

**RESOUNDING ACHORD
PRODUCTIONS**
presents



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PALO ALTO, CA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SAN JOSE, CA

From the Artistic Director:

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first live concert since February 29, 2020! If you're counting like we are, it has been 624 days. To say that we are grateful for your support during these difficult times is a vast understatement. To put it simply, our music exists today because you remained loyal to us and to the arts. While we are incredibly proud of the online offerings that we gave you in 2020 and 2021, nothing compares to sharing music together with you in person, today.

We also want to acknowledge the people who aren't able to be here, including those who lost their lives or their livelihood during the pandemic. We continue to hold all those affected by Covid-19 in our hearts and minds.

This concert features works written entirely by American minorities: immigrants, women, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Our program, both challenging and celebratory, will focus on our shared human experience. Thank you, again, for joining us!

In Harmony,

Kristina Nakagawa

We acknowledge that our concert venues reside on the ancestral territory of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. We honor and recognize that the first people of this region—the Muwekma Ohlone People—are living and thriving members of the San Jose and broader Bay Area communities today.

Thank You to...

The Rev. Maly Hughes & St Francis Episcopal Church
The Clergy and Staff of First Congregational Church, Palo Alto
Thomas Dowrie Productions, audio & video recording
Jan Clayton, Program Production
Our generous volunteers

Program

Kristina Nakagawa, Artistic Director
Andrew Hathaway, Assistant Conductor
Molly Shaw, Collaborative Pianist

Together

Hands Jocelyn Hagen
Gabrielle Torres & Kevin Schoenfeld, soloists

we breathe

Breaths Ysaye M. Barnwell

we worship

Here I Am..... Ariel Quintana
Andrew Hathaway, conductor

we join

The Pasture..... Michael Bussewitz-Quarm
Ian-Carl Floirendo, soloist

we understand

Ffe Mwe, Mwe Ffe Joan Szymko
Albert Mabeza, soloist & Andrew Hathaway, percussion

we persevere

Kujichagulia..... Zanaida Robles
Michelle Dreyband, soloist & Andrew Hathaway, percussion

we nurture

Yemaya.....arr. Diana V. Sáez

we hurt

¡Ayúdame! (Venezuelan Plea for Life).....Carlos Cordero
Andrew Hathaway, percussion

continued on next page

we heal

Journey Home.....Abbie Betinis
Jerry-Michael Hernandez, speaker

we play

Sambaleléarr. Will Lopes

we love

Love Is..... Tesfa Wondemagegnehu
Maria Cammisa, soloist

Together

On This Road..... Andrea Ramsey
Truesten Taotolo & Dario Johnson, soloists

Program Notes

Hands, Jocelyn Hagen

This piece was originally composed to go along with the theme “The Colors of Peace” for the World Choral Symposium in 2017. It is sung entirely without words on neutral syllables, because choosing a text and a language felt too limiting for the composer. Ms. Hagen says that the piece to her is about “a simple gesture, the act of uniting, coming together.”

Breaths, Ysaye M. Barnwell

Poet Birago Diop was a Senegalese storyteller whose work restored general interest in African folktales. Dr. Barnwell originally wrote this piece for Sweet Honey in the Rock in 1980.

Here I Am, Ariel Quintana

Quintana was born in Libertador San Martin, Entre Rios, Argentina, and started playing the piano at age 3. His first degree is in Music Education from the Universidad Adventista del Plata, and his masters degree is in piano performance from the National Conservatory in Buenos Aires. He studied conducting with John Alexander after moving to Glendale, CA in 1988. He currently is the Director of Choral Activities at La Sierra University in Riverside.

The Pasture, Michael Bussewitz-Quarm

Ms. Bussewitz-Quarm is an active advocate for the transgender community. It is her fervent wish to spread knowledge and understanding of the

transgender community through guest speaking and by simply being present in the lives of the talented musicians and artists surrounding her.

From the composer:

“When I hear Robert Frost’s poetry, it very easily turns to music for me. This is one of the earliest pieces I wrote, and one of the first pieces I shared publicly. I still remember the weekend I went into NYC for Gregg Smith’s Composers’ Workshop. I was very nervous. We each had 45 minutes of rehearsal and feedback. After the first run through, Gregg had tears in his eyes. He commented about the warmth of the piece, and I was in heaven. It meant so much to me, getting that first feedback. It was incredibly validating—I still remember, when I left for my hotel that evening, dancing along the NYC sidewalk and being on cloud nine!”

Ffe Mwe, Mwe Ffe, Joan Szymko

The text of this multi-layered piece includes the Bantu adages from Ghana combined with the inspiring words of Mahatma Gandhi, “be the change you wish to see.”

From the composer:

“I am deeply committed to making choral art in my community, and I find great solace in weekly choral rehearsals. There, people from all walks of life come together to surrender themselves to the whole; they come for communion, hoping to perfect a unified sound and for the promise of a deeply exhilarating musical experience. It can be transformative. It is healing.”

Ffe Mwe, Mwe Ffe
Gwanga mujje

*They are us, and we are them
Come to my rescue*

Kujichagulia, Zanaida Robles

Kujichagulia is the second principle of Kwanzaa, meaning self-determination. Dr. Zanaida Stewart Robles is a fierce advocate for diversity and inclusion in music education and performance. She was born, raised, and educated in Southern California, and she serves as the board chair for Tonality, a non-profit choral group in Los Angeles that celebrates diversity in all forms.

Yemaya, arr. Diana Sáez

Diana Sáez is a leading specialist in the field of Latin American music. She began her musical education at the Escuela Libre de Música in San Juan, PR, has a master’s degree from Temple University, and a DMA from the University of Maryland in College Park. Yemaya is a goddess from the Rule of the Osha, a Yoruba religion. This religion has its origins in West Africa, today’s modern Nigeria, and it was brought to the Americas by African slaves where it exchanged logics and symbols with Catholicism. In the Americas, including Brazil, Yemaya represents maternity and is considered the mother of all living things.

¡Ayúdame!, Carlos Cordero

Carlos Cordero immigrated to the US from Venezuela for his master's degree in composition at the University of Houston. He now lives in Austin, Texas, and is married to American choral conductor, Ryan Heller. Mr. Cordero wrote ¡Ayúdame! as a way to process the difficulties his family was facing in his home country, because it was very difficult to be so far away and know that his people, his family, and his country, were and are still struggling.

Mírame,	<i>Look at me,</i>
Escúchame.	<i>Listen to me.</i>
Estoy sufriendo.	<i>I am suffering.</i>
No puedo ver, Tengo hambre,	<i>I can't see, I am hungry,</i>
Tengo sed,	<i>I am thirsty,</i>
Estoy enfermo.	<i>I am sick.</i>
¡Ayúdame!	<i>Help me!</i>

Journey Home, Abbie Betinis

This piece was commissioned by the Minnesota Chorale and was supported by the NEA and the Target Foundation. It explores the emotional feelings of immigrants who find a new home and life in the US. Abbie Betinis is a two-time McKnight Artist Fellow. She has written over 80 commissioned pieces and is the adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University-St. Paul and is the co-founding executive director of Justice Choir.

Un lugar, un hogar, nuestro hogar.	<i>A place, a home, our home.</i>
Un lugar que podemos llamar el nuestro, hacer el nuestro. Un lugar para vivir, crecer, y ser. Un pedazo de lo nuestro que compartimos con el mundo. Un trozo de nuestros corazones que traemos a la comunidad. Un mundo de consuelo, y un mundo de calma. Un mundo... de amor.	<i>A place we can call our own, make our own. A place to live, grow, and be. A piece of us we share with the world. A piece of our hearts we bring to the community. A world of comfort, and a world of calm. A world... of love.</i>

Sambalelé, arr. Will Lopes

From the composer:

"I grew up in a part of Brazil that was hugely influenced by Africans, from the food, to the color of the skin, to the music. We look and sound like Africans. After pursuing my music degree in Brazil I came to the states to pursue higher education at the University of Northern Iowa where I earned my masters in choral conducting. My journey as a composer/arranger here in the states started due to the need of authentic Brazilian/Latin arrangements, so after writing a couple things and sharing with friends the arrangements started to spread and invitations to help coach them came as a result. Sambalelé was

the first of my pieces to be published. This piece is special to me not only because of that, but it is also one of my personal favorites. My grandma used to sing this song to us growing up. The texture captures many layers and colors of the Brazilian rhythms and style – especially from the northern part of Brazil where I’m from.”

Samba Lele tá doente
Tá com a cabeça quebrada
Samba Lele precisava
De umas dezoito lambadas
Samba, samba,
Samba ô Lele
Pisa na barra da saia ô Lele

*Samba Lele is sick,
He broke his head.
Samba Lele needed
Eighteen whackings.
Dance the samba, dance the samba,
Dance the samba o Lele.
Step on the hem of the skirt, o Lele.*

Love Is, Tesfa Wondemagegnehu

This piece uses text from 1 Corinthians paired with Lin-Manuel Miranda’s famous 2016 Tony Awards speech. With a love of music as big as his last name, Tesfa Wondemagegnehu has been sharing joy and a vision for equity and justice through song for many years. He currently serves as the conductor of the Viking Chorus and the Chapel Choir at St. Olaf College. He also served as the guest artistic director of one of North America’s Largest LGBTQ+ choirs, Minnesota’s One Voice Mixed Chorus. Tesfa maintains an active voice studio and teaches Music & Social Justice with the goal of helping bridge the gap of social injustice through music, dialogue, and inspiring participants to take action in their communities.

On This Road, Andrea Ramsey

Originally commissioned by approximately 30 choirs as part of the 2018 Michigan Choral Commissioning Consortium, “On This Road” has a strong message of inclusion. Dr. Ramsey enjoys an international presence as a composer, conductor, scholar and music educator. Before leaping into full time composing and guest conducting, Andrea held positions at The Ohio State University and the University of Colorado Boulder, respectively. A native of Arkansas, Andrea has experienced in her own life the power of music to provide a sense of community, better understanding of our humanity and rich opportunities for self-discovery.



Save the Date!

Holidays in the Hall

Sunday, December 19, 3:00 pm
in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Parish Hall



Kristina Nakagawa is the founding Artistic Director of Resounding Achord and has been performing and directing in the Silicon Valley since 2002. In addition to her work with RAP, Kristina serves as Artistic Director of Vivace Youth Chorus of San José. Previously, Kristina directed choirs at Saratoga High School, St. Francis Episcopal Church in Willow Glen, San José State University, and Pinewood

School. She has prepared choirs for the Fauré Requiem, John Rutter's Gloria, Orff's Carmina Burana, the Mozart Requiem, Hadyn's Lord Nelson Mass, and the Bernstein Mass.

Ms. Nakagawa sang and served as the Assistant Conductor for The Choral Project from 2005 to 2012. She can be heard on their recordings Winter, One is the All, Tell the World, and Yuletide. Ms. Nakagawa holds a bachelor of music degree in vocal performance from UC Irvine, and a master's degree in choral conducting from San José State University, where she studied with Dr. Charlene Archibeque. Kristina has additional training in the Kodály method from Holy Names University. She is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association, California Music Educators Association, Organization of American Kodály Educators, and Chorus America and has served in various roles on the California Choral Directors Association board since 2015. Kristina and her husband Ryan are the proud parents of their child, Russell, who may perform more often than they do!



Andrew Hathaway serves as Resounding Achord's Assistant Conductor and has been actively involved in Bay Area choral music since 2014. He currently works as the choir director at Castillero Middle School in San Jose. Previously, Andrew was a music teacher in the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, where he taught vocal and instrumental music. Andrew also served as the

Director of Music at the Church of the Epiphany in San Carlos and as a student assistant at J.L. Stanford Middle School in Palo Alto.

Andrew graduated from San José State University in 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. During his time at SJSU, he performed with the Concert Choir, Spartan Glee Club, Pitch, Please!, Peninsula Cantare, and the internationally renowned Choraliers. Under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Benson, Andrew toured with the Choraliers throughout California, and to New York, Ireland, and the Baltic States.



Molly Shaw grew up in Livermore, California, where she was the accompanist for various choirs and soloists throughout the Livermore community. Molly has a degree from UC Berkeley in physical geography, and two single-subject teaching credentials in music and science. She was the music teacher at New Brighton Middle School in Capitola, CA, for 5 years before switching to science, which

she taught for fifteen years. In 2015, she finished her Doctorate at UCSC in science education. Molly is a lecturer at UCSC and CSUMB in the education departments, and mentors new teachers in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. She is also a uniformed volunteer at Henry Coe State Park.

Resounding Chord

Sopranos

Maria Cammisa
Kelli Ghanati+
Julie Kierstine
Mara Linde
Christina O'Guinn
Talia Orsetti-Ng
Hillary Pinard
Jane Rinard
Molly Shaw+
Lou Sullivan
Jo Taubert
Gabrielle Torres
Andrea White
Ella Zarren

Tenors

Carlo Armijo
Eric Chao
Ian-Carl Floirendo
Nick Fortino
David Hook
Brian Kroneman
Albert Mabeza+
David Overcashier

assistant conductor
+ section leader

Altos

Kyla Blili
Eugenie Bramley
Jan Clayton
Michelle Dreyband
Katherine Doar
Lynne Haynes-Tucker
Mernie Hillman
Danielle Imai
Kristen Redaniel+
Yumiko Shiraiwa
Kendra Symonds
Itiuna Vaiaoga+

Basses

Jeremy Harris
Andrew Hathaway#
Jerry-Michael Hernandez
Allan Hughes
Dario Johnson
Ryan Nakagawa
Chris Ng
Noah Rulison
Kevin Schoenfeld+
Truesten Tautolo
Andrew Yazhgur

Resounding Achord Productions was founded by a group of experienced singers and close friends in 2012 as a service-minded organization with the mission to create a thriving and welcoming artistic community through musical accessibility, community involvement, and educational outreach. To fulfill this mission, we work directly with choral organizations and schools to help build up their programs and support their singers and students. Resounding Achord Productions is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Resounding Achord Productions (RAP) Staff

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Andrew Hathaway, Assistant Conductor
Jan Clayton, Executive Director
Andrea White, Volunteer Coordinator
Kelli Ghanati, Special Engagements

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Are you interested in joining our Board of Directors or Advisory Council?
Please contact Michelle Dreyband: michelled@resoundingachord.org

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