EARTH

Teach Me

Amplifying the work of those striving to combat the climate crisis

Inspire a choir for unity

Friday, March 16, 2018 | 7:30 PM
New York Society for Ethical Culture

In partnership with
Welcome

Inspire is truly grateful that you have joined us tonight to celebrate the majesty and importance of our shared home. Throughout the evening we hope you feel connected to the Earth and to each other, recognize the urgency of her decline, and learn how to better protect her.

We are at a crossroads: our planet is on the brink of potentially irrevocable damage. Growing evidence continues to affirm the reality of human-induced climate change such that we can no longer afford to ignore, or be ignorant of, our need to act. 350NYC exemplifies this need to take action. Tonight’s concert celebrates and amplifies their relentless efforts.

Collaborating with 350NYC has been a rewarding experience that perfectly realizes Inspire’s vision to create empowered, informed, and enriched communities. Tonight, you are invited to participate in this vision. Our concerts do not end after the final bow. Community building is at the core of our work, requiring face-to-face interaction. Please stay with us to enjoy some refreshment, share your experience with someone new, and visit one of the 350NYC tables to learn more about their work.

About the Program

The program tonight invites us - singers and listeners together - to reflect on the beauty and fragility of our planet. Our artistic inspiration comes from nature itself. From the primal energy of the elements, to the wondrous diversity of Earth’s landscapes, it is our hope that through the music offered tonight you feel a deep kinship with the global ecosystem to which we are all inextricably connected.

One of our goals is to recontextualize music and words. Each piece carries its own meaning, but we bring our own meanings to each hearing and performance, and, together, these pieces take on new purpose. Some of tonight’s pieces, such as Gimon’s Elements, were chosen because they draw directly from sounds in the natural world, while others like Whitacre’s Alleluia are sonic metaphors for nature’s beauty, power, and resilience. Other pieces on tonight’s program speak directly to our connection with nature. This is perhaps most noticeable in the two pieces inspired by Indigenous traditions. The first is Vision Chant, written by Cree composer Andrew Balfour who uses traditional Ojibway text, and the second, the title piece of our program, Earth Teach Me, is set to the text of an Ute Prayer calling on the Earth to impart its profound wisdom.

Of special note, this concert features the world premiere of two arrangements by members of Inspire. One is a reimagining of an old Civil Rights tune whose refrain invokes the steadfastness of a tree as a symbol of resistance in the face of injustice. The second arrangement is of particular significance as Lyna Hinkel - founder of 350NYC - joins us to sing her own composition which she dedicates to the “Water Defenders” of Standing Rock. Inspire is honored to share this piece with you and the stage with Lyna. When invited, we encourage you to join your voices with ours in Touch the Water as we celebrate the preciousness of life-giving water.
EARTH, Teach Me

Please silence all electronic devices

I. Elements

Elements (Earth, Air, Fire) Katerina Gimon (b.1993)

Wade in the Water Traditional Spiritual

Rebecca Luttio, *alto*

II. Earth Teach Me

Alleluia (originally *October*) Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

Claire Manganiello, *soprano*
Ricky Torres-Cooban, *bass*

Earth Teach Me

Eleanor Killiam, *soprano*
Ben Keiper, *tenor*

III. The Journey

Vision Chant (from *Bawajigaywin*) Andrew Balfour (b.1955)

With a Lily in Your Hand Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

IV. What is Life?

Tabula Rasa Don Macdonald (b.1966)

What is Life? Ann-Sofi Söderqvist (b.1956)

Tegan Miller, *alto*; Carrie Quarquesso, *soprano*; Ben Keiper, *tenor*

V. Just Like a Tree

We Shall Not be Moved Traditional Spiritual, arr. Jon Pohlmann* (b.1951)

Touch the Water Lyna Hinkel, Founder of 350NYC
arr. Ari Messenger* (b.1993)

Lyna Hinkel, *singer-songwriter*

*member of Inspire

All are welcome to a reception following the concert
I. Elements

Elements (Earth, Air, Fire)  
Katerina Gimon

**EARTH**
- earth
  - calm, constant
  - study, still, steady
  - rock, sand, soil, and terrain

**AIR**
- air
  - wind, breath
  - free, dynamic, transparent
  - moving, flowing, changing, and fueling

**FIRE**
- fire
  - heat, light
  - strength, fuel, drive
  - burning, melting evaporating and transforming

Wade in the Water  
Traditional Spiritual

*Wade in the water, children*  
*God's gonna trouble the water*

*See that host all dressed in white.*  
*The leader looks like an Israelite.*

*See that band all dressed in red.*  
*Well it looked like the band that Moses led.*

II. Earth Teach Me

**Alleluia**

*Alleluia. Amen.*

**Earth Teach Me**  
Ute Prayer

*Earth teach me stillness*  
*as the grasses are stilled with light.*

*Earth teach me suffering*  
*as old stones suffer with memory.*

*Earth teach me humility*  
*as blossoms are humble with beginning.*

*Earth teach me caring*  
*as the mother who secures her young.*

*Earth teach me courage*  
*as the tree which stands alone.*

*Earth teach me limitation*  
*as the ant which crawls on the ground.*

*Earth teach me freedom*  
*as the eagle which soars in the sky.*

*Earth teach me resignation*  
*as the leaves which die in the fall.*

*Earth teach me regeneration*  
*as the seed which rises in the spring.*

*Earth teach me to forget myself*  
*as the melted snow forgets its life.*

*Earth teach me to remember kindness*  
*as the dry fields weep with rain.*

*Earth teach me.*
III. The Journey

Vision Chant (from Bawajigaywin)

Babamadizwin

With a Lily in Your Hand

With a lily in your hand
I leave you, o my night love!
Little widow of my single star
I find you.
Tamer of dark
butterflies!
I keep along my way.

After a thousand years are gone
you’ll see me,
o my night love!
By the blue footpath,
tamer of dark stars,
i’ll make my way.
Until the universe
can fit inside
my heart.

IV. What is Life?

Tabula Rasa

En mis brazos, respira
vida sin li mites.
luz del dia, noche oscura
duerme, sueño, resto conseguiridad
Con su córazon su alma
escucha y sabe esta verdad
Dentro de ti hay futuros ilimitados
si le dan la libertad
libertad de crecer
libertad de aprender
libertad de tocar
libertad de sen tir
libertad de imaginar
libertad de volar
libertad de adorar
libertad de ser amado

In my arms, breathe.
Life without limits.
Light of day, dark night.
Sleep, dream, rest in safety.
With your heart, your souls,
listen and know this truth:
Within you are boundless futures
if you are given freedom;
freedom to grow,
freedom to learn,
freedom to touch,
freedom to feel,
freedom to imagine,
freedom to fly,
freedom to love,
freedom to be loved.

What is Life?

A voice can bring out the sense of intention
Existence be transformed by thoughts
The message of the will can move your heart

The beat of butterfly wings provoke a hurricane

Connected humans make a people
In the moment you will find eternity
The power from a seed can rise the woods

And from a lighting spark the fire will extend

If you sharpen focus
Sharpen focus for wonder
if you catch a voice
Catch the voice at heart
if you hear a name
Hear your name in silence

Hear my wonder
What brings to us
The never-ending solitude
We reach in the dark
for significance of the mind
why my cry from fear of expiry
A trace of a memory
Just like the surging waves from other
oceans

Sharpen your focus for wonder
Catch the voice at heart
Hear your name in silence
And you will burst into life

What is life
A voice, A thought
The beat of butterfly wings
Who is life
The power from a seed
When is life
Present moments
Where is life
A lightning spark
When does life come into existence
In your heart existence comes alive

V. Just Like a Tree

We Shall Not be Moved

Traditional Spiritual & Jon Pohlmann
Fathers and mothers
We shall not be moved
Just like a tree that’s growing by the
waterside
We shall not be moved

We are on my way to heaven
We shall not be moved
Just like a tree that’s standing by the
waterside
We shall not be moved

We are on the road to freedom
We shall not be moved
Just like a tree that’s standing by the
waterside
We shall not be moved

We are sisters and brothers
We shall not be moved

Touch the Water

Lyna Hinkel
Touch the water, go ahead, touch it
Feels like nothing else flowing through
your fingers
Slip your toes in, let your body follow
Feels like nothing else
Let the feeling linger
Water, water is life itself (x2)
water is our planet’s greatest wealth

Taste the water, go ahead, taste it
Feels like nothing else flowing through
your body
Sip its wetness, notice how it quenches
Feels like nothing as nourishing your body
Water, water is life itself (x2)
Water is our planet’s greatest wealth

So let’s dance, dance for the water
Let’s dance, dance in praise of its
preciousness
Dance for the water
Let the blood of mother earth be
blessed

Let it be blessed

*Please join in singing the final verse

Touch the water,
go ahead, touch it
### Artists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joshua Alexander</th>
<th>Tegan Miller</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graham Bobby</td>
<td>Caroline Pohlmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Buchanan</td>
<td>Jon Pohlmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Bullock</td>
<td>Carrie Quarquesso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Childers</td>
<td>Rebecca Luttio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Halpin</td>
<td>Amber Salladin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Hamilton</td>
<td>Miguel Saucedo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Jalea</td>
<td>Michael Sauter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Keiper</td>
<td>Emily Spear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor Killiam</td>
<td>James Knox Sutterfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett Mahler</td>
<td>Zana Thaqi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Manganiello</td>
<td>Ricky Torres-Cooban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Marks</td>
<td>Lindsey Weishaus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ari Messenger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

with:

Lyna Hinkel, *singer-songwriter*

### Board of Directors

- Katherine Austin-Evelyn, Chair
- Megan Chartrand, Executive Director & Treasurer
- Tuesday Rupp, Singer Liaison & Secretary
- Justin Jalea, Artistic Director

### Artistic & Production

- Erin Halpin, Associate Conductor
- James Knox Sutterfield, Associate Artistic Director
- Ryan Buchanan & Tracy Dedrickson, Lighting Design
- Claire Manganiello & Erin Halpin, Digital Design
- Julia Hamilton & Ryan Buchanan, Education
- Eleanor Killiam, Artist Coordinator
- Lindsey Weishaus, Public Relations
- Tegan Miller, Wardrobe Coordinator
- Michael Sauter, Communications
- Susan Pohlmann, Reception Coordinator
- Ari Messenger, Media Editor

In partnership with:

[350 NYC] and [ETHICAL]
**Inspire** is a New York City-based chamber choir dedicated to cultivating compassion and action for diverse social issues through the power of song. In partnership with organizations seeking positive social change, we encourage individual and collective action on socially pressing issues. We seek to inspire a spirit of unity among our artists, audiences, and wider community.

Inspire seeks to promote unity through the power of song. We are dedicated to fostering a more just society by championing the work of our community partners, encouraging audience engagement, and cultivating impassioned and excellent artistry.

**350NYC** is a local affiliate of 350.org, a global grassroots network of local groups in over 188 countries working to solve the climate crisis since 2008. 350NYC focuses on local campaigns in New York City and New York State as well as global climate campaigns. We host and participate in events, meetings, rallies, art builds, and protests in coalition with allied organizations for a sustainable future for everyone.

**Why the name 350?** 350 is the number of parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere we need to return to in order to preserve our future. Though we were below 350 ppm up until the 1980s, we are now over 400 ppm and rising due to excessive burning of coal, oil and gas.

---

**Special Thanks**

The Center at West Park  
Ryan Jackson and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

Insomnia Cookies  
Mimi Daitz  
Yalitza Garcia  
Ermena Vinluan  
Marcia Annenberg  
Morgan Long  
Erik McGregor  
Nanette Melville

Nara Garber  
Heather Craig  
Alvin Tsang  
Christina Kershaw  
Tracy Dredrickson  
Joseph Jones

*and to our donors:*

Betsy Ashton  
Lottie Austin  
Katherine Austin-Evelyn  
Agnes & Jo Buchanan  
Simon Carrington  
Kathryn Chamberlin  
Jeffrey Douma  
Merrill Eisenberg  
Nick Feder  
Jane Isabelle Forner  
Rosemary Forrest  
Marta Fudakowska  
John Halpin  
Madeline Healey  
Jennifer Hobbs  
Ryan John  
Christine Landry  
Michel Languedoc  
Marie-Josee Lapierre  
Fredmy Mejias  
Jay Messenger  
Jackie Sauter  
Louise Schofield  
Matteo Sestito  
Seth Shulman  
James Stepleton  
James K Sutterfield  
Timothy Takach  
Kristi Roosmaa Tootell  
Marvin Weishaus  
Nathaniel Widelitz  
Anonymous (15)

---

**Upcoming Concert**

**Voice Dance**  
June 8, 2018, 7:30 PM  
The Center at West Park, 165 W 86th Street  
in partnership with Sing for Hope and the Center at West Park

**Inspire**  
[www.choirforunity.org](http://www.choirforunity.org)