

# *Martyrs At Rest*

Ad Astra Chamber Choir

Alex Underwood, conductor

## *Ad Astra Music Festival*

**JULY 18 ~ AUGUST 2**  
**2015**  
*Russell,  
Kansas*

This concert is underwritten by John and Dianne Farmer & Nancy Holland

# **Martyrs at Rest**

Ad Astra Chamber Singers

Alex Underwood, conductor

St. Mary's Queen of Angels Catholic Church

Sunday, July 19th, 2pm

## PROGRAM

### Lamentations

“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Luke 23:34

### **John A. Clark (1841-1862) Fallen Civil War soldier**

Nelly Bly.....Stephen Foster, arr. Jack Halloran  
Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye.....arr. Alice Parker  
Lamentatio prima.....Orlando di Lasso

### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) Lutheran theologian**

Verleih' uns Frieden, BWV 42 No. 7.....J.S. Bach  
Morning Prayers from Three Prayers of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.....Philip Moore  
Lamentatio prima.....Orlando di Lasso  
My Soul, There is a Country.....C.H.H Parry

## INTERMISSION

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) Civil Rights leader**

Walk Together, Children.....arr. Moses Hogan  
MLK.....U2, arr. Bob Chilcott  
Lamentatio prima.....Orlando di Lasso

### **Matthew Shepard (1976-1998) Hate-crime victim**

Somewhere, from West Side Story.....Leonard Bernstein, arr. Robert Edgerton  
\*his name.....Michael Davidson  
O Vos Omnes.....Orlando di Lasso  
Rest .....Ralph Vaughan Williams

\*World premiere

Renaissance composer, Orlando di Lasso's **Lamentations of Jeremiah** serve as guideposts in telling the joy, tragic deaths, sorrow, and peaceful moving forward of four martyr figures. The Lamentation texts were traditionally set for Holy Week services to illuminate the martyrdom of Christ. Today, we use these texts to help tell the stories of John Clark, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Matthew Shepard.



Upon hearing of the outbreak of war in far-off Charleston, South Carolina, John A. Clark, an American Civil War soldier from Monroe County, Michigan proudly left his family farm in the summer of 1861 to serve in Company D, Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry in the Union Army. By spring of 1862, he had been promoted twice, eventually to the rank of first lieutenant. His rising success was tragically short-lived as he was killed, along with 2,108 Union soldiers and 1,546 Confederates in the battle of Antietam in mid-September 1862 near Sharpsburg, MD. His family trekked from Michigan to Maryland in the fall of 1862 to collect his remains. Starting by sharing the joy of Lt. Clark's life, the program begins with an arrangement of **Nelly Bly**, a song sung by soldiers in the American Civil War as they dreamt of their girls back home. Alice Parker's arrangement of **Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye** is a sobering discovery of a fallen Civil War soldier, perhaps of our John A. Clark, followed by the first portion of the Lasso **Lamentation**.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran theologian preached peace in Germany and abroad in the 1930's. He spoke against the Nazi regime via radio and was silenced two minutes into his speech, held secret seminary classes, and was on faculty at Berlin University. In 1943, he was arrested and taken to a concentration camp where he was tortured and murdered with other activists two mere weeks before the camp was liberated. Bonhoeffer's theology and writings have influenced many, including serving as the philosophical framework for Martin Luther King Jr. The choir will start with a German Lutheran chorale, **Verleih' uns Frieden** (Grant us peace) harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach, a hymn Bonhoeffer would likely have sung at services throughout his life. Philip Moore's setting of Bonhoeffer's own words, **Morning Prayers** is the featured work sung by the choir. The words were written while he was in the internment camp. They'll sing the second portion of the Lasso **Lamentation** and then end the first half with a setting of Henry Vaughan's **My Soul, There is a Country** by Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry. The rich poetry offers reassurance of peace after death.





From being arrested multiple times in the 1960's for peaceful protest to having a national holiday in his honor, Martin Luther King Jr. spent his entire life inspiring and leading the Civil Rights movement in the United States. King earned a PhD from Boston University in Theology before leading the organization responsible for policy changes across the South, organizing the March on Washington with 250,000 in attendance making it the largest civil rights demonstration in Washington, and ultimately ushering the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for which he earned the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated in April of 1968. The African American spiritual **Walk Together, Children**, is a song of encouragement with illusions to working unitedly to overcome adversity. The spiritual is arranged by the late Moses Hogan. U2's **MLK** arranged by the King's Singers' Bob Chilcott will honor the fallen Civil Rights leader followed by the third portion of the Lasso **Lamentation**.

Matthew Shepard studied political science at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Though a Wyoming native, he spent his junior and senior years of high school studying at the American School in Switzerland. There, he developed a love of traveling, and learned Italian and German. Matthew was interested in community theatre, he was a student representative on the Wyoming Environmental Council, he served as a student peer counselor, and became active in LGBT organizations on his college campus.

In October 1998, at the age of 21, he was brutally beaten and left tied to a fence to die alone - the victim of a hate crime. Shepard's legacy has propelled The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, a federal



law enacted to protect people from crimes committed because of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. **Somewhere** could not be a more appropriate way to express the joy of Matthew's life, written by a gay composer, it speaks of the hope that love is acceptable *somewhere*. The featured piece is a work commissioned by the Russell Arts Council from Michael Davidson for this concert. The piece - entitled **his name** - features texts by New York-based poet Dean Kostos and will see its world premiere at this performance. The Kostos poem is from a collection of published poetry written in response to the death of Matthew Shepard. After a **Lamentation** by Lasso, the program concludes with a setting of a Christina Rossetti poem entitled **Rest** set brilliantly to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

## Texts and translations

### Nelly Bly, traditional

Hi Nelly! Ho Nelly!  
Listen love to me.  
I'll sing for you, play for you  
A dulcet melody.

Hi Nelly! Ho Nelly!  
Bring the broom along,  
We'll sweep the kitchen clean, my dear,  
And have a little song.

Poke the wood, my lady love  
And make the fire burn,  
And while I take the banjo down,  
Just give the mush a turn!

Nelly Bly has a voice like a turtle dove,  
I hear it in the meadow and I hear it in the  
grove.  
Nelly Bly has a heart warm as a cup of tea;  
And bigger than a sweet potato down in  
Tennessee!

Nelly Bly! Nelly Bly! Never, never sigh;  
Never bring the tear drop to the corner of  
your eye.

### Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye, Irish folk song

When goin' the road to sweet Athy,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
While goin' the road to sweet Athy,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
While goin' the road to sweet Athy,  
a stick in my hand and a drop in my eye,  
A doleful damsel I heard cry:  
Johnny, I hardly knew ye.

With your drums and guns and guns and drums,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
With your drums and guns and guns and drums,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
With your drums and guns and guns and drums  
the enemy nearly slew ye,  
Oh, darlin' dear, ye look so queer  
Johnny, I hardly knew ye.

Where are your eyes that looked so mild,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
Where are your eyes that looked so mild,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
Where are your eyes that looked so mild  
When my heart you so beguil'd  
Why did you skedaddle from me and the child  
Why, Johnny, I hardly knew ye.

Where are your legs with which you run,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
Where are your legs with which you run,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
Where are your legs with which you run  
When you went for to carry a gun  
Indeed, your dancin' days are done  
Why, Johnny, I hardly knew ye.

I'm happy for to see you home,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
I'm happy for to see you home,  
Hurroo! Hurroo!  
I'm happy for to see you home  
All from the island of Ceylon  
So low in flesh, so high in bone  
Faith, Johnny, I hardly knew ye.



**Lamentatio prima**

Lamentations of Jeremiah the prophet  
HETH. The steadfast love of the Lord never  
ceases, his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great is thy  
faithfulness.

**Verleih' uns Frieden**

Grant us peace graciously,  
Lord God, in our time;  
there is indeed no other  
who could fight for us  
than You, our God, alone.  
Give our rulers and all lawgivers  
peace and good government,  
that under them  
we might lead a quiet and peaceful life  
in all blessedness and honor.  
Amen.

**Morning Prayers, Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

O God, early in the morning I cry unto thee.  
Help me to pray,  
And to think only of thee.  
I cannot pray alone.  
In me there is darkness,  
but with Thee there is light.  
I am lonely, but Thou leavest me not.  
I am feeble in heart, but Thou leavest me not.  
I am restless, but with Thee there is peace.  
In me there is bitterness, but with Thee there is  
patience:  
Thy ways are past understanding,  
But Thou knowest the way for me.  
Oh, Heav'nly Father, I praise and thank Thee  
for the peace of the night.  
I praise and thank Thee for this new day.  
I praise and thank Thee for all Thy goodness  
and thankfulness throughout my life.  
Thou hast granted me many blessings:  
Now let me accept tribulation from Thy hand.  
Thou wilt not lay on me more than I can bear.  
Thou makest all things work together for good  
for Thy children.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Thou wast in poor and in  
misery, a captive and forsaken.  
As I am, Thou knowest all man's distress;  
Thou abidest with me when all others have  
deserted me;  
Thou dost not forget me, but seekest me.  
Thou wilt that I should know Thee and turn  
to Thee.  
Lord, I hear Thy call and follow Thee;  
Do Thou help me.  
Chiefly, do I remember all my loved ones, my  
fellow prisoners, and all who in this house  
perform their hard service.  
Lord have mercy, restore me to liberty,  
and enable me so to live now that I may answer  
before Thee  
and before the world.  
Lord whatever this day may bring, Thy name be  
praised.

**Lamentatio prima**

TETH. The Lord is good to those who wait  
for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for  
the salvation of the Lord.

It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in  
his youth.

**My soul, there is a country**

My soul, there is a country

Far beyond the stars,

Where stands a wingèd sentry

All skilful in the wars:

There, above noise and danger,

Sweet Peace sits crown'd with smiles,

And One born in a manger

Commands the beauteous files.

He is thy gracious Friend,

And—O my soul, awake!

Did in pure love descend

To die here for thy sake.

If thou canst get but thither,

There grows the flower of Peace,

The Rose that cannot wither

Thy fortress, and thy ease.

Leave then thy foolish ranges;

For none can thee secure

But One who never changes—

Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

**Walk together children, American  
spiritual**

There's a great camp meetin' in the  
promised land.

Oh, walk together children

don't you get weary

walk on, my children

don't you get weary

Just-a walk together children

don't you get weary

there's a great camp meeting in the

promised lan'.

Gonna walk an' never tire

there's a great camp meeting in the

promised lan'.

Gonna sing an' never tire

there's a great camp meeting in the

promised lan'.

Gonna shout an' never tire

there's a great camp meeting in the

promised lan'.

Oh, walk together children

don't you get weary

sing on my children

don't you get-a weary

just-a shout together children

don't you get weary

there's a great camp meeting in the promised

lan'.



## **MLK, U2**

Sleep  
Sleep tonight  
And may your dreams be realized  
If the thunder cloud passes rain  
So let it rain  
Rain down on him  
So let it be  
So let it be  
Sleep  
Sleep tonight  
And may your dreams be realized  
If the thundercloud passes rain  
So let it rain  
Let it rain  
Rain on him

## **Lamentatio prima**

JOD. Let him sit alone in silence when he  
has laid it on him; let him put his mouth in  
the dust—there may yet be hope;  
let him give his cheek to the smiter, and be  
filled with insults.  
Jerusalem, return to the Lord thy God.

## **Somewhere, from *West Side Story***

There's a place for us,  
Somewhere a place for us.  
Peace and quiet and open air  
Wait for us  
Somewhere.  
There's a time for us,  
Some day a time for us,  
Time together with time spare,  
Time to learn, time to care,  
Some day, somewhere,  
We'll find a new way of living,  
We'll find a way of forgiving,  
Somewhere.  
There's a place for us,  
A time and place for us.  
Hold my hand and we're halfway there.  
Hold my hand and I'll take you there  
Somehow,  
Some day,  
Somewhere!

## **his name, Dean Kostos**

Arms roped cruciform to a rail,  
legs, spread-eagled, he torqued, fell  
limp. While the pupil-dark sky loomed  
in witness, the light of his body dimmed.

*And all of us, with en-veiled eyes, seeing the glory  
of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror are  
being transformed into the same image...*

Breath wheezed through swollen nostrils  
and lips, all identity crushed  
but his name.

*Protect them, O Lord, in your name.*

## **O vos omnes**

O all you who pass along this way,  
Behold and see if there is any sorrow like  
unto my sorrow.

## **Rest, Christina Rossetti**

O earth, lie heavily upon her eyes;  
Seal her sweet eyes weary of watching,  
Earth;

Lie close around her; leave no room for  
Mirth with its harsh laughter,  
Nor for sound of sighs.

She hath no questions, she hath no replies,  
Hush'd in and curtain'd with a blessed  
Dearth of all that irk'd her  
From the hour of birth;  
With stillness that is almost Paradise.

Darkness more clear than noonday holdeth  
her,  
Silence more musical than any song;  
Even her very heart has ceased to stir:  
Until the morning of Eternity  
Her rest shall not begin nor end, but be;  
And when she wakes she will not think it  
long.

# **Ad Astra Chamber Choir**

## **Soprano**

Rachel Hilger  
Sarah Hilger  
Shelby Matlock\*  
Janna Montgomery

## **Alto**

Ellen Bialek\*  
Katie Bruton  
Sheila Gulick

## **Tenor**

Michael Davidson  
Nathan Hilger\*  
Isaiah Stierlen  
Mike Williams\*

## **Bass**

Jim Balthazor  
Ethan Kaufman  
Riley King\*  
Johnny Matlock  
Robert Walters

\*Young Artist

Alex Underwood, conductor



**Alex Underwood** is the artistic director of the Ad Astra Music Festival. A native of Russell, Alex is working on a doctoral degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Illinois with Andrew Megill. He completed his Masters in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College in 2014 where he sang multiple times with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Simon Bolivar Venezuelan Youth Orchestra, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, and the London Philharmonia. Alex will conduct the Chamber Choir, High School Choir, and Community Choir performances.

### **Ad Astra Chamber Singers**

The Ad Astra Chamber Choir is a 16-voice ensemble made up of trained singers from the area who sing alongside the Festival Young Artists. Central to the Ad Astra Music Festival, the Chamber Choir performs the opening concert which includes a world premiere of a work commissioned for the festival from Michael Davidson. The annual opening concert is an entirely a cappella program enhanced by the stunning acoustics of St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Russell. The Ad Astra Chamber Choir also closes the festival serving as the chorus for a semi-staged production of Handel's Saul with orchestra and professional soloists both in Hays and Russell.

**Concert Underwriters**

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Alex Underwood, artistic director  
Katie Bruton, manager

