

The Teaneck Community Chorus

Steven Bell, Artistic Director • Daniel Stocker, Pianist

Proudly Presents Our In-Person Spring Concert:



The Rain is
Over and Gone

Sunday • June 12th, 2022 • 3 PM
Teaneck High School Auditorium
100 Elizabeth Avenue
Teaneck • New Jersey



This program has been sponsored in part by a grant from the Puffin Foundation, Limited.



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Support us at: www.teaneckcommunitychorus.org

The Puffin Foundation, Ltd. salutes

The Teaneck Community Chorus

for sharing your music with the community
and helping to bring people together



The Puffin Foundation, Ltd. & Puffin Cultural Forum

20 Puffin Way Teaneck, NJ

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Message from the President



Welcome to our first in person concert since the beginning of the pandemic. The Teaneck Community Chorus is thrilled to return to Teaneck High School after a two-year absence. Our concert, *The Rain is over and Gone*, expresses our hope for the future. As we remember all that was lost to COVID, we honor our Teaneck first responders. Now more than ever, as music makers, we have an imperative to offer a place and time for reflection, diversion and inspiration.

We especially remember Perry Rosenstein, who with his wife Gladys founded The Puffin Foundation and The Puffin Cultural Forum in Teaneck. They generously supported the Chorus for many years as well as several other community organizations in Teaneck. Sadly, Perry succumbed to COVID early in the pandemic. We remember him for his commitment to the arts and the struggle for human rights. Our community is a better place because of Perry and Gladys. We pay tribute to the incredible Ukrainian people in their struggles. Our hearts are also heavy as we remember those who were recently lost due to gun violence in Buffalo and Uvalde.

Choral groups have taken a particularly hard hit during the pandemic. Choral singing is about community and the creation of beauty. It was a difficult but wise decision to offer virtual concerts for the last year and a half. When we returned in person, we rehearsed with masks and have all been up to date with vaccines and boosters.

We are grateful to our Board, our wonderful Choral members, and our donors and patrons who have remained loyal to us. Although we will be wearing masks as we perform, please imagine you can see our smiles. Our concert today includes music that will uplift, inspire and offer solace at a time when it is sorely needed!

JUNE 2022 PROGRAM ORDER

Teaneck Community Chorus
and Teaneck High School Choral Students

In the Dark TimesMelanie Golding

Together.....Flanders / Adler, arr. Ishiguri

Choirs Won't Be Silenced.....Chris Maunu

O Music.....David L. Brunner

Mark Serkin, cello

Bridge Over Troubled Water.....Paul Simo, arr. Hayes

Give Us Hope.....Jim Papoulis, arr. Núñez

Ukrainian National Anthem.....Verbytsky / Chubynsky

In Remembrance.....Eleanor Daley

Breaths.....Ysaye M. Barnwell

Prayer Among Friends.....Daniel / Sedek

Pittman Daniels Quartet

Approaching.....Loren Daniels

With a Little Help From My Friends.....Lennon / McCartney, arr. Daniels

Combined Ensembles

Song for Our People.....Khan / Vaughan / Ernst / Sadownick / Allen

Reggie Bennett, solo

The Rain is Over and Gone.....Paul Halley

Gail Smith, solo

What a Wonderful World.....Weiss / Thiele, arr. Brymer

The audience is invited to sing along!

Concert Introduction

By Wes Matsui

Welcome to The Rain Is Over and Gone, an umbrella theme wide enough to capture the poignant moments we experienced through two years of isolation. Today we salute you, our courageous and loyal audience for venturing out to this concert seeking refuge from that pouring rain. We dedicate this concert not only to those who are here, but to our first responders, including the staff at Holy Name Hospital, for all their dedication and hard work throughout the pandemic.

We begin today by acknowledging *In the Dark Times* as we process down the aisles to gather and celebrate being *Together* with you, our beloved community.

The “rain” spits and spews those aerosolized viruses making singing perilous. But with safety protocols in place (our masks), we assure you *Choirs Won't Be Silenced*.

The life-affirming music, is vibrating in our hearts, imploring for empathy “to see with our ears and hear with our hearts.” *O Music*, help us through the storm.

To Teaneck's first responders, those working in the bunkers, protecting and saving us from the devastating deluge of Covid; we honor you and your families. You are our *Bridge Over Troubled Water*.

Gathering in this sacred place of learning, we acknowledge the rain of bullets befalling students across the land. The children implore the adults to “listen to the questions I have, see what we need,” and, *Give Us Hope*.

Concert Introduction continued:

The daggers from the sky pour on Ukraine, so we stand in solidarity with the people as we sing the *Ukrainian National Anthem*.

To Perry Rosenstein, our benefactor and founder of the Puffin Foundation and to the countless others lost to Covid, we offer the requiem, *In Remembrance*.

We step back from the immediate here and now, and honor our ancestor's *Breaths*, embedded in all of nature. And then, we honor mother earth in a *Prayer Among Friends*.

You are in for a treat as the Pittman/Daniels Quartet presents *Approaching* and the classic Beatles tune *With a Little Help from our Friends*.

With the rains pouring on communities of color, *Song for Our People* and our soloist Reggie Bennett ask, "What have you done with your freedom?"

Gail Smith, soloist, scales and soars to the top of that musical mountain in *The Rain Is Over and Gone*, our most fervent aspiration.

And in the end, we dream of a cleansing and renewing rain. So please add your collective voices as we wish for and sing *What a Wonderful World*.

We celebrate with Teaneck High School choir members and their Vocal Music Director Linea Rondael, with the Pittman/Daniels Quartet, cellist Mark Serkin, pianist Daniel Stocker, and the members of the Teaneck Community Chorus led by our Artistic Director, Steven Bell.

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 – Daniel Stocker



Daniel Stocker joined the Teaneck Community Chorus as its pianist in its 2019-2020 season. He is currently on staff at Porch Light Studio, Stage and Schools (Glen Rock, NJ) as music director where he teaches private voice lessons and music directs a number of musical theater productions. His favorite credits at Porch Light include, *Into the Woods*, *Matilda*, and *The 57th National Mathlete Sum-It*. Daniel is also a member of the music ministry at St. Mary's R.C. Church in Pompton Lakes, NJ.

The virtual TCC season saw Daniel take on additional responsibilities within the chorus, including audio editing and mixing a number of songs in *Bagpipes, Banjos and Songs* (Winter 2021) and *The Arc of Justice* (Spring 2021).

He earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at Boston University under the instruction of Dr. Linda Jiorle-Nagy and graduated cum laude in May 2019.

Cellist- Mark Serkin



Mark Serkin is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at Rutgers University where he studies with cellist Jonathan Spitz, Principal Cello of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Mark has performed at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, and various other venues. He received his Bachelor's and Masters' degrees with honors in cello performance at Mannes School of Music, studying with Barbara

Stein Mallow and Jeffrey Zeigler. Mark has participated in many festivals such as Meadowmount School of Music, Kinhaven Music School, NY Philharmonic Biennial, Manchester Music Festival, Taconic Music, Luzerne Music Center, and the National Orchestra Institute and Festival, where he recorded for the Naxos label in 2015 and 2016. Mark has performed in solo and chamber master classes for artists such as

Steven Isserlis, Sharon Robinson, Timothy Eddy, Robert DeMaine, Jonathan Spitz, Peter Stumpf, Julia Lichten, Gloria dePasquale, Kronos Quartet, Horszowski Trio, Catalyst Quartet, and the Miró Quartet. His main mentors include Hans Jørgen Jensen, Vladimir Panteleyev, Todd Phillips and Nancy Wilson.

Pittman / Daniels Quartet



The Pittman / Daniels Quartet - is a jazz ensemble based out of Teaneck, NJ. It consists of Reggie Pittman on Trumpet, Loren Daniels on keyboards, Belden Bullock on acoustic base, and Jonathan Peretz on drums. The band has collaborated on two CDs. "*Point A to Point A*" was the first with the second CD titled "*Smilessence*".

Reggie Pittman - (trumpet) is a professional musician with over 30 years experience in the music business. He works in the music fields of performance, recording and producing. Reggie's love for music began in Cleveland Ohio where, at a young age, he played the trumpet and developed his musical talent. As his love for the performing arts developed Reggie decided to further his knowledge in music. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and his Masters in Music Technology

Reggie has his own bands that specialize in jazz, rhythm and blues, and gospel. Reggie plays trumpet, piano and sings. In the studio, Reggie is a performer, audio engineer and/or producer.

Reggie Pittman has performed with many famous names such as; Sarah Vaughan, Lester Bowie, Branford Marsalis, Jaimoe, Natalie Cole, Queen Latifa, Clay Aiken, Curtis Fuller, Eddie Palmieri, Hank Jones, Aretha Franklin, Diahanne Carroll, The Allman Brothers, Louis Bellson, Mitzi Gaynor, Joe Williams, Gladys Knight, The O'Jays, The Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus, The Pointer Sisters, Queen, Babyface, the Temptations and more...

Reggie has been the trumpet soloist with The Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra (in 2012), and the Ohio Chamber Orchestra. In 2011, Reggie was a featured soloist with the Duke Ellington Orchestra at Carnegie Hall.

Reggie currently works with the Allman Brother's drummer, Jaimoe. The band is called Jaimoe's Jasssz Band. Their new CD is Renaissance Man.

Jonathon Peretz – (drums) has been playing drums professionally for more than 20 years and is based out of the New York City area. Originally from Ann Arbor/Detroit area, he studied music at Oakland University in Michigan, studying with late Detroit drumming greats Jimmy Allen and Gene Stewarts, as well as Gary Chaffe, and Latin percussion master Johnny Almendra. He has honed his craft working closely with an impressive array of musical masters, including the late trumpet giants Maynard Ferguson, Freddie Hubbard, vocalist Jean Carne, Bob James, Tim Ries, David Mann, guitarist Jimi Tunnell, singer Ben E. King and The Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre to name a few.

Loren Daniels – (keyboard) is a pianist/composer who brings a multiplicity of musical experiences to bear on every project he joins. As a player, he's performed with many notable jazz practitioners including Milt Jackson, Rufus Reid, Makanda (Ken) McIntyre, Warren Smith, Eliot Zigmund and Jon Faddis.

As a bandleader/musical director, Loren has nurtured and developed recording and performance projects for the Pittman/Daniels Quartet, vocalist Macy Chen, bassist August Riska and singer/songwriter Deborah Thurlow. Loren's compositions have been performed by large and small jazz ensembles, choral ensembles, in collaboration with choreographers, for theatrical pieces and educational musicals and for television soundtracks.

As an educator, he taught music for many years in Teaneck, NJ public schools and continues to teach music privately. Loren created Jazz In The Spirit (a jazz worship series) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Teaneck, NJ and continues as its artist in residence and music coordinator. He studied music at Hofstra University, Berklee College of Music, SUNY at Old Westbury (B.S. in Music/Education) and NYU (M.A. in Music Education).

Loren is currently performing with the Reggie Pittman/Loren Daniels Quartet, the Bradford Hayes Quartet, One More Once Big Band, the August Riska Trio and vocalists Macy Chen, Cynthia Soriano and Deborah Thurlow. He will soon be releasing a solo CD of Beatle vocal jazz re-imaginings called "Ticket To Ride".

Belden Bullock – (bass guitar and bass viol) Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Bullock learned to play bass guitar before picking up stand-up bass in the early 1970s. He studied at Berklee College of Music from 1977 to 1981 and played in the 1980s with George Adams, Roy Haynes, Andrew Hill, and Ahmad Jamal. He worked in a number of small groups in the 1990s, including Ralph Peterson Jr's Fo'Tet, the Spirit of Life Ensemble and James Weidman's Taja quartet. Other associations in the 1990s included Oliver Lake, Abdullah Ibrahim, Greg Osby, Jay Hoggard, Donald Harrison, Kevin Eubanks, and James Spaulding.

Teaneck Community Chorus

Artistic Director
Steven Bell

Pianist
Daniel Stocker

Singers

Jack Aaker

Maria Adorno

Suzanne Akiska

Reggie Bennett

Anita Bluestone

Diana Fainberg

Ilene Gilbert

Monica Hodges

Cynthia Jacobs

Barbara Kinter

Michel Kinter

Judy Mars

Wes Matsui

Patrick Montesano

Renan Peterman

Ellen Ray

Linea Rondael

Gail Smith

Nadege Stretz

Eileen White

Fern Wilensky

Teaneck High School Singers

Azaria Best

Amanda Darius

Illana Rodriguez

Tyson Sanders

Gabrielle Shields

Nate White



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Wes & Mary Matsui

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Steven Bell

Barrie Peterson

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Monica Hodges

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Program Notes

By Barrie Peterson

In The Dark Times was written by Melanie Golding who was inspired by words of Brecht. A member of the Natural Voices Network in the UK, she shared it with Caro Overy, director of Edinburgh's Castle Chorus in which TCC member Barrie Peterson participates.

Together: Keiji Ishiguri vocal arrangement; Julie Flanders words; Emil Adler arrangement. "Here we are together, even if we are all alone" is a feeling we all had during two years of virtual meetings.

Choirs Won't Be Silenced by Chris Maurer was commissioned in 2020 by scores of high school choirs and is "dedicated to all choral singers and their directors during Covid-19". Choir Directors, with singers basically spitting at them, have been sorely tested during the pandemic.

*Light began to emerge from the darkness
Through struggle and strife, choirs found a way
Through song, we will carry on
Sana animam meam (Heal my soul)*

○ Words: Kahlil Gibran; music: David Brunner.

*Thou hast taught us to see with our ears,
And hear with our hearts.*

Bridge Over Troubled Waters words and music by Paul Simon 1970, SATB version arranged by Mark Hayes. One of the most recorded songs of all time, including by Elvis and the Royal Philharmonic, Roberta Flack, Johnny Cash, Aretha Franklin, Willie Nelson, Whitney Houston, Celtic Women, and Bon Jovi. The TCC first performed it in the spring 2014.

Program Notes (continued)

Give Us Hope: - from Sounds of a Better World = small voices calling, music by Jim Papoulis. arranged by Francisco Nunez. The lyrics by Papoulis, Leo Schaff, and Regine Urbach challenge adults to rise up and protect children in this dark and violent time. Papoulis is a NYC based composer and leader of children's choirs. The quiet and subdued opening gradually builds to a dramatic musical statement with hand claps and solos. He honors and connects classical and traditional forms with non-western sounds, believing music can heal, educate, and celebrate the lives of children.

*Give us hope, my voice is calling
Can you see, look in my eyes
Can you feel, my hand is reaching
Give us hope and we'll show you the way*

Ukrainian National Anthem: lyrics by Pavlo Chubynsky;
music by Mykhailo Verbytsky

*Ukraine has not yet perished,
nor her glory, nor her freedom.
Upon us, fellow Ukrainians,
fate shall smile once more.
Our enemies shall vanish,
like the dew in the sun.
And we too shall rule, comrades
in a free land of our own.*

Chorus:

*Souls and bodies we'll lay down,
all for our freedom.
And we'll show that we, comrades,
are of the Cossack nation!*

Program Notes (continued)

In Remembrance: from Sounds of a Better World = small voices calling, music by Jim Papoulis. arranged by Francisco Nunez. The lyrics by Papoulis, Leo Schaff, and Regine Urbach challenge adults to rise up and protect children in this dark and violent time. Papoulis is a NYC based composer and leader of children's choirs. The quiet and subdued opening gradually builds to a dramatic musical statement with hand claps and solos. He honors and connects classical and traditional forms with non-western sounds, believing music can heal, educate, and celebrate the lives of children.

Breaths: adapted by Ysaye M. Barnwell of Sweet Honey and the Rock from a poem by Birago Diop in 1980. In our 20 years, we have sung her songs several times.

Tis the ancestors' breath

When the fire's voice is heard

Tis the ancestors' breath

In the voice of the waters

The dead are not under the earth

Prayer Among Friends: was composed by Martin Sedek in 2018. Born 1985 in Germany, a graduate of Berklee College of Music and Rutgers Ph.D , he is now on Montclair State University faculty and leader of several choruses in our state. Based on poem by John Daniel from "Of Earth" 2012 Lost Horse Press.

Approaching: by Loren Daniels, long time Teaneck area teacher, musician, composer and performer. He has composed several of our pieces including our favorite "Place at the Table."

With a Little Help From My Friends:

Song For Our People Blues in F: Music by Mustapha Khan, Kenny

Program Notes (continued)

Song For Our People (Blues in F): Music by Mustapha Khan, Kenny Vaughan, Charite Ernst, Danny Sadownick, Trevor Allen. This song was the subject of a documentary shown at the Teaneck International Film Festival. The original rapper is a Teaneck resident. Our soloist is Reggie Bennett.

*None of us are truly free until we all get to be
What have you done with your freedom?*

Rain Is Over and Gone: by Paul Halley 1998 inspired by the “Song of Songs”. Pianist for the Paul Winter Consort, Halley also composed several songs for the Unitarian Universalist Association Hymnal. Teaneck High students join in and Gail Smith solos.

*Sing of life, love and laughter,
Sing of freedom to live in peace,
And there shall be no more crying
Only joys that never cease*

What a Wonderful World: was presented at our last in person concert in January of 2020 and we return to this uplifting piece to end our separation and begin our return to in person concerts. Louis Armstrong made this famous in the late sixties. Words and music by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele; arranged by Mark A. Brymer

Holy Name is proud
to support the Teaneck
Community Chorus.



We applaud your
commitment to bringing
the healing power of
music to our community.

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Teaneck Community Chorus



Thank you for sharing this day with us!

Updates and information about TCC
will be posted on

www.teaneckcommunitychorus.org

And

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