

MUSIC and POETRY AT NOBEL 55

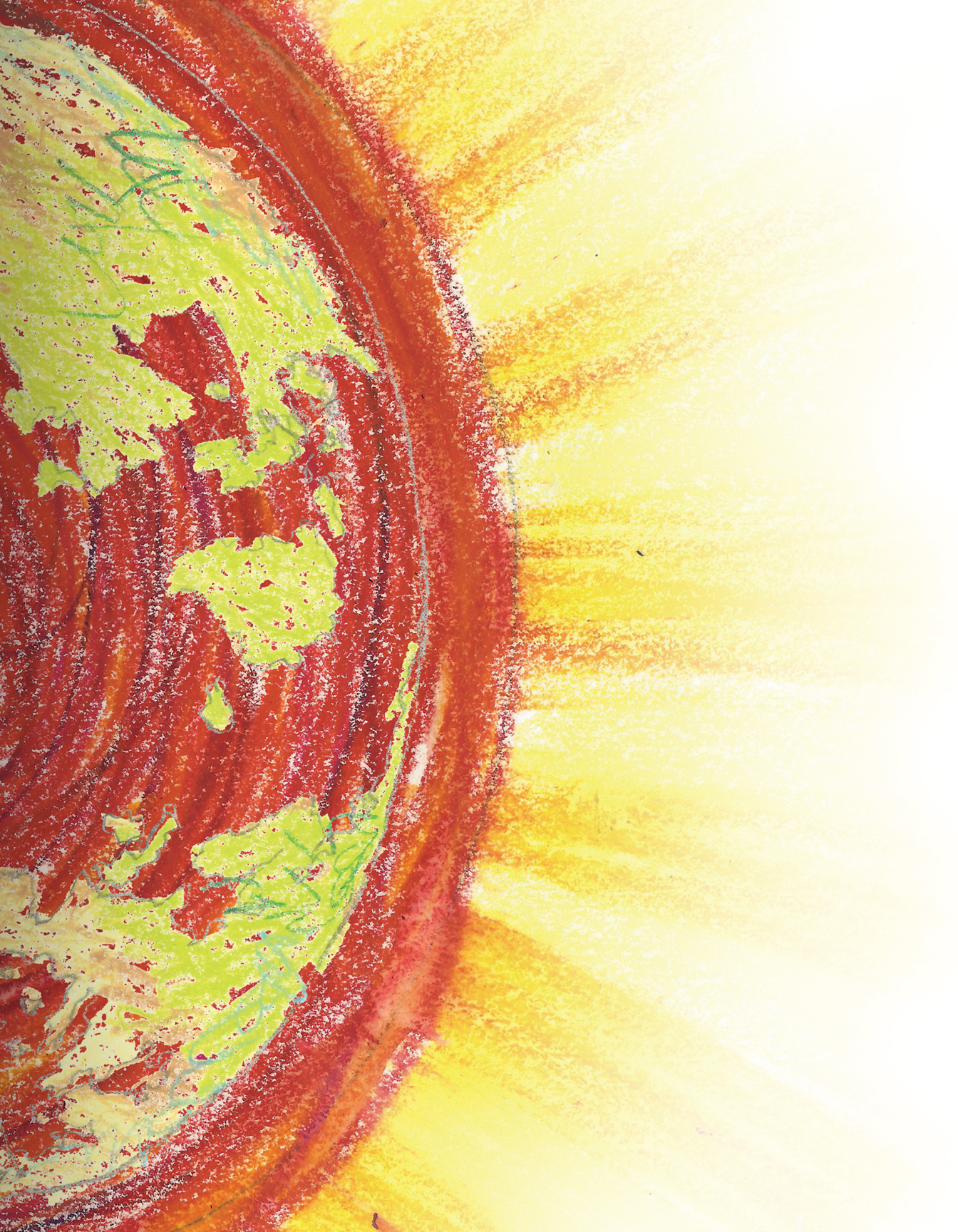
RECITATIONS AND MEDITATIONS ON THE EARTH

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 | 8 P.M.

BJÖRLING RECITAL HALL | GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE



THE
NOBEL
CONFERENCE
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE



NOBEL CONFERENCE 55
PROGRAM
RECITATIONS AND MEDITATIONS ON THE EARTH

Introduction

Lisa Heldke, PhD
Professor of Philosophy
Nobel Conference Director

Invocation

Ruoktu Váimmus (Trekways of the Wind)

Nils-Aslak Valkeapää
Read in Northern Sámi and English

Co-translators in English: Harald Gaski, Lars Nordström, and Ralph Salisbury
Read by Kjerstin Moody '98

Elegy for the Arctic

Ludovico Einaudi (b. 1955)

Chad Winterfeldt, *piano*

For a Coming Extinction

At Los Alamos

What the Heart Cannot Forget

Read by Joyce Sutphen

W. S. Merwin

Joyce Sutphen

Joyce Sutphen

Indigo Horizon

Alexandra T Bryant

II. Streams of Light Piercing through Veiled Clouds
VI. Snowflakes Floating Down... From the Martyred Heavens

Peter McGuire, *violin*; Coca Bochonko, *viola*;
Sharon Mautner-Rogers, *cello*; Yumiko Oshima-Ryan, *piano*

Homeland Security

Alison Hawthorne Deming

Waiting for the Orionids in Summer, 2017

Rebecca Fremo

Read by Rebecca Fremo

Of This Earth

Alexandra T Bryant

IV. Iridescence

Peter McGuire, *violin*; Alexandra Bryant, *violin*;
Coca Bochonko, *viola*; Sharon Mautner-Rogers, *cello*

Commencement

Cyrus Cassells

Around the Absence of Bluestem

Cyrus Cassells

Read by Athena Kildegaard '83

Of This Earth

Alexandra T Bryant

IX. Then Breathe Thy Wail Upon the Earth's Wailing Winds

Peter McGuire, *violin*; Alexandra Bryant, *violin*;
Coca Bochonko, *viola*; Sharon Mautner-Rogers, *cello*

Poem In Three Parts

Robert Bly

Grass

Freya Manfred

There Was A Child Went Forth Every Day (excerpt)

Walt Whitman

Read by Freya Manfred

Nandom Paalu Biiri (Sons and Daughters of Nandom)

communal song of the Dagara people of Ghana and Burkina Faso

Pascal Kyoore, Dagara Gyl (xylophone)

Halloween in the Anthropocene, 2015 To a Future Poet

Craig Santoz Perez
Matt Rasmussen '98

Read by Matt Rasmussen '98

Change Has Already Come

Andrew DeLuca '19

Natalie Johnson '21, *oboe and English horn*
Andrew DeLuca '19, *piano*

The Christian Scientist and Climate Change Denier in Hell A Little Spanish Speaking Island Minneapolis

Phil Bryant '73
Phil Bryant '73
Tom Hennen

Read by Phil Bryant '73

earthbird

Steve Heitzeg '82

Peter McGuire, *violin*; Mark Wamma '09, *violin*;
Sharon Mautner-Rogers, *cello*; Karrin Meffert-Nelson, *clarinet*;
Anna DeGraff, *mezzo soprano*; Yumiko Oshima-Ryan, *piano*

Postlude

Words and Music of Bill Holm '65 from his *Boxelder Bug Variations*

Phil Bryant '73 and Chad Winterfeldt

PROGRAM NOTES

Indigo Horizon

Alexandra T Bryant

Moved by the beautiful and poetic language of Madeline L’Engle in her novel, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, I found myself wanting to adapt the vivid imagery that captured my attention. The story in *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, the third book in her series titled *Time Quintet* (the most well-known being *A Wrinkle in Time*), jumps between differing times, places, and worlds. In the same sense I not only wanted to emphasize the great beauty I felt in her words through my musical interpretations and movement titles, but wanted to touch on the sense of a journey. *Indigo Horizon*, in some ways, feels like a progression through a winter day—the horizon, the breaking of clouds, the birds rising from slumber, the clouds rolling in, the storm, the gentle snow, the freeze, the bitter cold of night, and the return of morning.

Of This Earth

Alexandra T Bryant

Of This Earth is a nine-movement string quartet that explores the creation of the Earth and its natural beauties. Underneath, the immense weight of the ponderous mountains crushes rock and plant to form crystals of beauty. Shimmering and sparkling, these gems and jewels glisten with light. As a prism of color casts its various shades, harmonics, trills, tremolos, and arpeggios portray the vast spectrum of brilliance these jewels hold within them. Iridescence reflects and refracts.

In the ninth movement, “Then Breathe Thy Wail Upon the Earth’s Wailing Winds,” the principal material is taken from an ancient liturgical chant, a cry for redemption—Kyrie Eleison, Lord Have Mercy. This somber movement brings us to our knees as we see how we have taken this—our Earth, our people, our life—for granted.

“Hark! That world-wide swell of solemn music, with the clang of a mighty bell breaking forth through its regulated uproar, announces his approach. He comes; a severe, sedate, immovable, dark rider, waving his truncheon of universal sway, as he passes along the lengthened line, on the pale horse of the Revelation. It is Death! Who else could assume the guidance of a procession that comprehends all humanity? And if some, among these many millions, should deem themselves classed amiss, yet let them take to their hearts the comfortable truth that Death levels us all into one great brotherhood, and that another state of being will surely rectify the wrong of this. Then breathe thy wail upon the earth’s wailing wind, thou band of melancholy music, made up of every sigh that the human heart, unsatisfied, has uttered! There is yet triumph in thy tones.”

~ Nathaniel Hawthorne; *The Procession of Life*

Nandom Paalu Biiri (Sons and Daughters of Nandom)

Pascal Kyoore

This is a communal song of the Dagara people of Ghana and Burkina Faso. As is typical in African music in general people compose songs and they circulate in the community so sometimes it is difficult to identify a composer in the Western sense. It's a bit like folktales. There are definitely some "community songs" of which I know the composers, but that is not always the case. This song is both religious and secular, calling upon people to celebrate religion in the communal sense in the same way as we celebrate the importance of the environment.

Change Has Already Come

Andy DeLuca '19

The Beginning. We see a fragile world, one that is pure and alone. Entering into the picture we see an individual first looking upon the environment, seeing its raw beauty. Coexistence. From this, the two begin to interact with each other, learning from and supporting one another. Advancing. As time goes on, the individual begins to see changes in this world, but also potential for something greater. With this, the individual strives to advance new technology to better utilize what the world has to offer. The Machines of Industry. While at one time the two worked together, the machines of industry now have taken over. While the world cries out, the mechanical movement does not listen. The Storm. Realizing that the individual is now corrupted, the world brings a great storm to wipe out the machines that fought to destroy it. Rebirth. In the silence after, the world is reborn and a new individual appears. Vision of the Future. The world and the new individual look towards a vision of the future.

earthbird

Steve Heitzeg '82

earthbird was commissioned by Linda and Jack Hoeschler and premiered by The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota with Maria Jette as soprano soloist in 2017. Collage-like in structure, it is an exuberant and celebratory piece, with the title being a riff on Stravinsky's The Firebird. The piece is in four sections: it opens with a percussive passage based on an 11-note intra-scale, which is followed by a bright and lyrical section in 6/8. A 1960s-inspired pop progression and texture is next with the piece's penultimate section being an honorific homage and paen to peace and the beauty of birds. The outro is drifting and bell-like, influenced by the images of birds in the architecture of its line. Throughout the entire piece the soprano (wordless) acts very bird-like: airy, floating, light-filled, and lyrical.

POETS and MUSICIANS



Coca Bochonko has performed as a chamber and orchestral musician across the Midwest and Canada, including with the Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Music St. Croix, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Oratorio Society of Minnesota, Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, and Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra. In 2017, Coca was the violist for the Guthrie Theatre's production of Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George*. Coca has also appeared as a soloist with the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, Long Prairie Chamber Orchestra, and Heartland Symphony Orchestra.



Alexandra T Bryant received degrees in composition from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, and the University of Maryland. Commissions include works for the Kronos Quartet, William Preucil, the Aeolus Quartet, Katherine Murdock and Mark Hill, the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Orchestra Association, the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association, the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies, and the Metropolitan Ballet Theatre & Academy. Bryant is in her fourth year as visiting assistant professor of music theory and composition at Gustavus.



Phil Bryant '73 has taught in the department of English at Gustavus since 1989. He has had poems published in *Minnesota Monthly*, *North Coast Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Indiana Review*, *The American Poetry Review*, and *Nimrod*. He has written three books of poetry and his work has been nominated for a Minnesota Book Award and a Forward Award.



Anna DeGraff is a versatile mezzo whose stage credits include such varied roles as Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*), Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*), Maddalena (*Rigoletto*), Ado Annie (*Oklahoma!*), and Susan ([*title of show*]). A frequent recitalist and a strong proponent of contemporary music, she has participated in several workshops and premieres of operatic and art song works by contemporary composers. She holds BM and BA degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and MM and DMA degrees from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.



Andy DeLuca '19 is a 2019 graduate of Gustavus in music education. He is currently student teaching in the Owatonna Public Schools, working with high school, middle school, and elementary bands. As a composer he studied with Dr. Alexandra Bryant and Dr. Dave Stamps, and was selected as the winner of the 2017 Music for Peace Composition Prize.



Rebecca Fremo is a professor of English at Gustavus Adolphus College. Her poems and essays appear in journals including *Mud Season Review*, *Mankato Magazine*, *Full Grown People*, *Paper Darts*, and *Water~Stone Review*. Her chapbook, *Chasing Northern Lights*, was published by Finishing Line in 2012, and her first full-length collection of poetry, *Moving This Body*, is forthcoming from Main Street Rag Publishing Company in December.



Steve Heitzeg '82, Emmy Award-winning composer Steve Heitzeg is recognized for his orchestral, choral and chamber music written in celebration of the natural world, with evocative and lyrical scores frequently including naturally-found instruments such as stones, driftwood, Joshua Tree branches, manatee and beluga whale bones, and seashells.



Natalie Johnson '21 is studying music at Gustavus with an emphasis in oboe/English horn and composition. She hails from the Chicagoland area, and is an alumna of the Merit School of Music and Lutheran Summer Music. Natalie serves as oboe section leader for the Gustavus Wind Orchestra, and is also involved in the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra, Social Justice Choir, Chamber Winds, and Recorder Choir.



Athena Kildegaard '83 is the author of five books of poetry, most recently *Course* (Tinderbox Editions). She teaches at the University of Minnesota-Morris, where she is also the director of the Honors Program.



Paschal Kyiiripuo Kyoore is professor of French and LALACS, director of African Studies, and co-chair of the Department of Modern Languages, Literature, and Culture at Gustavus. He received his university education in three different continents, at six different universities, in four different education systems, in Ghana, France, Spain, and the United States. He specializes in French and Francophone African/Caribbean literatures and cultures. His musical interests include playing the West African Dagara xylophone instrument called a “gyl.”



Freya Manfred has published nine books of poetry and her poetry has appeared in more than 100 reviews and magazines and over 40 anthologies. Her primary subjects are nature and human relationships. Her work explores the mystery of dreams, love, longing, illness, and death. She has received a Harvard/Radcliffe Fellow in Poetry Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Award, a Minnesota Poetry Award, a Tozer Foundation Award, and has been a resident fellow at Yaddo, Helene Wurlitzer Foundation, and MacDowell Colony.

POETS and MUSICIANS



Sharon Mautner-Rodgers has been a member of the Gustavus music faculty since 2007. She also teaches cello at St. Jose Sanchez Del Rio minor seminary and privately. Sharon is principal cellist with the Mankato Symphony, associate principal of the South Dakota Symphony, and has performed with numerous ensembles such as the Minnesota Orchestra, Oratorio Society, VocalEssence, Minneapolis Pops, Lakes Area Music Festival, and will be touring China with the Malaysian Philharmonic.



Peter McGuire joined the Minnesota Orchestra in 2003 and was named Principal Second Violin in 2016. A frequent chamber musician and soloist, McGuire has been featured with the Minnesota Orchestra for the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto and has performed with ensembles throughout the United States and Europe. Along with Bethel Balge, he is co-artistic director of the ProMusica Chamber Music Festival in Mankato. He is Affiliate Professor of Violin at the University of Minnesota School of Music and Gustavus Adolphus College and maintains a private teaching studio.



Karrin Meffert-Nelson teaches clarinet, conducts the Gustavus Chamber Winds, and co-chairs the music department at Gustavus Adolphus College. Meffert-Nelson also maintains an active performance career as principal clarinetist with the Minnesota Opera Orchestra and through freelance work with Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Northrup Ballet Orchestra and with productions at the State and Orpheum Theaters. Dr. Meffert-Nelson holds degrees from the University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, and St. Olaf College.



Kjerstin Moody '98 likes to grow things and seek out and be in landscapes of all sorts. An associate professor of Scandinavian studies, comparative literature, and gender, women, and sexuality studies, she teaches courses on the Arctic, Nordic poetry, women's writing, and is developing a course on place, being, and dwelling in Scandinavian art and literature. She thinks a lot about water and plastic.



Yumiko Oshima-Ryan is an active performer of both solo and collaborative works. Her awards include first place in the Wurlitzer Collegiate Artist Competition and second place in the International Beethoven Piano Sonata Competition. Since 1995 she has been incorporating contemporary Japanese piano works into her repertoire. She has performed these works nationally and internationally including world premieres of new works by Japanese composers. Her first recording “From Afar” Japanese Contemporary piano works

is published through the Naxos Music Library. Oshima-Ryan is a 2017 recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minneosta State Arts Board. A native of Japan, Oshima-Ryan graduated from Toho Music Academy in Tokyo and earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. Oshima-Ryan is currently a professor of music at Gustavus Adolphus College.



Matt Rasmussen '98 is the author of *Black Aperture*, which was the winner of the 2013 Walt Whitman Award and the 2014 Minnesota Book Award for Poetry and was a finalist for the National Book Award. He has received numerous grants, residencies, and awards including residencies from the McKnight Foundation, Bush Foundation, Minnesota State Arts Board, Jerome Foundation, the 2014 Pushcart Prize, and 2015 Holmes National Poetry Prize. He is founder and editor of the independent poetry press Birds, LLC.



Joyce Sutphen grew up on a farm in Stearns County, Minnesota. Her first collection of poems *Straight Out of View* won the Barnard New Women Poets Prize, and her third collection, *Naming the Stars*, won the Minnesota Book Award in Poetry. *Carrying Water to the Field* (New and Selected Poems) was released by the University of Nebraska Press in 2019. She is professor emerita at Gustavus and the second Minnesota Poet Laureate, succeeding Robert Bly.



Mark Wamma is a violinist who lives in Saint Peter. A 2009 graduate of Gustavus, Mark now makes his living performing in the surrounding communities and with regional orchestras; teaching lessons in Mankato, New Ulm, and Saint Peter; and conducting several of the ensembles for the Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra.



Chad Winterfeldt is Cantor of Christ Chapel at Gustavus. In that role, he guides the musical and liturgical aspects of worship in Christ Chapel. He teaches courses in church music, music theory and history, maintains an active organ studio, and directs four handbell ensembles. In 2015, he was recognized by the Gustavus student body with the Swenson-Bunn Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence. This past summer he enjoyed three days in Switzerland, marveling at the majestic glaciers and waterfalls and ruing a world without them.



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