

THE SINGERS' CLUB
OF CLEVELAND

THE SUN
OF HOPE

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023 | 7 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF GREATER CLEVELAND



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THE SUN OF HOPE

Don Verkuijen, *Artistic Director*
Robert P. Bellisario, *Assistant Conductor*

Feeling Good Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley
arr. Alan Billingsley

Ev'ry Night When the Sun Goes Down arr. D. Shawn Berry

Shine! Timothy Snyder

The Grace of Light Don Macdonald
Michael Ward, *tenor*

How Can I Keep From Singing? Robert Lowry
arr. Sarah Quartel
Albert Donze, *baritone*

We Rise Again Leon Dubinsky
arr. Stephen Smith
Michael Ward, *tenor*

— INTERMISSION —

Here Comes the Sun George Harrison
arr. Kirby Shaw

Grace in the Sun arr. Ethan Sperry
Ivan Prodanyk, *tenor*

Hold Out Your Light arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

Even When He is Silent Kim André Arnesen

The Awakening Joseph M. Martin

WITH GRATITUDE

The Singers' Club of Cleveland thanks First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland and staff for their support and opportunity to share the Club's love of performing male choral music. And, of course, we thank the community that supports the Singers' Club: our members and their families, the audiences with whom we share the music we make, our volunteers, and our hardworking staff.

Feeling Good *(text by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley)*

Bird flyin' high, you know how I feel. Sun in the sky, you know how I feel.
Breeze driftin' on by, you know how I feel.
It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life for me.
And I'm feelin' good.

Fish in the sea, you know how I feel. River runnin' free, you know how I feel.
Blossom on the tree, you know how I feel.
It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life for me.
And I'm feelin' good.

Dragonfly out in the sun, you know what I mean, don't you know.
Butterflies all havin' fun, you know what I mean.
Sleep in peace when day is done; that's what I mean.
And this old world is a new world and a bold world for me.

Stars when you shine, you know how I feel. Scent of the pine, you know how I feel.
Oh, freedom is a-mine and I know how I feel.
It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life for me.
And I'm feelin' good.

Ev'ry Night When the Sun Goes Down *(traditional American text)*

Every night when the sun goes down, I hang down my head and mournful cry.
True love don't weep, true love don't mourn, I'm goin' away to Marble Town.

All night, all day, Angels watching over me, my Lord.
When I lay me down to sleep, Angels watching over me, my Lord.
Pray to God my soul to keep. Angels watching over me.

Shine! *(text by Walt Whitman)*

Shine! Shine! Shine!
Pour down your warmth, while we bask, we two together.
Pour down your warmth, great sun!

Winds blow south, or winds blow north, two together!
Day come white, or night come black,
Home, or rivers and mountains from home,
Singing all time, minding no time,
While we two keep together.

The Grace of Light *(text by Don MacDonald)*

Our night awakens with a flame and it's luminous, luminous.
The shadows trace a perfect frame. Luminous, luminous.

And while the northern winds conspire, we're held by the trees and lulled by the fire.
We sleep and dream 'neath astral seas then wake to shimmering fields of aurora.

As embers dance to midnight's joyous serenade we're kissed by falling snow,
And bound in the grace, the grace of light.

The fire casts a perfect spell and it's glorious and radiant.
In rapture more than words can tell we're breathless and silent.

By chance or fate or grand design our lives will long be intertwined,
For here beneath the swaying pines, our bond is forged by flame.

How Can I Keep From Singing? *(anonymous text)*

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentations,
I hear the real though far-off tune that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it liveth.
And though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it,
And day by day this pathway smooths since first I learned to love it.
The peace of love makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine in love and joy! How can I keep from singing!

We Rise Again *(text by Leon Dubinsky)*

When the waves roll on over the waters and the ocean cries,
We look to our sons and daughters to explain our lives,
As if a child could tell us why,
That as sure as the sunrise, as sure as the sea, sure as the wind in the trees,
We rise again in the faces of our children, we rise again in the voices of our song,
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean, and then we rise again.

When the light goes dark with the forces of creation across a stormy sky,
We look to reincarnation to explain our lives as if a child could tell us why,
That as sure as the sunrise, as sure as the sea, as sure as the wind in the trees,
We rise again in the faces of our children, we rise again in the voices of our song,
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean, and then we rise again.

Here Comes the Sun *(text by George Harrison)*

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes.

Little darlin', it's been a long, cold, lonely winter.

Little darlin', it feels like years since it's been here.

Here comes the sun, and I say, "It's alright."

Little darlin', the smiles returning to their faces.

Little darlin', it seems like years since it's been here.

Here comes the sun, and I say, "It's alright."

Little darlin', I feel that ice is slowly melting.

Little darlin', it seems like years since it's been clear.

Here comes the sun, and I say, "It's alright."

Grace in the Sun *(traditional text)*

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see!

There is a house in New Orleans they call the Rising Sun.

And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy. And oh, by God, I'm one.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear, and Grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that Grace appear, the hour I first believed!

My mother was a gambler, she stole my own blue jeans.

And my father was a whippin' boy. Way down in New Orleans.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun.

We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we first begun!

Now it's one foot on the platform, the other one the train.

I'm goin' back to New Orleans to wear that ball and chain.

Oh fathers tell your children not to do what I have done.

Don't spend your life in ruin and shame at the House of the Rising Sun.

Hold Out Your Light *(traditional spiritual)*

Hold out, hold out! Hold out your light, ye heav'n bound soldier,

Won' you hold out your light, ye heav'n bound soldier,

Let your light shine aroun' the world.

Oh, brother won' you hold out your light,

Rise up, brother, shine on, shine on brother,

Hold out, brother, hold out your light,

Let your light shine aroun' the world.

Oh, sister, won' you hold out your light,
Rise up, sister, shine on, shine on sister,

Hold out, sister, hold out your light,
Let your light shine aroun' the world.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let your light shine around the world!

Even When He is Silent (*anonymous 20th century text*)

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.
I believe in love, even when I feel it not.
I believe in God, even when He is silent.

The Awakening (*text by Joseph M. Martin*)

I dreamed a dream, a silent dream, of a land not far away.
Where no bird sang, no steeples rang, and teardrops fell like rain.

I dreamed a dream, a silent dream, of a land so filled with pride,
That ev'ry song, both weak and strong, withered and died.

I dreamed a dream.

No alleluia, not one hosanna, no song of love, no lullaby.

And no choir sang to change the world. No pipers played; no dancers twirled.
I dreamed a dream, a silent dream.

Awake! Awake! Awake! Awake! Soli Deo gloria!

Awake! Awake, my soul, and sing! The time for praise has come.
The silence of the night has passed; a new day has begun.
Let music never die in me! Forever let my spirit sing!
Wherever emptiness is found, let there be joy and glorious sound.
Let music never die in me! Forever let my spirit sing!
Let all our voices join as one to praise the Giver of the song!

Awake! Awake! Let music live!

THE SINGERS' CLUB

OF CLEVELAND

Performing Members – April 28, 2023

1st Tenor

Robert P. Bellisario
Paul McHugh
Ivan Prodanyk
Dave Roberts
Vic Turix
Michael Ward
Joe Wiltsie

2nd Tenor

Rob Alston
Bob Bathgate
Robert A. Boyd
Paul Brown
Bill Davis
Charlie Gruenspan

Scott T. Harrison
Sig Mikolajczyk
Chet Ramey
Bill Remle
Brian Stack
James Wojtila

Baritone

Mark Binnig
Chip Coakley
David Cumming
Albert Donze
Tom Evans
Mike Haase
Hans Holznagel

Phil Lamb
Scott Lewis
Tom Moormann
Aaron Wester

Bass

Tom Boyd
Ben Carlozzo
Mark Dunlap
Ryan LaForest
Alan Porter
Mike Ramsay
John D. Specht
Ed Strnad
Paul Weissbrod

STAFF

Don Verkuijlen, *Artistic Director*
Robert P. Bellisario, *Assistant Conductor*
Ben Malkevitch, *Collaborative Pianist*
Kira McGirr, *Executive Director*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rob Alston, *Vice President*
Paul McHugh, *Secretary*
William Remle, *Treasurer*
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Aaron Wester, *Concert*
William Remle, *Finance*
Robert A. Boyd, *Membership*
Ryan LaForest, *Music Librarian*
Paul Weissbrod, *Publicity*

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

In addition to his position as Artistic Director of The Singers' Club of Cleveland, **Don Verkuijen** serves as the Director of Music at First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland where he leads a dynamic music program and manages their active concert series. Beyond his professional engagements in Cleveland, he is an active member of the performing arts scene, serving as Sub-Dean of the Cleveland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In this role, he coordinates the chapter's concert series, bringing in organists of both national, and international acclaim to Cleveland.



Currently, Don is a student at the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying organ with Professor Todd Wilson, and harpsichord with Dr. Peter Bennett. As part of CIM's partnership with Case Western Reserve University, Don serves as both a keyboardist of the CWRU Baroque Orchestra, and as a member of the CWRU Chamber Ensembles, where he provides continuo realization and keyboard accompaniment to various performances throughout the academic year. Before attending CIM, he studied Organ Performance at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where his principal teachers were Madame Marie-Louise Langlais and Professor James David Christie. Beyond the organ, he has studied conducting with Mr. Daniel VanSickle, Dr. Jody Kerchner, and Dr. Raphael Jiménez, sacred music with Dr. Jonathan Moyer, as well as piano with Professor Derek Nishimura. Don has also participated in masterclasses with several noted artists, including Nathan Laube, John Ferguson, Olivier Latry, Christian Lane, Scott Dettra, and Dr. Marilyn Keiser. A native of Appleton, Wisconsin, Don began his organ studies with the late Frank Rippl, who he credits with helping him foster a life-long love of music.

A prolific recitalist, Don has performed around the globe. Selected organ recitals include performances at two Organ Historical Society Conventions (Columbus, OH and Sunderland, MA), the Cathedral of St. Paul (St. Paul, MN), the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe (La Crosse, WI), Conservatoire de Paris (Paris, FR), Overture Hall (Madison, WI), and the Basilica di San Giuseppe al Trionfale (Rome, IT). During his trip to Rome, he was honored to be asked to play for a Solemn Pontifical High Mass, Celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Basilica. Don is also a composer of works for organ and choir. His Toccata for organ was premiered at the 2016 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Houston, and is published by Selah. A recording of the premier performance is available on American Public Radio's *Pipedreams*.

At his most recent appointment before First Baptist, Don served as the Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Rocco's Catholic Parish in Cleveland. At St. Rocco's, he led the revival of the Tridentine Latin Mass, re-introducing Gregorian chant and polyphonic mass settings in their original liturgical setting. Beyond performing, he is the owner of the Cleveland-based Verkuijen Organ Company. Don and his wife, Caitlin, reside in Cleveland Heights. He spends his free time restoring his Model T Fords.

ABOUT THE ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Robert P. Bellisario has been with The Singers' Club since 1986, during which time he has been a S. Livingston Mather scholarship recipient, Assistant Conductor, Conductor of The Centennials, and Interim Conductor of the Club. He studied at Cleveland State University with an emphasis on Vocal Performance with Elizabeth Unis Chesko and Choral Conducting with Ernest L. Hisey. While at CSU he had the opportunity to participate in masterclasses with Paul Sperry and Robert Fountain. In 1987, he was awarded the American Choral Directors Student Award. He was also awarded scholarships from the CSU School of Music and the Fortnightly Musical Club.



Professionally, he has performed with The Robert Page Singers, Lyric Opera of Cleveland, The Church of the Covenant Choir, and The Old Stone Singers. He was the founding conductor of The North Coast Men's Chorus and was the Director of Music at Fairview Baptist Church. He has performed as soloist and guest conductor at many local churches. Mr. Bellisario has composed and arranged many pieces for the Singers' Club, and for his 25th anniversary with the Club, he composed a setting of the Latin text *Hodie Christus natus est*.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Ben Malkevitch is in demand as a music director, vocal coach, organist, and pianist in the greater Cleveland area. They are a staff pianist at Baldwin Wallace University, where they work with students in its prestigious musical theatre and classical vocal performance programs. In May 2019, they were choral director for Verdi's *Requiem*, performed under the baton of James Gaffigan with CityMusic Cleveland. Ben has served as chorusmaster as well as coach and rehearsal pianist for several of Opera Western Reserve's productions in Youngstown. In the past, they were on staff at OperaWorks and Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute.



Ben serves as the choir director and organist at Lakewood Congregational Church. They are a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, where they earned a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano, studying with Virginia Weckstrom. They are passionate about art song, new music, and designing cogent supertitle translations. Over the last couple of years, they have honed their skills as a music engraver and is creating new editions of Russian language art songs and arias.

ABOUT THE SINGERS' CLUB OF CLEVELAND

The Singers' Club of Cleveland, one of the oldest performing arts groups in the Midwest, presented its first public concert in 1892. Then, as now, its membership reflected a cross section of the community it served. Men of varied ages, backgrounds and professions share a love of fine choral music. These "Brothers in Song" you see tonight share a bond formed by performance and promotion of male choral music. Thank you for letting us share the joy of that music with you.

Are you interested in singing with us? Come to a rehearsal and experience the fun and camaraderie of the Club. We meet Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Coventry PEACE Campus, in Cleveland Heights. For more information about visiting or becoming a member, please contact us at membership@singersclub.org.

The Singers' Club provides scholarships and fellowships for local students who participate in our rehearsals and performances. We are actively looking for young singers to join us in song!

Each October, the Singers' Club produces the S. Livingston Mather Vocal Competition at Judson Manor in University Circle, and everyone is welcome to attend. This adjudicated competition is open to full-time male music majors. The scholarship awards are funded by the Albert Rees Davis Endowment Fund and the S. Livingston Mather Charitable Trust.

To receive information about any of our programs, please visit our website at singersclub.org. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATES

Announcing our 131st Concert Season

The Music We Sing

October 2023 | First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

Holiday Twists

December 14, 2023 | Gartner Auditorium, Cleveland Museum of Art

Jeopardy

April 2024 | First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

More information soon at singersclub.org



The Albert Rees Davis Endowment Fund

www.ardendowment.org

The Albert Rees Davis Foundation was established in 1926 with the primary purpose of supporting the Singers' Club of Cleveland and male choral education. It is a 501(c)3 charitable organization giving grants and scholarships to support the Singers' Club of Cleveland and male choral music.

Supporting The Singers' Club of Cleveland and male choral music for nearly a century.

Explore The Singers' Club and ARDEF history and learn more on our new website www.ardendowment.org

Building on a legacy of distinction that has endured more than a century. Now you can be a part.

