

# Every Time I feel the Spirit



With the Detroit Concert Choir Michael A. Mitchell, Artistic Director

With special appearances by
Lake Orion High School (March 11) and
Plymouth-Canton Educational Park (March 12)

Saturday, March 11, 2023

St. John's Episcopal Church, Detroit

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, Grosse Pointe Farms

# **BRAVO!**

Detroit Concert Choir Celebrating 36 Years of Choral Excellence

> Supporting the Arts

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# Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for a 36th season of exciting music, 'Feel the Spirit!' Since its initial season in 1987, the Detroit Concert Choir has been pleasing audiences with vibrant and engaging concerts and has won top awards and significant performance invitations from around the world. The ensemble has a vast repertoire and presents diverse styles of choral music from throughout the ages, including great classical works for chorus and orchestra.

Dedicated to promoting choral music of high artistic merit and cultural enrichment for our community, the Detroit Concert Choir provides artistic and performance opportunities for volunteer and professional musicians and educational outreach for young people and adults.

There is a special joy that can only be found in the powerful blending of voices united in song. Thank you for being a part of our 2022-2023 season as we present some of our area's finest singers and instrumentalists to promote and enjoy the cultural vitality of our Metropolitan Detroit area. We are proud of our wonderful tradition of excellence and look forward to sharing a beautiful new series of music with you!

Christine Rouce
Executive Director

**OUR VISION** is to inspire and enrich lives through exceptional music.

**OUR MISSION** is to promote musical excellence by uniting artists through inspiring concert performances, education, and community engagement. We aspire to be an exceptional choral ensemble, committed to musical diversity, evoking passion, and educating our members and audiences. We seek opportunities to present our music to audiences across the nation and around the world.

This activity is supported by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council

And the National Endowment for the Arts





# With Gratitude to Our Season Sponsors

























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# A Note from the President

Thank you for joining us today! The music of the DCC can inspire, unify, and uplift us, during both celebratory times and challenging times. This is a wonderful gift! Your support is vital to ensuring that our award-winning chorus continues to shine brightly here in Detroit and across our region.

I am now in my twenty-seventh year with DCC, and it is the wonderful people who keep my enthusiasm level high. It's the Artistic Director, the staff, the Board, the singers, the volunteers, and all of YOU who make the DCC experience so very special.

Thank you for being a member of the DCC family and for all you do to keep the DCC flame burning brightly!

Sincerely yours,

Stan Harr

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# **DETROIT CONCERT CHOIR**

# Gordon Nelson Scholarship Fund

Through the centuries music has enhanced lives and captured the spirit and essence of great moments. Encouraging the future generation of musical talent is essential to preserving this tradition.

A Scholarship Fund in the name of Gordon Nelson, the founder of the Detroit Concert Choir, has been designated to:

- · Honor Gordon Nelson and keep his memory alive
- · Support our efforts to encourage young people to join the Detroit Concert Choir by helping defray membership costs
- $\cdot$  Provide financial assistance to worthy young musicians who share in the Detroit Concert Choir's artistry
- · Provide workshops, retreats, and continued learning for all singers.

To support this funding opportunity, please designate *Nelson Scholarship Fund* in the memo line of your donation to the Detroit Concert Choir.

# Gordon Nelson (1931-2015)



Gordon Nelson, Founding Artistic Director of the international award winning Detroit Concert Choir, built a truly great choral ensemble by challenging its members to reach beyond their own expectations to achieve extraordinary goals. In 1987, Mr. Nelson created the group to enhance the lives of others through music and to provide a venue for musicians, professional and amateur, to share their talents with the community.

Gordon "Ace" Nelson was a gifted musician, director, teacher, and friend. Under Mr. Nelson's leadership, the Detroit Concert Choir contributed greatly to the cultural vitality of Metropolitan

Detroit, presenting 27 inspiring concert seasons with a commitment to excellence, outreach, education and culturally diverse activities.

# **Benefactors**

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# MEET THE RECIPIENTS OF THE

# Gordon Nelson Scholarship 2022-2023 Season



OLIVIA DONNEL Soprano, is a 2020 graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale with a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance. She has sung many principal roles and has extensive experience singing in ensembles. Olivia was the 2019 winner of the Stars of Altgeld Concerto Competition and received an Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council district auditions in 2020. She began work on her master's degree at Oakland University in the fall of 2021, and sang the title role in the Oakland University production of Handel's Acis and Galatea. Olivia intends to go into arts administration after she graduates.



X. ALEXANDER DURDEN is a tenor, actor, and writer, originally from San Diego, California. He has appeared throughout the US, Canada, the Western North Atlantic region and the United Kingdom in concert and productions in distinguished venues such as The Lincoln Center (NYC) and Los Angeles' Nokia Theatre. He has facilitated conversation around the Black American Theatre at Arena Stage, Virginia Repertory Theatre and Harvard University. X. Alexander received undergraduate and graduate training in Vocal Performance from Morehouse College and The Boston Conservatory, and graduate training in Acting from the British American Drama Academy at the University of Oxford and Wayne State University.



JACOB ROBERTSON Baritone, joined the Detroit Concert Choir in 2018. He is a graduate of Oakland University and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music. While attending Oakland, Jacob sang as a member of University Chorus, Symphony Chorus and the Oakland Chorale. He is currently a Private Piano and Voice Teacher at Expressions Music Academy and a member of the EMA Singers. He is honored to be singing with the Detroit Concert Choir and is happy to be singing under Dr. Mike Mitchell again.



MARCELL SELDON Bass, is a Detroit native and is now in his second season with the Detroit Concert Choir. Marcell attended Martin Luther King, Jr. Senior High School where he sang with the legendary choral director Alice Lloyd. He graduated from the Detroit School of the Arts and studied music collegiately at Alabama A&M and Oakland University. Currently residing in Westland, Marcell is the music director at Better Life Church in Eastpointe and teaches private music lessons.



# Our Artistic Director

MICHAEL A. MITCHELL, DMA, was welcomed as the Artistic Director of the Detroit Concert Choir in June 2019. Dr. Mitchell is the Director of Choral Activities at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, where he directs the university's three choral ensembles and supervises the graduate-level choral conducting program.

Since 2005, Dr. Mitchell has been a regular guest conductor of the Academic Choir Ivan Goran Kovacic in Zagreb, Croatia. He has also served as the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Detroit-based Cantata Academy Chorale for nine seasons where he led the group on three acclaimed European tours and in

multiple performances with the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings.

Dr. Mitchell has conducted masses and full concerts at many of Europe's leading sacred music venues, including St. Mark's Basilica and Chiesa San Salvador in Venice, St. Nicholas Church in Prague, Peterskirche in Vienna, St. Matthias Church and St. Stephen's Basilica in Budapest, the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Bratislava, the Church of St. Jacob in Ljubljana, and St. Catherine's Church in Zagreb.

On the popular music front, Dr. Mitchell teaches a summer course on the history of Rock and Roll and has prepared and conducted choruses for the Rolling Stones and Sarah Brightman.

As a composer, Dr. Mitchell's music has been performed throughout the United States, including at several conferences of the American Choral Directors Association. Before coming to Michigan he was a choral director and music supervisor in the public schools in Texas and also taught at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Dr. Mitchell studied conducting, music education, and voice at the University of Texas at Austin and received his doctorate in conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory, where he served as assistant to the legendary conductor Eph Ehly for three years. Other teachers include André Thomas, Jerry McCoy, Patrick Gardner, Mary Breden, Morris Beachy, and John Silantien. As a doctoral student he was the winner of the UMKC Chancellor's Award for Academic Merit and was a finalist in the American Choral Directors Association national conducting competition. Dr. Mitchell is a member of The American Choral Directors Association and recently served as President for the Michigan chapter. He is also a member of the American Music Center, The College Music Society, The Michigan School Vocal Music Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

# A Note of Thanks

Dear Friends.

Thank you so much for attending today's concert of the world-famous Detroit Concert Choir. We are proud to share our music with you as we continue the tradition of more than three decades of great singing started by our founder, the legendary Gordon Nelson. Gordon knew Detroit was a world-class city and believed it deserved a world-class choir. It's my honor to follow in his footsteps today and stand in front of this wonderful ensemble.

This concert is the centerpiece of our incredible 2022-2023 season by the same name. You'll have the chance to hear the DCC sing some of the most popular pieces in choral music, including selections by legendary Detroit composers. We are so excited to join with singers from two of our region's top high school choral programs, Lake Orion and Plymouth-Canton, directed by DCC members Matthew Smith and Jennifer Neumann. We thank you for your patronage and support and wish you a joyful musical experience today!

- Dr. Mike Mitchell

# Please join the Detroit Concert Choir for our final concert of the 2022-2023 season!



#ARTS MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL

This concert season is supported by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts

# **Program**

# **Every Time I Feel the Spirit**

Michael A. Mitchell, Artistic Director Gerrie Ball, Collaborative Pianist

Awake, My Soul......Elaine Hagenberg

(b. 1979)
Awake, my soul, awake! I will awaken the dawn! Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let Thy glory be over all the earth. For thy steadfast mercy is great, Thy faithfulness reaches to the skies.
Ave Verum Corpus
(1756–1791)
Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind, from whose pierced side water and blood flowed. Be for us a sweet foretaste in the trial of death.
How Lovely Are the MessengersFelix Mendelssohn-Batholdy
(1809-1847)
How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.  To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,  throughout all the lands their glad tidings.
Sure on This Shining NightMorten Lauridsen
(b.1943)
ShalomDan Forrest
(b.1967) Saturday: Lake Orion High School
When We Love
Cantamus in Unitate: We Sing in Unity (World Premier)Michael A. Mitchell (b.1962)
Sunday: Plymouth-Canton Educational Park
The Last Words of David
He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Alleluia. Amen.
Ye Followers of the LambShaker Song /Arr. Edwin Earle Ferguson
O Brethren, ain't you happy, ye followers of the Lamb. O Sisters, ain't you happy, ye followers

the Lamb.

of the Lamb. Sing on, dance on, ye followers of Emmanuel. Sing on, dance on, ye followers of

# **INTERMISSION**

Ushers will collect door prize cards

<b>Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit</b>
Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray.
Marcell Seldon, soloist
Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name
Hush! Somebody's callin' my name. O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?
James Moore, Jr., soloist
Hold On!
Got my hands on the gospel plow: won't take long for my journey now.  Keep your hands on the plow. Hold on!  Katherine Hill and Angelique Walsh, descant
I Know I Got Another Building
(b.1979) I know I got another building. I know it's not made with hands. I want to go to heaven and I want to go right. I want to go to heaven all robed in white, not made with hands.
Go Down, Moses
Saturday: Lake Orion High School
I Don' Feel No Ways Tired
Sunday: Plymouth-Canton Educational Park
Way Over in Beulah Lan'Arr. Stacey V. Gibbs
We gonna have a good, good time way o-vuh in Beulah Lan'.
Ride in the Chariot

Ride up on the chariot, soon a in the morn-in', and I hope I'll join the band!

James Moore, Jr., X. Alexander Durden, Regis Haynes, soloists; Megan Dastick and Katherine Hill, descant Combined Choirs

# **Guest High School Choirs**



Lake Orion High School Chamber Choir and Chorale Matthew W. Smith, Director Cristie Tyrrell, Collaborative Pianist

The combined efforts of the two top auditioned curricular choirs at Lake Orion High School, the Chorale and Chamber Choir, will join us Saturday evening. These 10th-12th grade students perform collegiate-level repertoire and are held to the highest rehearsal and performance standards. Having just completed a tour in Nashville over the midwinter break, the choirs have also performed in

New York, Orlando, and New Orleans.

Matthew W. Smith, now in his fourth year as the Director of Choirs at Lake Orion High School, has taught music for fourteen years, teaching Kindergarten through 12th grade. He holds a Bachelor of Music from Oakland University, where he studied with Dr. Michael A. Mitchell. He has taken his ensembles to district and state levels for Choral Festival and for Solo and Ensemble, where they have consistently received 1st Division, Excellent, and Superior ratings. Matthew Smith and LOHS are honored to be a part of this beautiful concert and are so thankful to Dr. Mitchell and the Detroit Concert Choir for this collaborative opportunity.



**Plymouth-Canton Educational Park** Jennifer L. Neumann, Director

The P-CEP Festival Singers of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park will join us on Sunday afternoon. Comprised of high school students between the ages of 14 and 18, they are consistently invited to collaborate and perform, as they are recognized as one of Michigan's top high school vocal ensembles. The P-CEP Festival Singers regularly achieve Superior/Excellent ratings in state choral festivals. They have toured Italy, England, and Germany

and performed throughout the United States, including Walt Disney World and New York City's Carnegie Hall.

Jennifer L. Neumann has served as Director of Choirs at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in Canton since 2000. Ms. Neumann holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education from Eastern Michigan University and a Master's in The Art of Teaching from Marygrove College in Detroit. The P-CEP choir program has dramatically increased enrollment, course offerings, and extra-curricular choir club opportunities during her tenure. Jennifer Neumann and The Festival Singers are so excited and honored to add Detroit Concert Choir to their list of collaborations.

Michael A. Mitchell, Artistic Director Gerrie Ball, Collaborative Pianist Stan Harr, Associate Director Jillian Burgam, Assistant Director

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Mariah Colby Joy Crawford Megan Dastick Katherine Hill Rachel Hutchison Lindsay Janoch Amie Johnston Olivia Langsdorf Michelle Metes Megan Mueller Sally Norvell Grace Peterson Deanne Remlinger Margaret Roache Christine Rouce Veronica Smith Lois Szymczycha Angelique Walsh

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# Jillian Burgam, Assistant Director

Katherine Wratkowski

Marie Zacny June Zydek

Jillian Burgam is now in her second year serving as the Detroit Concert Choir's Assistant Director. Jillian is the Choir Director at Fordson High School in Dearborn and is also the new Artistic Director of the Detroit Women's Choir. Jillian has worked as a professional singer with the Phoenix Chorale, Solis Camerata, Spoleto Festival, the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir, and is currently singing with the Mariners' Church Choir. She completed her graduate degree in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College and her undergraduate degree in Music Education from Western Michigan University.



# Gerrie Ball, Collaborative Piano

Gerrie Ball, an accomplished and talented pianist, accompanist, and organist, has shared in the Detroit Concert Choir's artistry since 1988. He has contributed to the choir's rising success and growing reputation worldwide as its premier accompanist. Gerrie has a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Wayne State University, a Master of Music degree in vocal accompaniment from the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music, and is certified by the Archdiocese of Detroit as a Minister of Music



at the organ. For many years, Gerrie was Director of Music Ministries and organist at St. Dorothy in Warren. He also served as Minister of Music at St. Thecla in Clinton Township. He has served on staff at Wayne State University since 1976, accompanying choruses, operas, students and faculty, and has taught piano classes since 1988.

Gerrie has also served as accompanist at the Interlochen National Music Camp and is a member of the professional music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha. Throughout his professional career, he has accompanied numerous choruses and soloists in concerts and competitions regionally and internationally, and has worked with the WSU Men's Glee Club as both accompanist and singer.

# A Sincere Thank You to Friends of Detroit Concert Choir for Volunteer Services This Season!

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The Detroit Concert Choir is Detroit's international award-winning vocal ensemble, celebrated for exceptional programming and distinctive performances. The choir is in its 36th season and has been under the artistic direction of Dr. Michael Mitchell since June 2019.

The DCC was founded in 1987 by Gordon Nelson (1931-2015), whose passion for choral excellence and desire to enhance the lives of others through music became the foundation for a group that blossomed into a local, national, and international pacesetter of choral music.

Dedicated to promoting choral music of high artistic merit and cultural enrichment for the community, the DCC is comprised of musicians of varying ages and backgrounds. Gathering from over 35 communities, the choir performs in some of the Detroit area's most beautiful and historic churches and performing arts centers. Repertoire includes contemporary literature, a cappella compositions, American folk and gospel, and great classical works for chorus and orchestra. In addition to the choir's own concert series, the ensemble enriches the cultural offerings for the city by singing for community events and by collaborating with fellow choruses and world-renowned orchestras.

The Detroit Concert Choir has been awarded eighteen national and international honors in esteemed music conventions and international competitions, and won the prestigious "Choir of the World" title at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales. The choir also received the nationally acclaimed Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence based on artistic excellence, strong organizational structure, and a commitment to outreach, educational, and culturally diverse activities.

The Detroit Concert Choir is an activity of the Detroit Performing Artists, Inc., a 501(c) (3) tax exempt educational organization that fosters artistic opportunity for the amateur musician, performance and income opportunities for the professional musician, and educational opportunities for young people and adults.

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# Building long-term stability and an enduring legacy

The Detroit Concert Choir Endowment Fund helps to ensure the long-term success of the Detroit Concert Choir and offers a means to make contributions beyond assisting with the annual operating expenses. The Endowment Fund is separate from the Detroit Concert Choir Annual Giving Campaign. Endowment contributions are retained in perpetuity; only the earnings on contributions are eligible for withdrawal. This will ensure that there is financial assistance available for the DCC for those times of financial hardship in the future.

Please join us in supporting the Detroit Concert Choir Endowment Fund. Your gift in any amount is an expression of your support for the organization that enriches the lives of its members, the musical community, and the Detroit metropolitan area. Donations in memory of loved ones will be recognized in their honor. The Endowment Fund accepts cash donations, securities, and beneficiary bequests. Please make checks payable to the Detroit Concert Choir Endowment Fund.

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