



# An Evening with Skylark

November 13, 2025	Bedford, NY
November 14, 2025	Chestnut Hill, MA
November 15, 2025	Newburyport, MA
November 16, 2025	Falmouth, MA

15<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Season  
SKYLARK 

## Skylark Artists

Matthew Guard, *artistic director*  
Joy Schreier, *piano*

### Soprano

Sophie Amelkin  
Clare Brussel  
Sarah Moyer  
Janet Stone

### Alto

Julia Soojin Cavallaro  
Carrie Cheron  
Tynan Davis

### Tenor

Paul D'Arcy  
Erik Gustafson  
Nathan Hodgson

### Bass

Eric Alatorre  
Stephan Griffin  
Sam Kreidenweis  
Dana Whiteside

## Season Sponsors

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# An Evening with Skylark

Joy Schreier, *piano*

Shenandoah

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Traditional, Arr. James Erb

Sure on this shining night  
Solo: Nathan Hodgson

Samuel Barber

The Turtle Dove

Solo: Sam Kreidenweis

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Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Gallant Weaver

Solo: Clare Brussel, Sarah Moyer, Janet Stone

James MacMillan

Os justi

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Anton Bruckner

Dúlamán

Solo: Nathan Hodgson, Janet Stone

Michael McGlynn

Paddy Works on the Railway

Solo: Erik Gustafson

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Traditional, Arr. Benedict Sheehan

Le Ruisseau

Solo: Janet Stone

Gabriel Fauré

Court Song

Solo: Julia Soojin Cavallaro, Sarah Moyer

Leonard Bernstein

La Vie En Rose

Solo: Carrie Cheron

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Louiguy & Edith Piaf, Arr. Peter L. Mansfield

The Cloud-Capp'd Towers

Ralph Vaughan Williams

What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?

Solo: Dana Whiteside

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Michel Legrand, Arr. Robert Schultz

Otche Nash

Nicolay Kedrov

She Used to be Mine

Solo: Sophie Amelkin

Sara Bareilles

Tebe poyem

Solo: Sara Moyer

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Sergei Rachmaninoff

Gimme Gimme

Solo: Tynan Davis

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Jeanine Tesori

Geistliches Lied, Op. 30

Johannes Brahms

## Program Introduction

This program marks the start of what we are considering our 15th anniversary season. The origins of Skylark can be traced to the summer of 2011, when I assembled a group of friends to rehearse and perform a concert in Boston. It was an inauspicious start, as it ended up being the weekend hurricane Irene hit Boston. Let's just say that the choir vastly outnumbered the audience.

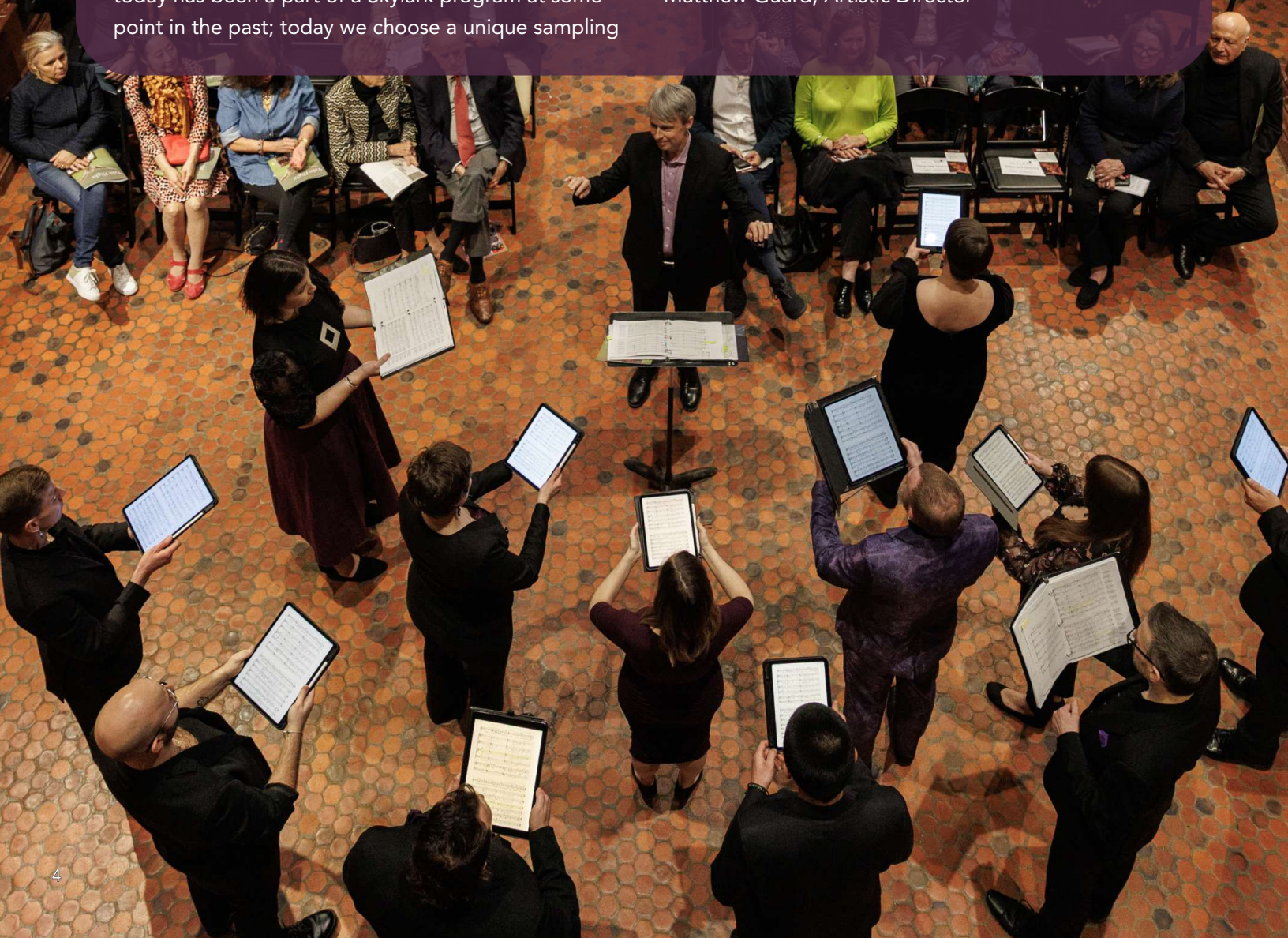
Even though it was not a concert that was heard by many, it was the seed of what would become Skylark over the coming years. By 2013, some of our artists who still sing with us today had become a part of the experiment.

Today's concert offers a unique sampling of music from across Skylark's history. Every piece we share today has been a part of a Skylark program at some point in the past; today we choose a unique sampling

and combine the music differently to create an experience that we hope will demonstrate the broad range of Skylark's vocal talents and stylistic interests.

I originally planned to narrate a bit of today's program, but I found myself wanting to include more and more music. I will speak some during the program today, but I think the pre-concert talk and the program notes included throughout the program will serve many of the contextual goals I had hoped to share by narrating more extensively.

-Matthew Guard, *Artistic Director*



# Program Notes & Texts

## Shenandoah

Arr. James Erb (1926-2014)  
Traditional American Folksong

Oh, Shenando', I long to see you,  
And hear your rolling river  
Oh, Shenando', I long to see you,  
'Way, we're bound away,  
Across the wide Missouri.

I long to see your smiling valley,  
And hear your rolling river,  
I long to see your smiling valley,  
'Way, we're bound away,  
Across the wide Missouri.

'Tis sev'n long years since last I see you,  
And hear your rolling river  
'Tis sev'n long years since last I see you,  
'Way, we're bound away,  
Across the wide Missouri.

Oh, Shenando', I long to see you,  
And hear your rolling river  
Oh, Shenando', I long to see you,  
'Way, we're bound away,  
Across the wide Missouri.

## Sure on this shining night

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)  
Text by James Agee (1909-1955)

Sure on this shining night  
Of starmade shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night  
I weep for wonder  
Wandering far alone  
Of shadows on the stars

## The Turtle Dove

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
Traditional 18th-century English folk ballad

Fare you well my dear I must be gone,  
and leave you for a while;  
If I roam away I'll come back again,  
Though I roam ten thousand miles, my dear,  
Though I roam ten thousand miles.

So fair though art my bonny lass,  
So deep in love as I;  
But I never will prove false  
to the bonny lass I love,  
Till the stars fall from the sky, my dear,  
Till the stars fall from the sky.

The first piece we share today was part of that first concert program during Hurricane Irene in 2011. And indeed, for me, it is a core part of my formative experience as a choral singer and listener. This James Erb arrangement of *Shenandoah* was performed by the first choir I ever joined, my high school chorale in the 1990s, led by Pamela Elrod. Pam had moved to Atlanta to sing with Robert Shaw during his remaining tenure with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra chorus. One of the first pieces that truly moved me as a part of a choir was this arrangement.

If I fast forward a few years as a listener, parts of this arrangement were used by Chanticleer in their iconic recording of this piece. I was blown away by the timbre of the low bass sound of those Chanticleer recordings in the 1990s. I never would have dreamed that several decades later I would have the privilege of leading a choir with Eric Alatorre, who for many years was the anchor of that group's sonority. The Erb arrangement starts with utter simplicity, and develops into the most soothing of sounds: a three-part canonic figure in the treble underpinned by slow swelling waves in the lower voices.

After opening with *Shenandoah*, we will share two beautiful pieces for solo voice in the key of B-flat—one major and one minor—with the major accompanied by piano and the minor accompanied by choir. Tenor Nathan Hodgson has been a fixture in Skylark's tenor section since the spring of 2018. His enchantingly lyrical rendition of Samuel Barber's *Sure on this shining night* played a key role in our GRAMMY®-nominated recording *It's a Long Way* in 2021. He reprises that today, followed by a haunting arrangement of the British folk song *The Turtle Dove*, sung by Skylark baritone Sam Kreidenweis. Sam first sang with Skylark in May 2013, and was a core member of the group before departing for Minneapolis and the ensemble Cantus for several years. We are thrilled that Sam is back aboard our frequent Skylark roster.



The sea will never run dry, my dear,  
Nor the rocks never melt with the sun,  
But I never will prove false  
to the bonny lass I love,  
Till all these things be done, my dear,  
Till all these things be done.

O yonder doth sit that little turtle dove,  
He doth sit on yonder high tree,  
A making a moan for the loss of his love,  
As I will do for thee, my dear,  
As I will do for thee.

## The Gallant Weaver

James MacMillan (b. 1959)  
Text by Robert Burns (1759-1796)

Where Cart rins rowin' to the sea,  
By mony a flow'r and spreading tree,  
There lives a lad, the lad for me,  
He is the gallant Weaver.

Oh I had woovers aught or nine,  
They gied me rings and ribbons fine;  
And I was fear'd my heart would tine,  
And I gied it to the Weaver.

My daddie sign'd my tocher-band,  
To gie the lad that has the land,  
But to my heart I'll add my hand,  
And give it to the Weaver.

While birds rejoice in leafy bowers,  
While bees delight in op'ning flowers,  
While corn grows green in simmer  
showers, I love my gallant Weaver.

## Os Justi

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)  
Text from Psalm 37:30-31

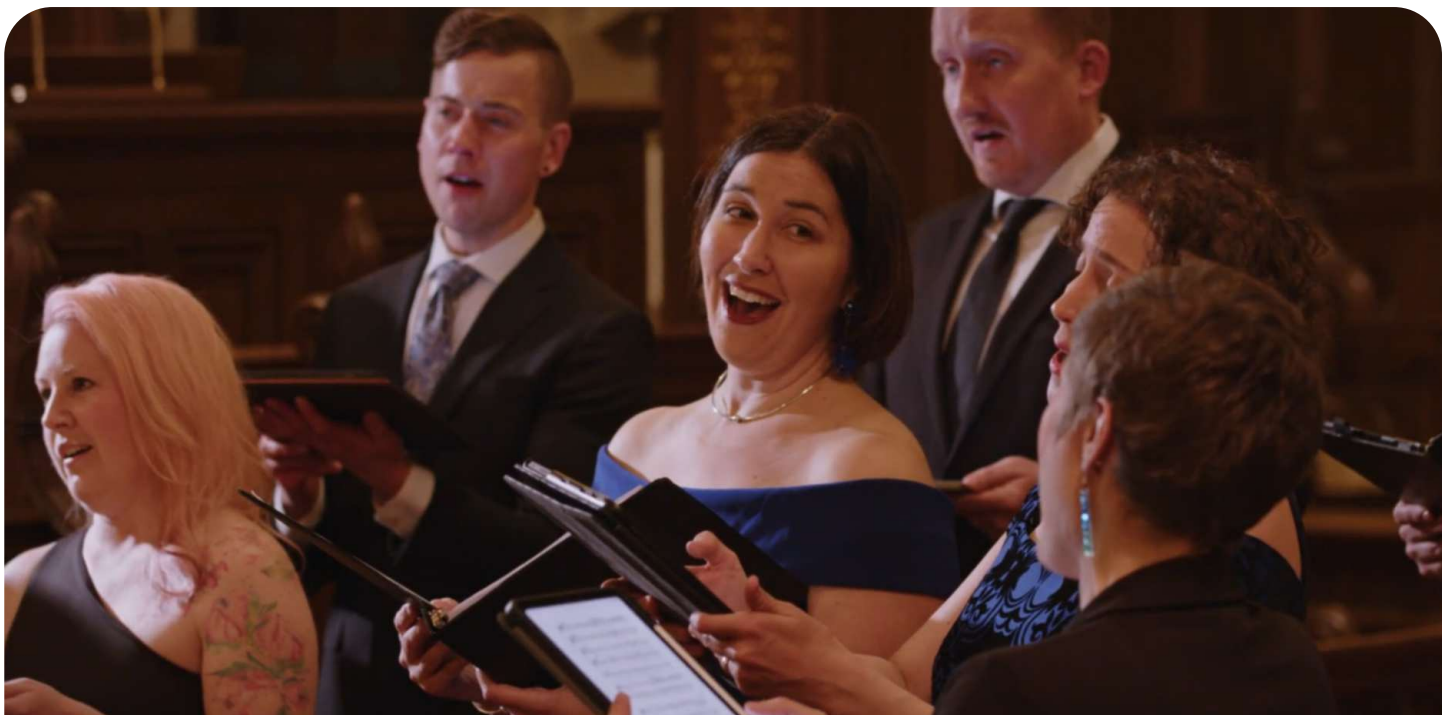
*Os justi meditabitur sapientiam,  
et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.  
Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius:  
et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.  
Alleluia.*

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,  
and his tongue speaks what is just.  
The law of his God is in his heart;  
and his steps will not be impeded.  
Alleluia.

The next piece in the program, *The Gallant Weaver* by Scottish composer James MacMillan on a text by Robert Burns, has played many distinct roles in Skylark performances over the last six years. It first made an appearance in the program *Masterpiece*, based on visual art and music, when we called attention to the fact that MacMillan was thinking about Celtic knotwork designs when he composed the enchanting three-part soprano canon that characterizes the piece. It returned several years later in a program called *Windswept Seas*, when we characterized the soprano lines as something that could be described as a 'siren song'. We then performed the piece again and recorded it as part of our recent album, *Songbird*, drawing the analogy between the soprano parts and soaring feathered creatures. No matter which of these analogies speaks to you, there's no question that the high-flying soprano acrobatics are one of the most compelling bits of writing for choir in the last few decades, and our inimitable soprano trio of Sarah Moyer, Janet Stone, and Clare Brussel bring something truly special to MacMillan's composition.



Our next piece will make a rather abrupt turn into a substantial romantic sacred motet. However, the importance of this piece to me personally, and to the creation of Skylark, is absolutely essential, and I'll speak a bit to this during the concert.



## Dúlamán

Michael McGlynn (b.1964)

Traditional Irish Text

"A 'nion mhín ó! Sin anall na fir shuirí"

"A mháthair mhín ó! Cuir na roithleán go dtí mé!"

*Dúlamán na binne buí, dúlamán Gaelach,  
Dúlamán na farraige, dúlamán Gaelach.*

*Rachaidh me chun 'lúir leis a' dúlamán Gaelach  
"Ceannódh bróga daor", arsa' dúlamán Gaelach.  
Dúlamán...*

*Bróga breátha dubha ar a' dúlamán Gaelach  
Bairéad agus triús ar a' dúlamán Gaelach  
Dúlamán...*

"A 'nion mhín ó! Sin anall na fir shuirí"

"A mháthair mhín ó! Cuir na roithleán go dtí mé!"

*Dúlamán...*

*Tá ceann buí óir ar a' dúlamán Gaelach.*

*Tá dhá chluais mhaol' ar a' dúlamán Maorach.*

*Dúlamán...*

"O gentle daughter, here come the wooing men."

"O gentle mother, put the wheels in motion for me!"

*Seaweed of the yellow peaks, gaelic seaweed  
Seaweed of the ocean, gaelic seaweed*

I would go to the tailor with the gaelic seaweed  
"I would buy expensive shoes," said the Gaelic seaweed.  
Seaweed...

The Gaelic seaweed has beautiful black shoes  
The Gaelic seaweed has a beret and trousers.  
Seaweed...

"O gentle daughter, here come the wooing men."

"O gentle mother, put the wheels in motion for me!"

*Seaweed...*

There is a yellow gold head on the Gaelic seaweed.  
There are two blunt ears on the stately seaweed.  
Seaweed...

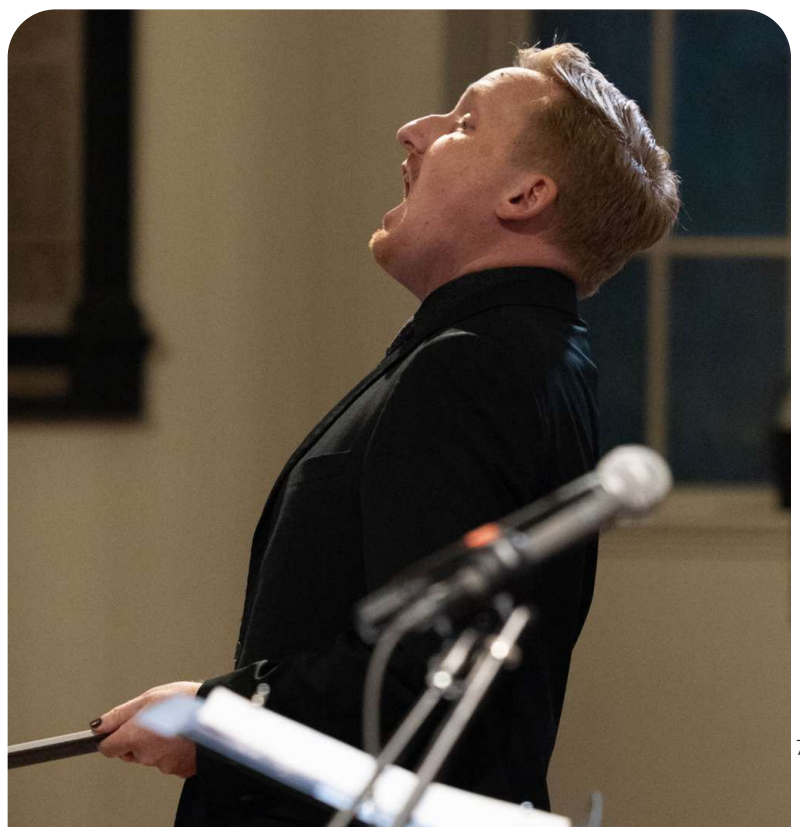
## Paddy Works on the Railway

Arr. Benedict Sheehan (b.1980)

Traditional Irish-American Folk Song

After the Bruckner, we will take a quick trip to Ireland. We first performed Michael McGlynn's *Dúlamán* as part of a St. Patrick's Day program called *Emerald Isles*. It's a kinetic little folk song about none other than seaweed. McGlynn is a modern Irish composer who founded a fantastic touring ensemble called Anúna. We bring some serious performance practice experience with this piece, as Skylark Sam Kreidenweis has toured with Anúna in Europe and Japan on occasion.

After singing of seaweed, we share one of our favorite little stories in song, Benedict Sheehan's arrangement of *Paddy Works on the Railway*. Sheehan has been Skylark's most frequent composer-collaborator, and we love a bit of frivolity and fun in our concerts, this time with the serious help of tenor Erik Gustafson.



From Ireland, we will hop across the English Channel to France to offer a three-song set with French influence. Two of these pieces were featured on our album *La Vie en Rose* in 2022 with superstar pianist Joy Schreier. We could not be more thrilled to have Joy with us again to reprise these pieces and join us on several more. The middle song of the set, *Court Song* by Leonard Bernstein, was featured in our program *Once Upon a Time*, nominated for a GRAMMY® in 2020. It is one of several short choral pieces composed for a stage version of Jean Anouilh's play *The Lark*, based on the life of Joan of Arc.



## Le Ruisseau

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Text by Anonymous

*Au bord du clair ruisseau  
croît la fleur solitaire,  
Dont la corolle brille  
au milieu des roseaux ;  
Pensive, elle s'incline  
et son ombre légère  
Se berce mollement  
sur la moire des eaux.*

*Ô fleur, ô doux parfum,  
lui dit le flot qui passe,  
A mes tendres accents  
ta tristesse répond !  
A mon suave élan  
vient marier ta grâce.  
Laisse-moi t'entraîner  
vers l'océan profond !*

*Mais il l'entoure en vain  
de sa douce caresse,  
Cette flottante image  
aux incertains contours,  
Se dérobe au baiser  
humide qui l'opresse,  
Et le flot éploré  
tristement suit son cours!*

On the banks of the clear stream  
Grows the solitary flower,  
Whose petals glimmer  
In the midst of the reeds;  
Thoughtful, she bends  
And her light shadow  
Rocks itself languidly  
On the iridescence of the water.

O flower, o sweet perfume,  
Says the passing stream,  
To my tender words  
Your sadness responds!  
Come and join your grace  
To my suave flair.  
Let me carry you away  
To the deep ocean!

But he holds her in vain  
With his sweet caress.  
This floating image  
Of inexact contour  
Shies away from the humid  
Kiss that grips it,  
And the tearful brook  
Sadly follows its course!

## Court Song

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

*Fi, mari, de vostre amour.  
Cor j'ai ami,  
noble et de bel atour.  
Tout l'aime aussi.  
J'ai ami, noble et de bel amour.  
Ne sert de nuit,  
Sert de nuit et de jour,  
Tout l'aime aussi*

Fie, husband, on your love.  
for I have a lover!  
both noble and handsome,  
I love him fully.  
I have a lover, beautiful and noble!  
He serves me not only by night,  
but day and night,  
I love him fully.

## La vie en rose

Edith Piaf (1915-1963) & Louiguy (1916-1991)

Arr. Peter Mansfield

*Des yeux qui font baisser les miens,  
Un rire qui se perd sur sa bouche—  
Voilà le portrait sans retouche  
De l'homme auquel j'appartiens.*

*Quand il me prend dans ses bras,  
Il me parle tout bas,  
Je vois la vie en rose.  
Il me dit des mots d'amour,  
Des mots de tous les jours,  
Et ça me fait quelque chose.  
Il est entré dans mon cœur,  
Une part de bonheur  
Dont je connais la cause.  
C'est lui pour moi,  
Moi pour lui dans la vie,  
Il me l'a dit, l'a juré pour la vie.  
Et dès que je l'aperçois,  
Alors je sens en moi  
Mon cœur qui bat.*

*Des nuits d'amour à plus finir,  
Un grand bonheur qui prend sa place,  
Les ennuis, les chagrins s'effacent,  
Heureux, heureux à en mourir.*

*Quand il me prend dans ses bra...*

Eyes that gaze into mine,  
A smile that is lost on his lips—  
That is the unretouched portrait  
Of the man to whom I belong.

When he takes me in his arms  
And speaks softly to me,  
I see life in rosy hues.  
He tells me words of love,  
Words of every day,  
And in them I become something.  
He has entered my heart,  
A part of happiness  
Whereof I understand the reason.  
It's he for me and  
I for him, throughout life,  
He has told me, he has sworn to me, for life.  
And from the things that I sense,  
Now I can feel within me  
My heart that beats.

In endless nights of love,  
A great delight that comes about,  
The pains and bothers are banished,  
Happy, happy to die of love.

When he takes me in his arms...

*The Cloud-Capp'd Towers* is one of three Shakespeare songs composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams in the middle of the 20th century. It takes a monologue by Prospero in *The Tempest* and paints truly dreamlike textures with mystical chords and unexpected harmonic shifts. We used this piece as the prologue to our fairytale album *Once Upon a Time*, that featured the stories of *Snow White* and *The Little Mermaid*. Following this, Dana Whiteside and Joy Schreier will reprise their stunning performance of Michel Legrand's *What Are You Doing with the Rest of Your Life?* With no offense to the choir or any of our other fantastic soloists, I believe this was the finest performance captured on our album *La Vie en Rose*.

### The Cloud-Capp'd Towers

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Text from William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,  
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,  
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,  
Leave not a rack behind: We are such stuff  
As dreams are made on, and our little life  
Is rounded with a sleep.

### What are you doing the rest of your life?

Michel Legrand (1932-2019)

Text by Alan Bergman (1925-2025) and  
Marilyn Bergman (1928-2022)



### Otche Nash

Nicolay Kedrov (1871-1940)

Отче наш иже еси на небесех  
Да святится имя Твое,  
да придет царствие Твое,  
Да будет воля Твоя,  
яко на небеси и на земли.  
Хлеб наш насущный даждь нам днесь;  
И остави нам долги наша  
Якоже и мы оставляем должником нашим;  
И не введи нас во искушение  
Но избави нас от лукаваго. Аминь.

Our Father who art in Heaven  
Hallowed be Thy name  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
on Earth as it is in Heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil. Amen.

### She Used to Be Mine

Music and Lyrics by Sara Bareilles (b.1979)

The next set of three pieces represents one of the more unusual stylistic mash-ups we have attempted over the years, but I feel that there is a true emotional thread between them. We have two gorgeous little prayers from Russian exiles, sandwiched around the heart-wrenching ballad *She Used to Be Mine* from singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles, featured in the musical *Waitress*.

The prayer *Our Father* by Nicolay Kedrov has been a part of the Skylark repertoire for 10 years. Kedrov was a Russian musician who founded a vocal quartet. He fled Russia around the time of the revolution, and reformed his vocal quartet in western Europe to perform beautiful folk songs and sacred pieces from his homeland. This short and beautiful prayer was composed for that quartet. Skylark's recording of this piece has become our most streamed vocal track ever on Spotify.

Sergei Rachmaninoff similarly fled Russia at the same time as Kedrov, taking up residence in the United States for the rest of his life, railing against the violence of Stalin's regime. His short prayer *Tebe Poyem* comes from his *Liturgy of St. John*, a companion full-length masterwork to his *All-Night Vigil*, which has become one of Skylark's most important works.

Skylark soprano Sophie Amelkin is a gifted classical singer, choral singer, and theater performer, and you will hear her shine in her theatrical best on the gorgeous ballad by Bareilles.

### Tebe Poyem

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Тебе поем,  
Тебе благословим,  
Тебе благодарим, Господи,  
и молим Ти ся, Боже наш.

To thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.  
My God, I trust in thee.  
To thee, O Lord, do I lift my soul.  
My God, I trust in thee.

## Gimme Gimme

Jeanine Tesori (b.1961)

Lyrics by Dick Scanlan (b.1960)



Our final piece today is one that is profoundly meaningful to me personally. I first sang this gorgeous piece by Brahms in college choir with my wife Carolyn, longtime Skylark alto and Executive Director. Over a decade ago I went to a summer workshop at Westminster Choir College to hone my early conducting skills, and I was assigned this piece, which at the time I considered to be a wonderfully serendipitous coincidence. Years later, this would be the final piece of our concerts for the program *It's a Long Way* in the fall of 2021, our first in-person concerts in nearly a year and a half after the height of the pandemic. It also is on its face a miraculous composition, as I'll speak to in the concert. It is not a piece we can usually perform, as it requires an organ (or in this case, a piano), so when we have the chance to have a phenomenal keyboardist like Joy with us, I jump at the opportunity to share this piece.

—Matthew Guard, *Artistic Director*

Skylark alto Tynan Davis is also a gifted multidimensional artist, excelling on the concert stage, in cutting-edge music as part of Roomful of Teeth, and on the Broadway stage. She met her husband as part of the touring company for *The Phantom of the Opera*, an experience they shared for several years. Among her most electric performances is her rendition of *Gimme Gimme* from the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. No offense to Sutton Foster, but I think Tynan can give her a run for her money.

While it may perhaps feel a bit disjunct to juxtapose classical choral sacred works with Broadway hits and jazz standards, I think the stylistic range and versatility is one of the key things that defines who Skylark is. We think of ourselves not so much as a choir, but as an assembly and community of extremely talented vocal artists, who have the ability to excel across a range of genres. I think my job as Artistic Director is to bring the best of what our individuals can offer on their own into our concerts, not just the beauty of an ensemble sound.

## Geistliches Lied , Op. 30

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Text by Paul Flemming (1609-1640)

*Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren,  
sei stille, wie Gott es fügt,  
so sei vergnügt mein Wille!*

*Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen?  
Der Eine steht allem für,  
der gibt auch dir das Deine.*

*Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel,  
steh feste, was Gott beschleußt,  
das ist und heißt das Beste. Amen.*

Do not be sorrowful or regretful;  
Be calm, as God has ordained,  
and thus my will shall be content.

What do you want to worry about from day to day?  
There is One who stands above all  
who gives you, too, what is yours.

Only be steadfast in all you do,  
stand firm; what God has decided,  
that is and must be the best. Amen.

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## About the Artists



Described as “the cream of the American crop” (BBC Radio 3), Skylark is one of the world’s leading vocal ensembles, performing stunning programs that combine virtuosity and vision. Under Artistic Director Matthew Guard’s leadership since 2011, the ensemble has earned six GRAMMY® nominations in recent years for their innovative approach to choral performance.

Skylark’s artistic vision centers on creating thematic programs that weave together music, art, literature, and history into singular experiences. This approach has yielded acclaimed recordings like the twice GRAMMY®-nominated *Clear Voices in the Dark*, pairing Poulenc’s wartime masterpiece with American Civil War songs, hailed as “inspired” (Gramophone) and “spectacular” (Textura). The ensemble pioneered their innovative “story score” concept with the GRAMMY®-nominated *Once Upon a Time* (2020) and took it to new heights partnering with Tony Award-winning actress Christine Baranski for *A Christmas Carol*, released by Skylark and distributed in partnership with LSO Live (the London Symphony Orchestra).

Skylark maintains deep roots in Massachusetts and New York while performing at prestigious venues including the Morgan Library, Met Cloisters, and Hispanic Society Museum. Their 2018 international debut at London’s St. John’s Smith Square was declared “the highlight” of a festival by The Times of London. Through performances and recordings that consistently reach Billboard’s Classical Chart top 10, Skylark continues to expand audiences for vocal music while setting global standards for the choral arts.

### Board of Directors:

Christine Baranski	John MacKerron
Jennifer Decker	Carol McMullen
Mike Duffany	Grant Murray
Carolyn Guard	Fred Reichheld
Matthew Guard	Peter Van Demark

### Skylark Staff:

Matthew Guard, *Artistic Director*  
Carolyn Guard, *Executive Director*  
Sarah Moyer, *Ensemble Manager*  
Janet Stone, *Operations & Marketing Manager*  
Andrew Moreland, *House Manager*



**Matthew Guard**  
Artistic Director

GRAMMY®-nominated conductor Matthew Guard has established himself as one of the most innovative programmers in choral music today. Since founding Skylark in 2011, he has transformed it into one of the world's leading vocal ensembles, with six GRAMMY® nominations to date for Skylark's albums and international recognition from critics who praise his "catalyzing leadership" (WQXR) and "extraordinary breadth of programming" (Limelight).

Guard's artistic vision centers on creating thematic programs that weave together music, art, literature, and history into singular experiences. Rather than conventional concert programming, he exhaustively researches each project, often arranging or commissioning pieces to complete compelling narratives that reveal hidden connections across centuries and styles. This approach has yielded groundbreaking programs like *Clear Voices in the Dark*, which pairs Poulenc's wartime composition *Figure Humaine* with American Civil War songs, demonstrating how different cultures channel similar human emotions through contrasting musical languages.

Under Guard's leadership, Skylark's recordings have consistently reached Billboard's Classical Chart top 10, with performances at prestigious venues including the Morgan Library, Met Cloisters, and Hispanic Society Museum in New York City. The Times of London declared Skylark "the highlight" of a festival including some of the world's leading choirs.

Beyond conducting, Guard is an active arranger and editor of scores, often to complete his compelling concert narratives. He prepared a new critical edition of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* from the composer's autograph manuscript, which has been adopted by conductors of leading choral organizations including Westminster Choir College, Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Conspirare, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus.



**Joy Schreier**  
Piano

GRAMMY®-nominated pianist Joy Schreier is praised by Plácido Domingo as an "orchestra at the piano" and hailed by Opera News as a "superbly emotive pianist [that] wrings every nuance out." She is acclaimed as an "ideal support" at the piano, "providing much of the evening's musical nuance" (The Washington Post) and "perfection itself...the dream accompanist."

Schreier has been presented in recital at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, the White House, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and numerous recital halls throughout the country. Her concert engagements include a sold-out Carnegie Hall debut recital at Weill Recital Hall, a recital series with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard for the Marilyn Horne Foundation, performances with violinist Pinchas Zukerman and mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves. She has appeared with the Marilyn Horne Foundation, the Vocal Arts Society, Partners for the Arts, Philadelphia Lieder Society, and was a featured performer at the 2016 New Music Gathering.

An accomplished vocal coach, Schreier regularly collaborates with soprano Renée Fleming and coaches the Cafritz Young Artists of the Washington National Opera. She serves on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory, is Assistant Conductor of the Washington National Opera, as well as Assistant Conductor and Pianist of the Cathedral Choral Society (Washington National Cathedral).

Schreier received wide-spread critical acclaim for Confessions, her GRAMMY®-nominated 2020 CD release with soprano Laura Strickling. For that release, Schopera declared Schreier as "an indispensable accompanist. She is either preternaturally intuitive or has achieved perfect communication...perhaps a bit of both."

An avid chamber musician, Schreier performs as official pianist of the Washington International Voice Competition at the Kennedy Center. She received her Doctorate in Collaborative Piano at the Eastman School of Music under Dr. Jean Barr where she was the recipient of the Barbara Koeng Award for Excellence in Vocal Accompanying and the piano prize in the Jessie Kneisel German Lieder competition.



**Sophie Amelkin's** recent selected stage appearances include *The Office: A Musical Parody* Off-Broadway, her Carnegie Hall Solo Debut in Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, and an international arena tour singing with a GRAMMY®-winning rock band. NYC Musical Readings: *The Pretty Pants Bandit*, *Here I Am*. Regional Theater: *The Buddy Holly Story*. Appearances: Diana in *My Princess Diana*, recitals of Ladino and Yiddish art song, Despina (*Così fan tutte*), St. Teresa of Avila (*Four Saints in Three Acts*), Bianca (*La Rondine*), and Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*). When not singing, Sophie is exploring the city of New York with her beautiful beagle Lucy and her amazing partner Matt. [sophieamelkin.com](http://sophieamelkin.com)



**Clare Brussel** is an active artist, both as a soloist and choral singer. Praised for her "confident, clarion clear" singing (Fanfare Archive), Clare performs with ensembles such as Skylark, Ensemble Altera, Kinnara, Aeternum, Artefact Ensemble, Sound of Ages, Schola Cantorum of Boston, and more. Her concert work includes Haydn's *Missa Brevis in F*, Mozart's *Missa Brevis in D*, Bach *Cantatas 51 & 61*, Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and *C Minor Mass*. When she's not performing, Clare can be found reading epic fantasy novels, eating copious amounts of pasta, and enjoying the outdoors with her husband and two dogs.



Soprano **Sarah Moyer's** recent and upcoming solo work includes performances with Baroque Music Montana, Oklahoma Baroque Orchestra, Baroque Chamber Orchestra Colorado, Colorado Bach Ensemble, Boulder Bach Festival, Aspen Chamber Symphony, Bourbon Baroque, and Emmanuel Music, with American premieres by Melani and Nørgård, and world premieres by Harbison, Kallembach, Theofanidis, Runestad, and Cohen, among others. She regularly appears with Skylark and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. She also performs early twentieth-century popular music with her ukulele, and enjoys an active lifestyle with her husband, two sons, and their beautiful catahoula leopard. [sopranosarahmoyer.com](http://sopranosarahmoyer.com)

Desert Chorale. She also performs early twentieth-century popular music with her ukulele, and enjoys an active lifestyle with her husband, two sons, and their beautiful catahoula leopard. [sopranosarahmoyer.com](http://sopranosarahmoyer.com)



Soprano **Janet Stone's** first musical exploration was at age four, when she would sing "Row, row, row your boat" repetitively, at increasingly higher keys, to her parents' chagrin. She gained much of her musical education at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison, WI before earning her music degree. Janet performs with many ensembles, including Ensemble Altera, Boston Camerata, Upper Valley Baroque, and Zenith Ensemble. Solo highlights include Bach's *St. John Passion* – where she was praised for her "sparkling voice" (Boston Musical Intelligencer) and David Ibbett's *Mars Symphony*. Janet recently inherited the responsibility of knitting the official family Christmas stocking for her extended family. [janetstonesoprano.com](http://janetstonesoprano.com)



**Julia Soojin Cavallaro**, mezzo-soprano, is a professional singer and composer based in Boston. Praised by New York Classical Review for her "warm mezzo, perfect diction, and easy phrasing," she sings with leading choral ensembles across the United States, including Ensemble Altera, the Handel and Haydn Society, Skylark Ensemble, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, Upper Valley Baroque, and Yale Choral Artists. Her solo appearances this season include the Bach *Magnificat*, Cecilia McDowall

*Laudate*, and Vivaldi *Gloria*. Julia lives in Cambridge with her husband, Dan, and two cats, Bun and Gin. She enjoys reading graphic novels, watching films, and playing board games. [juliacavallaro.com](http://juliacavallaro.com)



Mezzo-soprano and contemporary vocalist **Carrie Cheron** defies the definition of genre. Praised for her "mystifying simplicity," and "unfeigned expression," Carrie performs as a soloist and ensemble musician with Emmanuel Music, Boston Baroque, Portland Bach Experience, Lorelei Ensemble, The Bach Project, Musicians of the Old Post Road, folk/baroque collective Floyds Row, and others. As an award-winning singer/songwriter, she has shared the stage with Sweet Honey In The Rock and Anais Mitchell. She is an Associate Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music, a native New Yorker, and enjoys mushroom foraging and trading puzzles with her local puzzle swap group. [carriecheron.com](http://carriecheron.com)

Mitchell. She is an Associate Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music, a native New Yorker, and enjoys mushroom foraging and trading puzzles with her local puzzle swap group. [carriecheron.com](http://carriecheron.com)



**Tynan Davis** is a dynamic and playful singer and teacher who hates labels and loves pushing boundaries. In 2016 she released her first solo album *TYNAN* - a collection of jazzy tunes you know and love from film, tv, and theater. In 2019 she won a GRAMMY® for Best Opera Recording with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. She toured North America for the better part of 3 years with *The Phantom of the Opera*, where she met her now-husband and danced 8 shows a week until she was 7.5 months pregnant. Currently she sings most frequently with Skylark and 2-time GRAMMY® Award winning Roomful of Teeth. @thetynandavis



**Eric Alatorre** is the bass best associated with Chanticleer, where he was a member for nearly 30 years, and is well known for his deep and rich voice. During his tenure with Chanticleer he saw the ensemble grow from a group known best in the United States to an internationally acclaimed ensemble. He has performed in many of the world's major concert venues on 6 continents, and made nearly 60 recordings which have garnered 3 GRAMMY® awards. Since then he continues to be engaged with many exceptional groups such as Seraphic Fire, the Leonids, Conspirare, the Thirteen, and Skylark.



**Paul D'Arcy** is in demand nationally as a soloist and chamber musician. Solo performances include the Austin Symphony, Tucson Symphony, American Classical Orchestra and chamber ensembles including Trinity Wall Street, True Concord, ensemble viii, Spire, Musica Sacra, Musica Viva, Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity, Conspirare, Skylark, and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. Paul has recorded two PBS specials, an NPR Tiny Desk concert, and over thirty albums including the 2015 GRAMMY®-winning *The Sacred Spirit of Russia* with Conspirare. Paul also enjoys making barrel-aged cocktails, cooking, and traveling.



**Stephan Griffin** is a versatile artist who serves as Director of the University Chorus at Brown University and Director of Music at All Saints Parish in Brookline, Massachusetts. He holds degrees in vocal and organ performance from Boston University (BM, DMA) and The University of Texas at Austin (MM). Commended for his "warm tone" by Early Music America and The Washington Post, Stephan has performed with ensembles including Skylark, Yale Consort, The Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and Odyssey Opera. Equally at home as an organist, he has performed across the United States and his organ playing has been featured on the nationally syndicated radio program *Pipedreams*.



Tenor **Erik Gustafson** is nationally active as an oratorio soloist and choral artist, and teaches voice at University of the South in Sewanee, TN. Erik has collaborated on two GRAMMY® Award-winning recordings with the Phoenix Chorale, and albums with Skylark, Bach Collegium San Diego, Conspirare, True Concord, Spire Chamber Ensemble, and Sounding Light. He performs regularly with Seraphic Fire and Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and is a founder of Quadrivium. Past solo highlights include Bach's *St. John Passion* with Arizona Bach Festival, Handel's *Messiah* with Tucson Symphony Orchestra, and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with Oregon Bach Festival. Erik is a connoisseur of craft beer.



Baritone **Sam Kreidenweis** enjoys a vibrant career as a soloist and ensemble musician, performing with Skylark Vocal Ensemble, Apollo's Fire, True Concord, Anúna, among others. He is a founding member of The Leonids, a Vancouver-based low-voice ensemble. Career highlights include being part of the original cast and recording of *Considering Matthew Shephard*, performing for the Japanese Royal Family in a revolutionary musical adaptation of the traditional Noh play, *At the Hawk's Well*, and appearing on the GRAMMY® Award-winning recording of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*. Offstage, Sam is a DEI practitioner, advocate for the arts, and a passionate sourdough baker.



**Nathan Hodgson** is a New York based tenor specializing in early music, chamber music, and choral singing and performs with ensembles across the nation. Recent performances include appearances in *Monochromatic Light (Afterlife)* at Park Avenue Armory with the Choir of Trinity Wall Street in, Handel's *Solomon* with the Clarion Choir and The English Concert, and with the American Soloist Ensemble in a joint tour with the National Chorus of Korea. A native of DFW, Nathan sang regularly with professional ensembles in the Dallas area before moving to New York City in 2015. Nathan's extramusical interests include hiking, travel, and spending time by the ocean.



Baritone **Dana Whiteside** has received critical acclaim for his voice of "noble clarity throughout powerful and resonant" (The Washington Post). His repertoire includes works like Haydn's *Creation*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and *Mass in B Minor*, as well as *Sea Symphony* by Ralph Vaughan Williams at the Kennedy Center. Recent appearances have included his Symphony Hall soloist debut with the Boston POPS Orchestra for Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carol*. When not making music, Dana provides leadership in arts administration/organizational development as President of Emmanuel Music and Governance Committee Chair for the Board of EMA.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of our volunteers and homestay hosts:

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# SKYLARK NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Your generosity empowers Skylark to bring our vision to life, creating programs of stunning vocal beauty that inspire, uplift, and connect communities through the transformative power of music.

## Our Mission

We **inspire** with the beauty of the human voice. Our concerts weave elements of place, art, literature, history, and music into **singular experiences** that ignite wonder and discovery.

## Our Vision

Our unexpected themes, surprising connections, and imaginative collaborations **draw new audiences** to the transcendent power of vocal music.

While **deeply rooted in our home communities** in Massachusetts and New York, our performances and recordings set **new global standards for vocal artistry** that resonate with audiences worldwide.

By blending individually virtuosic voices into an emotionally impactful and cohesive whole, Skylark creates a **powerful living example** of what can be achieved through **collective creativity and collaboration**.

## Ascendancy Circle

The **Ascendancy Circle** celebrates those whose lifetime contributions of **\$100,000 or more** have propelled Skylark to new heights. In the George Meredith poem "**The Lark Ascending**," famously set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, the skylark's flight symbolizes freedom, inspiration, and the power of art to transcend boundaries. Your generosity, like the lark, lifts Skylark's music, allowing us to soar, touch lives, and create art of unique and lasting beauty.

### Ascendancy Circle

Carolyn and Matthew Guard  
Carol C. McMullen and Sean Rush  
Michael McNaught  
*in memory of Lyn McNaught*  
Karen and Fred Reichheld

## The Skylark Endowment

We are pleased to announce the creation of the **Skylark Endowment**, made possible through an initial generous gift from Michael McNaught, in memory of Lyn McNaught. Managed by Fidelity Investments and overseen by an advisory committee of the Skylark Board, this endowment marks the beginning of a new chapter in Skylark's journey.

As we work to grow this fund, it will play a vital role in securing Skylark's future, supporting our mission to create and perform exceptional vocal programs for years to come.

## Planned Giving

Skylark is honored to accept **bequests and estate planning gifts**, ensuring that your legacy will continue to support the choir's artistic growth and community impact for generations to come.

By including Skylark in your will or trust, you help sustain our mission and elevate the power of music long into the future. Reach out to Executive Director Carolyn Guard [carolyn.guard@skylarkensemble.org](mailto:carolyn.guard@skylarkensemble.org) to learn more about planned giving options.



### Support Skylark Today!

Follow the QR code or visit [skylarkensemble.org/donate](https://skylarkensemble.org/donate)

# Artist Sponsorship Program

Last season we launched our Artist Sponsorship Program, a unique opportunity for supporters to sponsor the participation of individual artists in our concert season. Created by Skylark supporter Rick Gustafson, this program allows donors to support the exceptional talent and artistry of the musicians who bring depth and beauty to our performances. The artist sponsor program is actively seeking and adding sponsors for the 2025-2026 season. The listing in the program reflects gifts received by November 5th, 2025.

### Eric Alatorre

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### Erik Gustafson

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& Ellen Richstone

### Sarah Moyer

Sponsored by Rick Gustafson

### Dana Whiteside

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## Skylark's Family of Donors

The names listed below reflect gifts received between September 1, 2024 - November 14, 2025.

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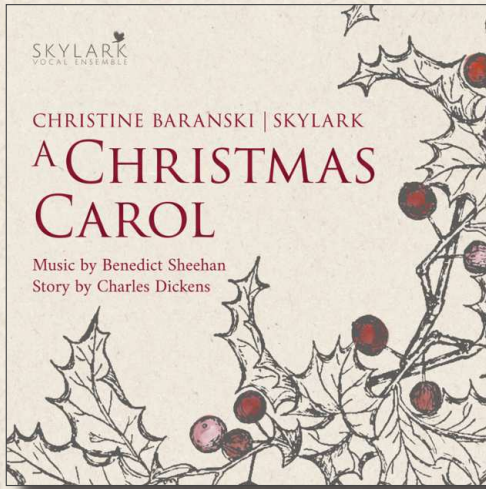
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New Album Coming December 5



# A CHRISTMAS CAROL WITH CHRISTINE BARANSKI

Skylark's *A Christmas Carol* brings Charles Dickens's beloved tale to life through Tony Award-winning actress Christine Baranski's narration and composer Benedict Sheehan's original choral score.

Released on Skylark's new label distributed by LSO Live, the album was inspired by the ensemble's sold-out 2024 performance at the Morgan Library & Museum.



Pre-order the CD and pre-save the album on your favorite streaming service! Follow the QR code or go to [skylarkensemble.org/albums](https://skylarkensemble.org/albums) to learn more.



## Skylark's 15th Anniversary Season

Subscribe to the remaining season and save! Go [skylarkensemble.org](https://skylarkensemble.org) to learn more.

### Illuminations

*Christmas by candlelight*



WEDNESDAY, December 10 | 7PM  
Corpus Christi Parish, Sandwich MA

THURSDAY, December 11 | 7PM  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Newburyport MA

FRIDAY, December 12 | 7PM  
Wellesley Village Church, Wellesley MA

SUNDAY, December 14, 2025 | 4PM  
Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford NY

### Re-Imaginings

*Instrumental Masterworks Transformed*



THURSDAY, April 23, 2026 | 7PM  
Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford NY

FRIDAY, April 24 | 7PM  
Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill MA

SATURDAY, April 25 | 4PM  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Newburyport MA

SUNDAY, April 26 | 3PM  
John Wesley UMC, Falmouth MA

### Seven

*Skylark's first GRAMMY®-nomination*



WEDNESDAY, March 11 | 7PM  
Corpus Christi Parish, Sandwich MA

FRIDAY, March 13 | 7PM  
Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill MA

SATURDAY, March 14 | 4PM  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Newburyport MA

### Special Events In NYC & Newport, RI

*Tickets to be sold by presenting organizations.*

**Illuminations**  
December 15  
The Met Cloisters

**A Christmas Carol  
with Christine Baranski**  
December 18  
The Morgan Library & Museum  
December 19  
The Breakers, Newport RI

**Seven**  
March 15  
St. Ignatius Loyola

**Path of Miracles**  
March 26-27  
The Hispanic Society Museum & Library

**Clear Voices in the Dark**  
May 30  
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church