

This program is a reflection of our experiences over the past 2+ years navigating through a global pandemic and political and social unrest. We will progress from themes of isolation, death and grief, to new life and renewed hope, acknowledging the special role that music has played in helping us through. Our selections include works from an array of American song composers from the past century, as well as German lieder, which is at the core of Fourth Coast Ensemble's repertoire and identity. Text and translations for works performed in a language other than English are included below.

Wenn ich ein Vöglein wär'

Text by Anonymous

Wenn ich ein Vöglein wär'
Und auch zwei Flüglein hätt',
Flög' ich zu dir!
Weil's aber nicht kann sein,
Bleib' ich allhier.
Bin ich gleich weit von dir,
Bin ich doch im Schlaf bei dir,
Und red' mit dir!
Wenn ich erwachen thu
Bin ich allein.
Es vergeht kein' Stund' in der Nacht,
Da mein Herze nicht erwacht,
Und an dich gedenkt,
Dass du mir viel tausendmal
Dein Herz geschenkt.

Ständchen

Text by Ludwig Rellstab

Leise flehen meine Lieder
Durch die Nacht zu Dir;
In den stillen Hain hernieder,
Liebchen, komm' zu mir!

Flüsternd schlanke Wipfel rauschen
In des Mondes Licht;
Des Verräters feindlich Lauschen
Fürchte, Holde, nicht.

Hörst die Nachtigallen schlagen?
Ach! sie flehen Dich,
Mit der Töne süßen Klagen
Flehen sie für mich.

If I were a little bird,

If I were a little bird,
And had two little wings,
I'd fly to you!
But since that cannot be,
I shall stay right here.
Although I am far from you,
I'm with you as I sleep,
And I speak with you!
When I awake
I am alone.
Not an hour of night goes by
Without my heart awakening
And thinking how you
A thousand times
Have given me your heart.

Serenade

My songs softly plead
through the night to you;
down in the silent grove,
Beloved, come to me!

Slender treetops whisper and rustle
in the moonlight;
do not fear, my darling,
that the fiendish betrayer will hear us.

Do you hear the nightingales call?
Ah, they are imploring you;
with their sweet, plaintive songs
They are imploring for me.

Sie verstehn des Busens Sehnen,
Kennen Liebesschmerz,
Rühren mit den Silbertönen
Jedes weiche Herz.

Lass auch Dir die Brust bewegen,
Liebchen, höre mich!
Bebend harr' ich Dir entgegen!
Komm', beglücke mich!

An die Musik

Text by Franz Schober

Du holde Kunst, in wieviel grauen Stunden,
Wo mich des Lebens wilder Kreis umstrickt,
Hast du mein Herz zu warmer Lieb entzunden,
Hast mich in eine bessre Welt entrückt!

Oft hat ein Seufzer, deiner Harf entlossen,
Ein süsser, heiliger Akkord von dir
Den Himmel besserer Zeiten mir erschlossen,
Du holde Kunst, ich danke dir dafür!

Herbstlied

Text by Siegfried August Mahlmann

Das Laub fällt von den Bäumen,
Das zarte Sommerlaub.
Das Leben mit seinen Träumen
Zerfällt in Asch' und Staub—ja, ja.
Die Vöglein im Walde sangen,
Wie schweigt der Wald jetzt still!
Die Lieb' ist fortgegangen,
Kein Vöglein singen will—ja, ja.
Die Liebe kehrt wohl wieder,
Im lieben künft'gen Jahr,
Und alles kehrt dann wieder,
Was jetzt verklungen war.
Du Winter, sei willkommen,
Dein Kleid ist rein und neu,
Er hat den Schmuck genommen,
Den Schmuck bewahrt er treu.

They understand the heart's yearning,
they know the pain of love;
with their silvery notes
They touch every tender heart.

Let your heart be moved too,
Beloved, hear me!
Trembling I await you!
Come, make me happy!

To music

You beloved art, in how many gray hours
when the wild circle of life has ensnared me
have you kindled my heart to the warmth of love,
And brought me into a better world!

Often a sigh escaping from your harp,
a sweet, celestial chord
has revealed a heaven of better times,
Beloved art, I thank you for this!

Autumn song

Leaves fall from the trees,
The tender summer leaves.
Life with its dreams
Falls apart in ashes and dust—yes, yes.
The little birds sang in the wood,
How the wood has become silent now!
Love has departed,
No bird wishes to sing—yes, yes.
Love will return again
In a happy future year,
And all things then will return
That now have died away.
Welcome, O winter,
Your robe is pure and new,
You have taken beauty--
Guard that beauty faithfully.

Morgen!

Text by John Henry Mackay

Und morgen wird die Sonne wieder scheinen
Und auf dem Wege, den ich gehen werde,
Wird uns, die Glücklichen, sie wieder einen
Inmitten dieser sonnenatmenden Erde ...

Und zu dem Strand, dem weiten, wogenblauen,
Werden wir still und langsam niedersteigen,
Stumm werden wir uns in die Augen schauen,
Und auf uns sinkt des Glückes stummes Schweigen

Und schläfst du, mein Mädchen

Text by Gil Vicente

Translated by Paul Heyse

Und schläfst du, mein Mädchen,
Auf, öffne du mir;
Denn die Stund' ist gekommen,
Da wir wandern von hier.

Und bist ohne Sohlen,
Leg' keine dir an;
Durch reissende Wasser
Geht unsere Bahn.

Durch die tief tiefen Wasser
Des Guadalquivir;
Denn die Stund' ist gekommen,
Da wir wandern von hier.

Schön Blümlein

Text by Robert Reinick

Ich bin hinausgegangen
Des Morgens in der Früh,
Die Blümlein thäten prangen,
Ich sah so schön sie nie.

Wagt ein's davon zu pflücken,
Weil mir's so wohl gefiel.

Tomorrow!

And tomorrow the sun will shine again
And on the path that I shall take,
it will unite us, the happy ones, again,
amid this sun-breathing earth...

And to the shore, the broad blue-waved,
we shall quietly and slowly descend,
silently we shall gaze into each other's eyes,
and the speechless silence of bliss will fall on us...

And if you're sleeping, my girl

And if you're sleeping, my girl
get up and let me in;
because the time has come
For us to leave.

And if you have no shoes,
put none on;
for our path
Goes through raging waters.

Through the deep, deep waters
of the Guadalquivir;
Because the time has come
For us to leave.

Fair little flowers

I went out
Early in the morning,
The little flowers shone,
I never saw them so fair.

I dared to pick one,
Because I liked it so much.

Doch als ich mich wollt' bücken,
Sah ich ein lieblich Spiel.

Die Schmetterling' und Bienen,
Die Käfer hell und blank,
Die mußten all ihm dienen
Bei fröhlichem Morgensang,

Und scherzten viel und küssten
Das Blümlein auf den Mund,
Und triebens nach Gelüsten
Wohl eine ganze Stund'.

Und wie sie so erzeiget
Ihr Spiel die Kreuz und Quer,
Hat's Blümlein sich geneiget
Mit Freuden hin und her;

Da hab' ich's nicht gebrochen,
Es wär ja morgen todt,
Und habe nur gesprochen:
Ade du Blümlein roth!

Und Schmetterling' und Bienen,
Die Käfer hell und blank,
Die sangen mit frohen Mienen
Mir einen schönen Dank.

Dahil Sa Iyo

Text by Dominador Santiago

Sa buhay ko'y labis
Ang hirap at pasakit,
Ng pusong umi-ibig
Mandi'y wala ng langit
At ng lumigaya.
Hinango mo sa dusa,
Tanging ikaw, Sinta,
Ang aking pag-asa.

Dahil sa 'yo,
Na-is kong mabuhay.
Dahil sa 'yo,

But as I bent down,
I saw a delightful scene.

The butterflies and bees,
The beetles bright and shiny,
All had to wait on the flower,
Amid happy morning songs,

And with much banter they kissed
The little flower on the mouth,
And made merry
For a full hour.

And as they played
Their games round about,
The little flower moved its head
Joyfully to and fro;

And I did not pick it,
It would have died the next day,
And I merely said:
Farewell, little red flower!

And the butterflies and bees,
The beetles bright and shiny,
With contented faces
Sang me all their thanks.

Because of You

In my life that exceeds in
Hardship and pain,
From a heart that loves,
That knows no heaven
And joy.
You save me from suffering
Only you, my love,
Are my hope.

Because of you,
I wish to live.
Because of you,

Hanggang mamatay.

Dapat mong tantuin,
Wala ng ibang giliw,
Puso ko'y tanungin,
Ikaw at ikaw rin.

Dahil sa 'yo,
Ako'y lumigaya,
Pagmamahal ay alayan ka,
Kung tunay man
Ako ay alipinin mo
Ang lahat sa buhay ko'y
Dahil sa 'yo!

Berlin im Licht

Text by Bertold Brecht

Und zum Spaziergehn
Genügt das Sonnenlicht
Doch um die Stadt Berlin zu sehn
Genügt die Sonne nicht.

Das ist kein lauschiges Plätzchen
Das ist 'ne ziemliche Stadt
Damit man da alles gut sehen kann
Da braucht man schon einige Watt!

Na wat denn, na wat denn?
Was ist das für 'ne Stadt denn?

Komm, mach mal Licht
Damit man sehn kann, ob was da ist!
Komm mach mal Licht
und rede nun mal nicht.
Komm mach mal Licht,
dann wollen wir doch auch mal sehen
Ob das 'ne Sache ist:
Berlin im Licht!

Until I die.

You should realize,
There is no other love but you,
Ask my heart,
It is you and only you.

Because of you,
I will be joyful,
Love is offered to you,
If it is true
Then enslave me
Everything in my life
Is because of you!

Berlin in lights

And when you go for a walk
the sunlight may be enough,
but to see the city of Berlin
the sun is not enough.

This is no lazy little place,
this is one special city.
If you want to see everything
then you need a few watts!

So what then?
What kind of city is it?

Come, turn on the lights
so we can see what is there!
Come, turn on the lights
and don't say any more.
Come, turn on the lights,
We want to see too
what the big deal is:
Berlin in lights!

Fourth Coast Ensemble

The Quartet

Sarah van der Ploeg - *soprano*

Bridget Skaggs - *mezzo-soprano*

Ace Gangoso - *tenor*

David Govertsen - *bass-baritone*

MISSION STATEMENT

Fourth Coast Ensemble is a vocal chamber quartet committed to performing programs of creative and accessible vocal chamber music. With a repertoire spanning Romantic to Contemporary, Fourth Coast Ensemble presents salon-style performances in venues ranging from parlor to concert hall. The goal at each performance is to communicate an atmosphere of warmth, variety, and genuine expression. Fourth Coast Ensemble creates a dialogue that invites each audience member to feel comfortable, as though they were listening to music in their own living room surrounded by friends.

ACE GANGOSO, tenor, enjoys an eclectic musical career in Chicago as a singer, music director, pianist, and teacher. Ace is thrilled to be joining Fourth Coast Ensemble this season, adding to his existing singing engagements with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Grant Park Chorus, and Chicago a cappella. Within Chicago a cappella, Ace also serves as the Program Director for the High School Apprenticeship, an auditioned group of young singers seeking experience in high-level ensemble singing and arts nonprofit operations.

Ace is the Director of Music Ministry at St. Nicholas Parish in Evanston where he conducts several choirs and musical groups, and plays up to four Masses each weekend. Additionally, he is a pianist for the Chicago Black Catholics Choir and a supplementary staff musician at St. Michael in Old Town. Ace is also a private voice instructor at Highland Park High School.

A native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Ace became a Chicagoan in 2010 and currently resides in the Lakeview neighborhood. Ace holds Bachelor's Degrees in Music Education and Voice Performance from the University of Central Arkansas, and a Master's Degree in Voice Performance from Northwestern University; he continues voice study with NU Professor W. Stephen Smith. He is a proud alumni member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the world's oldest and largest fraternal society in music.

Chicago native **DAVID GOVERTSEN** has been active as a professional singer for fifteen years, portraying a wide variety of opera's low-voiced heroes, villains, and buffoons. An alumnus of the Ryan Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, he has performed ten roles with the company, most recently appearing as Sprecher in *Die Zauberflöte* and King Priam in *Les Troyens*. This past season he also appeared at Santa Fe Opera as Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, and he created the role of Stoever in Stewart Copeland's *The Invention of Morel* for Chicago Opera Theater.

As a concert soloist Mr. Govertsen has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Madison Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Grant Park Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival among many others. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2011 as the Herald in *Otello* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Riccardo Muti. He is an alumnus of both the Santa Fe Opera and Central City Opera apprentice programs and holds degrees from Northwestern University, Northern Illinois University and the College of DuPage. Mr. Govertsen is currently on faculty at North Park University, Valparaiso University, Lewis University, and the College of DuPage.

Pianist **YASUKO OURA** has been praised for her sensibility and passion for collaborating with others. She maintains a busy concert and opera collaborations schedule while keeping an active teaching schedule. In addition to her appointment at DePaul University, she is currently a Lecturer of Collaborative Piano at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. Active in the vibrant Chicago music scene, Ms. Oura regularly works for Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Opera Theater, Music of the Baroque, and Grant Park Chorus, and enjoys performing a wide variety of music from Baroque to contemporary music. She has been a key member of the music staff for Des Moines Metro Opera for over a decade and was formerly the principal production pianist and coach for Florentine Opera for seven years. Past affiliations include companies such as Fort Worth Opera, Kentucky Opera, Madison Opera, Toledo Opera, and AIMS in Graz, Austria.

An avid chamber musician, Ms. Oura has performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall's Weil Recital Hall, Harris Theater, Alice Tully Hall, and Merkin Hall. She is also the co-artistic director of Chamber Music at Bethany concert series, where members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and other prominent musicians come together for rare chamber music experiences. She has collaborated in recital with some of the world's most exciting musicians, including Susanna Phillips, David Portillo, Susanne Mentzer, and Kyle Ketelsen. She has also served as the official pianist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Wisconsin District and the McCammon Vocal Competition in Fort Worth, TX. She has been seen in performances for the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, the Bel Canto Foundation, WFMT, and WTTW's Chicago Tonight. She holds a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College and master's and doctoral degrees from the Juilliard School, where she was a C.V. Starr Doctoral Fellow.