

# masterworks *Matters*

MASTERWORKS CHORALE • TOLEDO, OHIO • MARCH 2019

*masterworks chorale's classics concert to include  
three composers' settings of*

## *the lake isle of innisfree*

W. B. Yeats, 1865–1939

*I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and  
wattles made:  
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the  
honey-bee;  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.*

*And I shall have some peace there, for peace  
comes dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to  
where the cricket sings;*

*There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a  
purple glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.*

*I will arise and go now, for always night and  
day  
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by  
the shore;  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pave-  
ments grey,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core.*

## *birdsong at the lake* *exploring our 47th season theme: wonders of nature*

Birds, birdsong, and themes of the natural world have significantly influenced the ecology of Western music for centuries. Please join us for our Classics Concert: *Birdsong at the Lake* and experience contrasting musical landscapes including Mozart's "Sparrow" mass (so named because brief figures in the violins were thought to evoke birdsong) and three composers' settings of one of the most celebrated poems by W. B. Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree." Juxtapose the contemporary cinematic sound of Ola Gjeilo, who included piano, string quartet, and steel string guitar in his setting of the Yeats poem, with the musical portrayals of birds by Hindemith, Arcadelt, Gibbons, Mendelssohn, Stanford, and Carter. Let Gjeilo take you on a musical journey with "The Spheres," "The Ground," and "Tundra." Join us for this musically immersive performance on March 23, 8 p.m., at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Toledo.



*“nature invites us to rest in the grace of the world”*

*Tim Cloeter, Artistic Director*

*from the director*

*beautiful images of nature delivered to our hearts with exquisite music*

Early this past summer my daughter and I were in the car hurrying to Toledo when, not a mile from our home, we happened to see a full double rainbow. It was so remarkably beautiful with the bright sun, the light rain falling in misty sheets, and the complete pair of vividly colored bows that I immediately pulled into a parking lot and aimed the car so that we could stare through the windshield feeling wonder and delight. All concern for our schedule dropped away, and the minutes we spent savoring that experience were like a spiritual reset. Only a few weeks ago a night-time walk to my mailbox afforded me an unexpected view of a very slender waxing crescent moon, and I was similarly transfixed, invited by the extraordinarily beautiful combination of half-circles and sharp angles in the black sky to attend fully and breathe slowly and be. And it was as an undergraduate in rural Nebraska that I first felt the profound calm of winter sunsets: the gorgeous colorful sky and the deeply black silhouettes of trees and silos against that sunset felt so visually and psychically soothing.

It's not just via sight that Nature calls us to be present, but also via sound. Last May I visited the Wintergarden Nature Preserve in Bowling Green with

an audio recorder to make recordings of birdsong, and though the birds were busy and noisy that early morning, there was something distinctly meditative about standing comfortably still and really listening. I've also found that the gurgling water of a shallow stream, the white noise of ocean waves on the beach, and the patter of rain on the leaves of trees all offer a smoothing of the mind.

In the centerpiece poem of our season brochure, Wendell Berry writes of how even as we face fear, anxiety, and grief, the beauty and stillness in Nature can provide peace and freedom. There are so many beautiful images in this concert—a blue butterfly over a flowery lake, a swan gliding on a mirror of water, the reflection of a blue bird in water that is bluer still, dancing clouds in the craggy mountains in Norway, and the peaceful cabin by the shore at Innisfree with sunshine sparkling on the lake—and all of these beautiful images will be delivered to our hearts with exquisite music that is intimate and expansive, lively and peaceful. I hope that the sights and sounds of our Classics Concert will move us all to heed Nature's invitation to, as Berry put it, “rest in the grace of the world.”

*skylarks and song sparrows:  
two birds to listen for in our classics concert*

Some of the sounds you hear during the Chorale's Classics Concert may remind you of birds.

“I'd bet the flute solos in ‘The Lark in Clear Air’ were inspired by the skylark,” wrote Chorale Bass Elliot Tramer in an email. He was referring to Andrew Carter's arrangement of the beautiful Irish melody, which the Chorale will perform — with flute solo.

*the violins  
briefly sound like  
song sparrows*

ever having a real true pitch,” Elliot continued. He encountered these avian musicians during a visit to Stonehenge. It was a “sunny, clear morning, and the skylarks were courting overhead, singing.”

Mozart probably didn't have birdsong in mind at all as he composed his *Missa Brevis* in C, KV 220. But some who heard the mass thought that a short motif in the violins sounded like birds, and they nicknamed the piece “The Sparrow.”

The skylark is “a Eurasian bird that has a very beautiful complex song that rolls up and down without

You'll hear the “birdsong” clearly in the strings in the Sanctus and the Benedictus. Elliot writes that the bird's song “could be rendered as ‘sweet, sweet, sweet-a-tick-a-tick-a-too’ — two or three high-pitched introductory notes followed by a brief descending cadenza.” It's the “sweet, sweet” part that the violins seem to imitate in the mass.

You don't have to travel far to hear a song sparrow. The bird is “common and widely distributed across the Toledo area. For nesting they like brushy habitats—overgrown fields, marsh edges, etc. That's where the males will be singing, because their territories are around their nests. The front meadow at Wildwood Metropark would be a good place to look (and listen) for them. By mid-March the males are singing, so it will likely be possible to hear them the week of our concert,” writes Elliot.

Thanks to Alto Sarah Schendel for the idea for this article. Elliot Tramer is professor emeritus of biology at the University of Toledo and co-author of *Birds of the Toledo Area, A Special Publication of the Ohio Biological Survey and the Toledo Naturalists' Association*. — Tom Sheehan

*follow the links to hear beautiful birdsongs*



*A song sparrow*



*A skylark*

See and hear a stunning video of a song sparrow singing at [Sparrow](#). Hear the spectacular song of the skylark at [Skylark](#)

*outreach to the community  
interns, the national anthem, caroling at the zoo, and more*



Meeting with Muddy before singing the national anthem at Fifth Third Field last July



photo by Amalia Cloeter



Caroling at the Wildwood Metropark Manor House and heralding the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Toledo Zoo. Chorale singers also sang at the Lucas County Youth Treatment Center, a lock-up facility for youth who have been in serious trouble.



The two interns who sang our Christmas Concert with us are returning for our Classics Concert. They are Mahaska Stiegler, soprano, eighth grader at Toledo School for the Arts; and Morganne Hull, soprano, junior at TSA. Read more about them and about our intern program at [www.masterworkstoledo.com/interns](http://www.masterworkstoledo.com/interns)

*chorale alto: anne morris  
keeper of the chorale archives*



Anne Morris, Alto & Archivist

Chorale Alto and Archivist Anne Morris displays a sampling of the Chorale's archives, which she has maintained since 1991. The scrapbook on the left, which Anne assembled, covers the years 1972 to 1991. The boxes contain the archives for the years since then. In the foreground are some of the items in the archives: concert programs (left bottom), season brochures, and CDs.

Some day "the archives will go to the public library," Anne explains. When they do, "the librarians will not have to redo them." That's because Anne, who was head librarian

at the Toledo Museum of Art from 1965 to 2009, has used archival quality boxes, file folders, and photocopy paper. This is important. Newsprint deteriorates very fast, for instance, so it's essential that all newspaper mentions of the Chorale be photocopied on archival paper.

For each year since 1991, Anne has four folders: one for season brochures and programs, one for publicity (mostly from *The Blade*), one with rosters and newsletters, and one for miscellaneous artifacts.

Anne believes it's important to maintain this collection. "People need to know how Ben Locke and seven or eight others began a group that forty-seven years later is a major musical presence in the cultural life of this region," she says.

*one singer's playlist  
inspired by the theme  
of our  
classics concert  
"birdsong at the  
lake"*

MWC 2019  
*Birdsong at the  
Lake*

Use the link below to hear a diverse collection of poets and performers who give voice to and celebrate nature and reconnect us to our roots and the world around us. The list was curated by Bass Tim Langhorst.

[MWCPlaylistWin2019](#)

Listen straight through or put the playlist on shuffle. Enjoy. Don't have a Spotify account? It's easy to sign-up, and there's a free version. Just go to [spotify.com](http://spotify.com).

*We're throwing a mutual-appreciation party!*

**CABARET NIGHT**

*An Evening of Delectable Diversions*

**Tuesday, April 30, 2019 • 6-9 p.m.**

**Carranor Hunt and Polo Club • Perrysburg**

For tickets, visit [www.masterworkstoledo.com](http://www.masterworkstoledo.com)

*Help raise funds for your favorite chorus, and we'll show you a great time!*



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# Masterworks Chorale

connecting lives through choral music



## Go Ahead! Slit the Seal! Here's What's Inside!

A preview of our March 23 Classics Concert *Birdsong at the Lake* • A guide to listening for birdsongs during our concert (!) • An article about our archives and their keeper, Anne Morris • Pictures of the Chorale's outreach efforts during 2018 • The latest Singer's Choice playlist on Spotify • An inspiring message from our Artistic Director, Tim Cloeter

## Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!

*Our Classics Concert*  
**Birdsong at the Lake**  
Saturday, March 23 at 8 p.m.  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Toledo

**Cabaret Night Fundraiser**  
Tuesday, April 30, 6 p.m.  
Carranor Hunt & Polo Club  
Perrysburg

*Our Collage Concert*  
**Flora & Fauna**  
Sunday, June 2 at 3 p.m.  
Franciscan Center at Lourdes University,  
Sylvania

**Contact the Chorale**  
PO Box 114, Toledo, OH 43697  
419.742.2775  
masterworkstoledo@gmail.com

## Tickets and Other Details

See our season brochure for details on a season subscription. Ticket prices: Closer up: \$25, Farther back: \$20, Students: \$12. All seating is reserved. Order by phone at (419) 242-2787 or [click here](#) to go to the Valentine Theatre, which is handling tickets for all our concerts, regardless of venue.

## Disabilities

If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please advise the Chorale's business office at (419) 742-2775 at least two weeks before the concert. For TYY/TDD use Ohio Relay Service 1 (800) 750-0750.



Supporting the arts is easy when it's this much fun!

# CABARET NIGHT

Masterworks Chorale's fundraising party



Masterworks Chorale of Toledo

[www.masterworkstoledo.com](http://www.masterworkstoledo.com)