



San Francisco Interfaith Council

Celebrating our diverse faiths & spiritual traditions • Bringing people together to build understanding • Serving our community

Celebrating 25 Years of The San Francisco Interfaith Council

Sunday, November 9, 2014
7:30 pm

**First Unitarian Universalist Society
of San Francisco**

Greetings,

We are all human beings, more alike than different, celebrating our diversity of spiritual expression. Six billion people, 1729 languages, 187 countries, 143 religions, one world, one human family. The Dalai Lama said: “we humans are so complex that if there were six billion people in the world there would probably be as many religions.”

Our music and thoughts this evening are a celebration of the San Francisco Interfaith Council’s 25th year. Although the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) began in response to two crises – homelessness and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake – the ensuing years have broadened our horizons and the SFIC has become a meeting place for dealing with the most current issues of our City. Tonight we celebrate many beliefs and spiritual expressions: the way of the Hindu, the path of the Buddha, the people of Islam, our Jewish brothers and sisters, our Christian brethren, and those who search for new forms of expression.

Our lives are patterned by what we perceive as joys and sadnesses. All are a gift – the sheer joy of being alive, the joy which you deserve and for which you were destined, the longing, the expansion of your heart, soul and spirit. We seek to know these mysteries, to be awake, to be engaged, to understand and to give expression to them, to be aware. Awareness is the true self and the fulfillment of the true self.

We invite you to experience the beauty of this moment. The past is gone; the future has yet to happen. Live mindfully aware in the moment. It is all we are given. Moment by moment we can create a new way of being and let go of suffering. May you find both joy and peace in our music-making, poetry and celebration of 25 years of the San Francisco Interfaith Council.

Vance Y. George

Program

Prelude in Eb Major, BWV 552 J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

Reiko Lane, *Organist*

Introduction and Greetings

Rev. Maggi Henderson, *Chair*
San Francisco Interfaith Council

Welcome

Rev. Dr. John A. Buehrens, *Senior Minister*
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

Brothers and Sisters Kirke Mechem

Eure Kinder Kinley Large

First Unitarian Universalist Society Choir
Dr. Mark Sumner, *Music Director*

Yesterday

Rita R. Semel, *Past Chair*

America the Beautiful Words by Katherine Lee Bates (1859 – 1929)
Music by Samuel A. Ward (1847 – 1903)

All: O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties, Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

Women: O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassion'd stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat, Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control, Thy liberty in law!

Men: O beautiful for heroes proved, In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, And ev'ry gain divine!

All: O Beautiful for patriot dream, That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea!

All: America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea!

O Lux Beatissima Howard Helvey
Dum Complerentur Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)

St. Dominic's Schola Cantorum
Simon Berry, *Director of Music and Liturgy*

Today and Tomorrow Michael G. Pappas, *Executive Director*

Home To The Light and Life Dii Lewis

Tony Hale, *Tenor*
Dii Lewis, *Tenor and Guitar*

The Battle of Jericho (traditional spiritual) arranged by Moses Hogan
For I Am Called by Thy Name Crawford Gates

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, San Francisco Stake Choir
David Hansen, *Conductor*
Murlene Watkins, *Accompanist*

"Ya Salaam" poem by Hafez, translation by Dr. Nahid Angha

Taneen Sufi Music Ensemble

From the Ancients Vance George

Sim Shalom Max Janowski
Amen Shem Nora arranged by Matthew Lazar

Cantor Roslyn Barak and the
Kol Emanu-El Choir of Congregation Emanu-El
Dr. Mark Sumner, *Accompanist*

Why We Sing Vance George

He's God Edwin Hawkins
Worship The Lord Medley arranged by Kenneth Young

The Providence Baptist Church of San Francisco *Mass Choir*
Kenneth Young, *Director of Music*
Apryle Stanley-Reed, *Pianist*

Let's All Sing

Michael G. Pappas

San Francisco Lyrics by Gus Kahn (1886 - 1941)
Music by Bronislaw Kaper (1902 – 1983) and
Walter Jurmann (1903 – 1971)

All: It only takes a tiny corner of
This great big world to make a place you love
My home up on the hill
I find I love you still
I've been away but now I'm back to tell you
San Francisco open your Golden Gate
You'll let no stranger wait outside your door
San Francisco here is your wandering one
Saying I'll wander no more
Other places only make me love you best
Tell me you're the heart of all the golden west
San Francisco welcome me home again
I'm coming home to go roaming no more.

Toccata from Symphony No. 5 Charles M. Widor (1844 – 1937)

Reiko Lane, *Organist*

At the conclusion of this concert, a free will offering will be taken to support the ongoing good work of the San Francisco Interfaith Council.

Vance George, along with Rita Semel, Michael Pappas, Cantor Roslyn Barak, and Richard Harris organized this event. Vance is internationally recognized as one of America's leading choral conductors. His work embodies the legacy of the great maestros he has known as protégé and colleague, especially Kurt Masur, John Nelson, Helmut Rilling, Robert Shaw, Julius Herford, Margaret Hillis, Robert Page, Otto Werner-Mueller, and Mary Oyer. During his 23 years with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus the group was hailed as one of the finest in the world. On their behalf he accepted two Grammy awards for Best Performance of a Choral Work Orff's *Carmina burana* – 1992 and Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* – 1995. Other Grammy-winning recordings featuring the chorus include Stravinsky's *Persephone* and Mahler's *Symphony III*. TV and film credits include an Emmy for *Sweeney Todd* in 2002 and soundtracks for *Amadeus*, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, and *Godfather III*.

Reiko Oda Lane, a native of Yokohama, Japan, received her advanced musical training at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland. Reiko holds the Conservatory's coveted Artist Diploma in Organ, hers being only the second such diploma given in the history of the Conservatory after Virgil Fox. With a special love of Bach, Reiko has concertized in Japan, Europe, and the United States and has been the organist at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Francisco since 1997.

The First Unitarian Universalist Choir of San Francisco, like many church choirs, has been the most consistently stable program in the church, enjoying decades of fine leadership, grateful support and dedicated and loyal membership averaging 35 – 40 members on a Sunday. The almost all-volunteer choir appears in three of four monthly services between September and June. The repertoire befits the high standards of music making over the

years embracing numerous commissions and taking advantage of our wonderful acoustic and remarkable Noehren pipe organ. Mark Sumner joins Bob Geary and Music Emeritus, Alex Post, as directors whose leadership achieves a virtually unbroken line for almost a half century. Reiko Lane, our organist, continues an even more impressive lineage, being a protégé of and hand-picked for our church by Alex Post.

Dr. Mark Sumner has been conductor of the First UU Choir for eighteen years. Besides being the Music Director at the church he has a full-time position as Director of Choral Ensembles at UC Berkeley. He also sings with the new ensemble, Cappella SF, and with the Grammy Award-winning Los Angeles Chamber Singers Cappella. He has performed with American Bach Soloists and with the Dallas, Tulsa and LA Opera companies and numerous professional ensembles in those regions. He holds a doctorate from the University of Southern California and also has degrees from Southern Methodist University and Oklahoma State University.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Choir, San Francisco Stake – In the Preface to the LDS Hymnbook, the Church’s First Presidency teaches: “Inspirational music is an essential part of our church meetings. The hymns invite the Spirit of the Lord, create a feeling of reverence, unify us as members, and provide a way for us to offer praises to the Lord. Some of the greatest sermons are preached by the singing of hymns.” Tonight we present two selections based on Old Testament texts: Moses Hogan’s splendid arrangement of *The Battle of Jericho*, and a beautiful setting of Jeremiah 15:16 by LDS composer, Crawford Gates. Our choir consists of volunteers from our local congregations who responded to an open invitation to participate in this wonderful evening of worship and fellowship. We are delighted to be a part of tonight’s Interfaith Gathering.

About the conductor: professionally, **David Hansen** is a neuroscientist at Genentech, striving to develop therapies for Alzheimer’s disease. His musical background is probably typical of most LDS choir participants (although we do have a few well-trained and professional musicians). All positions of service in local LDS units – whether presiding over congregations, caring for the needy, instructing in Sunday school, or worshipping through music – these are all filled by unpaid volunteers. As such, David is grateful to parents and piano teachers who developed his passion for music during childhood; to devoted band and choral instructors in public secondary education; to a late community choir director who expanded and refined his choral skills; and to his wife and children for supporting his musical endeavors. Finally, David is grateful to all members of his choir for their equally selfless contributions and feels privileged to conduct such a fine group of singers.

Dii Lewis, a Buddhist, singer and member of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, was introduced to Jodo Shinsu Buddhism by his wife. Former music and choir director of the Berkeley Temple, Jane Immamura, first approached Dii to contribute to the music of the Temple. During the development of the new Gatha/Hymn Book for The Buddhist Churches of America, which was created under Jane’s direction, she asked Dii to submit three selections, two of which were selected and are now part of the edition. Her guidance and encouragement played an instrumental part in his continued involvement in the practice of music at the Berkeley temple. Tonight he presents the selection “Home To The Light and Life” assisted by **Tony Hale**. This is an original “call and response” piece written by Dii.

St. Dominic’s Schola Cantorum is widely recognized as the premiere Catholic Choir in the Bay Area. The choir sings for the 11:30 am Mass each Sunday of the year specializing in a repertoire of chant and Renaissance music whilst also representing all aspects of classical liturgical music for the Roman Rite.

Simon Berry, a native of Bristol, UK, comes from a musical family where his father, great-uncle and several cousins are or were organists. He was organ scholar at University of Warwick before taking up a conducting scholarship at the Royal College of Music, London. He moved to the Bay Area in 1996 to form new music programs at the Church of St. David of Wales, Richmond; since 2002 he has been director of music and liturgy at St. Dominic’s in San Francisco. He is active in The American Guild of Organists and has recently been awarded a Fellowship of the Society of St. Cecilia. He also acts as a Project Consultant for Lettourneau Pipe Organs.

Taneen Sufi Music Ensemble – Based in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, members of Taneen are all students of the Sufi Masters Shah Nazar, Seyyed Dr. Ali Kianfar and Seyyedeh Dr. Nahid Angha. With an authentic fusion of Middle Eastern Sufi and Western musical influences, and deeply rooted in the Sufi tradition in its intention and inspiration, Taneen creates original melodies that wrap Sufi chant around sung Sufi poetry. They primarily sing the ecstatic love poetry of the great masters such as Rumi, Hafez, Omar Khayam, and Moulana Shah Maghsoud and translated into English by Seyyedeh Dr. Nahid Angha, making the profound message of love which the Sufis profess accessible to all audiences. Taneen has performed before international audiences at such events as the annual Sufism Symposium, the Parliament of World's Religions, the Nobel Peace Institute, the United Nation's 50th Anniversary Celebration, and many other events. For more information, please visit the Taneen website: www.taneen.org.

Kol Emanu-El is the adult volunteer choir of Congregation Emanu-El. Established in 1992 the choir has graced our worship each month since. The choir has participated in numerous interfaith and community events as well.

Cantor Roslyn Barak has served Congregation Emanu-El of San Francisco since 1987, one year after her ordination from the Hebrew Union College in New York City. She received her musical training at the Manhattan School of Music and has been the recipient of several prestigious vocal awards and honors. Cantor Barak has concertized extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Israel, and has lectured and taught at seminaries, both in this country and in Germany. She is a board member of the Cantors Assembly and former board member of the American Conference of Cantors. She is active in interfaith work in the Bay Area and is also on the board of Shalom Bayit which helps families dealing with domestic abuse. Cantor Barak has published essays in several Jewish journals. Additionally, she received her Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology from the San Francisco School of Psychology.

The Providence Baptist Church of San Francisco Mass Choir has been in existence for over 70 years. The *Mass Choir* was established by the late Mrs. Lillian Gray to blend together the voices of six choirs: Male Chorus, Gospel Chorus, Young Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Inspirational Choir and the Chancel Choir to sing anthems, hymns, spirituals and contemporary gospel music. Today we have approximately sixty active members.

The PBC *Mass Choir* has participated in various programs inside and outside of Providence Baptist Church, i.e.: Easter Cantatas, Thanksgiving Musical, Infinity Productions Annual events, San Francisco Organizing Project (SFOP) citywide events and at San Francisco Interfaith Council events. The choir's goal and purpose is to minister in song for the glory and honor of God.

The Mass Choir is under the direction of **Kenneth Young** who has served faithfully for over fourteen years as Director of Music, and **Mrs. Apryle Stanley-Reed**, pianist. Kenneth has a passion and love for music that is demonstrated daily. He is married to Therese Leonard-Young, and the father of three young adults: Eileen, Amanda and Brandon.

