

The Teaneck Community Chorus  
Steven Bell, Artistic Director



# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Continuing Our 25th Year Celebration

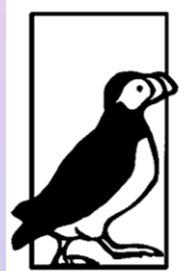
Music To Feed Your Heart and Soul



Sunday • May 19 • 3PM • Teaneck High School



*This program has been made possible in part by a grant administered by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.*







## Greetings from the Chorus President

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Teaneck Community Chorus's 2024 Spring concert, "A Place at the Table." We will be singing music related to food and beverages. We hope this will awaken your appetite and you will join us for a reception following the concert.

Steve Bell, our multi talented artistic director, will be retiring after 25 years of conducting the Chorus. This will be his last concert conducting the TCC. Although we will miss his stellar artistic vision and leadership, we will remember all that he has taught us and given us.

We are very excited to introduce Teresa Gotanco as our new artistic director. She joined the Chorus 2 years ago as our piano accompanist and has demonstrated her talent not only as an accomplished pianist but has filled in as Director when needed.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have generously supported the Teaneck Community Chorus. Your commitment has made it possible for us to continue to deliver high-quality musical performances for our community. We appreciate the support of the Teaneck Board of Education, the Bergen County Arts Council and The Puffin Foundation.

We hope you enjoy this concert and feel free to sing along with any tunes you know. We will be inviting our TCC alumni to join us on stage for our last number, A Place at the Table, composed by Loren Daniels, the will accompany us on the piano.

Warm regards,

***Anita Bluestone***

President

Teaneck Community Chorus





# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

## PROGRAM ORDER

Food, Glorious Food ( <i>Oliver</i> ).....	Lionel Bart, arr. Bell
Shoo Fly Pie and Apple Pan Dowdy.....	Gallop/Wood, arr. Shaw
<i>Patrick Montesano &amp; Gail Smith, solos</i>	
Rozhinkes mit Mandlen.....	Avrohom Goldfaden, arr. Jacobson
<i>Fern Wilensky, solo</i>	
<i>Justin Lu, violin</i>	
Abbondanza! ( <i>The Most Happy Fella</i> ).....	Frank Loesser
Famine Song.....	VIDA, arr. Culloton
<i>Barbara Kinter &amp; Nadege Stretz, solos</i>	
Snack Peddler's Song.....	Tyzen Hsiao
Tourdion.....	Anonymous, arr. P. Attaignant
The Frim Fram Sauce.....	Ricardel/Evans, arr. Gilpin
Stoned Soul Picnic.....	Laura Nyro, arr. Bell
American Pie.....	Don McLean
<i>Arielle Pfefer, Teaneck Teen Idol, 2024</i>	
If Music Be the Food of Love.....	Dickau/Heveningham
A Real Nice Clambake ( <i>Carousel</i> ).....	Rodgers & Hammerstein
Java Jive.....	Drake/Oakland, arr. Shaw
Pastures of Plenty.....	Woody Guthrie, arr. Tasner
Sukiyaki Song.....	Kyu Sakamoto
Chili Con Carne.....	Anders Edenroth
A Place at the Table.....	Loren Daniels



# Artistic Director – Steven Bell

Steven L. Bell has been the Artistic Director of the Teaneck Community Chorus since 2000. He recently retired as the Director of Vocal Music at Teaneck High School where he conducted the Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir, and award-winning Madrigal Singers. He also served as the Instructional Leader of the Teaneck High School Department of Fine and Performing Arts.



He taught AP Music Theory and was the Director and Musical Director of the school's annual musical. He had also taught Choral Methods at Montclair State University. Previously he taught music at Leonia Middle School, the Dwight School in Manhattan, and elementary and junior high schools in Teaneck. In his role as Musical Director, Mr. Bell has been nominated four times as Outstanding High School Musical Director by the Papermill Playhouse's Rising Star Awards and has won this distinction in 2004 for his production of Company at Fair Lawn High School.





# Chorus Pianist – Teresa-Marie Gotanco



Born and raised in New Jersey, Teresa-Marie Gotanco is a music educator, director, and performer based in north New Jersey. She is currently in her first year building the music program at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey.

Prior to her involvement at Oak Knoll, Ms. Gotanco enjoyed an extensive career as an accomplished pianist, traveling around the

New York/New Jersey region to play for various churches, choral performances, and musicals. Among the musicals she has played for are *Once on this Island*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (for which she also served as Choirmaster and Assistant Musical Director). With a passion for voice science, vocal health, and authentic expression in performance, she has led choirs, taught voice classes, and provided vocal coaching to clients from all walks of life.

Ms. Gotanco has also worked as a professional vocalist since 2018, when she made her professional singing debut as a soprano concertist and soloist with the Princeton Baroque Chorus. In 2019, she was featured as part of a septet at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Mr. John Rutter, and during that summer, she had the privilege of performing at the Apollo Theater in Syros, Greece, during the Festival of the Aegean. Ms. Gotanco holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Rutgers University.





# Teaneck Teen Idol 2024

## Arielle Pfefer

is our reigning Teaneck Teen Idol winner for 2024! She is 16 and a junior at Frisch High School in Paramus. She has vocal training and plays piano. She is also the president of her school choir.

She portrayed Anne in an original musical production of the Diary of Anne Frank. Her favorite singer is Lana Del Rey. While she enjoys singing, she hopes to be a doctor one day. She wants to thank her mother for being her biggest supporter!





# Juliette Bowen

Juliette Bowen is a Sign Language Interpreter, who has won the hearts of the Teaneck Community Chorus audiences for over ten years. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hofstra University, a Master's of Education in School Counseling, Herbert H. Lehman College, Bronx, NY and a Master's of Education in General and Special Education, Touro College, New York. She is fluent in Spanish, English, and American Sign Language.



She currently works with multi-handicapped, autistic, blind, emotionally disturbed, deaf, and severely learning-disabled students in NYC. Her first experience with the deaf and hard of hearing was when she was approached to add these students to her caseload while counseling in Valhalla, NY. Juliette did not shrink back but willingly accepted the challenge and decided to provide equal access to these students by learning their language. She began working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in 1994 and later counseled and taught at the Lexington School for the Deaf, Queens, NY. She currently interprets for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Clinton Hills, Brooklyn, as well as Trinity Baptist Church in the Bronx.



# Teaneck Community Chorus Singers

**Artistic Director**

**Steven Bell**

**Pianist**

**Teresa-Marie Cotanco**

**Sopranos**

**Sue Akiska**

**Barbara Kinter**

**Maria Adorno**

**Chi Mei Lu**

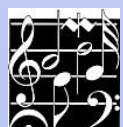
**Ilene Gilbert**

**Diamond Seraphin**

**Monica Hodges**

**Cail Smith**

**Fern Wilensky**





# Teaneck Community Chorus Singers

## Altos

**Anita Bluestone**

**Ellen Ray**

**Carole Boutry**

**Katy Sastre**

**Cathy Cavallone**

**Nadège Stretz**

**Judy Mars**

**Eileen White**

## Tenors

**Jack Aaker**

**Wes Matsui**

**Adina Hirschmann**

**Patrick Montesano**

**Justin Lu**

## Basses

**Jeff Pieper**

**Michel Kinter**





# Patrons

## Founder's Circle

(\$1000+)

Elena Matsui

Wes & Mary Matsui

Bo Bo Poultry Market

## Director's Circle

(\$500-\$999)

Jack & Margaret Aaker

Gary Ostroff & Ellen Ray

Anita Bluestone & David Lyon

Steven Bell

## Benefactors

(\$250-\$499)

Juliette Bowen

Monica Schulze-Hodges

Gina Mannix & Patrick Montesano





# Patrons

## Benefactors (\$250-\$499)

Michel Kinter

Chi Mei Lu

Nadege Stretz

Fern Wilensky

Katy Sastre

Gail Smith





# Patrons

## Friends

(\$100-\$249)

Suzanne & Serhat Akiska

Judith Bellini

Mia Best

Carole Boutry

Janice & Ed Dabney

Pamela DeFeo

Rhonda Eisenberg

Diana Fainberg

Debbie Feldman

Jean & Paul Friedman

Ginger Gordon

Susie Hoffman & Mel Grizer

Jacqueline Kates

Theodora Lacey

Justin Lu

Judy Mars

Susie Hoffman & Mel Grizer

Barrie Peterson

Jeffrey and Andrea Pieper

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Roberta & Kari Walker

Eileen & Jim White

Evelyn Wolff & Chuck Ebert



# Patrons

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*Thank you to our anonymous donors of all levels, we appreciate your support!*





# TCC Supporters

## Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Arts



The Puffin Foundation, Ltd.



Program Notes  
By Barrie Peterson

# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

*Food, Glorious Food (Oliver)* is one of the many popular songs from the musical “Oliver”, book, lyrics and music by Lionel Bart, arranged by our own Steve Bell. Since premiering in 1960, it received a Tony in 1963 for Best Song, the first given to a Brit. The 1968 film version won several Oscars. Andrew Lloyd Webber called it “the father of the modern British musical”. This song reflects a fantasy, a moment of joy of the orphans in the cruel workhouse where they are only given gruel to eat. The play is wildly popular with schools, partly due to the large cast, giving many students of various level of song, dance and acting a chance, guaranteeing a big audience. The origin is Charles Dicken’s 1838 *Oliver Twist*, a grimly realistic and merciless satire of the extreme poverty underneath the London merchant, banker and royals. Bart suffered debt and substance abuse within a decade of his triumph and died in 1999 at age 69.

*Shoo Fly Pie and Apple Pan Dowdy* moves us right to dessert. It features jazz scat solos by Patrick Montesano and Gail Smith. Arranged by Kirby Shaw, it was written by Sammy Gallop and Guy Wood in 1945; however, since the Civil War earlier versions abounded. The molasses-based Pennsylvania Dutch shoo fly pie was named by Panamanians exclaiming to get rid of flies. The apple pan dowdy is a biscuit variation of apple pie; “dowdy” means an ordinary person. Dinah Shore made it #4 on Billboard for 1946 and later Ella Fitzgerald with the Guy Lombardo orchestra covered it. The Pennsylvania Dutch are a communal farming and craft movement based on radical Protestantism. Many waves of religious refugees from Germany make up the broad term. About 300,000 in North America speak their language. The Amish and Mennonite sects are known for their pacifism, honesty, environmentally sound practices, piety and humanitarian work. Branches exist in Indiana and Iowa.





## Program Notes (continued)

# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

*Rozhinkes mit Mandlen* Yiddish lullaby written by Avrohom Golfaden (1840-1908), Ukrainian born founder of the modern Jewish theatre. The child might start their work trading raisins and almonds, but progress to a “merchant of all grains”. This arrangement is by Joshua Jacobson, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Northeastern U.

*In the Temple, in a corner of a room,  
Sits the widowed daughter of Zion, alone.*

*She rocks her only son, Yidele, to sleep*

*With a sweet lullaby. Ai-lu-lu-lu*

*Under Yidele's cradle stands a small white goat.*

*The goat travelled to sell his wares*

*This will be Yidele's calling, too.*

*Trading in raisins and almonds.*

*In that song, my child, lie many wonders,*

*When you will at some time*

*Be scattered throughout the world*

*A merchant of all grains,*

*Earning from your trade a lot of money.*

*And when you become rich, Yidele,*

*Remind yourself of this lullaby.*

*Raisins and almonds.*

*This will be your calling.*

*You'll be a merchant of all wares,*

*But for now, sleep, Yidele, sleep.*

*Abbondanza! (The Most Happy Fella)* by Frank Loesser from one of his five Broadway musicals. Born in NYC in 1910, he had no musical training and died in 1969. *Abbondanza* is from the Italian for abundance and also a sweet apple.

*The fruit, the cake. Abundance for every belly*

*Flowers, cheese. Abundance full of fragrance*

*Fans, gifts. Abundance – How much elegance*

*Light, let's go! Abundance – What an extravagance.*





## Program Notes (continued)

# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

*Famine Song* by VIDA was arranged by Matthew Culloton, born 1976 and a Minnesota choral director. We proudly present two of our members as soloists: Barbara Kinter and Nadege Stretz. This poignant plea for relief from an African drought is focused on the mother as provider who can't provide, but can weave baskets from rushes. You'll hear it begin to rain as the song ends.

*Snack Peddler's Song* was written by Tyzen Hsiao born in Taiwan in 1938, exiled to the US and then, after liberalization, returned to become "the Rachmaninoff of Taiwan".

*When you think of star-fruit drink  
And watermelon iced tea,  
It freshens up your entire being.  
And if it were merely Seven-Up and Coca-Cola,  
You would end up with a flavor vastly different.*

*When you think of star-fruit drink  
And watermelon iced tea,  
Come and have a glass, and yet another glass!*

*The Taipei Yuan Huang's Circle,  
Hsinchu pork meatballs, Changhua meatballs,  
And Mr. Mouse's Noodles;  
Taichung goose meat, Tainan Tan-tsu noodles,  
Kaohsiung seafood, and Pingtung rice pudding.*

*When you think of star-fruit soup  
And watermelon iced tea,  
It fills you with energy.  
But if it were merely Seven-Up and Coca-Cola,  
The taste is incomparable.  
Come and have a glass, and yet another glass!*





## Program Notes (continued)

# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

*Tourdion* has no known writer but was collected by Pierre Attaignant (1494-1552), a leading printer of Renaissance music in France. The name of this five-step dance is from the French for “twist”.

*When I drink clear wine*

*Friend everything turns, turns, turns, turns.*

*So now I drink Anjou or Arbois.*

*Let's sing and drink, let's make war on this bottle,*

*Let's sing and drink, friends, let's drink!*

*Good wine has made us cheerful,*

*Let's sing, let's forget our sorrows, let's sing.*

*Let's drink well, then let's drink  
Let us wage war on this bottle.*

*Let's drink well, then let's drink  
Friend, let us toast, joyfully sing.*

*Let's drink well, let's drink my friends,  
Let's toast, let's drink, empty our glasses.*

*Let's drink well, let's drink my friends,  
Let's toast, let's drink merrily, let's sing.*

*By eating a fatty ham, Let us wage war on this bottle!*

*The Frim Fram Sauce* music by Joe Ricardel born in NYC 1911; died 2002; lyrics by Redd Evans (1912-1972). This arrangement is by Greg Gilpin of Indianapolis. The Nat King Cole Trio introduced it in 1945 and called “saucy swing” with “frim fram” being slang for nonsense.



## Program Notes (continued)

# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

*Stoned Soul Picnic* helped make writer Laura Nyro famous. Born in the Bronx in 1947, her family spent summers at Catskill resorts where her father was a trumpeter. After her death in 1997, she was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012. Steve Bell did the arrangement for today's performance.

*American Pie* Don McLean's mysterious masterpiece from the sixties which has nothing to do with food. Teaneck Teen Idol 2024 Arielle Pfefer is featured with Madonna's version from 2000. McLean's 1971 creation has been called a folk rock cultural touchstone and, at over 8 minutes was, until a recent Taylor Swift hit, the longest pop song ever. Born in 1945 and raised in New Rochelle, he was inspired by The Weavers. Pete Seeger became a mentor and he served on the Clearwater.

*If Music Be The Food of Love* by David Dickau, a retired choral director living in Idaho, adapted from a Henry Purcell (1659-1695) and Henry Heveningham (1651-1700) poem, borrowed from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

*A Real Nice Clambake (Carousel)* by the incomparable duo of Richard Rogers (1902-1979) and Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960). They contributed to the golden age of American musical theatre with shows like The King and I, Oklahoma!, South Pacific and Carousel. The duo won 34 Tonys, 15 Oscars, 2 Pulitzers and 2 Grammys.





## Program Notes (continued)

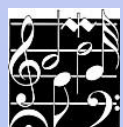
# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

*Jave Jive* by Milton Drake (1912-2006) and Ben Oakland (1907-1979), who scored 300 films. The Ink Spots made this famous in 1940. It contains many slang expressions, including “cut a rug” or dancing.

*Pastures of Plenty* by America’s conscience and troubadour Woody Guthrie. He juxtaposes the enjoyment of fruits and vegetables with the misery of the agricultural workers who grow and harvest this bounty. The workers, invisible to the middle and upper classes, “come with the dust and go with the wind.” They are both, like Woody, refugees from the dustbowl as well as migrants but “will fight till we win”, foreshadowing the United Farm Workers led by Caesar Chavez. Woody wrote hundreds of songs, was a communist party fellow traveler and inspired the entire American folk music movement, starting with Pete Seeger.

*Sukiyaki Song* by Kyu Sakamoto, who was born in Japan in 1941. It was released in 1961 and hit the top of the charts in the US two years later. “Sukiyaki” is a hot pot with beef. The song has had several versions, including the name “Ue o Muite Aruko” or “I Look Up As I Walk”, so as not to let tears drop. It is a metaphor for the emerging post World War II expansion of Japan onto the world stage. The song sold 13 million copies internationally. The 2020 Olympics closing ceremony featured his song. Sakamoto died in 1985 in Japan in the worst air crash in history.

*I look up while I walk So the tears won't fall  
Remembering those spring days  
But tonight I'm all alone  
I look up while I walk  
Counting the stars with teary eyes*





## Program Notes (continued)

# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

### *Sukiyaki Song (continued)*

*Remembering those summer days  
But tonight I'm all alone  
Happiness lies beyond the clouds  
Happiness lies above the sky  
I look up while I walk So the tears won't fall  
I cry while I walk  
For I am alone tonight  
Remembering those autumn days  
But tonight I'm all alone  
Sadness hides in the shadow of the stars  
Sadness hides in the shadow of the moon  
I look up while I walk So the tears won't fall  
My heart is filled with sorrow  
For tonight I am alone*

*Chili Con Carne* by Anders Edenroth who was born and trained musically in Stockholm. From 1989 he has participated in The Real Group, a chorus with 20 albums and performances in 40 countries. He has credited Stevie Wonder as an inspiration. This song is literally a recipe. The title translates to “hot pepper with meat.”

*A Place at the Table* was not commissioned by the Teaneck Community Chorus, but has become our theme song. Written by Loren Daniels in 2002, it expresses our values of community, justice and sharing using gospel, jazz and folk style music. The Castle Chorus in Edinburgh, Scotland has added it to their repertoire. Past chorus members are invited to join in this finale with Loren at the piano and Steve conducting his last TCC number, a perfect way to end our celebration!





# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

## Guest Musicians

Singer	Arielle Pfefer
Drummer	Larry Silverman
Violinist	Justin Lu
Pianist	Loren Daniels

## Concert Production

Production Manager	Jean Friedman
Graphic Design	Margaret Aaker
Web Master	Laura Downs-Buma Monica Hodges
Publicity Chairman	Jack Aaker
Program Design	Gail Smith
Program Notes	Barrie Peterson
THS Production Leader	Jamie Boyle
TCC Music Committee Chairman	Wes Matsui
TCC Membership Chairman	Sue Akiska Jeri Kadison
TCC Fundraising Chairman	Ellen Ray Jean Friedman
Reception Coordination	Sue Akiska



## Acknowledgements

This program has been made possible in part by a grant administered by the **Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs** from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

**We thank the Puffin Foundation Ltd.** for their continuing support and partnership with the Teaneck Community Chorus. The foundation's partnership has been critical to our mission of diversity and inclusion in all of our programs.

Thank you to **Jamie Boyle**, for leading the production crew at Teaneck High School. Thanks to the supportive students running lights and audio.

Thank you, **Jean Friedman** for serving as our outstanding Production Manager!

Thank you to the members of the **Teaneck Board of Education** and **Superintendent, Dr. Andre Spencer**, for continuing our long-standing partnership to increase engagement within Teaneck.





Your copy of our TCC cookbook is available to download from our website. While you are visiting our website, please make a donation so that we can continue our mission of engaging all communities and uniting through good music, good causes and of course, good food!

*[Click here to download your copy!](#)*





The  Teaneck Community Chorus

thanks you for sharing this day with us!



Updates and information about TCC  
will be posted on:

[www.teaneckcommunitychorus.org](http://www.teaneckcommunitychorus.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/Teaneck-Community-Chorus-105307001058>

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