



Why Not a Star?

Music Advancement
Program Chorus

Juilliard



Photo by Claudio Papapietro

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The Juilliard School
presents

Why Not a Star?

Presented by the Music Advancement Program (MAP) Chorus

Saturday, December 11, 2021, 7pm
Abyssinian Baptist Church

Adrian Rodriguez, MAP Chorus Director
Joseph Parrish, Bass-Baritone, MAP Chorus Fellow
Emma Luyendijk, Piano
Daniel Golden, Organ
Will Hopkins and Oliver Xu, Percussion

SAMUEL BARBER
(1910–81)
JAMES AGEE
(1909–55)

Sure on This Shining Night (1938)
Joseph Parrish, Bass-Baritone (MM '22)

MARGARET GOODING
(1922–2003)

Why Not a Star
Marisol Rivera, parent of Naamia Rivera (MAP '22)

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS
(c. 1571–1621)
AMANDA MCBROOM
(b. 1947)

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose (2007, arr. Craig Hella Johnson)
Athena Allen, Soprano (MAP '19, Pre-College '22)

TRADITIONAL XHOSA

Ndikhokhele Bawo (2016), arr. Mzwandile Mabuza
Trinity Williamson, Soprano (MAP '23)

TRADITIONAL CAROL

Silent Night

DENISE LEVERTOV
(1923–97)

For the New Year, 1981
Nicole Balsirow (MAP '20, BCJ Exchange '24)

Program continues

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL	Keep Your Lamps! (2003), arr. André J. Thomas
EMILE DESAMOURS (b. 1941)	Noël Ayisyen (A Haitian Noël) (1996)
TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL	Over My Head from <i>Music Down in My Soul</i> (2002) arr. Moses Hogan Joseph Parrish, Bass-Baritone (MM '22)
TRADITIONAL CAROL	Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
MAYA ANGELOU (1928–2014)	<i>Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem</i> Rev. Itang Young, Associate Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church
JOAN SZYMKO (b. 1957)	It Takes a Village (2000) Joseph Parrish, Bass-Baritone (MM '22)
TRADITIONAL CAROL	Joy to the World

MAP is generously supported through an endowed gift in memory of Carl K. Heyman. Additional support is provided by the Condon Family Fund, the Family of Gregory M. Cardi, the Llewellyn Family Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Music Advancement Program extends its gratitude to Pastor Calvin O. Butts III and the Abyssinian Baptist Church for hosting this performance.

Juilliard is committed to the diversity of our community and to fostering an environment that is inclusive, supportive, and welcoming to all. For information on our equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging efforts, and to see Juilliard's land acknowledgement statement, please visit our site at Juilliard.edu.

About This Program

Here we are as in olden days ...

From my computer, typing this note weeks before this concert, it was hard to fathom that we would all be in a room together, hearing these incredible young musicians lifting their voices—and our spirits—up in song. I, like you, have waited an entire pandemic for this moment, to be together in community circled around these young people. There have already been so many magical moments in rehearsals, and I am looking forward to more still, especially tonight as we share our gifts with you.

We need a little Christmas ...

This concert could not come at a better time. With the disruptions and uncertainty, pain, and loss of the last year and a half, I know that I have needed the “stuff” of Christmas. A little music. A little laughter. And tonight, a little singing ringing through the rafters. While joy is a companion during this season, Christmastime also carries with it a message of hope against challenge (of which we have had our fair share), and that hope is ours to share. Seeing hope in others helps us find hope in ourselves, so we look for it in any place we can—in a story, a star, a child.

Why not a star?

But what’s so amazing that keeps us stargazing, hoping, wishing? We know that the stars once guided people to navigate the seas, to find new lands, and as the story goes, to find the way towards hope and love in the life of a child who was wrapped in swaddling clothing. In that way, stargazing is almost practical, a part of life. My hope is that tonight—through community and song—we recognize that we all need stars to guide us. Some shine bright in the night sky and others shine bright in the faces of our neighbors, and still, others are found shining within our own hearts. We just need to look and, like the shepherds, find wonder.

—Adrian O. Rodriguez, MAP Chorus Director

Texts/Translations

Sure on This Shining Night (1938)

Music by Samuel Barber

Text by James Agee

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.

Why Not a Star

By Margaret Gooding

They told me that when Jesus was born a star appeared in the heavens
above the place where the young child lay.

When I was very young I had no trouble believing wondrous things; I
believed in the star.

It was a wonderful miracle, part of a long ago story, foretelling an uncommon
life.

They told me a super nova appeared in the heavens in its dying burst of fire.

When I was older and believed in science and reason I believed the story
of the star explained.

But I found that I was unwilling to give up the star, fitting symbol for the
birth of one whose uncommon life has been long remembered.

The star explained became the star understood, for Jesus, for Buddha,
for Zarathustra.

Why not a star? Some bright star shines somewhere in the heavens each
time a child is born.

Who knows what it may foretell?

Who knows what uncommon life may yet again unfold, if we but give
it a chance?

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose (2007)

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

*From "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (c. 1609) by Michael Praetorius and
"The Rose" (1977) by Amanda McBroom*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung

Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed;

Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.

Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed;

It came, a Flow'ret bright,

Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need;

Amid the cold of winter

I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed.

When half-spent was the night.

*It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;
It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance;
It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give;
And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.*

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,

When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long;

Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.

And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong;

Texts/Translations (Continued)

True Man, yet very God,

Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow;

From sin and death He saves us

Lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.

And lightens ev'ry load.

Ndikhokhele Bawo (2016)

arr. Mzwandile Mabuza .

*Ndikhokhele Bawo
Ndikhokhele meli wami
Ezintsizini zalomhlaba bawo,
Bawo ndiyabonga
ngoba wene usandigcinile.
Uhlal' uhlel' eduze kwami,
Bawo ndiyabonga
ngoba wena usandigcinile.*

Guide me, O Lord,
Guide me, O Great Redeemer
Through the troubles of this world.
Lord, I thank you
for watching over me thus far.
You are forever by my side,
Lord, I thank you
for watching over me thus far.

Silent Night

All are invited to join us in singing, whether seated or standing.

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
2. No - che de paz, no - che de a - mor, To - do duer - me en de - rre - dor,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon Vir - gin Moth - er and Child, Ho - ly In - fant so
En - tre sus as - stros que es - par - cen su luz, Be - lla, a - nun - cian - do al ni -
Ra - dian beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re -

ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
ñi - to Je - sús, Bri - lla la es - tre - lla de paz, Bri - lla la es - tre - lla de paz.
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht*, Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; English tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Spanish tr. by Federico Fliedner, 1845-1901
Tune: STILLE NACHT, 66 89 66; Franz X. Gruber, 1797-1863

For the New Year, 1981

By Denise Levertov

I have a small grain of hope—
one small crystal that gleams
clear colors out of transparency.
I need more.
I break off a fragment
to send you.
Please take
this grain of a grain of hope
so that mine won't shrink.
Please share your fragment
so that yours will grow.
Only so, by division,
will hope increase,
like a clump of irises, which will cease to flower
unless you distribute
the clustered roots, unlikely source—
clumsy and earth-covered—
of grace.

Keep Your Lamps! (2003)

arr. André J. Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary.
Children, don't get weary.
Children, don't get weary
Til your work is done.

Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
lo, the morning soon is breaking,
lo, the morning soon is breaking,
for the time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

Noël Ayisyen (A Haitian Noël) (1996)

By Emile Desamours

Sé té nan Betléèm
Yon ti kwen nan Judé,
Mari té f'on gason
A minui n'on étab.
Sé té pitit Bon Dyé,
É sé té wa dè wa.
Dép'i'm tou piti kon sa
Mwen konn istwa sa.

It was in Bethlehem,
A little corner of Judea,
That Mary had a baby boy
At midnight in a stable.
He was the Son of God
And he was the King of Kings.
Since I was a little child
I've known this story.

Té genyen twa wa maj
Ki swiv yon gwo zétwal,
Kado yo nan men yo
Pou yo vin' adoré'l.
É yo té byen sézi
Lè yo wè ti Jézi
Kouché nan mitan yon bèf
Avèrè yon bourik.

There were three wise kings
Who followed a great star
With gifts in their hands
To come worship the child.
And they were quite amazed
When they saw the little Jesus
Lying between a cow
And a donkey.

A la koté ou tandé, mézanmi wo!
Noël sé yon istwa ki byen étranj!
Jézi, pitit Bon Dyé, wa dè wa,
Ki pa genyen bèso,
Li kouché sou pay pami zannimo
... O! O!

Hear that, my friends!
Noel is a strange story indeed!
Jesus, Son of God, King of Kings,
Doesn't even have a cradle.
He sleeps on the straw among
animals ... Oh my!

Yo rélé'l admirab,
Konséyé, Dyé puisan,
Sé Pè étènèl tou
É li sé prins la pè.
Ni bèjé, ni wa maj
Adoré'l a jénou.
Yo ba li kado
Sélon sa yo té genyen.

They called him Wonderful,
Counselor, Mighty God;
The Everlasting Father, too:
And he was the Prince of Peace.
Both shepherds and wisemen
Bowed down to worship him.
They gave him gifts
According to what they had.

Lè sa si nou té la (tan-man-nam), Fok nou ta fè yon jès (tan-man-nam), Nou ta ofri mizik (ba-dap-pi) An bon jan ayisyen (tchi-ki-tchi). Nou tap poté tanbou, Manniboula, banbou, tcha-tcha, Ak bèl kout bandjo Nou ta chamé ti Jézi	Back then, if we'd been there (ta-ma-na), We'd have done something fitting (ta-ma-na), We'd have offered him music (ba-dap-peem) Of the best Haitian kind (chee-kee-chee). We'd have brought drums, Manniboulas, vaccins, maracas; With fine banjo strums We'd have charmed little Jesus.
Jézi, Jézi, ti Jézi nou, A la renmen, nou renmen wou. Ou poté la pè pou tout noun, È wou vin' établi la gras.	Jesus, Jesus, our little Jesus, We love you greatly. You bring peace to all people And you offer us grace.
Noèl, Noèl, Noèl, viv Noèl!	Noel, Noel, long live Noel!

Over My Head from *Music Down in My Soul* (2002)

arr. Moses Hogan

I hear music in the air.
I can feel it in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head I hear singing in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.

Texts/Translations (Continued)

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

All are invited to join us in singing, whether seated or standing.



1. Hark the her - ald an - gels sing. "Glo - ry to the new - born King!
2. Christ by high - est heav'n a - dored. Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled"
Late in time be - hold Him come. Off - spring of a Vir - gin's womb
Light and life to all He brings. Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise. Join the tri - umph of the skies.
Veiled in flesh the God - head see. Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Mild He lays His glo - ry by. Born that man no more may die.

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem"
Pleased as man with man to dwell. Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el
Born to raise the sons of earth. Born to give them sec - ond birth

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Tune: MENDELSSOHN, 77 77 D with refrain; Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem

By Maya Angelou

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.

Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We worry God.
Are you there? Are you there really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.

Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you, to stay a while with us.
So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

About the Director

Adrian O. Rodriguez is chorus director of the Music Advancement Program and educational events coordinator for the Office of Community Engagement at Juilliard. He brings a decade of experience as a public school choir director and music teacher in Houston. Equally at home with adult choruses, Rodriguez also led community choral music ensembles throughout Texas, including as director of the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra Chorus, associate conductor of International Voices Houston multicultural choir, and director of music for Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church. He has presented lectures and workshops at Michigan State University, the University of Houston, the Texas Music Educators Association, and the Texas Choral Directors Association. He is chair of culturally responsive pedagogies for the National Association of Music Education-Texas, where his work focuses on widening the circle of community and inclusion in music and music education. Rodriguez is a doctoral candidate at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he studies how cultural capital shapes music institutions, communities, and leaders. He received his Bachelor of Music in music education from the University of Houston and his Master of Music Education in choral pedagogy from the Westminster Choir College (Princeton).



MAP Chorus

Adrian O. Rodriguez, *Director*

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Anaya Torrence
Jacob Treat
Sander Versteede
Emma Walker
Jada Walker
Luke Walker
Zara Walker
Law Watford
Asiah Wharton

Ohm Williams
Trinity Williamson
Elena Zhuang

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Nicole Balsirow (MAP '20,
BCJ Exchange '24)
Marisol Rivera
Rev. Itang Young

Soloists

Athena Allen (MAP '19,
Pre-College, '21)
*Joseph Parrish** (MM '22)
Trinity Williamson (MAP '23)

Piano

Emma Luyendijk

Organ

Daniel Golden
(Pre-College '23)

Percussion

*Will Hopkins**
*Oliver Xu**

*MAP Fellow

*Italics indicate a Juilliard
College Division student*

About Juilliard's Preparatory Division

The cornerstones of Juilliard's Preparatory Division are two Saturday music programs, Juilliard Pre-College and the Music Advancement Program. The Preparatory Division is led by Dean Weston Sprott.

Juilliard Pre-College

One of the foremost music preparatory programs in the world, Juilliard Pre-College offers a comprehensive conservatory-style music program for students ages 8 to 18 who exhibit the talent, potential, and ambition to pursue music study at the college level. The selective program includes instruction in a chosen major, academic study of music, and solo and ensemble performances. Recognizing the importance of early development and discipline in the music field, the program provides a caring, collaborative, and challenging atmosphere where artistic gifts and technical skills can flourish. Approximately 300 students are enrolled in Pre-College.

Music Advancement Program

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, MAP is a Saturday program for intermediate and advanced music students from New York City's five boroughs and the tristate area who demonstrate a commitment to artistic excellence. The program actively seeks students from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in the classical music field and is committed to enrolling the most talented and deserving students regardless of their financial background. Through a rigorous curriculum, performance opportunities, and guidance from an accomplished faculty, MAP students gain the necessary skills to pursue advanced music studies while developing their talents as artists, leaders, and global citizens. Approximately 70 students are enrolled in MAP, which is led by Artistic Director Anthony McGill. MAP is generously supported through an endowed gift in memory of Carl K. Heyman.

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