



Rockford High School
Advanced Women's Ensemble

Mandy Mikita Scott, Conductor

BE THE
change

Peggy Odren, Accompanist
Sarah Brzyski, Student Teacher, MSU

ACDA Michigan Fall Conference
October 28, 2016
First United Methodist Church, Kalamazoo



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~ From the Superintendent ~

We are honored to participate in the 2016 ACDA Michigan Fall Conference, and we appreciate the opportunity to showcase the talents of the Rockford High School Advanced Women's Ensemble. I'm sure you will agree, this is an extraordinarily talented group of young women.



Michael Shibler, Ph.D
Superintendent of Schools

A program of Rockford's caliber would not be possible without countless hours of effort devoted by students, directors, and parents. On behalf of the Rockford community, I thank and congratulate these individuals for this tremendous accomplishment.

We are proud to share our musicians with you, and I am confident you will enjoy their performance which demonstrates the excellence to which our community has become accustomed and is blessed to enjoy throughout the year.

~ From the Principal ~

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank the American Choral Directors Association Michigan for extending this great invitation to our Rockford High School Advanced Women's Ensemble to perform at your upcoming conference. We are deeply blessed to have such talented performers and music educators at Rockford High School. I'm quite certain you will enjoy their performance.



Dan Zang
Principal, RHS

Each and every year, I am just amazed with the musical performances that take place on our campus. They are possible thanks to four essential ingredients: a fine group of students dedicated to performing first and foremost in the classroom, and then on stage; a dedicated teaching staff who always go above and beyond with the time and talents they share with our students; tremendous parents who tirelessly support Fine Arts; and a community that supports us with their sponsorships and sold out auditoriums. Enjoy the conference and the performance by the RHS Advanced Women's Ensemble. We are so very proud of you, ladies!

be the change

- Captives' Hymn Margaret Dryburgh (1890-1945)
One Voice.....Ruth Moody (b. 1975), Arr. Marcelline Moody
Tate Radaz, guitar
Fruits of the Selfless HeartElizabeth Atkinson (b.1951)
* But a Flint Holds FireAndrea Ramsey (b.1977)
I See the Heaven's Glories Shine Andrea Ramsey
Kylee Wheeler, solo
† Be The Change.....Harrison Witt (b. 1997), Arr. Jed Scott (b. 1977)
Harrison Witt, piano; Chloe Nelson, solo

* *Joint World Premiere, Commissioned
as part of the 2016 Chorus America
Commission Consortium*

† *World Premiere*

texts and notes

The theme “Be the Change” is meant to empower both the audience and the singers. As we near a presidential election that has created much division and controversy in this country, our goal is to instill courage and peace in the hearts of everyone in the room today. In the words of Jane Goodall, “Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.”

Captives' Hymn

text by Margaret Dryburgh (1890-1945)

Father in captivity
We would lift our prayers to Thee,
Keep us ever in Thy Love.
Grant that daily we may prove
Those who place their trust in Thee
More than conquerors may be

May the day of freedom dawn
Peace and justice be reborn,
Grant that nations loving Thee
O'er the world may brothers be,
Cleansed by suffering, know rebirth,
See Thy Kingdom come on earth.

Note adapted from www.singingtosurvive.com © 2014 CC-BY-NC

The Captives' Hymn was composed by Margaret Dryburgh in the Palembang ‘houses’ camp in 1942. The camp was an all-women’s civilian internment camp that housed women of various nationalities who survived bombings in the South Pacific. The women of this camp formed a Vocal Orchestra and sang a *cappella* transcriptions of orchestral works.

The Captives' Hymn was first sung by Dryburgh, Shelagh Brown and Dorothy MacLeod at a Sunday service. Thereafter the hymn was sung by the women every Sunday, even throughout their later years in captivity when they encountered suffering and death all around them. When, in 1943, some internees were repatriated from Palembang to Singapore, the hymn was taken with them and, as a result, it found fame in camps there too. Dryburgh herself died in the camp shortly before the end of World War II, but her memory lives on in this simple and powerful piece.

One Voice

text by Ruth Moody (b. 1975)

This is the sound of one voice
One spirit, one voice
The sound of one who makes a choice
This is the sound of one voice

This is the sound of all of us
Singing with love and the will to trust
Leave the rest behind it will turn to dust
This is the sound of all of us

This is the sound of voices two
The sound of me singing with you
Helping each other to make it through
This is the sound of voices two

This is the sound of one voice
One people, one voice
A song for every one of us
This is the sound of one voice
This is the sound of one voice

This is the sound of voices three
Singing together in harmony
Surrendering to the mystery
This is the sound of voices three

This lovely folk song, originally recorded by The Wailin' Jennys, is arranged by the mother of the composer, herself an Orff-trained music educator. The text speaks to the bond formed by making music together, and that we can transcend our differences by making music together.

Fruits of the Selfless Heart

text by Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

The fruit of silence is prayer.
The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love.

The fruit of love is service.
The fruit of service is peace.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta spent much of her life as a Roman Catholic missionary in India, ministering to the poor in India. She founded the Missionaries of Charity, a monastic congregation that now includes more than 4,500 sisters in 133 countries. She was Canonized as Saint Teresa of Calcutta on Sept. 4 of this year.

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer,
it sings because it has a song. - Maya Angelou

But a Flint Holds Fire

text by Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)

An emerald is as green as grass;
A ruby red as blood;
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;
A flint lies in the mud.
A diamond is a brilliant stone,
To catch the world's desire;
An opal holds a fiery spark;
But a flint holds fire.

All additional words in this composition (whether sung or spoken) are excerpts from the writing of choir students in Flint and Flint Township, Michigan, who are personally impacted by this ongoing crisis.

In March of 2013, Flint embarked on a tragic journey that continues to this day, when an Emergency Manager changed the water supply for Flint residents, leading to widespread difficulties including lead poisoning. In response to this crisis, composer Andrea Ramsey completed this piece for the 2016 Chorus America Commission Consortium. If you are moved by this piece and the story, please consider using the QR Code at right, or visiting www.flintisrising.com to support the recovery. An in-depth interview with Andrea about the piece can be found at www.acdami.org/andreamsey.



I See The Heaven's Glories Shine

text by Emily Brontë (1818-1848)

No coward soul is mine,
No trembler in the world's storm-troubled
sphere:
I see Heaven's glories shine,
And faith shines equal, arming me from fear.
O God within my breast,
Almighty, ever-present Deity!
Life—that in me has rest,
As I—undying Life—have power in thee!
Vain are the thousand creeds
That move men's hearts: unutterably vain;
Worthless as withered weeds,
Or idlest froth amid the boundless main,
To waken doubt in one
Holding so fast by thine infinity;

So surely anchored on
The steadfast rock of immortality.
With wide-embracing love
Thy spirit animates eternal years,
Pervades and broods above,
Changes, sustains, dissolves, creates, and
rears.
Though earth and man were gone,
And suns and universes ceased to be,
And Thou were left alone,
Every existence would exist in Thee.
There is not room for Death,
Nor atom that his might could render void:
Thou—Thou art Being and Breath,
And what Thou art may never be destroyed.

Andrea Ramsey composed this piece for Allegro Con Brio, part of the Allegro Community Children's Choir of Greater Kansas City. The poem, *No Coward Soul is Mine* is one of Emily Brontë's final poems, written as she became engrossed in writing her only novel, *Wuthering Heights*. The poem and the piece encompass a powerful expression of self coupled with a "fierce willingness to confront in her poetry the most profound intellectual, theological, and emotional challenges to the human spirit." (www.poetry-foundation.org)

Be The Change

text by Harrison Witt (b. 1997)

We need to turn hateful words into love,
We need to live for what we're dreaming of.
An act of kindness can go a long way,
So let's be mindful of what we say.
Let's make the world a better place.

Let us wish for hope,
Let us pray for peace,
Let us sing in harmony.
Do not be afraid,
Do not be ashamed,
Be the change you wish to see.
Fight the fear, feel no shame,
See the world and be the change.

So many innocent lives have been lost,
My heart is aching at just the thought.
But I see a world where we all get along,
It doesn't matter who's right or who's wrong.
Because we all belong.

(Refrain)

I believe that love is all we need
To make the world a safer place.
I believe that love is everything!
Love is the answer, love will win.
Love is the reason that we live.

We will wish for hope,
We will pray for peace,
We will sing in harmony.
We will raise our voice,
And we will be heard,
We will heal this broken world.
We will fight the fear, we will feel no shame,
We will see the world and we'll be the change.

Note by Harrison Witt

Be the Change was written to inspire individuals and transform the world for the better. I wrote the song shortly after the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016. The song expresses the sorrow for the loss of innocent lives, while also showing some optimism for the future. Hate has divided our nation from one extreme to another, and Be the Change was written to bring people together through hope and love.

Composer Harrison Witt is a 2016 graduate of Rockford High School and is currently a freshman Jazz Voice major at Western Michigan University.





The Rockford High School Choirs are known throughout their region for consistently exemplary performances. With over three hundred students participating in five curricular choirs, as well as multiple extracurricular choirs, opportunities abound for small and large group singing.

The Rockford Choirs are currently conducted by Mandy Mikita Scott, Renee Vande Wege, and Jed Scott. They regularly earn Superior Ratings at District and State Festival performances. Since 2010, they have had eight ensembles selected to perform at the Michigan

School Vocal Music Association Honors Recital at Michigan Youth Arts Festival. In 2012 the RHS Women's Chorus, under Mandy Mikita Scott, received a standing ovation for its invitational performance at the Michigan Music Conference.

In July 2014, the Rockford Choirs completed a European tour with performances in Prague, Vienna, and Budapest, culminating in three gold medals and one silver medal at the 2014 World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia.

Over the past five years, they have commissioned or co-commissioned at least seven choral works, including pieces from Alice Parker, Jeffrey Cobb, Michael McGlynn, Andrea Ramsey, and others.



Mandy Mikita Scott is in her fourteenth year of teaching, her ninth at Rockford High School, where she is Director of Choirs and teaches over 200 students in four ensembles. She previously served as Director of Choirs at Grosse Pointe North High School for five years. Mandy holds a Bachelor of Music Education at Western Michigan University and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Miami.

Mandy's sophomore Women's Chorus performed at the 2012 Michigan Music Conference. In January 2014 she conducted the

Michigan High School SSAA State Honors Choir, also at MMC. She has conducted her ensembles as part of the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Honors Recital seven times. In July 2014 she conducted the Rockford Choirs on an acclaimed European Tour, with ten concerts in four countries, culminating in Gold Medals at the World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia.

Mandy currently serves MSVMA on the Executive Board as the Director of Sight Reading and Music Selection. She is the 2012 recipient of the MSVMA Carolyn Leep Scholarship. Mandy lives in Rockford with her husband Jed and their three sons, Owen, Julian, and Daniel.



Renee Vande Wege has been a music educator since 2000 at all educational levels from Early Childhood to Post-Collegiate. She has served as the Rockford Freshman Choir Director since the fall of 2013.

Ms. Vande Wege holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Hope College and a Master's Degree in Music Education from Michigan State University. She is also certified in Music Learning Theory from the Gordon Institute.

She serves as an instructor for the Grand Rapids Children's Opera Workshop, and for many years was a member of the Grand Rapids Opera Chorus, singing in *La Boheme*, *The Magic Flute*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *Turandot*, and *Die Fledermaus*, among others. She maintains an active voice studio in Rockford.

Renee is an Iowa native and long-time resident of Rockford with her two children, Emily and Levi.



Jed Scott is an active freelance arranger and composer currently published by UNC Jazz Press and Sound Music Publications. His vocal music is performed throughout the United States by leading vocal jazz and choral ensembles. He maintains a busy commission schedule and recently founded and runs the Michigan Choral Commission Consortium, which is dedicated to facilitating the creation of new choral music commissioned for Michigan choirs.

Jed has conducted the Rockford Aces, an extracurricular men's chamber ensemble, since

2008. The group has won numerous awards, including gold and silver medals at the 2012 and 2014 World Choir Games, and are currently ranked among the top-50 men's choirs worldwide by Interkultur.

Jed currently serves on the ACDA-Michigan Executive Board as Webmaster/Editor and MSVMA as the Coordinator of the Summer Conference. He is the 2015 recipient of the MSVMA Carolyn Leep Scholarship. He blogs daily about creativity, choral music, and education at www.jedscott.com. Jed is a lifelong resident of Michigan and lives in Rockford with his wife, Mandy, and their three sons.

roster

Hope Banks	* Abigail Kersting	* Emily Page
Stacey Barker	Kellie Kirchhoff	Alivia Perry
* Marissa Bouwkamp	* Allison Koelewyn	* Brittany Perry
Hailey Brenner	Hannah Koryto	* Emily Pilarski
Clare Crumback	Emma Kowalczyk	Olivia Poll
* Heather Denton	Greta Kruse	Nelly Reinstorf
Melanie Dietzman	Katelyn Lawton	Casey Rickett
Lauren Everhart-Deckard	Aerin Lipzinski	Olivia Schrotenboer
* Kaylee Gallini	Sophie Lloyd	Jessica Simons
Alexandra Gamble	* Amelia Mitchell	Sidney Snedeker
Kendrah Holtzlander	* Clarissa Mousel	* Eva Szebelledy
Hannah Hudgens	* Sarah Myers	* Madison Tomasko
Madelyn Inwood	Destiny Naigus	Amber Twardy
Mallory Jarrett	Chloe Nelson	* Kylee Wheeler
Alivia Johaneck	Nicole Nelson	Samantha Wilson
Sydney Kasmer	* Gabrielle Obiden	
* Alyssa Kelly	* Sierra Olejniczak	

* Narration during *But a Flint Holds Fire*

Rockford High School Administration

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Acknowledgements

Renee Vande Wege, Peggy Odren, Kaelynn Van Buren, Brian Phillips, John Shear, Chelle Good, Gayla Fox, Dan Brown, Lisa Doering, Joyce Kash, Sarah Brzyski, the RPS Administration, the RHS Choir Booster Board, Anna Ellerbroek, Ginny Kerwin, Andrea Ramsey, & Harrison Witt.

Deepest gratitude to Jed Scott for this beautiful program. Jed is an inspiration to the world, and especially to his wife. Thank you for this amazing journey we share.

This program has been graciously underwritten by the Rockford Public Schools Administration

BE THE

change

YOU TO
WISH SEE



in the

world.

Gandhi