite s’eleve.
Est-ce la route, tout a l’heure?
Portera-t-elle mon poids, mon dme et mon voyage?
fl me semble pourtant, ce n’est qu’entre deux peupliers le ciel.*

From the treetops, between the branches,
A straight white way emerges.
Is this the route we’re soon to follow?
Will it be able to sustain my weight, my soul, and my journey?

It seems to me, nevertheless, that only the heavens are between the two poplars.

Text by Maurice Boucher

Flucht
Franz Schubert

*In der Freie will ich Leben.
In dem Sarge dump.ft der Tod.
Sieh nur dort das Abendroth
Um die heitern Hugel weben.
In der Freie bluht das Leben, In der Enge hockt die Noth.*

*Eilt, drum eilt hinaus zu streben,
Eh das Herz zu stocken droht!
Licht und Luft und Raum ist noth.
In der Freie will ich Leben.
Traute Vogel, laft uns schweben,
Folgsam der Natur Gebot.*

I'll live in the outdoors.
Musty death is for the grave.
Just look at the sunset there
Weaving its rays around the cheerful hills.
Life buds in the outdoors,
Misery squats inside.

Hurry, hurry to the outdoors,
Before your heart beats its last!
Light and air and room is misery.
I'll live outside.
Brave birds, let us soar,
Obeying nature's command.

Text by Karl Lappe

Follow the Drinking Gourd
Traditional, arr. Vicente Chavarria

Follow the drinking gourd
Follow the drinking gourd
For the old man is a-waitin' for to carry you to freedom if you

Follow the drinking gourd.

Now the river bank makes a mighty good road.
The dead trees will show you the way
Left foot, peg foot, travelin' on:
Follow the drinking gourd.

Well the river ends, between two hills
There's another river on the other side
Well, where the great big river meets the little river.
Follow the drinking gourd.

Starry Messenger
Z. Randall Stroepe

Sidereus nuncius, starry messenger
Galileo Galilei,
with the aid of the telescope
 which he recently devised
the face of the moon, innumerable fixed stars,
and the Milky Way — cloudless stars,
Galileo Galilei, astronomer.
And especially concerning

Four planets revolving
 around the star of Jupiter
With unequal intervals and periods,
with wonderful swiftness,
which known to no one up to this day.
The author most recently
 discovered it for the first time,
and determined to name the Medicean Stars.

Text by Maurice Boucher

Discoveries
Grace Brigham
Winner of Cantus Young and Emerging Composer Competition

“The way of progress was never swift nor easy” – Marie Curie

“Very little can be done under the spirit of fear.” – Florence Nightengale

“We dream until we no longer have the strength to dream those dreams against which we so struggle, those dreams go at last.” – Florence Nightengale

“Prejudice is more violent the blinder it is.” – Elizabeth Blackwell

“Fearfully, cautiously, and distrustingly must we take many of our steps, for we see a little way at best, and we can foresee nothing at all.” – Maria Mitchell

“But our best and wisest refuge from our troubles is in our science.” – Ada Lovelace

“We have a hunger of the mind. The more we gain, the more is our desire.” – Maria Mitchell

“Let each defeat be a source of a new endeavor, and each victory the strengthening of our spirit.” – Euphemia Haynes

“The breath of a nation’s progress.” – Maria Mitchell

We still need more progress.

Text by female scientists

Silver Deity of Secret Night
Catherine Dalton

Beta, gamma, epsilon, omega
Delta, lambda, pi
“Y” equals the cosine
Of “v” times the square root of mu.

Thy silver deity of secret night,
Direct my footsteps
through the woodland shade;
Thou conscious witness
of unknown delight,
The lover’s guardian, and the muse’s aid!
By thy pale beams I solitary rove,
To thee my tender grief confide;
Serenely sweet you gild the silent grove,
My friend, my goddess, and my guide.
E’en thee, fair queen,

from thy amazing height,
The charms of young Endymion drew;
Veil'd with the mantle of concealing night;
With all thy greatness and thy coldness too.

Text by Mary Wortley Montagu

Beyond
Chris Foss

Colossal orb of space,
Sparkling with diamond
Of countless star on star,
All whirling with wild grace
In their enwoven dance illimitably far,
What lies beyond
Your vasty hollow girdled by that bright river of stellar spray
We call the Milky Way?
Immeasurable ball,
Compass'd and clasped in light,
Can you be all,
A flock of fireflies circling in the night,
A maze of jewels that the toss of chance
Let fall,
Sun, planet, asteroid,
One globe of glories in the utter void?

What lies beyond?
Does the sheer dark immerse
Infinity, drowning the last faint gold
Of fleeting comets, lost and vagabond?
Or is this astral universe,
All that our utmost vision may behold,
But one amidst a host of star-strewn spheres,
Each zoned with its own stream
Of softer gleam,
Perchance each dowered with wonder,
love and tears?

What lies beyond?
The puny human heart still stirs
Against those flaming barriers,
That proud, impenetrable dome
Of fire and ether, seeking for a home,

A soul that shall respond
To all its questions, longings and despairs.
Is space but raiment that the spirit wears,
A gem-embroidered mantle to conceal
And yet reveal
In splendors of surprise
Beauty ineffable,
Immanuel?

Or shall we rise,
Higher than dream of Dante ever trod,
From star to star, from empyrean on
To empyrean, till the sun that shone
Over our vexed mortality be wan,
Through life on life, eternal range
From form to form, from change to change,
To find the Unknown God?

Text by Katharine Lee Bates

ABOUT CANTUS

Baritones

David Geist
Sam Kreidenweis

Basses

Chris Foss
Samuel Green

Tenors

Jacob Christopher
Alberto de la Paz
Alexander Nishibun
Paul Scholtz

Now in its twenty-sixth season, the “engaging” (*The New Yorker*) men’s vocal ensemble Cantus is widely known for its trademark warmth and blend, innovative programming, and riveting performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the twenty-first century. *The Washington Post* has hailed the Cantus sound as having both “exalting finesse” and “expressive power,” and the *The Philadelphia Inquirer* called the group nothing short of “exquisite.”

As one of the country’s few full-time vocal ensembles, Cantus has grown in prominence with its distinctive approach to music-making. Working without a conductor, the

members of Cantus rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing to the entirety of the artistic process.

In a typical year, Cantus performs more than sixty concerts — both in national and international touring, and in its home of Minneapolis-St. Paul. Cantus has performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, UCLA, San Francisco Performances, and Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival.

Cantus has a rich history of collaborations with other performing arts organizations, including the Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Boston Pops, Chanticleer, and Sweet Honey In The Rock.

The ensemble is heard frequently on classical public radio nationwide and on SiriusXM Satellite Radio. Cantus has released eighteen recordings on the group's self-titled label, and the artists recently signed with British record label Signum to release the COVID-19 sessions as a live album.

The ensemble actively commissions new music and seeks to unearth rarely performed repertoire for men's voices, having received commissioning grants from New Music USA, National Endowment for the Arts, Chorus America, American Composers Forum, and Chamber Music America.

Integral to the Cantus mission is its commitment to preserve and deepen music education in the schools. In a typical year, Cantus works with more than 5,000 students each year in master class and workshop settings across the country.

ARTISTIC COUNCIL

Alberto de la Paz, programming

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Joseph Heitz, executive director
Alexander Nishibun, production
Jacob Christopher, tour manager

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