I. LOVE’S CONQUERING POWER

PLAINSONG
ADAPTED: CHRISTOPHER ASPAAS
(b.1973)

VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS
MBUSO NDLOVU
(b.1982)

NGOTHANDO
Brant Roberts, percussion

II. ROMANTIC LOVE

ORLANDO DI LASSO
(1532–1594)

O OCCHI, MANZA MIA
Isabel Gleason, conductor

SUSAN LABARR
(b.1981)

LOVE: THEN AND STILL

JOHANNES BRAHMS
(1833–1897)

LIEBESLIEDER WALZER, OP. 52
8. Wenn so lind dein Auge mir
9. Am Donaustrand, da steht ein Haus
10. O wie sanft die Quelle sich

Xiao Yang and Sora Park Shepard, piano

III. LOVE’S HEALING POWER

MARK MILLER
(b. 1967)

LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALL
Grace Smith, soloist
TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS
Plainsong, adapted by Christopher Aspaas (b. 1973)

SUNG IN LATIN

Veni, creator Spiritus,  
mentes tuorum visita,  
imple superna gratia,  
quae tu creasti, pectora.  

Accende lumen sensibus,  
infunde amorem cordibus,  
inflensa nostri corporis  
virtute firmans perpeti.  

Come, Creator Spirit,  
Visit the souls of your devoted,  
With your divine grace  
Fill the hearts which you have created.

Kindle your light in our minds,  
Infuse your love into our hearts,  
Strengthen the frailties of our flesh  
By your perpetual power.

—attr. Rhabanus Maurus

NGOTHANDO
Mbuso Ndlovu (b.1982)

SUNG IN ISIZULU

Ngothando kuphela,  
Sonqoba konke,  
Izimo zonke,  
Azinakusigwinya.

Sivul’ iinhliziyo zethu,  
Singesabi lutho,  
Ngothando...

Through love, only,  
We will conquer everything,  
All situations,  
Cannot swallow (devour) us.

Let us open our hearts,  
And let us fear nothing,  
Through love...

—Mbuso Ndlovu

O OCCHI, MANZA MIA
Orlando di Lasso (1532–1594)

SUNG IN ITALIAN AND ENGLISH

O occhi, manza mia, cigli dorati!  
O faccia d’una luna stralucente!  
Tienimi a mente, gioia mia bella,  
Guardam’un poc’a me, fa mi contento.

O eyes of my beloved, look thou on thy love!  
O face with moonlight beaming in pale radiance!  
If in thy mem’ry, O my beloved,  
One little thought you’ll give, to me, then I’ll be happy.

—Anonymous
LOVE: THEN AND STILL
Susan LaBarr (b. 1981)

We were married in late September,
Among the changing leaves;
Crimson banners in the courtyard
Heralding our union.
We were so happy, then.

The music we shared brought us together,
A duet most unlikely.
Work and home and son and daughter,
Busy in joy and love.
How simple it seemed, then.

But who could have known what fate awaited
Our little family of four?
A spectre came and dwelt among us,
And robbed us of our joy.
And then, we were only three.

But time has passed, and wounds have healed,
Leaving scars behind;
But scars remind us
What was, and what yet may be,
That we loved, and love you, still.

—Charles Anthony Silvestri

LIEBESLIEDER WALZER, Op. 52
Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

SUNG IN GERMAN

8. Wenn so lind dein Auge mir

Wenn so lind dein Auge mir
Und so lieblich schauet –
Jede letzte Trübe fliehet,
Welche mich umgrauet.

Dieser Liebe schöne Glut,
Laß sie nicht verstieben!
Nimmer wird, wie ich, so true
Dich ein andrer lieben.

When you gaze at me so tenderly
and so full of love –
all the gloom that assails me
fades away.

Oh, do not let this love’s
sweet ardour vanish!
No one will love you
as truly as I.
9. Am Donaustrande, da steht ein Haus

Am Donaustrande, da steht ein Haus,
Da schaut ein rosiges Mädchen aus.

Das Mädchen, es ist wohl gut gehegt,
Zehn eiserne Riegel sind vor die Türe gelegt.

Zehn eiserne Riegel – das ist ein Spaß!
Die spreng ich,
als wären sie nur von Glas.

O wie sanft die Quelle sich
Durch die Wiese windet!
O wie schön, wenn Liebe sich,
Zu der Liebe findet!

— Georg Friedrich Daumer

10. O wie sanft die Quelle sich

Love has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one
Love has broken down the wall.

We’re accepted as we are.
Through love’s pow’r all is reconciled.
We’re accepted as we are.

Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Peace and love, freely offered here;
Cast aside your doubts and fears.

We will tear down the walls!
Love has called us, one and all.
Love has broken down the wall.

— Mark A. Miller
UNIVERSITY CHORUS
Andrew Bruhn, conductor
Isabel Gleason, assistant conductor
Xiao Yang, piano

SOPRANO
Asia Anderson
Bella Birany
Alexia Chur
Hannah Cook
Bella Cruz
Veronica Diaz
Grace Dillon
Caelan Doyle
Mary Ewers
Miranda Gessert
Aliza Gussin
Emma King
Catheryn Kuhar
Madelyn Lee
Olivia Lewis
Catherine Libby
Saumya Malhotra
Abby McDonnell
Serena Patel
Alexa Petrando
Shirley Pierce
Amy Roberts
Grace Smith
Yuktha Sureshkumar
Kyla Wolski

ALTO
Olivia Bell
Sarah Bond
Anastasia Curtis
Lauryn Eitenmiller
Red Garcia
Maya Gibes
Jade Huang
Asth Jain
Roya Lippe
Claudia Madsen
Grace May
Daniela Mejia
Siena O’Connor
Mary Palid
Maria Claudia Polo
Sruthi Singaraju
Daphne Smith
Alaina Stukel
Ariel Williams
Xiaoyue Xu
June Yang

TENOR
Francesco Console
Alexander Pacheco
Kshitij Sinha
Rogr Weng

BASS
Colby Garrard
Cameron Gartshore
Peter Giannetos
Alex Killian
Tyson Madsen
Connor Marron

The University Chorus is a mixed chorus comprised of both music majors and non-majors from all colleges across the University of Illinois campus.
Program Note

This concert was conceived as an exploration of different facets of love through the centuries. The center of the program are three pieces exploring romantic love. The program is bookended with music particularly relevant to our country’s violence epidemic. While we often focus on our differences, love reveals our similarities. Love opens our eyes so that we can see the humanity in every person. This afternoon we sing about a love that can break down barriers, fuel relationships, and heal brokenness.

Biographies

Andrew Bruhn is a versatile musician, who has worked as a professional choral conductor, educator, composer, and trumpeter. Andrew is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He has taught at the middle school and high school level, and worked as a church musician for several years.

His school choirs regularly received superior ratings in organizational contests, one of which has been a featured performer at the Illinois Music Education Conference. He received his Master of Sacred Music degree in choral conducting from Luther Seminary and St. Olaf College, and a BM in Trumpet Performance from Wheaton College. He has studied composition with David Cherwien and Alice Parker and his music is published by many major publishers. Andrew won the 2017 Illinois American Choral Directors Association Composition Contest, and was a semi-finalist for The American Prize in Choral Composition in 2019, a finalist in 2020, and a 2020 finalist for the Philip Stopford Composition Contest. Mr. Bruhn loves spending time with his wife, their two daughters, and golden retriever.

Isabel Gleason is a Senior in Choral Music Education and will be student teaching in the CU area in the spring. She is a private voice and piano teacher with the Champaign School of Music and a Co-Music Director at First United Methodist Church. Through college, she has been involved with Sigma Alpha Iota, Illini Swing Society, Women's Glee Club, Oratorio Society, NAfME, ACDA, We CU, and I-Promise Scholars. Isabel was a member of the University Chorus as a Freshman! She has loved working with these singers and is very excited about the growth they have made in such a short time!

Xiao Yang, native of China, is currently a M.M. Vocal coaching and Accompanying major at the University of Illinois studying with Dr. Casey Robards. She holds an Accompanying Assistantship, playing for University Chorus as well as vocal and instrumental studios. Ms. Yang’s piano performance background include earning a M.M. from University of Arkansas, where she was a graduate assistant; a Graduate Certificate from the University of Central Arkansas and B.M. from East China Normal University. Yang’s teachers include Miroslava Panayotova, Kazuo Muakami and Neil Rutman. At the 2018 Manhattan International Music Festival in Shanghai, Yang played in a masterclass for Alexander Shtarkman from Peabody Conservatory.
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Linda R. Moorhouse, Associate Director
Reynold Tharp, Director of Graduate Studies
David Allen, Director of Advancement
Angela Tammen, Director of Admissions
Rebekka Price, Director of Public Engagement

School of Music Faculty

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Eli Fieldsteel
Lamont Holden
Kerrith Livengood
Erik Lund
Guido Sánchez-Portuguez
Andrea Solya
Heinrich Taube
Stephen Taylor
Reynold Tharp
Ann Yeung

**Conducting**
Barrington Coleman
Ashley M. Davis
Ollie Watts Davis
William Eddins
Barry L. Houser
Andrew Megill
Anthony Messina
Linda R. Moorhouse
Elizabeth B. Peterson
Stephen G. Peterson
Andrea Solya

**Jazz**
Ronald Bridgewater
Teofilo “Tito” Carrillo
Barrington Coleman
Larry Gray
Joan Hickey
Charles “Chip” McNeill
Jim Pugh
Joel Spencer
John “Chip” Stephens

**Keyboard**
Timothy Ehlen
Julie Gunn
William Heiles
Joan Hickey
Charlotte Mattax Moersch
Casey Robards
Dana Robinson
Rochelle Sennett
John “Chip” Stephens
Michael Tilley
Christos Tsitsaros

**Lyric Theatre**
Julie Gunn
Nathan Gunn
Michael Tilley
Sarah Wigley
Dawn Harris

**Music Education**
Stephen Fairbanks
Donna Gallo
Adam Kruse
Jeananne Nichols
Bridget Sweet

**Musicology**
Christina Bashford
Donna Buchanan
Megan Eagen-Jones
Gayle Magee
Jeffrey Magee
Carlos Ramírez
Michael Silvers
Gabriel Solis
Makoto Takao
Ioannis Tsekouras
Nolan Vallier

**Strings**
Denise Djokic
Liz Freivogel
Megan Freivogel
Larry Gray
Rudolf Häken
Salley Koo
Nelson Lee
Daniel McDonough
Guido Sánchez-Portuguez
Ann Yeung

**Voice**
Ollie Watts Davis
Nathan Gunn
Dawn Harris
Ricardo Herrera
Yichen Li
Yvonne Redman
Jerold Siena
Sylvia Stone

**Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion**
Elliot Chasanov
Charles Daval
John Dee
Ricardo Flores
Amy Gilreath
J. David Harris
Jonathan Keeble
Timothy McGovern
Janice Minor
William Moersch
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