



gather

A FESTIVAL OF THANKS

Nov 15 • 7:30 PM

Nov 16 • 3:00 PM

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
430 W 9TH AVE, DENVER, CO 80204

TICKETS: DONATION ONLY, SAFONIA.ORG
15% OF PROCEEDS WILL GO TO PROJECT ANGEL HEART





Dear Safonia Family,

Thank you for joining us tonight as we begin the holiday season with music, community, and gratitude. When I built this program, I intentionally chose works by American composers, some new, some well loved, all deeply connected to the story of American music and the spirit of resilience that defines us.

Throughout history, Americans have turned to music in our hardest moments. Songs like Simple Gifts and Zion's Walls grew out of communities seeking hope and belonging. Shenandoah carries the longing and beauty of early American life, while Indian Summer captures the nostalgia of seasons changing as we enter this time of reflection. The Peace of Wild Things offers a moment of quiet refuge, reminding us that even in times of uncertainty, there is stillness and comfort to be found. Will the Circle Be Unbroken has long given Americans strength during loss and hardship, and Light of a Clear Blue Morning celebrates the promise of better days after struggle.

Each of these pieces holds a story of hardship, simplicity, hope, scarcity, abundance, survival, and joy. Together, they create a space where we can honor the many ways Americans have lifted one another up through music.

As you know, this evening's concert is donation based. We chose this intentionally and partnered with Project Angel Heart, an organization devoted to providing medically tailored meals to people in our community who are most in need. It is a privilege to sing, and an even greater privilege to let that gift extend beyond these walls to share warmth, and nourishment with our neighbors. Your presence and generosity help make that possible.

Our hope tonight is to welcome you into a moment of gratitude and connection to remind us of what it means to gather. At our best, we are a community of resilient, hardworking, loving people who share what we have at our table. We are stronger together, and music often brings us back to that truth.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy season to begin the holidays with us. We wish you joy and peace in the weeks ahead. May tonight be a moment of thanks that we carry with us through our holiday season.

Thank you for being with us tonight, and wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving!

With gratitude,

Freddy



Gather Concert Program

Tis the Gift to Be Simple

Arranged by Alice Parker

American Shaker Hymn

*'Tis the gift to be simple
'Tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight*

*When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed
To turn will be our delight
Till by turning, we come round right.*

*Hop up and jump up
Whirl round, whirl around
Gather love, here it is
here it is all around
Here is love flowing round
as you whirl around
Reach up, reach down
here it is all around*

*When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed
To turn will be our delight
Till by turning, we come round right.*



Zion's Walls

Arranged by Glenn Koponen

Adapted by Aaron Copland

*Come fathers and mothers
Come sisters and brothers
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion
O fathers don't you feel determined
to meet within the walls of Zion
We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion*

Indian Summer

Oboe - Linnea Rowley

Music by Daniel J. Hall

Poem by Emily Dickinson

*These are the days when birds come back,
Avery few, a bird or two,
To take a backward look.*

*These are the days when skies resume
The old, old sophistries of June, –
A blue and gold mistake.*

*Oh, fraud that cannot cheat the bee,
Almost thy plausibility
Induces my belief,*

*Till ranks of seeds their witness bear,
And softly through the altered air
Hurries a timid leaf!*

*Oh, sacrament of summer days,
Oh, last communion in the haze,
Permit a child to join,*

*Thy sacred emblems to partake,
Thy consecrated bread to break,
Taste thine immortal wine!*



The Peace of Wild Things

By Joan Szymko

Poem by Wendell Berry

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
In fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

Shenandoah

Arranged by Kevin A. Memley

Traditional American Fold Song

*Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you,
Away, you rolling river
Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you,
Away, we're bound away, across the wide Missouri.

'Tis sev'n long years since last I've seen you,
To hear, your rolling river
Oh, Shenandoah, I long to see you,
Away, we're bound away, across the wide Missouri.*

No Time

Arranged by Susan Brumfield

Traditional Camp Meeting Songs

*Rise, oh fathers rise, let's go meet 'em in the skies
we will hear the angels singing in that morning
Oh I really do believe that just before the end of time
we will hear the angels singing in that morning*



*Rise, oh mothers rise, let's go meet 'em in the skies
we will hear the angels singing in that morning
Oh I really do believe that just before the end of time
we will hear the angels singing in that morning*

*No time to tarry here, no time to wait for you
no time to tarry here, for I'm on my journey home
brothers, oh fare ye well, for I'm on my journey home
sisters, oh fare ye well, for I'm on my journey home*

Intermission

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Arranged by Gwyneth Walker

Quaker Hymn

*My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation
I hear the real though distant song that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing
It sounds an echo in my soul
How can I keep from singing?*

*What though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it's living!
What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night, it's giving!
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging
Since I believe that love abides
How can I keep from singing?*

*When tyrants tremble when they hear the bells of freedom ringing
When friends rejoice both far and near,
How can I keep from singing?*

*In prison cell, in dungeon dark, our thoughts to them are winging
When friends hold courage in their hearts
How can I keep from singing?*



Orion

Music by Susan LaBarr

Lyrics by Faith Zimmer

*Most mourn the falling leaves,
The weight of death the ground receives.
Yet you rise in Winter's Chill,
and in the gloom you still believe.*

*Most mourn the setting sun.
The aging day is overcome.
Yet you rise in Twilight Still,
and night reveals you one by one.*

*Carefully the constellations
Bend their knees to your dictation.
Standing guard with quiver ready,
Stance you've held for cent'ries steady.
Warrior high above the earth,
Telling human beings of their worth.*

*Most mourn the sinking mast,
The oceans pull into the vast,
Yet you rise at Memory's Will,
And you will stand on ages past.*

The Road Home

Soloist: Ally Brennan

Adapted by Stephen Paulus

Small Group: Patricia Nord, Jeanne Fischetti,

Tune: "Prospect" from *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Caroline Yates-Deffenbaugh, Karen Lowenstein

by Michael Dennis Browne

*Tell me where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost so long ago?
All these years I have wander'd, Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?*



*After wind, after rain, When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling From far away,
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.*

*Rise up, follow me, Come away is the call,
With the love in your heart As the only song;
There is no such beauty as where you belong,
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.*

Oh Boundless, Boundless Evening

Cello - David Moreno

Words and Music by René Clausen

Text by Christopher Middleton (from the German of George Heym)

*O boundless, boundless evening.
Soon the glow of long hills on the skyline will be gone,
Like the clear dream country now, rich-hued by sun.
O boundless evening where the cornfields throw
The scattered daylight back in an aureole,
Swallows high up are singing, very small.
On every meadow glitters their swift flight,
In woods of rushes and where tall masts stand
In brilliant bays. Yet in ravines beyond
Between the hills already nests the night.*

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Solo - Adria Young

Arranged by Craig Hella Johnson

Words and Music by Dolly Parton

Adapted by Richard Gabrillo

*It's been a long dark night, and I've been waiting for the morning
It's been a long hard fight, but I see a brand new day a-dawning
I've been looking for the sunshine, 'cause I ain't seen it in so long
Every thing's gonna work out fine, everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay*



*I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay*

Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Soloists - Lee Hamre, Caitlin McKernan, Faith Maronn

Arranged by J. David Moore

Traditional Appalachian

Lyrics by Betsy Rose, Cathay Winter, and Marcia Taylor

*Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by
There's a better home a waitin'
If we try, Lord, if we try*

*I was singing with my sisters
I was singing with my friends
And we all can sing together
'Cause the circle never ends*

*I was born down in the valley
Where the sun refused to shine
But I'm climbing up to the highland
Gonna make that mountain mine!*

*Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by
There's a better home a waitin'
In the sky, Lord in the sky*



Safonia Members

Soprano 1	Soprano 2	Alto 1	Alto 2
Ally Brennan Caitlin McKernan* Caroline Yates Deffenbaugh Katie MacQueen Melissa Gillespie Wendy Allen	Adria Young Anne Dicola Becca MacMahon* Jeanne Fischetti Kathy Ives Sarah Dieter	Andrea Wiens Erin McDermott Karen Lowenstein* Laura Bircz Megan Funk Stephanie Johnson	Faith Maronn Gena Nichols* Laura Vanderiet Lee Hamre Patricia Nord

*Section Leader

Upcoming Events

Join Safonia at these upcoming performances:

- Safonia will be joining the [Rocky Mountain Ringers](#) for their holiday concert, *Ring in the Season* on December 13, 2:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1600 Grant St. Denver, CO 80203
- Safonia will be joining the [Boulder Concert Band](#) for their concert *Fanfare and Funk* on February 21, 7:00 pm at Mountain View United Methodist Church, 355 Ponca Place, Boulder, CO 80303
- Stay tuned for info about Safonia's spring concert and the third annual **Colorado Treble Festival!**



Artistic Staff

Christa Fredrickson, Artistic Director

Christa Fredrickson (she/her) is the Artistic Director of Safonia and founder of the Colorado Treble Festival. She holds a Bachelor of Vocal Performance and a Master of Performance in Choral Conducting from NMSU. She is a Professor of Music and Theatre at New Mexico State University and also teaches musical theatre and English literature in Westminster, Colorado. Her work spans high school, collegiate, and community ensembles, with performances in the United States, Mexico, Austria, and at Carnegie Hall. Blending her backgrounds in classical music, theatre, and literature, she approaches choral music through the lens of storytelling, text, and emotional expression.



Kelli Horton, Accompanist



Kelli Horton, a native of Savannah, Georgia, is an internationally acclaimed pianist, educator, and collaborator whose career has spanned diverse cultural and musical landscapes. Her work has taken her to countries including India, Ireland, England, France, Cambodia, Nepal, and Indonesia, where she has left a mark through both performance and teaching.

Ms. Horton holds a Master's Degree in Keyboard Collaborative Arts from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance with an emphasis in Pedagogy from Columbus State University.

Christa and Kelli's full bios can be found on our website at:

<https://www.safonia.org/artisticstaff>



Safonia is proud to support Project Angel Heart in their Gobble Gobble Give! campaign.

Project Angel Heart is gearing up for our
Second Annual Gobble Gobble Give!



Volunteers and supporters across our state helped make it
such a success; we're doing it again this year.

For many of our clients who have no family or are too ill for a gathering, Project Angel Heart is even more important to them during the holiday. So, we come together to show them how Coloradans care for one another.

It will be our largest delivery day of the year on **Wednesday, November 26.**

You can learn more about the event at www.projectangelheart.org/gobble/



Project Angel Heart has been delivering meals to
people living with serious illnesses to the
Denver area and beyond since 1991.



Safonia has been honored to perform high caliber treble choir music in the Denver Metro area for 20 years. Thank you all so much for your support. This concert is offered freely in gratitude for our friends, family, and greater community. If you feel inspired, we welcome donations which will help us continue our mission of sharing treble choral music with the public. Your generosity helps fund music, venues, instrumentalists, collaborations with other community organizations, and more.

Thank you for considering financially supporting Safonia,
a True Souls Arts organization.

You can donate to Safonia at [Safonia's Gather Donation Page](#)

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Thanks to all of our community partners that support Safonia:



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