A SLICE OF AMERICANA

MADISON SYMPHONY CHORUS
Beverly Taylor, Director
Daniel Lyons, Piano

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2014 • 2:00 PM
PROMENADE HALL • OVERTURE CENTER

MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
John DeMain • Music Director
Formed in 1927, the Madison Symphony Chorus gave its first public performance on February 23, 1928, and has performed regularly with the Madison Symphony Orchestra ever since. The chorus is comprised of nearly 160 volunteer musicians from all walks of life who enjoy combining their artistic talents.

During the 2013-2014 Season, the Chorus will be joined by four great soloists for Mozart’s *Requiem* and was, as always, prominently featured in the Madison Symphony Christmas concerts. The ensemble shone again in the 2012-2013 Season with performances of the *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* and three choruses from Handel’s *Solomon*, Rachmaninoff’s magnificent *The Bells*, and Vaughan Williams’ *Toward the Unknown Region*.

The Chorus rose to new heights in the 2011-2012 Season with performances of John Adams’ challenging *On the Transmigration of Souls* and excerpts from George Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*. In recent seasons, the Chorus has joined the MSO for such awe-inspiring works as Mahler’s *Symphony of a Thousand*, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, Debussy’s mystical *Nocturnes*, Rossini’s jubilant *Stabat Mater*, the *Requiems* of both Verdi and Mozart, Holst’s *The Planets*, excerpts from Mussorgsky’s powerful *Boris Godunov*, Stravinsky’s *Symphony of Psalms* and Mahler’s *Symphony No. 2 (Resurrection)*.

MSO Music Director John DeMain has said of the ensemble, “Without the artistry of the Madison Symphony Chorus, under the expert direction of Beverly Taylor, the Symphony could not present many of the most magnificent works in the repertoire. It is the talent and dedication of the Chorus that make some of our most exciting performances possible.”
A Slice of Americana
The Madison Symphony Chorus
Beverly Taylor, Conductor
Daniel Lyons, Pianist and Manager
February 2, 2014 • 2:00 p.m.

Magnificat
Charles Pachelbel (1690-1750)

Akkdamut milin
Joshua Jacobson (b. 1948)

Behold, I Build an House
Lukas Foss (1922-2009)

The Road Not Taken (from Frostiana)
Randall Thompson (1899-1984)
Frostiana texts by Robert Frost

The Pasture (from Frostiana)

Alleluia

If I Can Let You Go (text by May Sarton)
Beverly Taylor

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Traditional Hymn,
arr. Mack Wilberg

Shenandoah
Traditional Folksong,
arr. James Erb

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal
Traditional,
arr. Alice Parker

Sometimes I feel like a mournin’ dove
Traditional,
arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

The Battle of Jericho
Spiritual,
arr. Moses Hogan

Baby, It’s Cold Outside
Frank Loesser
Magnificat
Charles Pachelbel (1690-1750)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaid, for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(Luke 1, King James trans.)

Akkdamut milin
Joshua Jacobson (b. 1948)

A Prelude to the commandments—before beginning the recitation, I request authorization and permission. Great indeed are the seraphim, each one six-winged. Until they are given the signal, they must be still, in total silence.

1. I am ADONAI your God who took you out of the land of Egypt...
2. You shall not recognize the gods of other before My presence...
3. You shall not take the name of ADONAI your God in vain oath...
4. Remember the Sabbath day to sanctify it...
5. Honor your father and mother...
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not kidnap...
9. You shall not bear false witness...
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's home... —Exodus 20

God is exalted in the beginning and in the end. God loved us and chose us to receive the Torah.

—Me'ir ben Yitzhak (11th Century, Germany)
BEVERLY TAYLOR
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR & CHORUS DIRECTOR

Beverly Taylor, Assistant Conductor of the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Director of the Madison Symphony Chorus, has been recognized by the Boston Globe critic Richard Dyer as a conductor who "has the crucial gift of inspiring people to give of their best, and beyond."

Taylor assumed the post of Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1995, where she is director of the Concert Choir and the Choral Union and directs the graduate choral conducting program. The Concert Choir premiered and recorded Luna Woolf's *Après Moi, le Débuge*, a post-Katrina lament, with cellist Matt Haimovitz. The Oxingale CD was highly praised by *The New York Times*.

Since 1989, Taylor has been conductor of the Boston Bar Association Orchestra and for seven years was music director of the Back Bay Chorale, in which she conducted concerts with the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra and other orchestras. Their recording of Robert Kyr's *Passion According to Four Evangelists* is available on the New Albion label.

In 1995 Taylor completed 17 years as the associate director of choral activities at Harvard University. In this position, she directed both the prize-winning Harvard-Radcliffe Choral Society and the Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus. She led the groups on frequent domestic and international tours, directed a number of premieres of American music and produced two recordings on the AFRA label.

As a guest conductor, Ms. Taylor has led the Artur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra in Poland, the Vermont Symphony, the Harvard Chamber Orchestra, the US Air Force Band and Orchestra, and the New Symphony of Sofia, Bulgaria, as well as Madison Opera, the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, the Wellesley Chamber Singers, the Harvard Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, and the Freiburg Germany BachChor. She also worked with John Williams to prepare for a July 4th concert by conducting the Boston Pops Summer Esplanade Chorus.

A graduate of the University of Delaware and the Boston University for the Arts, Ms. Taylor has studied with Gustav Meier, Paul Vermel, Andrew Davis, Helmuth Rilling, Joseph Hustrit, Margaret Hillis and Herbert Blomstedt. She has received a fellowship with Chorus America and an orchestral fellowship at Aspen and is a frequent guest conductor at festivals throughout the US.
A Chicago native, Daniel Lyons holds performance degrees from DePaul University and a doctoral performance degree from UW-Madison. He has performed solo, concerto, and chamber recitals throughout the Midwest. His teachers include Dmitry Paperno, Howard Karp, and Mary Sauer. He has written on piano compositions of Russian composer and pianist Rodion Shchedrin, focusing on his 24 Preludes & Fugues for piano. In addition to serving as the accompanist and chorus manager for Madison Symphony Chorus, he maintains a private teaching studio and continues to accompany throughout the Madison area. He currently lives in Madison with his wife and three children.

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“I can never say enough about the good work that Artistic Director Michael Ross does with the Madison Youth Choirs; they are an essential and beloved part of our Christmas concerts.” —John DeMain

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The Overture Concert Organ Season is made possible by major funding from Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation and the Diane Endres Ballweg Fund.
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