

A row of lit candles in paper holders on a dark surface at night. The candles are arranged in a line, receding into the distance. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

ORLANDO SINGS
**A SOLARIA
SOLSTICE**

SOLARIA SINGERS
ANDREW MINEAR, CONDUCTOR

DECEMBER 21 | 6:30 & 8:15 PM
TIMUCUA ARTS FOUNDATION

A LETTER FROM THE CONDUCTOR

Dear Friends of Orlando Sings,

Thank you for attending A Solaria Solstice! Two years ago, this was the concert in which the Solaria Singers made their debut. Since then it has become a favorite of Orlando Sings fans and the singers alike. In the midst of the stress of this season, we need more than the typical Christmas playlist repeating ad nauseam on the radio and in every store. We yearn for moments of stillness, beauty, and meaningful reflection.



The holidays are full of excitement on one level, stress on another, and for some... this is a time of memories: we remember the childhood joy of unwrapping presents, and we feel the ache in our hearts caused by the loss of loved ones no longer physically present in our lives. This program gives space for the fullness of our lives in all its lovely and difficult seasons. The music selections transcend religious barriers and get back to a core experience of being a person alive on this Earth: the annual cycle of light and dark.

The winter solstice has inspired mystic revelation for millennia. Moving from the longest night of the year, into a season of increasing daylight reminds us that we are part of an ancient story much larger than ourselves, and that with hope we can begin again. Light breaking into the darkness (like lighting candles at Hanukkah, or the birth of Jesus, who is often called “the light of the world”) acknowledges the darkness itself as well as our optimistic ability to keep walking onward on our journey, believing (“Fear not!”) that the best is yet to come. The transformative power of music made by human voices can inspire us all to step back out into the world with a renewed sense of inner strength, aesthetic awareness, and hope for the new year ahead. In the words of poet Lynn Ungar, whose words we hear tonight:

*When in doubt, revel in the darkness.
Each act of celebration is a spark.
Gathered together
they call back the sun.*

Join Orlando Sings in the new year! Get your tickets to hear a fabulous lineup of professional choral music, become a volunteer, and give what you can. Your support makes it all possible. Again, thank you. I am so glad you are part of the dynamic Orlando Sings community.

Warm Regards,

Andrew Minear, D. M. A.
Artistic and Executive Director

Scan the QR code for additional program information, artist bios, and translations:



ORLANDO SINGS ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Help us create a thriving choral community by giving at orlandosings.org/support!

CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE \$20,000.00 AND UP

Roy Cockrum

PLATINUM LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$10,000.00 AND UP

Lynda Langa

GOLD LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$5,000.00 AND UP

Nancy Fuleihan*

Andrew Minear

Shirley Piercy

Brent & Katie Rosengren

SILVER LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$2,500.00 AND UP

George and Leslie Andreae

Anonymous

Reed and Heather Arnos

Ronald and Linda Boot

Jeffrey Counts

Lynne and Charlie Gill

Carolyn Minear

Sandra and Tim Peter

Nancy Rex

BRONZE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$1,000.00 AND UP

Walter Bissett & Bernard Foong

Paul Braithwood

Susan K. Bright

Phil and Elizabeth Eschbach

Rob and Rebecca Gallardo*

Tim and Suzanne Gifford

Heyward and Katherine Gould*

Kelly Jewell

Christopher Marshall

Melanie Minear-Lazar

Dr. Mary Palmer

Penny Walsh

SUPPORTERS CIRCLE \$500.00 AND UP

Nicholas Boeheme*

Melanie Hill

Sarah Wright-Killinger*

Jonathan Nelms

Nathan Selikoff

Dee Schwartz

Rico and Marti Supina

Guy Swenson

Joan and Harry Travis

Michelle and Sam Waits

Dr. Terry and Laura Yount

DONORS CIRCLE \$250.00 AND UP

Aarika Ardis

Indhira Acosta

Richard Bissell

Jennah Delp*

Matt Hawkes

Carole Huston

Camila Mattos

Kelly and Tiffiney McKee

Bev Moore

Marshall & Linda Gay Peterson-Blanc

Dr. Mary Palmer

Nathan Selikoff

Kristopher Schave

Kenneth Swift II

Murray and Hazel Somerville

Patrice and Ken Thompson

FRIENDS CIRCLE \$25.00 AND UP

Judy Arnett

Allison Arnett

Shannon Baccaglini

Carol Becker

Laura Bossworth Stephanie Beinlich

Will Benton

Ali Bernards
Nicholas Boehme
Brian Brink
Robby Bukovic
Nate Caldwell
Mario Campa & Scott Evans
John Cavazos
Ashleigh Ciambriello
Donna Ciolek
Diane Clarridge
Paul Emery
Russ Elms
Kimberly Evans
JC Fullerton
Emily Fratti
Noel Godoy
Brittany Gress
Jessica Hamilton
Melissa Hoist
Madison Hubbart
Melanie Huston
Justin and Elizabeth Ingram
Ginny Kerwin
Henrietta Katzen
Malcom Katzen
Marcie and Hank Katzen
Brian and Cecily Lanier
Danielle Linder
Chevalier Lovett
Blaire Lynch*

Terence Madlangbayan
Walter Magiera
Justin McGill
Kimber Maitland
Marcia Minear
David McDermott
James Nussbaumer
Alan Pagan
Mary Palmer
Evan and Nick Powers
Ezra Prather
Sarah Purser & Marco Bojorquez
Chrissa Rehm
Sylvia Roan
Anthony Roberts
Peter & Jennifer Rodrigues
Gary and Joanne Schoelkopf*
Cara Schoenfish
Miranda Schubert
Sandy Scott
Bethany Smith
Theresa Smith-Levin
Stubenbort Family
Alex Swartsel
James Thompson
NeShea Thompson
Megan Ulrich
Katheryn Wright*
Pete and Lisa Xiques*

**In memory of Ashley Minear*

Would you like to support the ORLANDO SINGS mission? Scan the QR code to donate today! We are so grateful for your support.



PROGRAM

Please hold applause until the end of each section of the program.

I. THE SINGING OF LOVE AND LIGHT

Sing Christmas! Philip Lasser

II. THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Spoken Word: Fear Not Sandra Shafer

Sussex Carol English Traditional Carol
arr. David Willcocks

Blessed Be that Maid Marie 15th Century Carol
arr. Susan LaBarr

Ave Maris Stella Edvard Grieg

Wexford Carol Irish Traditional Carol
arr. Stephen Dombek

soloist: Sandra Shafer

Spoken Word: Revelers Sarah Purser

The Gift **world premiere* Richard A. Bissell
(member of OS Symphonic Chorus)

III. THE PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA

Spoken Word: A Letter in Return Hillary Brown

Umoja [Unity] Zanaida Robles

Ujima [Collective Work & Responsibility]

Kuumba [Creativity] **audience sing-a-long*

IV. THE MIRACLE OF HANUKKAH

Spoken Word: Pandemic Alex Glover

Al HaNisim Traditional/ arr. Elliot Z. Levine

Y'mei Chanukkah Traditional/ arr. Steven Barnett

S'Vivon Traditional/ arr. Steven Barnett

V. THE SEASONS OF LIFE

Spoken Word: Winter Solstice Kristopher Schave

Patterns on the Snow Mari Isabel Valverde

Let My Love Be Heard Jake Runestad

Simple Gifts/Turn! Turn! Turn! Shaker Song/Pete Seeger
arr. Andrew Minear

Spoken Word: Born Again	Lex Goity
Lift Your Eyes to Light	Kyle Pederson
Spoken Word: Camas Lillies	Kathryn Supina
Spring Shall Bloom	Susan LaBarr
Spoken Word: The Way It Is	Samantha Barnes Daniel
Thixo Onothando	Traditional isiXhosa arr. Michael Barrett
Rise, Shine!	Traditional Spiritual arr. Marques L. A. Garrett and Tom Trenney

VI. BENEDICTION

Spoken Word: The Path	Andrew Minear
True Colors	Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly (released 1986) arr. Matthew Brown

soloist: Alex Pollard

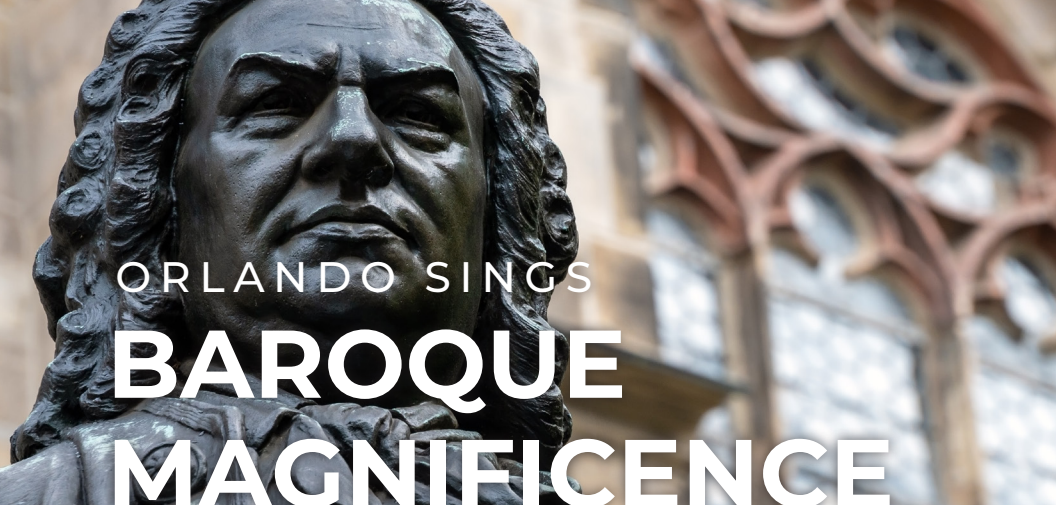
The spoken word on tonight's program are poems written by Lynn Ungar. Ebooks of her poetry, including her newest book, *The Brittle Beauty of It All*, and other writings are available at www.lynnungar.com.

SOLARIA SINGERS & PLAYERS

Andrew Minear, *conductor*

Yani Araujo	Irene Kaplan
Matthew Astone	Lauren Langa
Samantha Barnes Daniel	Zerrin Agabigum Martin
Hillary Brown	Dragomir Page
Samuel Carlton	Zachary Pecore
John Cavazos	Alex Pollard
Dorea Cook	Sarah Purser
Billy Daniel	Kristopher Schave
Maggie Gifford	Sandra Shafer
Alex Glover	Kathryn Supina
Lex Goity	

Samuel Carlton, *piano*



ORLANDO SINGS

BAROQUE

MAGNIFICENCE

BACH MASS IN B MINOR

SYMPHONIC CHORUS & SOLARIA PLAYERS

Andrew Minear, conductor

MARCH 1, 2024 | 8:00 PM

STEINMETZ HALL



ORLANDO SINGS

CONSIDERING

MATTHEW SHEPARD

SOLARIA SINGERS

Andrew Minear, conductor

Sara Catherine Barnes, stage director

JUNE 1 & 2, 2024 | ALEXIS & JIM PUGH THEATER

Visit ORLANDOSINGS.ORG for tickets