



October 2018

Dear friends and supporters of the Vermont Choral Union:

It is my great pleasure and privilege to have been chosen as Music Director of the VCU. I had the pleasure of meeting its founder, Jim Chapman, before I moved to Vermont many years ago; and when I arrived he was unfailingly generous, supportive, and encouraging to this fledgling college professor. For that, I will always be grateful. It is an honor to carry on the great tradition that he established.

I tend to program with my ears and my heart. Sometimes the programs fall neatly into a thematic arrangement, sometimes not. The title of this fall's program appeared serendipitously. I knew that I wanted to celebrate the centennial of Leonard Bernstein's birth. While his choral output is not huge, much of it falls outside the generally *a cappella* purview of the VCU. The *Warm-Up* with which the concerts will begin typifies Bernstein's unique ability to construct highly sophisticated, complex pieces that, at the same time, have something of an easy, breezy feel. The other Bernstein piece, which will bookend the program, is *A Choral Quilt*, a compilation and arrangement, by Jack Gottlieb, of tunes from various Bernstein works. With this, we are able to take a tour through Bernstein's output while leaving space on the program for other composers.

We will also present works by Renaissance composers Giovanni Maria Nanino and Luca Marenzio; Romantic works by Brahms, Verdi, François-Auguste Gevaert, and Albert Kranz; and a turn-of-the-century unpublished work by Charles Martin Loeffler (we are only the second group to perform it).

We will perform 20<sup>th</sup>-century works by Benjamin Britten and Karl Jenkins, and 21<sup>st</sup>-century pieces by Clair McElfresh and the VCU's very own Maarten van Ryckevorsel.

While some of the music has a direct connection to the winter holiday season, other works do not. As I endeavored to find a program title, an impromptu after-rehearsal conversation brought forth a remark from one of our members that the program is "A Choral Quilt". There it was all along!

We hope that you will be able to join us for one (or both!) of our concerts on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the St. Albans Museum or Saturday, Dec. 8 at the United Methodist Church in Burlington. Additionally, a financial contribution will help us to continue to present these concerts and will support our mission of sharing the boundless wealth of the choral literature with our audiences and with choral singers who desire to engage in making music at the highest level possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jablow, Music Director

## The Vermont Choral Union

**Yes!** I would like to make a tax-deductible gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**I prefer that my gift remain anonymous**

Your donation will be recognized in the 2018-2019 concert programs unless you choose to remain anonymous.

Certain levels of giving can be recognized with complimentary ticket vouchers that can be used at any VCU concert.

- |                                     |                |  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend     | \$ 1-49        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor      | \$ 50-99       | one complimentary concert ticket voucher   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron     | \$ 100-249     | two complimentary concert ticket vouchers  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$ 250-499     | four complimentary concert ticket vouchers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor    | \$ 500 or more | four complimentary concert ticket vouchers |

**Yes! I would like to receive \_\_\_\_\_ ticket vouchers.**

**No ticket vouchers, thank you.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks may be made payable to **The Vermont Choral Union, P.O. Box 5233, Essex Junction, VT 05453.** Please provide your name and address so we may acknowledge your gift in writing. Contributions by eligible donors are authorized for IBM & other Matching Grants Programs.*

The Vermont Choral Union welcomes contributions to sustain its mission of promoting choral music and enriching the cultural life of the community through the regular presentation of public concerts while providing its members with various opportunities to enhance their musical knowledge and skills.

***As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.***