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Daniel Singer, Music Director

Nathália Kato Giordano, Pianist

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Dear Friends of The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh,

Thank you for joining us for this performance of Coming Home, a collection of choral works both old and new that explore one of the fundamental truths we all have in common: our longing for "home."

Even though we can all identify some place as our home, each of us thinks of home in a different way. We may think first of where we currently exist — our physical home, our families, our community — or we may dwell on the places we've come from and the experiences had in those places that shaped who we are now. For those fortunate enough to currently have somewhere to call home, "home" may represent safety and stability. For others, "home" is something to yearn for with nostalgia for days gone by or with hope for better things to come.

For me, music carries with it a strong sense of home. Think back to songs that you heard in your childhood; my guess is that someone sang them to you, maybe even before you could fully understand what you were hearing. I remember distinctly the songs my parents and grandparents sang to me and how firmly those songs are embedded in a particular place and time in my past. One of my grandmothers sang in her native Polish — she and my great-grandmother had fled Europe after surviving the Holocaust — so even though she was singing simple children's songs, the music that she shared carried with it her memories of a childhood home lost to her and the arduous journey she undertook to make a better life for her descendants.

Today's program features a wide array of voices; we hear from diverse composers and poets, and we draw on a variety of music traditions to express the universality of our search for home and to touch on some of the ways we remember the past and look toward the future. Some of these works honor the musical home that so many of us have found in The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, including Am Neujahrstage by our ensemble's namesake, Felix Mendelssohn, and Make Our Garden Grow, arranged by our Music Director Emeritus Robert Page. Other works have significance in my past: I've encountered Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem (from which we'll sing one movement today) at key turning points in my life, and I carry with me the memory of performing Susan Brumfield's No Time after the unexpected passing of a beloved student. And some of these pieces are here because they so beautifully express what we all yearn for, including Charles Anthony Silvestri's simple and profound statement of love: "you feel like home."

Whatever has drawn you to this concert, know that for the next 70 minutes or so, you are helping us create this brief musical "home" where all of us can gather at the same time and place to experience this music together. If you have been a long-time supporter of The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, we welcome you back and thank you for keeping us with you on your life's journey, and if this is the first time we are crossing paths, we hope it will not be the last.

On behalf of all of us, welcome home.

Daniel Singer

Robert Page Music Director

The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh





"I love this chorus and its singers!" – MaryColleen Seip

Announcing the MaryColleen Seip Chorus Operations Fund

or the past fifteen years, MaryColleen Seip has served as Chorus Manager of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, and her passion for the Mendelssohn has made her the "heart" of our Mendelssohn family. As one MCP alum said, "She's indeed been the 'glue' that has held MCP together over years of transitions, strikes, pandemics, and lots of good music."

To honor MaryColleen's commitment to MCP's singers, her many fans, friends, and family members have come together to create the MaryColleen Seip Chorus Operations Fund to show their appreciation of her tireless work on behalf of the chorus and her boundless love for the people of the Mendelssohn Choir. The Fund will be used to support annual choral operations as well as activities that foster community among MCP's membership.

If you would like to honor MaryColleen's legacy of generosity and unparalleled devotion to make the chorus an exceptional community of singers, please consider a gift to the Chorus Operations Fund. In doing so, you will uplift the

130+ choristers that dedicate countless hours of their time, and their enormous talents, to make MCP the "choir of choice" for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, an innovator in the choral field, and lauded as the "voice of Pittsburgh."

Cynthia L. Roth (Founding Gift)

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Chorus Operations Fund.

The following individuals gave major gifts to establish the

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Join us

in honoring the legacy of MaryColleen by making a gift today. You can make a gift here or by contacting Jennifer Shorstein Clark at jshorstein@themendelssohn.org or 412-926-2488.





March 9

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

March 10

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Daniel Singer

Music Director

Nathália Kato Giordano

Pianist

Am Neujahrstage (from Sechs Sprüche, Op. 79)

God's World (from Terra Nostra)

Valgusele (For Light)

The Sacred Veil

2. In a Dark and Distant Year

3. Home

TaReKiTa

The Road Home

Pasar la Vida

I'm Building Me a Home

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

No Time

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen (from Ein Deutsches Requiem, Op. 45)

Make Our Garden Grow (from Candide)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Text: based on Psalm 90:1-2

Stacy Garrop (b. 1969)

Text: Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950)

Pärt Uusberg (b. 1986)

Text: Ernst Enno (1875-1934)

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Text: Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

Music and Text: Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

Tune: "Prospect" from Southern Harmony 1835

adapt. Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Jorge Cózatl (b. 1973)

Text: Jorge Mansilla Torres (1941-2022)

Traditional Spiritual arr.

Anthony Trecek-King (b. 1975)

Tune: Invitation arr. Alice Parker (1925-2023)

Traditional Camp Meeting Songs arr. Susan Brumfield

Johannes Brahms (1833-1867)

Music: Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

arr. Robert Page (1927-2016) Lyrics: Richard Wilbur (1921-2017)



We are grateful to . . .

- ... our friends at East Liberty Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church;
- ... **Auberle** (www.auberle.org), **City of Asylum** (cityofasylum.org), and **Coro Latinoamericano Pittsburgh** (www.elcorolatino.com) for allowing us to interview their members and tell stories about their work to foster dialogue about the concept of "home" and "homecoming;"
- ... **Paul Vladuchick** for his wonderful photography;
- . . . and **all of our audience members**, who came to a performance, especially those who supported our community programming with a gift.

It's Not Too Late to Show Your Support!

We love bringing free community programming like Coming Home to Pittsburgh audiences, reducing barriers to participation in the arts. However, these programs are not free to produce. If you enjoyed this performance, please consider a tax-deductible gift to show your support and to help us bring more engaging choral experiences to the people of Pittsburgh.

Gifts can be made by **clicking here** or by visiting: **www.themendelssohn.org/donate/contribute-today**.

BIOGRAPHIES



Daniel Singer, Music Director

Daniel Singer is an accomplished conductor, vocalist, and music educator who harnesses his lifelong love of music to inspire choruses to achieve new heights of excellence in choral performance.

In 2023, Daniel was appointed Robert Page Music Director of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh (MCP), the "chorus of choice" of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO). In this role, Daniel prepares a chorus of more than 100 singers to perform alongside the PSO under the direction of conductor Manfred Honeck for tens of thousands of people each year. He also leads the chorus in performing self-produced concerts that push artistic boundaries and reimagine choral music for the 21st century. Daniel has been a member of The Cleveland Orchestra conducting staff since 2012, where he serves as Assistant Director of Choruses and Director of the Youth Chorus. He has prepared choruses to perform under the batons of acclaimed conductors Franz Welser-Möst, Jakub Hrůša, Vinay Parameswaran, and Brett Mitchell, and he has assisted Director of Choruses Lisa Wong in preparing choruses for John Adams, Alan Gilbert, Jane Glover, and Matthias Pinscher. Daniel served for two years as Chorus Director for the Contemporary Youth Orchestra (Cleveland), where he readied singers for performances alongside rock icons Melissa Etheridge and Tommy Shaw.

Daniel served on the music faculty at The College of Wooster where he taught courses in conducting, music education, and theory. Daniel previously served for 11 years as Director of Music at University School in Hunting Valley, Ohio, where he taught chorus and orchestra. He is also active as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician, and has led honor choirs and school ensembles in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and North Carolina.

Daniel has sung with orchestras as a baritone soloist in performances of Handel's *Messiah*, the *Requiem masses* of Mozart, Fauré, and Duruflé, and Vaughan Williams' *Hodie*. Recent seasons included concert performances with the Wooster Symphony Orchestra, recital performances in Toronto and Wisconsin, and performances of the National Anthem in Louisville and Akron. Daniel also sang as a professional chorister with Apollo's Fire (Cleveland), Quire Cleveland, and The Lakeside Singers (Chicago) and has sung with both The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and the Chicago Symphony Chorus.

Daniel has contributed to a variety of musical theater productions as music director, conductor, orchestrator, and rehearsal pianist. His professional theater credits include work with Metropolis Performing Arts Centre (Chicago), Big Noise Theatre Company (Chicago), and Northwestern University. In 2022, Daniel conducted the regional premiere of Cathy Lesser Mansfield's opera *The Sparks Fly Upward* at the Maltz Center for the Performing Arts (Cleveland).

During the 2020-21 season, Daniel served as assistant director and score reader for The Cleveland Orchestra's *In Focus* streaming series, and he has since been involved in video capture for the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and the Handel and Haydn Society. Daniel is also an arranger and composer, having written for choral and instrumental groups throughout the United States. In addition, Daniel is co-owner (along with violinist Andrew Sords), editor, and engraver for *Green Point Editions*, a music publication company that brings to light deserving works on the repertory's periphery.

Daniel holds a Bachelor of Music degree summa cum laude in music education from Northwestern University and a Master of Music degree in conducting from Michigan State University.

THURSDAY THURSDAY NIGHT

WORLD-CLASS JAZZ NO COVER ONLY @ COA

NIGHT NIGHT JAZZ



BIOGRAPHIES



Nathália Kato Giordano, pianist

Nathália Kato received her degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano from the University of Colorado Boulder, studying with Margaret McDonald and Alexandra Nguyen. From 2015 to 2020, she held a teaching assistantship through which she served as a rehearsal and orchestra pianist, harpsichordist, and coach for the Eklund Opera Program working with maestro Nicholas Carthy. Additionally, she earned music degrees in her home country of Brazil.

Nathália has extensive experience in orchestral, operatic, and chamber music activities. Alongside her husband violinist Andrew Giordano, they form the Duo Pragma and often perform rarely-heard repertoire by both well-known and historically marginalized composers.

Dr. Kato served as the staff pianist at the University of Wyoming between 2020 and 2022. In the fall of 2022, Dr. Kato moved to Pittsburgh where she began a position as staff pianist and Opera Workshop music director at Duquesne University. She is also highly sought after in the Pittsburgh area for her expertise in collaborative piano, and works with several vocal ensembles and instrumentalists throughout Western Pennsylvania.



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A freewill offering will be received.

East Liberty Presbyterian Church 116 South Highland Avenue ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15206



The Brass Roots Edward Alan Moore, organ Daniel Curtis, conductor Nancy Galbraith, composer



The 13th Season of Cathedral Concerts concludes with a brass and organ spectacular, featuring the premiere of a new composition for brass, percussion, and organ by Pittsburgh composer Nancy Galbraith. The new piece celebrates 10 years of collaboration with The Brass Roots, Edward Alan Moore, and East Liberty Presbyterian Church The concert will also be livestreamed on the church's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

www.ELPC.church











Two More Opportunities to Hear the Mendelssohn Choir Perform with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra This Season!

Friday, April 19 - Sunday, April 21, 2024:

Hear the soprano and alto voices of the Mendelssohn Choir perform Liszt's *Dante Symphony* (Pittsburgh Premiere). Also on the program, Leif Ove Andsnes performs Rachmaninoff's dazzling *3rd Piano Concerto*.

Thursday, April 25 - Sunday, April 28:

Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* and Bruckner's motets, *Locus Iste* and *Ave Maria*.

More info and tickets at: pittsburghsymphony.org