

The 66th Annual

Choir Festival

A Virtual Experience

Ocean Grove Virtual Choir Festival
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020 AT 7 PM

WWW.OCEANGROVE.ORG/CHOIR-FESTIVAL

Order of Worship

Instrumental Prelude	Dr. Gordon Turk
Invitation to Worship <i>Psalm 100</i>	Michael Badger, President
Anthem Old 100th Psalm <i>Vaughn Williams</i>	Thomas Berdos, Conductor
Scripture Revelation 1:4-6, 8	Nancy Ann Gillan, Program Chair
Anthem Coronation <i>Craig Courtney</i>	Dr. Cindy Bell, Conductor
Greeting Offering Offertory Prayer	Dr. Dale Whilden, Development Chair
Doxology	Auditorium Quartet
Scripture Act 7:48-50, Mark 8:36	Nancy Ann Gillan, Program Chair
Anthem God's Got the Whole World <i>Mark Miller</i>	Dr. Mark Miller, Conductor
Scripture Isaiah 43:1-3, John 1:14	Michael Badger, President
Anthem God is With Us - World Premiere <i>Dr. Brad Nix</i>	Dr. Brad Nix, Conductor
Hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness <i>T.O. Chisholm / W.M. Runyan</i>	
Benediction Revelation 11:15	Nancy Ann Gillan, Program Chair
Anthem Hallelujah Chorus <i>Handel's Messiah</i>	Dr. Jason Tramm, Conductor

Conductors' Biographies

Dr. Cindy L. Bell is a fifth-generation Ocean Grover who enjoys conducting in this Choir Festival. In her full-time role as Professor of Music Education at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY, she directs the University Choir, teaches graduate and undergraduate classes, and coordinates the music education program. A specialist in choral music education and community choirs, Dr. Bell presents workshops for state, divisional and national music education and choral conferences, including NYSSMA, NAFME, ISME and ACDA. She also adjudicates choir festivals for the 2018 Long Island Music Festival and guest conducts choirs of all ages, such as the 2015 PMEA Region VI High School Chorus in Pennsylvania, and the 2016 Delaware All-State Women's Chorus. Dr. Bell is a graduate of Lycoming College (PA), Eastman School of Music (NY) and Teachers College, Columbia University (NY), where she earned the Ed.D. in Music Education. Her current Ocean Grove project with her father, local historian Ted Bell, is spear-heading the Historical Society's fund-raising campaign to restore the historic 1907 cast-iron fountain in Founders Park for Ocean Grove's 150th anniversary in 2019.

Thomas Berdos is presently on the music faculty of The Pingry School, a private K-12 school in Short Hills and Martinsville, NJ (www.pingry.org). At The Pingry School he teaches grades four to six in the areas of General Music, Chorus, and Instrumental Music. In addition to teaching at The Pingry School, Mr. Berdos serves as Director of Music Ministries at Fanwood Presbyterian Church in Fanwood, NJ. He conducts the Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary Ringers, and other ensembles. He organized and produces the Fanwood Choir Festival, a community outreach held at the church.

Mr. Berdos earned the B.M. in Music Education, summa cum laude, and the M.M. in Music Performance from the University of Lowell (now the University of Massachusetts Lowell). He has performed in the United States and abroad, and has taught music to all ages and levels for over thirty years.

Berdos composes music in all of the capacities of his career. At school he arranges and composes music for elementary instrumental ensembles, as well as for choral and general music endeavors. At church he arranges choral, brass, organ, piano, and handbell music on a regular basis. (Mr. Berdos has a number of sacred piano solos in print through The Lorenz Corporation and Broadman.) He also composes level-appropriate performance music (solo and chamber music) for his piano students.

Mark Miller believes that everyone is a Child of God and that music can help heal the world. He also adheres to Cornel West's belief that "Justice is what love looks like in public."

Mark is Associate Professor of Church Music and Director of Chapel at Drew University in Madison NJ, and is a Lecturer in Sacred Music at Yale University. He is also the Minister of Music of Christ Church (UCC) in Summit, New Jersey. A renowned composer of sacred music, Mark's hymns and anthems are sung by communities of faith throughout the country and are published by Choristers Guild, Hinshaw, Shawnee, Hal Leonard, Santa Barbara Music Publishing and others. Miller spends a portion of the year traveling the country, often with his band 'Subject to Change', lecturing, preaching and presenting concerts focused on creating community and advocating for social justice.

Over the past three years he has visited a hundred venues in over twenty five states. He just returned from Sweden where he led a choral festival of his sacred social justice songs. You can find out more about his music at markamillermusic.com

Dr. Brad Nix currently serves as an editor for Hal Leonard, where he works in the sacred choral division. As a widely recognized composer and arranger, he has written for many of the nation's major publishers and has well over 120 pieces in print. He frequently travels throughout the country as a clinician for reading sessions and conferences. In addition to his work in the music industry, Brad serves on the staff of First Baptist Church of Bastrop, TX. His responsibilities at the church include planning worship, leading worship, and directing several choral and instrumental ensembles.

Brad previously served for many years as Associate Professor of Music and Department Chair at Sterling College, located in Sterling, KS. At Sterling College, he taught music theory, composition, orchestration, applied piano, and group piano. Originally from Dallas, GA, Brad received his DMA degree from The University of Colorado at Boulder.

Dr. Jason C. Tramm is recognized as one of the most dynamic young conductors on the podium today. Maestro Tramm serves as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for the MidAtlantic Opera whom he made his Carnegie Hall (Stern Auditorium) debut on October 17, 2015. The program, entitled "A Prayer for Peace," featured works of Bernstein, Vaughan Williams, and Saygun received a standing ovation and plans are underway for two more yearly performances at Carnegie Hall.

Tramm served as Artistic Director of the New Jersey State Opera from 2008 to 2012, where he collaborated with some of the finest voices in opera, including Samuel Ramey, Vladimir Galouzine, Angela Brown, Gregg Baker, and Paul Plishka. His 2009 HDTV broadcast with PBS affiliate NJN of "Verdi Requiem: Live from Ocean Grove," garnered a regional Emmy Award nomination. Since 2008 he has served as the Director of Music in Residence of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association in the summer months, where he leads the choral, orchestral, and oratorio performances in the 6,500-seat historic Great Auditorium. In addition to the Ocean Grove Choir Festival, a beloved

event in its 58th year and attended by thousands, he also conducts orchestral and sacred masterworks. He has appeared on two National Public Radio broadcasts with organ virtuoso Gordon Turk and a large orchestra.

An accomplished educator, he also serves as Director of Choral and Orchestral Activities at Seton Hall University, where he leads the University Choir, Chamber Choir, Orchestra, and teaches voice and conducting. Education and working with young musicians have always been a central part of Jason Tramm's career. He is also actively sought as a clinician and regularly presents lectures. Tramm holds degrees in music from the Crane School, the Hartt School, and a DMA in Conducting from Rutgers University, where he was the recipient of their prestigious Presidential Fellowship. In 2003, he joined the ranks of Metropolitan Opera Stars Renee Fleming and Stephanie Blythe in being honored with the Rising Star Award from the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association. A frequent guest conductor, he has led operatic and symphonic performances in Italy, Romania, Albania, and most recently, Hungary, where he recorded an album of rarely heard French operatic arias with the Szeged Symphony.

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Special Thanks

Members of the 2020 Ocean Grove Virtual Choir Festival

Dr. Jason C. Tramm, Director of Music Ministries

Dr. Gordon Turk, Organist in Residence

The Great Auditorium Quartet

Monica Ziglar, Soprano

Allison Gish, Mezzo-Soprano

Ronald Naldi, Tenor and Artist-in-Residence

Justin Beck, Bass-Baritone

Instrumentalists

JoAnn Lamolino, Trumpet

Kate Amrine, Trumpet

Bryan Meyer, French Horn

Nathaniel Rensink, Trombone

Noreen Baer, Trombone

Scott Simpson, Timpani

Karen Delavan, Piano

Worship Participants

Mr. Michael Badger, President, OGCMA

Mrs. Nancy Ann Gillan, Program Chair, OGCMA

Dr. Dale Whilden, Development Chair, OGCMA

Virtual Choir Production

Mr. Quinton Tramm

Dr. Jason Tramm

Videography

George Scholes Robson IV

Scripture References

Faithlife Proclaim