

Sunday, May 19, 2:00 PM
Saint Clement's Episcopal Church
1501 32nd Avenue South
Seattle, WA

Wednesday, May 22, 8:00 PM
Magnolia United Church of Christ
3555 West McGraw Street
Seattle, WA

MERIDIAN ENSEMBLE

presents

Songs of Passion

Choral gems from Latvia, Russia, France,
Great Britain, and the United States

Dear Friends,

I am beyond delighted to present Meridian Ensemble and our Songs of Passion. In this program we explore Passion and a special thrill that makes it such a powerful emotion. A state of intense, burning desire, Passion can be a trigger of incredible, fantastic accomplishments; it can also leave one scarred so deeply and longing to heal so desperately.

From overcoming hate and setting oneself on the path of love, from rediscovering one's voice and bursting in a new song, from separation by distance and time to long-awaited reunion of the loved ones, MERIDIAN ENSEMBLE is excited to share with you a myriad of expressions of Passion through the beauty of chamber choral performance.

Sincerely,

Yuly Kopkin, Artistic Director

MERIDIAN ENSEMBLE

SONGS OF PASSION

Directed by Yuly Kopkin

My Spirit Sang All Day Gerald Finzi, UK (1901-1956)

I Had No Time to Hate Nathan Howe, USA (born 1982)

Нам звезды крохкие сияли Viktor Kalinnikov, Russia (1870-1927)

*The distant stars shone for us, all around us the blossom of flowers smelled so sweetly,
And the waves whispered gently at our feet.*

*We were young! We were in love! We bravely looked ahead!
And filled with exciting dreams we had no fear of the storms of grey winter.*

*Oh, what happened to those nights with their shining,
Their fragrant beauty and whisper of waves?
Where is the lovely hustle of rapturous hopes and dreams?*

*The stars have faded and the flowers have paled.
Oh, my heart, when will you forget all that that spring has given us?*

Entrer dans la lumière François Bernheim, France (born 1947)
arranged by Yuly Kopkin (born 1980)

Women's ensemble; Yuly Kopkin, harp

*To enter the light, to breathe the dust, to kneel before you;
To rediscover my voice and, for a moment, to become an elusive dream.
To touch the musicians, to smile to the faces,
And to be nothing more than an image at four in the morning.
To come here without prior arrangement, to have the courage to give you my all.
And to let you in like a magical lover, to steal you with the force of the music.*

Serenade Edward Elgar, UK (1857-1934)

Chamber group

As Torrents in Summer Edward Elgar, UK (1857-1934)

Chamber group

Ladies and Ye Youthful Lovers Eugene Butler, USA (born 1935)

Tuvums Valter Kaminski, Latvia

*When autumn lavishly blooms in the seaside forest
I would love to stand again next to you on the dunes and feel the wind.
I would carry your hand tenderly in my palm
And share the joy of realized daydreams with the surf and the sky.*

*We would walk along the shore...
The shore is forever connected to the surf -
If only one human could always be this close to another human!*

*When autumn lavishly blooms in the seaside forest
How much I would love to come to the sea with you again.*

Swansea Town English folk song, arranged by Gustav Holst, UK (1874-1934)

Meridian Ensemble Singers

Sopranos

Julia Holden-Hunkins
Stephanie Metting
Sarah Kercheval

Tenors

Neil Jackson
David Weidenaar

Altos

Alice Carli
Erica Weisman
Jenni Campbell
Rachelle Bunch
Rachel Schmidt

Basses

Evan Norberg
John Hawkins

Meridian Ensemble was formed in February 2019 as an auditioned chamber choir dedicated to producing high quality performances of diverse choral repertoire spanning from the late nineteenth century to modern day. We welcome new members with strong musical skills and choral experience. For more information contact the artistic director at yulyk@uw.edu or visit us at www.meridianensemble.net.

Yuly Kopkin, the Founding Artistic Director of Meridian Ensemble, is an award-winning choir conductor as well as a collaborative pianist and a singer. Originally from Russia, he has been calling Seattle home for almost six years. He received a conservatory-style education in his homeland and then earned a degree of Master of Music in Choral Conducting at the University of Washington on a Fulbright scholarship. *Vita in Canto*, an internationally acclaimed university choir that Yuly founded in 2003 in his home city of Ekaterinburg, has been a top prize winner at prestigious choral festivals, such as Tampere Vocal Music Festival (Finland), Bohuslav Martinu International Choir Competition (Czech Republic), and Eurasia Cantat International Choral Assemblies (Russia). *Vita in Canto* enjoyed the most enthusiastic reception during their two concert tours of the USA (2013, 2014).

Yuly's favorite conducting credits demonstrate his artistic versatility and include, among others, *Titanic the Musical*, *Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray, and *Stabat Mater* by Giovanni Pergolesi. As piano accompanist and music director, he has been involved in the productions of operas and musicals, such as *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Into the Woods*, *Don Giovanni* and *Hansel and Gretel*. He currently serves as the assistant conductor at Magnolia Chorale and as collaborative pianist at Shoreline Community College and Bainbridge Chorale.