



C U S I N G S  
**PEOPLE'S  
CHORUS**

# A New Dawn

*in collaboration with*

**Amasong  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
Choir of Urbana-Champaign**

**First United  
Methodist Church**  
304 S Race Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

**Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024**

# A Note From the Director

The title *A New Dawn* encapsulates the transformative journey of the People's Chorus, a choir that has evolved from its modest beginnings as the Parkland College Chamber Singers into a thriving, independent ensemble with over 75 passionate singers. This title reflects the spirit of renewal and growth that defines both the choir's history and its future. Like the break of a new day, *A New Dawn* symbolizes the birth of something fresh and vibrant, filled with promise and possibilities. It signifies the journey of a community brought together through the power of music—an inclusive, non-auditioned group that welcomes all, yet reaches impressive levels of musical achievement.

This theme resonates throughout the concert program, where each piece carries its own message of rebirth, hope, and the dawning of beauty. Elaine Hagenberg's *Alleluia* is a powerful expression of joy and gratitude, its soaring melodies and lush harmonies embodying a sense of spiritual renewal and awakening. This same energy is echoed in B. E. Boykin's *Holding the Light*, a work that speaks of perseverance through darkness and the ability to emerge stronger, bathed in new light. Together, these two pieces represent the strength and spirit of the People's Chorus—a group that has transformed from a small choir into a major artistic force in Champaign Urbana, bringing light to those around it.

In Ola Gjeilo's *Ubi Caritas*, the audience is invited to experience a timeless message of love and compassion. Its serene, almost otherworldly tones connect the present to the past, linking the new with the ancient in a celebration of humanity's enduring ability to create beauty and foster unity. This timelessness is similarly reflected in Katerina Gimon's *Apple Tree*, a contemplative and evocative piece that draws upon natural imagery to explore ideas of growth, change, and renewal, much like the development of the People's Chorus itself.

Gwyneth Walker's *I Thank You God* brings this message of renewal to the forefront with its celebration of nature and divine gratitude. It recognizes the beauty of the earth and the blessings of existence, symbolizing a sense of spiritual and personal rebirth that mirrors the choir's journey. Each of these works comes together to form a cohesive narrative of new beginnings, awakening, and the transformative power of music.

*A New Dawn* not only reflects the fresh start of this concert season but also the hopeful future of the People's Chorus, as it continues to grow and shape the musical landscape of its community. The choir's expansion and achievements serve as a testament to the power of choral music to bring people together, to inspire, and to create something greater than the sum of its parts. With its inclusive spirit, high artistic standards, and commitment to community, the People's Chorus represents the dawning of a new era for choral music in Champaign Urbana, where everyone has a voice, and every voice contributes to the light.

Dr. Frank Gallo  
Artistic Director  
CU Sings: People's Chorus



Heidi M. Weatherford, Director  
Brandon Young-Eleazar, Assistant Director  
Hannah Freeman-Choi, Accompanist

## Music

### **Warum willst du andre fragen**

Music by Clara Schumann, Text by Friedrich Rueckert,  
arr. Nathan Payant

### **Blow Blow, Thou Winter Wind**

Music by Emma Lou Diemer,  
text by William Shakespeare

### **What About Us**

Music and Text by Pink, Johnny McDaid, Steve Mac,  
arr. Brandon Young-Eleazar

### **Rich Man's House**

Anne Feeney

### **We Shall Be Known**

Karisha Longaker (MaMuse)

[facebook.com/Amasong](https://facebook.com/Amasong)

Ada Stelzer  
ærin tedesco  
Alana Smith  
Alyssa Obradivich  
Andrea Sullivan  
Angie Isaacs  
Ann Coddington  
Ann Nelson  
Beth Watkins  
Caitlyn Brocklesby  
Carolyn J. Applebaum  
Celia Mueller  
Cyndi Schrader  
Dearborn Plys  
Eleanor Wyllie  
Elizabeth Konig  
Emma Walters  
Erin Creuz  
Fin McMahon  
Ginna Husting  
Haley Richbark  
Hannah Perhai-Josek  
Jan Troutt  
Janellie Roach  
Janet Fitch  
Jennilee Benda  
Kari Keating  
Kathleen Fuller  
Kelsey McClurg Pyle  
Madeline Horath  
Marcia E. Nelson  
Mari Lud McKeeth  
Piper Coe  
Susannah Davidson  
Theresa Lawrence  
Veronica Dike

# Amasong Lyrics & Translations

## Warum willst du andre fragen

Why enquire of others,  
Who are not faithful to you?  
Only believe what these two eyes  
Here tell you!  
Do not believe what others say;  
Do not believe strange fancies;  
Nor should you interpret my deeds,  
But instead look at these eyes!  
Are my lips silent to your questions  
Or do they testify against me?  
Whatever my lips might say;  
Look at my eyes; I love you!

## What About Us?

We are searchlights, we can see in the dark  
We are rockets, pointed up at the stars  
We are billions of beautiful hearts  
And you sold us down the river too far

What about us? What about all the times  
you said you had the answers?  
What about us? What about all the broken  
happy-ever-afters?  
What about us? What about all the plans  
that ended in disaster?  
What about love? What about trust? What  
about us?

## Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind

Blow, blow, thou winter wind, Thou art not  
so unkind  
As man's ingratitude; Thy tooth is not so  
keen, Because thou art not seen,  
Although thy breath be rude. Freeze,  
freeze, thou bitter sky, That dost not bite  
so nigh As benefits forgot:  
Though thou the waters warp, Thy sting is  
not so sharp  
As friend remembered not.

We are problems that want to be solved  
We are children that need to be loved  
We were willing, we came when you called  
But man, you fooled us, enough is enough,  
oh  
Sticks and stones they may break these  
bones  
But then I'll be ready, are you ready?  
It's the start of us, waking up, come on  
Are you ready? I'll be ready  
I don't want control, I want to let go  
Are you ready? I'll be ready  
'Cause now it's time to let them know  
We are ready  
What about...  
What about us?

# Amasong Lyrics & Translations

## The Rich Man's House

Well I went down to the rich man's house  
and I took back  
What he stole from me  
Took it back  
Took back my dignity  
Took it back  
Took back my humanity  
Now he's under my feet, under my feet,  
under my feet  
Ain't gonna let the system walk all over me!

Well I, went down to the landlord's house  
and I took back  
What he stole from me  
Took it back  
Took back my dignity  
Took it back  
Took back my humanity  
Now he's under my feet, under my feet,  
under my feet  
Ain't gonna let the system walk all over me!

Well I, went down to the welfare office  
and I took back  
What it stole from me  
Took it back  
Took back my dignity  
Took it back  
Took back my humanity  
Now it's under my feet, under my feet, under  
my feet  
Ain't gonna let the system walk all over me!

Well I, went down to the governor's house  
and I took back  
What he stole from me  
Took it back  
Took back my dignity  
Took it back  
Took back my humanity  
Now he's under my feet, under my feet,  
under my feet  
Ain't gonna let the system walk all over me

## We Shall Be Known

We shall be known by the company we keep  
by the ones who circle round to tend these  
fires  
We shall be known by the ones who sow and  
reap  
the seeds of change alive from deep within  
the earth  
It is time now, it is time now that we thrive  
It is time we lead ourselves into the well  
It is time now, and what a time to be alive  
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in  
love  
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in  
love



## Unitarian Universalist Choir

Directed by: Dr. M. Miguel Rowland

Accompanied by: Michael Duling

Rehearsal Accompanist: Juan Camacho

### Music

#### **Come and Find the Quiet Center**

Music by Mark Sedio, Words by Shirley Erena Murray

#### **The Road Not Taken**

Music by Ruth Elaine Schram

Words from Mountain Interval (1920) by Robert Frost

#### **Falling Water**

Music by Rollo Dillworth, Words by Brian Newhouse

### **Sopranos:**

Bethany Sims

Dana Antonelli

Jody Hanger

Tegan Stynoski

### **Altos:**

Bobbie Ruby

Katriena Knights

Maya Faaborg

Sarah Sheeley

Susanne Belovari

Tanja Hodges

### **Tenors:**

Howie Robinson

Jim Hannum

Pat McClard

Sam Besheres

### **Basses:**

Jerry Frye

Michael Cochran

Paul Weston

Scott Rohde

# UUC Lyrics

## Come and Find the Quiet Center

Come and find the quiet center  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.  
Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.  
In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare!

## The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;  
Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,  
And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.  
I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

## Falling Water

Spirit of the falling rain  
send it warm and strong  
and deeply.  
Falling free to seeds unseen  
rocking with a dream for water,  
the gloriuous gift of the falling water.  
We shall receive that water.  
It calls us to rise  
and to stand  
free in the blue sky.



# C U S I N G S PEOPLE'S CHORUS

Directed by: Dr. Frank Gallo

Accompanied by: Hannah Freeman-Choi

## **Music**

### **Alleluia**

Music by Elaine Hagenberg

### **Ubi Caritas**

Music by Ola Gjeilo

### **I Thank You God**

Music by Gwyneth Walker

### **Holding the Light**

Music B. E. Boykin

### **Apple Tree**

made famous by Aurora,  
arranged by Katerina Gimon

[cusings.org](http://cusings.org)  
[facebook.com/CUSings](https://www.facebook.com/CUSings)

#### **Sopranos:**

- Drea Abbas  
Natalie Allison  
Linda Blaschek  
Natalie Brown  
Cynthia Carroll  
Suzanne D'Andria  
Mariah Davis  
Dezarae Dowers  
Rosalie Dowers  
Amy Fahey  
Bailey Ford  
Megan Fry  
Jody Hanger  
Conny Hauf  
Anna Kasten  
Chris Kunka  
Hailey Miller  
Amy Rice  
Janice Rutherford  
Deb Sederwall  
Claire Stelter  
Lake Stewart  
Pamela Van Wyk

#### **Altos:**

- Linda Bailey  
Kelly Boeger  
Julie Bumpus  
Stephanie Craft  
Ellen de Waard  
Lisa Diaz  
Cathy Dunafin  
Miranda Ecker  
Becky Forsythe  
Amy Frasca  
Kimberly Freeman  
Rhonda Gordon  
Tanja Hodges  
Sarah Jacobson  
Janelle Jorgensen  
Lisa Kinderman  
Katriena Knights  
Amber LaBau  
Jessica Lagios  
Emily McKown  
Lora McLaughlin  
Margaret Miller  
Olivia Moline  
Zayda Reyes

#### **Basses:**

- Jedediah Alvey  
Jerry Carden  
Felix Chan  
Scott Drone-Silvers  
Anthony Fanelli  
Chris Fosnot  
Samuel Gilbert  
Samuel Grayson  
Nate Harroun  
Cam Hurley  
Justin Lee  
Chaz Pyle  
Timothy S Thorp  
Ryan True  
Gavin Ward

#### **Tenors:**

- Orev Bartov  
Hans Blaschek  
Jim Bready  
Bobbi Jo Dannenfeldt  
Brian Ford  
Jorge Garcia  
Joseph Hinchliffe  
Kelsey McClurg-Pyle  
Excellence Onalundula  
Shelbee Owens  
Pam Splitstoesser  
James Stelter

# People's Chorus Lyrics

## Alleluia

All shall be Amen and Alleluia.  
We shall rest and we shall see.  
We shall see and we shall know.  
We shall know and we shall love.  
Behold our end which is no end.

## Ubi Caritas

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
The love of Christ has gathered us  
together.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Let us revere and love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love one  
another.  
Amen

## I Thank You God

I thank You God for most this amazing day:  
for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and the blue true dream of sky;  
and for everything which is natural  
which is infinite  
which is yes,  
I thank You God, I thank You God,  
I thank You God, I thank you God  
for most this amazing day.  
I who have died am alive again today.  
And this is the sun's birthday;  
this is the birthday of life and love and wings:  
and of the gay great happening illimitably earth.  
I who have died am alive again today  
I thank You God.  
How should any human being doubt You?  
How should tasting touching any human merely  
being doubt You?  
How should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any human merely being doubt You?  
doubt unimaginable You?  
lifted from the no of all nothing, doubt You?  
Now the ears of my ears awake.  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened.  
I thank You God, I thank You God,  
I thank you God, I thank You  
I who have died am alive again today.  
I thank You God, I thank You God,  
I thank You God, I thank you God  
for most this amazing day.  
I thank You God!

# People's Chorus Lyrics

## Holding the Light

Gather up whatever is  
glittering in the gutter,  
whatever has tumbled  
in the waves or fallen  
in flames out of the sky,

for it's not only our  
hearts that are broken,  
but the heart  
of the world as well.  
Stitch it back together.

Make a place where  
the day speaks to the night  
and the earth speaks to the sky.  
Whether we created God  
or God created us

it all comes down to this:  
In our imperfect world  
we are meant to repair  
and stitch together  
what beauty there is, stitch it

with compassion and wire.  
See how everything  
we have made gathers  
the light inside itself  
and overflows? A blessing.

## Apple Tree

All of my life I've been hunting.  
I've been a girl, I've been a boy.  
Digging my feet into the ground like an apple tree.  
Wanting to live with a purpose.  
Skin is a word, love is not a sin.  
People are bad, people are good.  
Just like the moon is a stone.  
But it's a star when it's dark and how she's hiding.  
If you've seen what a heart is, you've seen its color.  
If I ever knew how we could guide it,  
I would take care of its children, become their mother.  
If I ever knew how we could hide it, hide it.

Let her save the world, she is just a girl.  
Let him save them all, he is just a boy.  
Let her save the world, she is just a girl.  
Let him save them all, he is just a boy.

Hunger is quiet if you do it right.  
Hunter is loud and predictable,  
Scaring away every prey so they are gone  
Before the hunter arrives.  
Would you be kind and put away your sword?  
You cannot cut away what we got.  
You cannot kill what we are.  
We are not here in physical form.  
You've seen where the knife is, its dark location.  
If I ever knew how we could fight it,  
I would cut into our anger, make pure emotion  
If I ever knew how we could hide it, hide it.

Can you carry the weight of mortality?  
The explosions around you are your symphony.

Thank you to First United Methodist Church for  
allowing People's Chorus to use their space for  
rehearsals and performances.