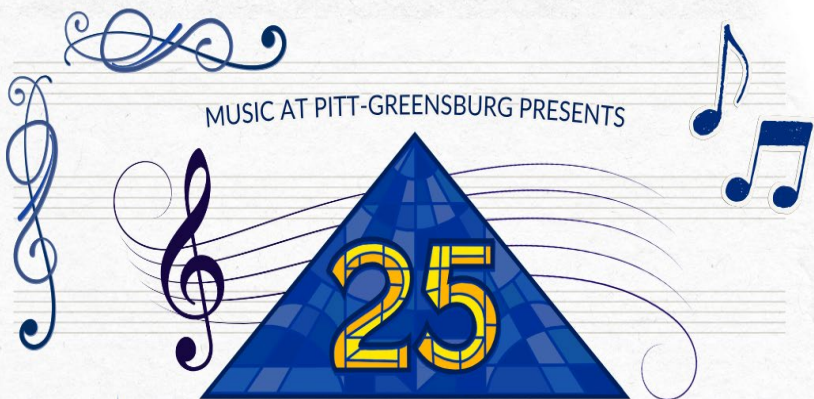


MUSIC AT PITT-GREENSBURG PRESENTS



years of

PITT-GREENSBURG  
**CHORALE**

*If Music Be the Food of Love, Sing on!*



*Pitt-Greensburg Chorale, Chamber Singers,  
& the Campana Consort*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>  
& FRIDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**7:30PM IN CAMPANA CHAPEL**

**Livestream Friday Night**

*Free and Open to the Public*



# Program

**The Last Words of David**

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

Pitt-Greensburg Chorale

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**Blagoslovi, dushe moya,  
Ghospoda**

Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944)

**I Am the True Vine**

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Sopranos and Basses of Chorale  
Pitt-Greensburg Chamber Singers

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**Semisomnus**

Matthew Klumpp (b. 1982)

Pitt-Greensburg Chorale  
*World Premiere*

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**Hungarian Dance No. 5**

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**Kiwi**

Quarters of Change

**Tango de Roxanne**

Sting (b. 1951)  
& Mariano Mores (1918-2016)

The Campana Consort

*All songs adapted for the Consort by Hunter Roadman  
Additional adaptation of Tango de Roxanne by Chris Bartley*

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***Brief Intermission***

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**El Grillo**

Josquin des Prez (c. 1450-1521)

Pitt-Greensburg Chamber Singers

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**Fermata**

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Pitt-Greensburg Chorale '20-21

Blair Concert Chorale

*Video presentation*

**Shine**

Peter Fischer (1956-2025)

Sarafina Premozic, soprano

Sarah Ferrell, cello

Matt Klumpp (Thursday) / Zach Rohlwing (Friday), piano

Pitt-Greensburg Chorale

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**Verleih uns Frieden**

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Pitt-Greensburg Chorale

Dr. Jeff Sposato, conductor

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**She Who Could Bind You**

Tristan Frampton (b. 1980)

**Protest (Fire of the Dove)**

Richard Einhorn (b. 1952)

Pitt-Greensburg Chorale

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**Applause**

Stefani J.A. Germanotta (b. 1986)

Jennifer O'Donnell, bangin' the gong

Brielle Zimmerman, makin' it real loud

Gigi Younis, applaudin'

Destiny Washington (Thursday) / Joe Fitz '21 (Friday), beatboxin'

Pitt-Greensburg Chorale

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Pitt-Greensburg Chorale & Chorale Alumni

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*Please take a moment to turn off your electronic devices, &  
Please do not use them in any way during the performance.  
All of the performers thank you for these courtesies.*

## Translations

### Blagoslovi, dushe moya, Ghospodi

Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
O Lord my God, thou art very great,  
In wisdom hast thou made all things.  
Glory to thee, O Lord, who has created all.

### Semisomnus

Sleep is the shadow of death, but not only that,  
For those half-asleep are the most awake.  
Is all that we see or seem, but a dream within a dream?

*Adapted from D.H Lawrence, Edgar Allen Poe,  
& Thomas Wade by Matt Klumpp*

### El Grillo

The cricket is a good singer,  
he can sing very long – he sings all the time.  
But he isn't like the other birds.  
If they've sung a little bit, they go somewhere else  
The cricket remains where he is when the heat is very fierce  
Then he sings only for love.

## **Verleih uns Frieden**

Mercifully grant us peace,  
Lord God, in our times.  
For there is no other  
Who could fight for us  
But you alone, our God.

## **Protest (Fire of the Dove)**

Ah! Joan! Oh! You were greatly blessed  
When the Word of God steeped you in the Fire of the Dove,  
Where you were illuminated like the dawn.  
So God King of Heaven wills it;  
And so it has been revealed by the Maid.

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# **Program Notes**

This year marks the 25th singing season of the Pitt-Greensburg Chorale. Founded by Dr. Jeff Sposato in August of 2001, and directed by Mr. Chris Bartley since 2008, it has been the university's signature music ensemble. The ensemble has toured the Northeast, and it has commissioned and premiered new works by composers like Tim Takach, Peter Fischer, Matt Klumpp, and Tristan Frampton. It has partnered with the Kassia Ensemble of Pittsburgh for masterworks like the Faure Requiem and Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio, with the Westmoreland Symphony for Orff's Carmina Burana, and the Blair Concert Chorale for the Duruflé Requiem. It has survived Covid! And it has connected generations of Pitt-Greensburg students who continue, in the words of David Dickau, to Sing On!

Music on this program reaches back over the last two decades to songs that have helped to define its journey, from works written for the Chorale, to those with memorable performances, to some that have spanned Chorale cohorts for a long time. In this concert, we see and hear Chorale history.

We begin with the thunderous opening of Randall Thompson's *The Last Words of David*. A call for just leadership, the power of this work lies in how it moves from such tumult at the beginning to tranquility in its close. The Chesnokov then explores this peacefulness with clear and haunting harmony over a Russian orthodox chant.

Arvo Pärt's 1996 demanding work *I am the True Vine* is a minimalist composition, in which the same, bell-like harmonies (known as his tintinnabuli technique) and melody repeat several times; each return introduces small rhythmic changes and subtle dissonances. Its most striking passage includes two pedal tones – low E in bass, high D in soprano. Until this point, the music had established both G major and the related E minor as its tonal centers. These chords share pitches G and B, with E being present only in E minor, and D in G major. Every entrance of an E pitch ensures the disappearance of D pitch, and vice-versa, as though avoiding the conflict they would create. The pedal tones on these very pitches, then, finally bring forward the fundamental harmonic tension lurking under the surface of the music's clear chord progression.

In the Spring of 2023, Chorale toured to New York and New Jersey, with a highlight of singing in Central Park. And as with any good choir tour, we spent a lot of time aboard the tour bus. Matt Klumpp was with us, and on that bus, looked to catch an extra few minutes of sleep whenever he could. But the sounds and energy of Chorale singers surrounded him, and he would open his eyes; in his liminal state, he wondered if he were awake

or asleep, and if he was dreaming. *Semisomnus* (Half-Asleep) captures this sense, with a lively Awake melody in the Tenors and Basses emerging after a dense sonic build. Then a more serene Asleep melody lulls us again, before a massive thickening of harmony and dynamics to jolt us from our dreams. The Awake melody then returns, adding Soprano and Alto voice, until we gradually lay the sound back down, to sleep again.

Tango de Roxanne is a mashup of the Police's Roxanne with Mariano Mores' 1957 work "Tanguera." Featured in the film *Moulin Rouge*, Sting's famous crying melody for Roxanne, presented here in the tenors and basses as well as Trombones, is juxtaposed with Mores' impassioned and soaring one; this countermelody, sung by Ewan McGregor as the character Christian, is moved to the altos and sopranos. Together, they create an impassioned torment, and empathy for the plight of Christian and Nicole Kidman's Satine.

El Grillo (The Cricket) is a frottola, an Italian popular and secular song of the early 16th century featuring simpler homophonic textures, more regular recurring rhythms, and lighter texts. The cricket sings for fun; and when the heat rises in Spring, it sings for love. Chorale has performed this more than any other song in its full history...perhaps, for too long?

Chorale graduate Elliot Sheedy '12 approached Professor Bartley about recording songs for an original film he was writing and directing. In the Fall of '14, Chorale then contributed five songs to his *Crown of Gamma*. The film is about sibling rivalry, the transference of power from parents to children, and the connection between humans who are alive and humans who are simulated via video. We commissioned Dr. Peter Fischer of Texas Tech University to write *Shine*. *Shine* adapts a two-thousand year old Greek tune, the Song of Seikilos, into a lush journey about shining brightly when we still have the chance to do so.

Dr. Fischer passed in September of 2025, and we sing this tonight in his memory.

Felix Mendelssohn composed his small masterpiece *Verleih uns Frieden* in February 1831 after a visit to the Vatican. The introduction is followed by a quiet, contemplative first verse sung by the basses and tenors alone. The same text is repeated a second time, the sopranos and altos taking up the melody while the tenors and basses sing a counter-melody. The third verse opens up into a four-part harmonization, using the full forces to express a sanguine hope for peace. This piece was one of Dr. Sposato's favorite to conduct during his tenure with Chorale, and we are delighted for his leadership tonight.

By strange and great fortune, many of the works Chorale has premiered have set poetry of Sara Teasdale: *I Would Live in Your Love, Tonight, To Joy, and She Who Could Bind You*. Dr. Tristan Frampton, a St. Louis native as was Teasdale, has said that he reads her poetry musically, hearing melodies in her words, in this case, a single rising stepwise melody in d-minor that spawns three images of captivation by love. We were grateful and honored to be the first to perform this piece, as he wrote *She Who Could Bind You* for Chorale '18.

Finally, David Dickau's "If Music Be the Food of Love" is the legacy of our singing community. It completes each Spring concert with Chorale alumni joining onstage, generations of singers united in under the banner of Shakespeare's (slightly modified) words from *Twelfth Night*: "If Music Be the Food of Love, Sing On!"

**Friday, April 17, 8:00pm** – Heinz Chapel Choir, Campana Chapel.

**Wednesday, April 22, 7:30pm** – Voice & Piano Recital, students of Chelsea Ritenour & Matt Klumpp, Campana Chapel.

# Congratulations Pitt-Greensburg Chorale

Thank you to its many members,  
past and present, for bringing  
beautiful music to our campus  
and community for the past 25 years.

"Music washes away from the soul  
the dust of everyday life."

— *Berthold Auerbach*

**It's possible at Pitt.  
It's possible at Pitt-Greensburg.**



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# With Gratitude

*Chartwells Dining & Margo Elder*

*Susan Isola, Justin Antoszewski, Julia Sefchek*

*Pitt-Greensburg AV & Jeff Antal*

## *Our Donors*

Dr. Chryss Allaback

Sharon Bartley

Red Bittner

Dr. Adam Boyles

Ronna Colland

Melody Deemer

Marley Derr

Alicia DiPaolo

Vickie Evans

Dr. Robert Gregerson

Kevin Hrobak

Matthew Klumpp

Cletus McConville

Martha Miller

Megha Pai

Richard Sobotka

The Shuber Family

Michael Vernon

Summer Woodrow

Lucas Wycich

The Yeager Family

**Help us in our quest for a new piano** - As part of our recognition of 25 Chorale years, we wish to be able to acquire a new upright rehearsal piano, to live on the floor of Campana Chapel. It is to replace the Baldwin upright piano that has given its sound to Chorale rehearsals and private lessons every day for more than a decade. We estimate that this will cost about \$12,000.



Designate your donation to

**'Pitt-Greensburg  
Chorale'**

at Give Today - Transform Tomorrow

# The Campana Consort

Hunter Roadman, director & arranger

Elijah Crowe, manager

## ***Saxophone***

Alexavier Andino  
Charlotte Boyle  
Renee Patricio

## ***Trombone***

Elijah Crowe  
Caleb Donahue  
Aaron Zavatchan

## ***Trumpet***

Zachary Lovas

## ***Baritone***

Perren Parker  
Laura Vittone

## ***Tuba***

Hunter Roadman

## ***Violin***

Naomi Forsyth

## ***Cello***

(guest) Sarah Ferrell

## ***Piano***

Miguel Perez

## ***Guitar***

Nicholas Cataldo

## ***Bass***

Derek Huff

## ***Drums***

Nelson Okeke

*Hunter Roadman's and Sarah  
Ferrell's appearances on this  
program made possible by the  
Joan Chambers Concert Series*

## **MUSIC AT PITT-GREENSBURG**

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# Pitt-Greensburg Chorale

Chris Bartley, director

Matt Klumpp, collaborative pianist

## *Soprano*

Zainab Alsalami  
Natalia Backos  
Elizabeth Nemes  
Sarafina Premozic+  
Marris Sobotka+\*  
Hannah Vernon  
Laura Vittone+  
Destiny Washington+\*  
Gigi Younis

## *Alto*

Abigail Coyne+\*  
Kate Cramer+\*  
Jennifer O'Donnell  
Renee Patricio '24 &  
Julie Shuber  
Leigha Skelly\*  
Brielle Zimmerman+\*

## *Tenor*

Nicholas Cataldo  
+Elijah Crowe  
Caleb Donahue  
Andrew Ewing  
\*+Nian Eyth  
Kevin Hrobak

## *Bass*

+Red Bittner '16  
Nicholas Chensny  
Derek Huff  
& Hunter Roadman '25  
& Aaron Zavatchan '24  
  
\* Chorale Officer  
+ Chamber Singers  
& Chorale Alumni Guest

