

BOOK OF ROUNDS 21 SONGS OF GRACE

Words by Julie Flanders, music by Emil Adler, vocal arrangements by Keiji Ishiguri

Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble, James John, Artistic Director With the Queens College Vocal Ensemble, James John, Director The Kaufman Music Center Special Music School's 5th Grade Choir & Vox Nova Boys Choir, Emily John, Director

(Please hold your applause until the end of the concert. There will be no intermission.)

Together

Beauty

Dan Rubins, tenor; Eliot Flowers, solo

Believe

Deep Zachary Mandernach, piano

Earth

Rain

August Guevara-Frederic, clarinet; Andraya Levy Schwartz, cello

Eden

Evan Katsefes, tenor; Kasandra Hanson, mezzo-soprano; Adam Ali, piano

Found
Grace Ju Hye Hwoang, soprano

Grace

Home

Joy Dashiell Cain, Caden Castro-Kudler, percussion

Know Gerard Gallagher, tenor

Light

Jesse Schopflocher, viola; Zachary Mandernach, piano

Meadow

Allegra Kuney, alto; Tiffany Tsui, dancer; Zachary Mandernach, piano

Timeless

Sasha Grossman, Jack Belmonte, soloists; Jonathan Berroa, piano

Rise

Shadow

Someone

Turn

Liam Attebury, Jonathan Berroa, Caden Castro-Kudler, Kaya Harada, solo group; Zachary Mandernach, piano

Time

Ready

Dan Rubins, tenor; Jonathan Berroa, soloist; Zachary Mandernach, piano

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Return to Me—Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble and Queens College Vocal Ensemble

Marina Belica and Julie Flanders

Jamie Carrillo, Gerard Gallagher, back-up vocals



A NOTE FROM CERDDORION'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It has been a joy to prepare the New York premiere of *Book of Rounds*, which is the second program in Cerddorion's "Season of Celebration," honoring the group's twenty-fifth anniversary in 2019–2020. The beauty of the melodies and their messages speaks to the transformative power of choral music. At a time when the world needs more love and compassion than ever, *The Book of Rounds* evokes these qualities in both the performers and listeners, leaving us feeling uplifted, strengthened, and more in touch with the positive parts of ourselves, as well as hopeful for humanity's future.

Today's concert celebrates both the joy of collaboration and Cerddorion's commitment to new music. We are delighted to have the Queens College Vocal Ensemble and the choirs of the Special Music School at Kaufman Center join Cerddorion for this performance. Many of the lyrics in *Book of Rounds* address concepts that are both simple and profound—forgiveness, home, belonging, joy, sadness—and we have devised a performance order that endeavors to create an unbroken, meditative flow while also complementing the diverse ages and backgrounds of the participating choirs. Each generation brings new life, new love, and new possibility to the world, and we hope that seeing young men creating Beauty, children singing of Light, and adults sharing their Joy will leave you inspired, rejuvenated, and perhaps even transformed.

—James John, Artistic Director



ON THE BOOK OF ROUNDS

The Book of Rounds is not only an exquisitely rhapsodic cycle of musical rounds, it is also a transformative journey of consciousness—with lyrics that offer a new vocabulary of mantra—in English.

Conceived by Julie Flanders, with lyrics by Flanders and music by Emil Adler, each round is a fugue of positive messages created to invoke a feeling of well-being in those that listen to, sing or speak them. With vocal arrangements by Keiji Ishiguri, the music lifts the words beyond their ordinary meanings into an enveloping and transformative experience that is poetic and universal.

On the Music

A round is a melody that harmonizes itself as it repeats, with voices entering at measured intervals, and cascading over each other to create a kaleidoscopic effect of meaning and beauty. Through the repetition that defines it, a round can have a profound contemplative effect.

The Book of Rounds offers many programming and sequencing possibilities to create a dramatic and a meditative arc that will move the listener through what is ultimately a relaxing, energizing and integrated experience.

On the Words

Using simple, prayer-like language, the rounds are essentially positive *mantras* that cascade, circle and relate in the same way the melodies do. With every repetition, each lyric begins to acquire different shades of meaning, shifting the mind and the heart of the listener.

Julie Flanders, whose deeply influential work in the expressive arts is complemented by her profound work as a healer and spiritual teacher, describes this as one of her most personal projects. *The Book of Rounds* is written to be an embrace of protection and comfort during difficult times.

BOOK OF ROUNDS

21 SONGS OF GRACE

Words by Julie Flanders; music by Emil Adler

Together

Here we are
Together
Even if we are all alone
Here we are
Here we are together
The moment is alive in us
The future will survive in us

Beauty

See your reflection In the eyes of a child Free of the shadows Of your innocence And beauty

Believe

All you are
And all you'll ever be
Everything to me
You are so much more than you believe
Maybe you will see
You can be free
After all

Deep

Deep in the silence
So perfect and slow
Holding you
Like a melody
Someone sang to you long ago
As beautiful as the song inside of you
Hear the melody
Feel it guiding you
Always homeward
Leading you here
Where I'm deep in the silence

Earth

Small and bright and beautiful
Moving through the darkness
A breath of blue
Embracing you
You shimmer with the secrets of life
You're so small

Rain

Rain is falling on the windowsill Clouds are covering the night I will hold you Till the storm is over Till you waken to the light

Eden

In this garden
I know who you are
Blood in the dust of a fallen star
If we choose to let go
If we choose to forgive
We can comfort each other
And start to live

Found

Find me
Where you left me
Where you kept me
In your heart
And in the part of me
That is part of you
I'll be waiting for you
Here
Leaving all the fear
Behind me
Until you find me

Grace

Now in this moment
It's time to start over
Open your heart
You know there's nothing to forgive
Starting now

Home

When you're far away
When you feel alone
When the whole world has betrayed you
I will be your home

Joy

Dance in a circle Clapping our hands Life is a cartwheel Life is a handstand For no reason Amazing happiness For no reason Crazy with joy

Know

Where you are
And where you go
Sky above you
Earth below
You will leave more than you can know
But no matter where you go
You will know
I am there

Light

Light will move
Through broken places
Soften the edges
Of empty spaces
You breathe in the feeling
And move into the night
A moment embracing
What time is erasing
The light

Meadow

I will always love you In the shelter of my mind At the edges of a meadow Where the sun shines All the time

Timeless

Somewhere closer than your heartbeat
In the name that you whisper into prayer
Will you remember the feeling
In the sadness
And the healing
As timeless and as present
As the air

Rise

As the sun is rising
To shine
Out of the ocean
Into the sky
The whole world
Ancient and new
Holds the beauty
Inside you

Shadow

We will find our way
By candlelight
Each of us holding a flame
As we move into shadows
Our light will change
Always different
And always the same

Someone

If you long for someone
Who will take you into their arms
Someone kind
Who will care
Someone true
Who will love you
There is someone
Waiting for you

Turn

If you need a world to belong to
Look around
You're already home
And what you seek

You've already found Turn around to me You will see No reason to be lonely

Time

If only I could turn back the hands of time If only I could hold your hand again

In mine
For a day
For an hour
For a moment
Or forever

Ready

When the sky is falling
And your heart is broken
Are the angels calling
When you are alone
Will you be ready then
When the angels call you
Will your heart be open
When the sky is falling
Will you be ready then

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Return to Me

You rise like a wave in the ocean, And you fall gently back to the sea. Now I want to know how to hold you, Return to me, return to me. You shine like the moon over water. And you darken the sky when you leave. Now I want to know how to keep you, Return to me, return to me. Everything I tell you has been spoken, And everything I say was said before But everything I feel is for the first time, And everything I feel, I feel for you. I am here, calling the wind, I am here, calling your name, I am here, calling you back, Return to me, return to me.

THE ARTISTS

Now in its twenty-fifth season, **CERDDORION** (Welsh for "musicians") is one of New York's most highly regarded volunteer choral ensembles. A chamber group of up to twenty-eight mixed voices, it is known for its eclectic repertoire, encompassing music from the Renaissance to the contemporary. Audiences have come to appreciate the group's interpretive depth and technical excellence in many styles. Cerddorion has also frequently commissioned new works by such composers as Paul Moravec, David Schober, Lisa Bielawa, David Lang, Elliot Z. Levine, Robert Dennis, Julie Dolphin, and Martha Sullivan.

In addition to producing its own annual concert season, Cerddorion undertakes numerous collaborations and guest appearances. Most recently, the group performed in the "Mile-Long Opera: A Biography of 7 O'Clock." For eight nights in October 2018, the High Line became the stage for a massive multimedia performance created by architect Liz Diller, composer David Lang, and librettists Anne Carson and Claudia Rankine.

Other guest appearances include an invited performance at the November 2016 New York State American Choral Directors Association Conference in Garden City, NY; a featured performance on the cable television series American Music in February 2016; and a collaborative concert with Sweden's highly acclaimed professional choir Voces Nordicae in June 2015. In 2011, the men of Cerddorion sang with esteemed French organist Francis Chapelet in the second inaugural recital of the Manton Memorial Organ at the Church of the Ascension. Other collaborations have included the North American premiere of Sir John Tavener's all-night vigil, *The Veil of the Temple*, performed at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall (with Dessoff Choral Consortium and choristers from London's Temple Church); several appearances with the Christopher Caines Dance Company; and Baroque opera performances with the early music instrumental ensemble Concert Royal.

September 2007 marked the release on the Tzadik label of *A Handful of World*, Cerddorion's first commercial recording. The CD is dedicated to vocal works by New York composer Lisa Bielawa and includes Cerddorion's performance of her *Lamentations for a City*, which was commissioned and first performed by Cerddorion in 2004.

Cerddorion is a proud member of the New York Choral Consortium and Vocal Area Network, and an Artist in Residence at the Church of St. Ignatius of Antioch.



JAMES JOHN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JAMES JOHN is in his tenth season as Artistic Director of Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble. He is also Professor of Conducting and Director of Choral Activities at the Aaron Copland School of Music (ACSM), Queens College-CUNY, where he directs the Queens College Vocal Ensemble and Queens College Choral Society, and heads the graduate program in choral conducting.

Under Dr. John's leadership, the choral program at ACSM has become recognized as one of the finest collegiate choral programs in the region, with performances by Queens College choral ensembles at state and divisional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). In New York City, his choirs have performed in such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Trinity Church Wall Street. His ACSM choral ensembles have also been featured on two compact disc recordings: *The Partsongs of Hamish MacCunn*, released by the QC Vocal Ensemble, funded by a grant from the PSC-CUNY Research Foundation; and *Songs of Peace and Praise*, a compilation of choral music by Queens College composers, released on the NAXOS label.

Dr. John's guest-conducting appearances include Brahms's Requiem and Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with the Tokyo Oratorio Society and Oratorio Sinfonica Japan, David Geffen Hall's annual Messiah Sing-In, a concert of American choral music with the Virginia Chorale, and honor choirs throughout New York State. He has served as guest chorus master for the Queens Symphony and participated in a choral recording with jazz trumpeter Michael Mossman, head of ACSM's Jazz Performance Program. Dr. John has also contracted choirs for Josh Groban, including appearances on The Tonight Show and the opening ceremonies of the U.S. Open, as well as for his Stages tour of New York City.

As a teacher and scholar, Dr. John has served as guest lecturer in conducting at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany, and he will be a featured clinician at the upcoming Korean Federation of Choral Music's 37th National Conference in Seoul. He has given presentations at both divisional and national ACDA conferences and is in demand as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States. Dr. John's dissertation on Brahms won Julius Herford Prize from the ACDA, and from 2011 to 2016 he served as editor of *American Choral Review*, published biannually by Chorus America. He has also served as a member of ACDA's National Research and Publications Committee.

Dr. John received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music. His prior appointments include Director of Choral Activities at both Tufts University (Boston, MA) and Nassau Community College (Garden City, NY), as well as Conducting Fellow at Dartmouth College. He received his Master of Arts in conducting from the ACSM.

OUR GUEST ARTISTS

EMILY JOHN Emily John resides in the New York City area, where she is a freelance harpist performing regularly with regional orchestras, with choirs, and for private events. In addition to her experience as a harpist, Emily is an active teacher and conductor in the New York area. She serves on the adjunct faculty of Queens College—CUNY and the Special Music School at the Kaufman Music Center. Past conducting appointments include The Amadeus Chorale, the Center for Preparatory Studies in Music at Queens College, and the Mineola Choral Society. Her compositions and arrangements have been performed by groups as diverse as the Orleans All-County Elementary Chorus, the Mineola Choral Society, Bella Voce Singers, and regional high school choirs; selected works are available through Pavane Publishing, Kandinsky Music, and Carl Fischer Music. Her publications include an article in the American Choral Directors Association journal on the choral works of John Cage, an annotated bibliography of works for choir and harp in the American Harp Journal, a companion article, co-authored with her husband, James John in Choral Journal, and "By the Book: An Annotated Bibliography of Music-Based Picture Books" in General Music Today.

SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL (P.S. 859) is New York City's only K-12 school that teaches music as a core subject starting in kindergarten. The music program includes private instrumental lessons and classes in music theory, history, and chorus during the school day. Founded in 1996, the school is a unique public-private partnership between Kaufman Music Center, which is responsible for the music program and provides each student with a full, merit-based scholarship, and the New York City Department of Education, which provides the academic program and materials. Visit KaufmanMusicCenter.org/SMS for more information.

Thirteen-year-old **TIFFANY TSUI** is in eighth grade at the Special Music School. She plays the violin and piano and studies violin with Julie Kurztman. Winner of many prestigious awards as a violinist, she has performed at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, Cremona International Music Academy, and Steinway Hall. Tiffany has been dancing for ten years with the School of American Ballet and has been cast in *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker* and in many other ballets with the New York City Ballet. She is a newly appointed 2020 Ambassador for Ballet in the City. Additionally, she has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, is a member of Broadway Youth Ensemble, and was a recent runway model for various designers at New York Fashion Week.

The QUEENS COLLEGE VOCAL ENSEMBLE is the Aaron Copland School of Music's principal mixed choral ensemble, specializing in a cappella music from the Renaissance to the 21st-century. Comprising undergraduate and graduate performance majors, its recent performances have included Leonard Bernstein's Choruses from the Lark', Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Romancero Gitano, J.S. Bach's Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit, BWV 106, Benjamin Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, Claudio Monteverdi's Lamento d'Arianna, Johannes Brahms's Drei Gesänge, Op. 42, Samuel Barber's Reincarnations, a program of Renaissance music from Spain and Latin America, Claude Debussy's Trois Chansons, and annual appearances on the Live Music for Living Composers concert at Tenri Gallery in Manhattan. The Vocal Ensemble was invited to perform at the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Conference in New York City as part of a conducting master class with Jerry Blackstone of the University of Michigan, and is featured on two compact disc recordings: Selected Partsongs of Hamish MacCunn (2009), and Songs of Peace and Praise: Choral Music from Queens College, released in December 2017 on the Naxos label.

Queens College's Aaron Copland School of Music offers a variety of rigorous and distinguished courses of study. Well-known for its traditional, classically based curriculum, eminent faculty, famous alumni, award-winning facilities, and a performance calendar that draws audiences from throughout the metropolitan region, the School of Music prepares students for graduate school as well as for a range of careers in music—composing, performing, conducting, teaching, or managing. With more than 200 concerts and recitals by ensembles, students, faculty, artists-in-residence, and guest artists each semester, the School of Music is home to a vibrant musical community and offers a number of undergraduate and master's degrees, depending on a student's preferred career path. The vocal program includes three choirs, annual opera productions with orchestra, and a multitude of performance opportunities ranging from oratorio to chamber music. Recent opera productions have included Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, Così fan tutte, and The Magic Flute, Francis Poulenc's Dialogues of the Carmelites, Benjamin Britten's Rape of Lucretia, and Johann Strauss's Die Fledermaus. In April 2020, the School of Music will present Giacomo Puccini's Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi. For additional information, contact:

> Jane Cho, Director of Administration Aaron Copland School of Music Queens College, CUNY, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367 Website: http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/music

OCTOBER PROJECT

Award-winning writer JULIE FLANDERS, Emmy-award winning composer/producer EMIL ADLER, and transcendent vocalist MARINA BELICA of October Project are internationally acclaimed recording artists and producers who collaborate in the creation of musical recordings and events. One of the most influential pop artists of the 1990s, October Project's music redefined the pop musical landscape.

Innovators in the ever-changing music world, Belica, Flanders, and Adler have released a succession of highly acclaimed independent recordings following two albums for Epic Records (Sony). A new, highly anticipated full-length album, *The Ghost of Childhood*, is due out soon.

Powered by Flanders' words, Adler's music, and the group's trademark harmonies, October Project has enjoyed sustained popularity and longevity around the world through the timeless impact of its material and powerful artistry of its vocals. Their music has been featured widely on television, radio and in film, is featured on all the major streaming services (Spotify, Apple, Pandora, Amazon) and has been viewed by millions on YouTube.

And most recently, an animated short of "Doubts," a poem from Julie Flanders' newest poetry book, *Shadow Breathing*, has been a winner at over a dozen film festivals (including Woods Hole and Women Deliver, the world's largest conference on gender equality and the health, rights and well-being of girls and women in the 21st century).

The Book of Rounds: 21 Songs of Grace, conceived of and written by Flanders and Adler, is a rapturous song cycle of 21 thematically connected musical rounds, each composed to be a fugue of positive messages intended to transform and uplift singers and audiences alike. A new choral recording of the piece performed by Chorus Austin is due for release this year, following upon the success of a previous a cappella version released on Sounds True Records in 2015.

The Book of Rounds: 21 Songs of Grace continues to be embraced around the world by professional choirs, college choirs (Yale School of Music Camerata), a cappella groups (Yale Whiffenpoofs), and community and children's choirs, with SATB arrangements and single-line rounds published by Hal Leonard and October Project. Visit www.octoberprojectmusic.com for more information.



CERDDORION VOCAL ENSEMBLE

James John, Artistic Director Zachary Mandernach, Accompanist

Sopranos	Altos	Tenors	Basses
Anna Harmon	Jamie Carrillo	Ralph Bonheim	Peter Cobb
Grace Ju Hye	Becky Fasanello	Gerard Gallagher	Rich Dikeman
Hwoang	Allegra Kuney	Michael Klitsch	Stephen Iger
Mavis MacNeil	Cathy Markoff	Dan Rubins	Dean Rainey
Carol Flamm	Katie Wilkes		Tom Reingold
Reingold			Oliver Van Oekelen
Ellen Schorr			
Talya Westbrook			

SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL 5TH GRADE CHOIR

Emily John, Director

Audrey Ang	Mayu Kanai
August Guevara-Frederic	Andraya Levy Schwartz
Gabriel Gurevich	Ilaya Levy Schwartz
Ellie Hahn	Graydon Linard
Ivy Hahn	Arlen Organ
Julian Jackson	Oliver Ramsdell
Roen Jones	Asher Seow

VOX NOVA BOYS CHOIR OF THE SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL

Emily John, Director

Liam Attebury	Kaya Harada	
Jack Belmonte	Kaden Jones	
Jonathan Berroa	Jonah Kwon	
Zachary Berz	Aubrey Mills	
Cobie Buckmire	Gabriel Moore	
Dashiell Cain	Sebastian Nuñez	
Caden Castro-Kudler	Michael Richardson	
Santiago Del Curto	Jesse Schopflocher	
Eliot Flowers	Mack Scocca Ho	
Griffin Frost	Zachary Udin	
Sasha Grossman	·	

QUEENS COLLEGE VOCAL ENSEMBLE

James John, Director TJ Barnes, Assistant Conductor Adam Ali, Accompanist

Soprano	Tenor
Maya Hussein	Rayson Hong
Matthea Maduro	Evan Katsefes
Victoria McGrath	Lorenzo Jordan
Caitlin Rossbotham	Michael Kramer
Meghan Tanella	Timothy O'Brien
Abril Valbuena	Evan Batsford
	Lesly DeCastro

Alto

Giselle Castillo Pauline Raczkowski Kasandra Hanson Sherice Roberts Brianna Balzano Samantha Constantino

Bass

Thomas Laskowski
Jonathan Ryfiak
Paul Greene-Dennis
Adam Ali
TJ Barnes
Pablo Giraldo
Himesh Maharjan

DONORS

Our concerts would not be possible without a great deal of financial assistance. Cerddorion would like to thank the following, who have generously provided financial support for our activities over the past year.

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Our performances would not be possible without extensive behind-the-scenes efforts by the group's members. In addition to the ongoing work of our Board of Directors, this program relied on printing by Steve Iger and program editing and production by Michael Klitsch.

Special thanks go to Steven Flamm for serving as the initial connection that made this collaboration with October Project possible. And above all, deepest thanks to my beloved wife, Emily John, whose inspiration and enthsiasam were a driving force behind this project.



SAVE THE DATES FOR A SEASON OF CELEBRATION!

As Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary, mark your calendars for the following can't-miss programs:

- March 27 & 28, 2020—Celebrating Our Singers, Past and Present: Cerddorion alumni/ae will return for a fully staged production of Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, with period instruments and guest director/choreographer Christopher Caines.
- May 29 & 31, 2020—Celebrating Our Commitment to New Music: The final program of our anniversary season will feature the world premiere of a work by Sidney Boquiren celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Check www.cerddorion.org for more details.

Support Cerddorion

Ticket sales cover only a small portion of our ongoing musical and administrative expenses. To make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit www.cerddorion.org or send a check (payable to Cerddorion NYC, Inc.) to:

Cerddorion NYC, Inc.
Post Office Box 946, Village Station
New York, NY 10014-0946

Visit our website for more information about Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble or to join our mailing list: www.cerddorion.org. You can also follow us on Twitter: @cerddorionnyc an on Instagram @cerddorionchoir, or like us on Facebook: Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble.

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