ABOUT TALIESIN'S HILLSIDE THEATER

HILLSIDE THEATER. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902 for his aunts who operated and owned a progressive coed boarding school on the family property in Wyoming Valley, Wisconsin, the theater was originally planned as the gymnasium for the school complex at the Hillside location. It was constructed in 1903 and used as a gymnasium until 1915 when the school closed. It remained unoccupied until 1932 when Wright, founding the Taliesin Fellowship, redesigned it as a theater for dance, music and drama, all a vital part of life at Taliesin. It was destroyed by fire in 1952, and in 1953 reconstructed by Wright as the theater we know today, a beautiful and important platform from which to display and share the creative life of Taliesin and its residents. The Theater is cherished for its intimate setting, clear acoustics, and stunning architecture and is used as a treasured venue for concerts, lectures, plays, and other cultural presentations.

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THE PROGRAM

August 6, 2017, 2:30 pm August 7, 2017, 7:30 pm

A Celebration of Frank Lloyd Wright's 150th Birthday Anniversary The Taliesin Community Chorus Effi Casey, Director

A collaboration between Rural Musicians Forum and Taliesin Preservation, Inc.

Fanfare for the Common Man Aaron Copland
Past Life Melodies Sarah Hopkins
Ev'ry time I feel de Spiritarr. H. T. Burleigh
Hymn to Nature (from opera Shining Brow)Daron A. Hagen
Song of PeaceJean Sibelius
That Which is NearScott Gendel (World Premier Performance)
Sanctus (from Mass in B minor)J. S. Bach
Dona Nobis Pacem (from Mass in B minor)J. S. Bach

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional funding is provided by grants from the Spring Green Arts & Crafts Fair Committee and Spring Green Area Arts Coalition.

Special gifts were provided for the concert and reception by Sidney Robinson, Susan Lockhart, Sandra Shane-DuBow, Linda Marquardt, and Dan Baumann.

SELECTED TEXTS

Hymn to Nature (from opera Shining Brow) Music by Daron A. Hagen, Words by Paul Muldoon

She sweeps us off our feet and dances round and round, Then flings us back, exhausted, on the muddy ground. We lie on the muddy ground and take her in our arms. She's nowhere to be found amongst her thousand forms.

She takes a thousand forms, she's always in one place. She takes us in her arms, she holds us in a fast embrace. What seemed like flesh and blood has vanished without a trace. Hither and thither we're pulled and yet we haven't strayed.

For everything that's built, something is destroyed. That something is destroyed is itself a grand illusion, For everything that's destroyed, m something is built.

The door is shut. We draw the bolt. We mount the winding stair. With every step we melt back into earth and air. All somehow integral; Earth and air and fire and water We are all of us in nature; She is within us.

That Which is Near Music by Scott Gendel, Words by H. Th. Wijdeveld

Out of the distance comes that which is near. Out of rest comes that which is in motion. Trees rise up from the field, Mountains rise from the valley.

All is a picture of growth and unity, Eternally changing forms manifest the same wonderful secret. The same wonderful secret of Nature. All is a picture of growth and unity.

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Grant Support

Spring Green Area Arts Coalition Spring Green Arts & Crafts Fair

TALIESIN COMMUNITY CHORUS

<u>Sopranos</u>

Eliana Baccas Kathryn Bencriscutto Jeannie Campbell Julianne Carlson Nancy Cullen Leslie Damaso Sara Flesch Julie Kardatzke Terry Kerr Xinxuan Liu Missy Mack Morgan Mack Ashley McHugh Sandra Shane-DuBow Emily Wicker Lang Yue

<u>Altos</u>

Lorraine Etchell Margie Ferstl Mary Gottschalk Katie Green Susan Greenwood Jane Leaf Stephanie Kernik Jo Preston Livija Renner Katrina Rudolph Charlotte Mitchell Smith Jan Swenson Melinda Van Slyke Cheryl Wittmann

<u>Tenors</u>

Diane Aitken Cindy Lu Coop Jeff David Conor Denison Harlan Ferstl Paul Kardatzke Dundee McNair Abraham Rivera Judy Symon Hanson

<u>Basses</u>

Earl Barnes Jack Carlson Erik Flesch Tom Forseth Roger Haugh Robert Humphries Carl Leaf Sven Leaf Christopher Lock Derek Miller Jason Silverman Mike Smith Jan Sobotka Ron Towle Bob Willoughby Paul Wysocki

ORCHESTRA

Trumpets: Andy Sgrignoli, Catherine Wilcoxson, Amy Heil, Mary Jo Wilson Horns: John Wunderlin, Rebecca Schroeder, Gina Wentling, Mary Jo Wilson Trombones: Matt Heil, Jason Marshall, Aaron Maes Tuba: Griffin James Timpani: Kelly Steiner Bass Drum: Ashley McHugh Tam-tam: Jeff David Flutes: April Kath, Laura Pinsonneault, Neeta Patel Oboe: Andy Olson Violins: Maureen McCarty, Caroline Hamblen Violas: Katrin Talbot, John Sagos Celli: Eric Miller, Linda Marquardt

Piano: Bob Willoughby



Effi Casey, Director

Born and raised in a family of artists and musicians in Germany, Effi Casey has been active as a violinist and artist all her life. Effi met and joined the Taliesin Fellowship in Europe in 1966. Effi and her husband, the late Taliesin architect Tom Casey, spent several years in Iran where Tom supervised architectural projects designed by Taliesin Architects. Together with their daughter Golnar, they rejoined the Taliesin Fellowship in Arizona and Wisconsin in 1978.

Participating in all creative activities at Taliesin, in the mid-1980s, Effi took over the leadership of the Taliesin Chorus and Chamber Ensemble which continued to be an integral part of Fellowship life as it had since its inception in 1932. Known for choosing challenging choral repertoire, the Taliesin Chorus over the years included more and more singers from the surrounding communities. Effi's primary interest is to introduce audiences to exquisite musical works that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience. Effi considers herself privileged to draw on the amazing talent in this community and to inspire singers and instrumentalists to explore together extraordinary works (in their original language!) as an enrichment of life.

Notes from composer Scott Gendel

When I first heard about this opportunity to write a musical work in honor of Frank Lloyd Wright's 150th birthday, I had a lot of grandiose ideas about big architectural music, music that would be huge in sound and concept. But when Taliesin Director of Music Effi Casey took me on a tour of the house and the grounds, what struck me more than anything else was the beautiful intimacy of the spaces, the way in which every room was designed to draw you in closer. And then when I learned of the Taliesin Community Chorus and their love of singing together to create community, I knew "That Which Is Near" was going to take a different direction than I'd originally thought, and really become a piece about intimacy and connections between people.

H. Th. Wijdeveld's "Some Flowers For Frank Lloyd Wright" felt like the perfect text to use for such a piece. It's stunning in its descriptions of Wright's work, but also has a charming sweetness about it, the way he's just offering "some flowers" rather than a huge extravagant gift. And so "That Which Is Near" is two things at once: First, it's a celebration of Frank Lloyd Wright's incredibly masterful work, and how wonderfully persistent and evergreen that work still is, 150 years after his birth. But second, it's a celebration of the community here at Taliesin, and the ways in which this place brings people together and fosters human connection.

Scott Gendel, Composer

Scott Gendel is a composer, vocal coach, theatrical music director, and pianist living in Madison Wisconsin. As a composer, his music has a wideranging scope, but Scott is particularly fond of all things vocal, and the artistry of the human voice in all its forms. As a performing musician, Scott collaborates on vocal recitals around the country, and is the official pianist and vocal coach for Madison Opera.

Recently, he recorded his piece "At Last" with soprano Camille Zamora and cellist Yo-Yo Ma, as part of "An AIDS Quilt Songbook: Sing For Hope," a recording released on Naxos Records and GPR, benefiting amfAR, the American Foundation for AIDS Research. Last year, Scott's song "Advice to Those Like Me, With Hearts Like Kindling" was premiered by soprano Melody Moore in her Carnegie Hall debut recital. Scott's choral-orchestral oratorio "Barbara Allen," based on the traditional Appalachian folk song, was premiered by the Santa Clara Chorale & San Jose Chamber Orchestra this spring.

In 2005, the same year he received his doctoral degree from UW-Madison, Scott was awarded first prize in the ASCAP / Lotte Lehmann Foundation Song Cycle Competition, a juried national award in its inaugural year. More recently Scott was the second prize winner of the 2016 NATS Art Song Composition Award, and winner of the 2017 Ortus International New Music Competition. Scott's music is published by Classical Vocal Reprints, ECS Publishing, and the Tuba/Euphonium Press. His art songs have been recorded on Albany Records, GPR Records, and Naxos.

Upcoming commissions include the original opera "Super Storm!" for Opera for the Young's 2018-2019 season, which will be performed in nearly 200 schools around the midwest; and a song cycle for soprano, cello, & piano on the poetry of Emily Dickinson to be premiered & recorded in her hometown of Amherst Massachusetts by soprano Jamie-Rose Guarrine, cellist Karl Knapp, and the composer at the piano. Scott will also perform some of his art songs with soprano Emily Birsan at the Friday night concert of the Madison New Music Festival, on August 11th. Please visit <u>http://www.scottgendel.com</u> for more information.