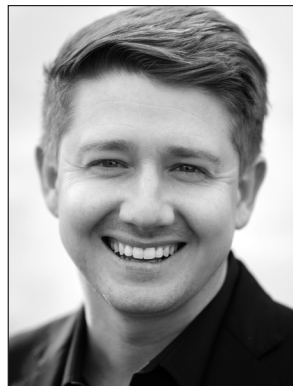


Welcome to our 41st Season!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the opening concert of Choral Arts Rochester's 41st season proper – **Choir and Crown: The Great British Tradition**. We are thrilled to begin another year of inspired music-making with both of our ensembles: the long-established Choral Arts Ensemble and our vibrant Choral Arts Treble Singers, now entering their second year. Together, they represent the breadth of artistry and community that define Choral Arts Rochester.



After our sold-out *Cabaret* and powerful collaborative with the Minnesota Valley Women's Choir, tonight's program opens our regular season celebrating the legacy of British choral music—from its sacred and historical roots to its modern expressions of creativity and emotional depth. We begin with Gustav Holst's *Hymns from the Rig Veda, Set 3*, a radiant fusion of East and West inspired by Holst's study of Sanskrit and Indian philosophy. We are honored to welcome harpist Lynn Aspnes, University of Michigan Professor Emerita, whose artistry brings Holst's ethereal textures to life.

We continue with Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Mass in G Minor*, a masterwork that marries medieval modality with rich, impressionistic harmonies. Vaughan Williams called this *Mass* an expression of faith and of the human spirit—and our performance, featuring an exceptional solo quartet drawn from within our own ranks (Tessa Pierce, Marissa Hansen, Jay Puffer, and Jason Sinnwell), highlights the rare strength and skill present in this community of volunteer musicians. It is uncommon for a non-professional chorus to mount a work of such technical and expressive difficulty with soloists from within its membership—an achievement we are deeply proud to share with you.

Complementing these masterworks are choral gems from across the British Isles—music by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Cecilia McDowall, Bob Chilcott, Ken Burton, Stef Conner, Elton John, and others—that reveal the immense diversity of Britain's vocal tradition.

We are especially delighted to conclude with a world premiere: *Little Blue* by Jacob Collier, arranged for choir by James Deignan (yes, my brother!). Collier's music, with its perfect blend of harmonic daring and

emotional warmth, finds new voice in this choral adaptation. In *Little Blue*, Collier's gentle lyric and melody remind us how music in its purest form can connect hearts across boundaries of genre and generation.

Both of our choirs have been working tirelessly to prepare this concert, embodying not just musical excellence but the spirit of collaboration, dedication, and joy that has defined Choral Arts for over four decades. As we enter this new season together, we thank you for your presence, your generosity, and your shared belief in the power of choral music to enrich lives and strengthen community.

With gratitude and anticipation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ryan Deignan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and last name "Deignan" clearly distinguishable.

Ryan Deignan
Artistic Director

Choir & Crown

The Great British Tradition

Nov. 1 & 2, 2025 – Christ United Methodist Church

CHORAL ARTS TREBLE SINGERS

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Traditional English
Arr. John Rutter (1974)

Hymns from the Rig Veda

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

I. Hymn to the Dawn

III. Hymn to the Vena

II. Hymn to the Waters

IV. Hymn of the Travellers

Lynne Aspnes, Harp

CHORAL ARTS ENSEMBLE

Mass in G Minor

R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

I. Kyrie

IV. Sanctus – Benedictus

II. Gloria

V. Agnus Dei

III. Credo

Tessa Pierce, Soprano; Marissa Hansen, Mezzo-Soprano
Jay Puffer, Tenor; Jason Sinnwell, Baritone

- INTERMISSION -

CHORAL ARTS TREBLE SINGERS

O Splendidissima Gemma

Stef Conner (2016)

J. Michael Bostwick, Clarinet

Our Roots

Bob Chilcott (2021)

Goodbye Yellow Brick Road

Bernie Taupin & Elton John (1973)
Arr. Kerry Marsh (2017)

Amanda Bennarroch, Soloist

CHORAL ARTS ENSEMBLE

By the Lone Sea Shore

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

Regina Caeli

Cecilia McDowall (2004)

A Prayer

Ken Burton (2021)

Little Blue

Jacob Collier (2024)
Arr. James Deignan (2025)

Eric Stinson, Soloist; Ben Gateno, Guitar