



Fall 2025 Concert

The World Still Sings
Voices of Love, Land, and Sky



Russ Hammond, Director
Emma Bocciarelli, Accompanist

Guest Artists:
Ledyard High School Chamber Choir
Melanie Cometa, Director

About The Shoreline Chorale

The Shoreline Chorale was founded in 1982 by the Shoreline Arts Alliance. We perform a wide variety of choral genres, usually with concerts in November and May. Membership is open to all persons age 16 or older. While members' backgrounds vary, the only requirements are a sincere love of singing and a commitment to regular attendance at rehearsals, most of which are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 in Madison.

We are a member of the Association of Connecticut Choruses and the Shoreline Arts Alliance.



ASSOCIATION OF
CONNECTICUT CHORUSES



We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

We are excited to announce that we will be redesigning our website thanks to a grant from The Community Foundation of Middlesex County.



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The World Still Sings

Voices of Love, Land, and Sky

Part I

Resonet in Laudibus.....Scott Logan
O Nata Lux.....Tom Porter
Oceans and Stars.....Amy Bernon
The Pasture.....Z. Randall Stroope
Awakening.....Christi Jones
Arise, My Love.....Joan Szymko
Lovely Chance.....Jacob Navrerud

Paul Egan Memorial Fund Guest Artists

Ledyard High School Chamber Choir

Melanie Wade Cometa, Director

Prelude.....Ola Gjeilo
O Oriens.....Melissa Dunphy
Walk Out on the Water.....Woodpigeon, arr. G. Kroeker-Lee
Amen.....Bob Kauflin

Part II

Still I Sing Alleluia.....Kyle Pederson
Give Me Your Stars To Hold.....Bruce W. Tippette
Red River Valley.....Jack Zaino
On Springfield Mountain.....Vicki Tucker Courtney
Together.....Bethany Main

Message From The Director

Good afternoon! As always, we are very grateful that you have taken time out of your weekend to spend some time here with us today.

On some levels the title of our concert, "The World Still Sings", is obvious, but is it really? Seems to me we don't currently live in a world that sings a lot. Seems we live in a world that complains a lot and is negative a lot. Luckily for the Chorale members we get to sing and singing is such a positive, joy giving and unselfish thing to do. Today, you get to join us. You don't get to sing but, hopefully, you get to receive our "moments of positivity". We hope you are open to these songs of love, land and sky and we hope you leave the concert maybe just a wee bit more ready to go out into the world singing.

I also want to take a moment to welcome the Ledyard High School Chamber Choir to our stage. The Chorale and I both have deep long-lasting connections to Melanie and Ledyard, and it is always a pleasure when they add their unique and wonderful voice to our concerts

Message From The President

Welcome to *The World Still Sings: Voices of Love, Land, and Sky*! On behalf of the Shoreline Chorale Board and our entire ensemble, I am thrilled to welcome you to our Fall 2025 concert.

The Shoreline Chorale is a vibrant, non-auditioned community choir of more than sixty voices, amateur musicians brought together by a shared joy in making music. Each season, we explore a rich variety of choral works that reflect the beauty of human connection and the power of collective song.

This concert marks the culmination of months of rehearsal, laughter, and learning, as we've come together to celebrate the enduring bond between love, the natural world, and the music that unites us all.

Our guiding philosophy is simple: a love of singing and a commitment to each other. If you share that spirit, we invite you to join us for our next season!

Thank you for supporting the Shoreline Chorale and helping keep community music alive. We hope this afternoon's performance lifts your spirit and reminds you that—through every season—the world still sings.

About The Director



Russ Hammond

Russ Hammond is a retired High School Choir Director with over 30 years of experience. For sixteen years he was Director of Choral Activities at Ledyard High School where he taught five choirs and oversaw a program involving over 300 students in ten choirs and six instrumental ensembles. At Ledyard High School he worked with Rachael Allen (past Music Director of The Shoreline Chorale) and taught Melanie Cometa, (also a past Music Director of The Shoreline Chorale).

Professionally, Russ served for many years with the American Choral Directors Association as Connecticut State President and Eastern Division Repertoire and Standards Chair for High School Choral Music. In 2004, he was named by ACDA as the outstanding Choral Director in Connecticut.

Russ holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Bradley University, a Master's in Music from the University of Connecticut, and a 6th Year degree in Educational Leadership from SCSU.

Currently, Russ is a Student Teacher Supervisor at the University of Connecticut and sings professionally with CONCORA and the Hartford Chorale. He lives in Chester with his wife Michele, where they spend time traveling and looking for trails to run.

About The Accompanist



Emma Bocciarelli

Emma Bocciarelli is a 2023 graduate from the University of Connecticut with Bachelor degrees in Business Management and Piano Performance. She immensely enjoyed her piano studies with Dr. Angelina Gadeliya. Emma was a recipient of the EB Storrs Piano Scholarship and performed in masterclasses with Renana Gutman, Vladimir Valjarevic, Yoshi Akimoto, Yi-heng Yang, and the Takacs Quartet.

In spring of 2023, Emma completed an internship at The Bushnell Performing Arts Center in Hartford, CT, with a focus in marketing and customer relations. Currently, Emma is the Executive Coordinator for the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra in New London, CT. She is the music director at Putnam Congregational Church, assistant director for the Eastern CT Performing Arts Association Community Voices as well as pianist for the Shoreline Chorale, Shoreline East Band, and the Tim Fiorvanti Jazz Orchestra.

Emma continues to perform, collaborate and teach while traveling and enjoying time with family, friends and her three dogs.

About The Guest Artists



The Ledyard High School Chamber Choir, conducted by LHS alumna Melanie Wade Cometa, is the premier choral ensemble at Ledyard High School. This auditioned group is comprised of 20 students in grades 10-12. The group performs at dozens of events during the school year and has enjoyed success at national music competitions for many years. During the Covid-19 shutdown, the group produced dozens of virtual choir performances, which were shared all over the world, including by ChoirBuzz, The Choir Project, Billy Joel, and Sara Bareilles, and helped to raise over \$5,000 for charities and scholarships. The Ledyard High School Chamber Choir has premiered several new choral compositions, including music from Rob Dietz, Tehilla Alphonso, Jared Gravely, Shawn Kirchner, Stacey Gibbs, and Jim Papoulis. The LHS Chamber Choir was a National Finalist for the 2024 American Prize in Choral Performance.



Melanie Wade Cometa is the Director of Choral Activities at Ledyard High School, her alma mater, where she conducts over 150 students in eleven choirs. Her ensembles have performed as guest artists with CONCORA, Voce, the Mystic River Chorale, the Shoreline Chorale, and as a featured choir at ACDA state and regional conferences. Mrs. Cometa and the Ledyard High School Chamber Choir were National Finalists for the 2024 American Prize in Choral Performance. From March 2020-June 2021, Mrs. Cometa and the Ledyard Choirs produced over 50 virtual ensemble projects, including three world premieres and a feature-length virtual musical. Her work has been featured on ChoirBuzz, The Choir Project, and most recently at Carnegie Hall.

Mrs. Cometa is the President of Connecticut ACDA and is a regular clinician and guest conductor for conferences and festivals throughout the Northeast.

Fall 2025 Members

Soprano

Jill Aurigemma
Jill Bowen
Deb Carney
Britt Charlevois
Kelly Easton
Corey Ehrlich
Nan Ellman
Jen Gallegos
Nancy Hard
Susan Higgins
Gretchen Holthausen
Kathy Linstrom
Marcie Lustgarten
Leigh McLean
Cami Parente
Katrina Potts
Madalyn Ryan
Ellen Svengalis
Megan Taverna
Tina Tufano ⊗
Vanessa Vradenburgh ⊗
Liz Welsh ✓
Mahri Wrightington

Alto

Nancy Carroll
Rita Corcoran
Cristin Cummins
Maria DePino-Wallig
Nancy Dugan
Ellie Frohlich
Julie Gibson ⊗
Michele Hammond
Pat Hill
Mary Karg
Eileen Landry ⊗
Jessica Lecza
Deb Mapes ✓
Kimberly Marcell
Sandy O'Day
Claire Sullivan
Diane Wolff

Tenor

Tim Cunningham
Pete Fredrickson ✓
Rich Geer
Peggy Reavely
Leslie Stoddard
Ken Svengalis ⊗
Tom Tyson
Edwin Wolff

Bass

Alex Covell
Kevin Doyle
Bob Hale
Tor Hepburn
Al Karg
Robert Kessler
Ned Moore
Ced Paine
Christopher Rahusen ✓
Nick Rawlings
Howard Rubin
Brian Sawchuk
Rob Walker
Rick Westbrook

✓ Section Leader

⊗ Not singing this concert

Personnel History

Years	Director	Accompanist	President
1981 - 1982	Ray deLucia	Nan Hawes	Pat Hill
1982 - 1984	Michele Holt	Joan Steadman	Don Liepelt
1984 - 1985	Frank May, Jr.	Jane Bugbee	Carol Woessner
1985 - 1986	Warren Gohsler	Kristen Johnson	Carol Woessner
1986 - 1987	Warren Gohsler	Larry Bishop	Carol Woessner
1987 - 1989	Arlis Kramer	Patricia Snyder	David Mikus
1989 - 1990	Jan Shames	Beth Stone/Jay Lane	Elsa Antinarella
1990 - 1991	Tahme Adinolfi	Jane Bugbee	Muriel McIntyre
1991 - 1992	Tahme Adinolfi	Donna Breen-Stamm	Muriel McIntyre
1992 - 1993	Van Hale	June Hale	Judy Beatson
1993 - 1994	Van Hale	June Hale	Gail Carlisle
1994 - 1995	Van Hale	June Hale	Carin Roaldset
1995 - 1996	Lisa Zolkiewicz-Ives	Joyce Baxter	Janice Rosenberg
1996 - 1997	Lisa Zolkiewicz-Ives	Pat Todd	Cindy Bailey
1997 - 1998	Lisa Zolkiewicz-Ives	Mary Jo Gothmann	Fran Jennings
1998 - 2000	Lisa Zolkiewicz-Ives	Chad Hardin	Paul Thomas
2000 - 2001	Stephanie Gregory	Jean Jones	Paul Thomas
2001 - 2003	Stephanie Gregory	Donna Breen-Stamm	Bob Mathis
2003 - 2005	Stephanie Gregory	Mark Sullivan	Bob Mathis
2005 - 2007	Stephanie Gregory	Mark Sullivan	Tom Speer
2007 - 2008	Erin Westmaas	Mark Sullivan	Tom Speer
2008 - 2009	MacKenzie Albert	Mark Sullivan	Tom Speer
2009 - 2012	Noah Blocker-Glynn	Mark Sullivan	Tom Speer
2012 - 2013	Rachael Allen	Joyce Baxter	Tom Speer
2013 - 2015	Rachael Allen	Joyce Baxter	Rebecca Rastetter
2015 - 2016	Sarah Kaufold	Joyce Baxter	Rebecca Rastetter
2016 - 2017	Sarah Kaufold	Joyce Baxter	Alex Covell
2017 - 2018	Melanie Cometa	Joyce Baxter	Alex Covell
2018 - 2019	Melanie Cometa	Joyce Baxter	Barbara Nickel
2019 - 2020	Russ Hammond	Joyce Baxter	Barbara Nickel
2021 - 2022	Russ Hammond	Joyce Baxter	Tom Moebus
2022 - 2023	Russ Hammond	Jacklyn Belmonte	Tom Moebus
2023 - 2024	Russ Hammond	Emma Bocciarelli	Barbara Nickel
2024 - 2025	Russ Hammond	Emma Bocciarelli	Susan Higgins

Contributors

The Shoreline Chorale would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the following members and supporters, whose generosity has made this concert possible. Please support the businesses that support us!

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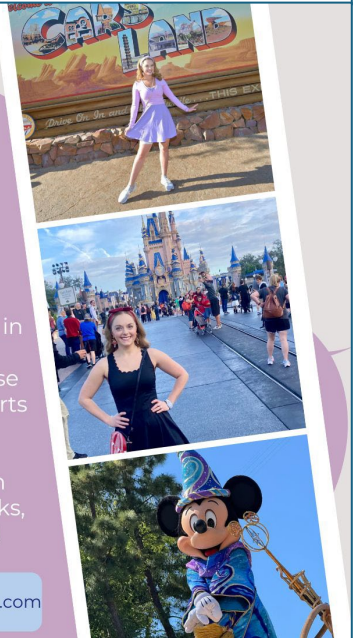


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I'm Isabelle, a former Disney World entertainment cast member. I am an expert in Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Disney Cruise Line, and Universal Resorts vacation planning.

Plan your best vacation thanks to all my tips, tricks, and recommendations!

Isabelle@lovethemousetravel.com



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Resonet in Laudibus

Scott Logan

Resonet in Laudibus bursts forth in celebration of Christ's birth. Drawing from the rich tradition of a 14th-century Latin hymn, this setting weaves classical elegance with contemporary vitality, capturing both the reverence and exuberance of the Christmas season.

Soaring melodies and rhythmic energy bring the text to life, as voices resound in praise—Christus natus est! Whether performed in a grand cathedral or a concert hall, Resonet in Laudibus is a stirring proclamation of joy.



Text and Translation

Resonet in laudibus! Christus natus est!
Resonet in laudibus, cum jucundis plausibus,
Sion cum fidelibus: apparuit quem genuit Maria!
Sunt impleta quae praedixit Grabriel.

Ex Maria Virgine est natus Rex! Eya!
Sion, lauda Dominum, Salvatorem hominum,
Purgatorem criminum: aparuit quem genuit Maria!
Hodie apparuit!

*Resound in praises! Christ is born!
Resound in praises with joyful applause,
Zion with the faithful: He has appeared who was borne by Mary.
It is fulfilled, what was foretold by Gabriel.*

*From the Virgin Mary is born the King! Hurray!
Zion, praise the Lord, Savior of humanity,
Cleanser of sins: He has appeared who was borne by Mary.
Today He has appeared!*

O Nata Lux

Tom Porter

Fluid melodic lines depict the gentle birthing of light from light in this reverent setting of the classic Latin text. Poignant harmonies support the interwoven countermelodies, creating layers of sound that climax in the final refrain and fade into sweet reflection on the repeated phrase, "O nata lux."



Text and Translation

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum laudes precesque sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici, tui beati corporis.

*O light born of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world.
Mercifully deign to accept the praises and prayers of your suppliants.
You who once deigned to be clothed in flesh on behalf of the lost.
Grant us to be made members of your blessed body.*

Oceans and Stars

Amy Bernon

In this song, the singers ask, “Friend, what will you see on your long journey? River, what adventures do you seek...?”. Paralleling the voyages we make through life with those of a river to the sea, this song offers singers and listeners thoughtful questions to contemplate.

This piece is in Mixolydian mode, which means it sounds like a major scale until...surprise!...the 7th is lowered. That’s why *Oceans and Stars* has no D-sharp in an otherwise E major key.



Text

Friend, what will you see on your long journey? What will you see?
River, what adventures do you seek on your swift travels to the ocean deep?
What do you expect to find so far away from home?

Friend, I'll miss you. Promise you won't be gone long.
River, on your way, sing out your greatest song!
I'll be here upon the shore, waiting for your safe return.

Live, you will live, grow, you will grow,
Sing, you will sing, you will flow.

Friends and rivers go where they must go, leaving us waiting.
And when they return, they tell us stories,
Stories of oceans and stars.

The Pasture

Z. Randall Stroope

Note from the Composer

I grew up on a ranch in New Mexico, and the quiet, gentle power and love of nature was something I experienced on a daily basis. One learns to “listen” to the sound of the breeze, birds in the distance, and every part of the wonder of creation. This is a work about a relationships – that no matter how small or large a task, it is more meaningful when the two people share it together.



Text by Robert Frost (1874-1963)

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring
I shan't be long
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away
I shan't be long
And watch the water clear, I may
I shan't be gone long
You come too

I'm going out to fetch the little calf
I shan't be long
The calf that's standing by the mother
I shan't be long
It's so young
It totters when she licks it with her tongue
I shan't be gone long
You come too

Awakening

Christi Jones

Note from the Composer

This piece is based on the poem *The Awakening* by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938). Johnson was a civil-rights activist, writer, composer, politician, educator, lawyer, and diplomat. He was also a leading figure in the creation and development of the Harlem Renaissance. He is best known for writing the hymn *Lift Every Voice and Sing* with his brother in 1900.

I was drawn to *The Awakening* because it has a powerful and moving text that I think many can relate to, especially teenagers. As I wrote it, I imagined a disoriented, dream-like state at the beginning, where the singer identified as a beautiful, yet lonely rose that no one notices or appreciates. In the second verse, the excitement and anticipation grow as the bee approaches and responds lovingly to the rose. Now blissfully validated, the rose realizes that it was well worth the wait!

Text

I dreamed that I was a rose
That grew beside a lonely way,
Close by a path none ever chose,
And there I lingered day by day.
Beneath the sunshine and the show'r
I grew and waited there apart,
Gathering perfume hour by hour,
And storing it within my heart,
Yet, never knew,
Just why I waited there and grew.

I dreamed that you were a bee
That one day gaily flew along,
You came across the hedge to me,
And sang a soft, love-burdened song.
You brushed my petals with a kiss,
I woke to gladness with a start,
And yielded up to you in bliss
The treasured fragrance of my heart;
And then I knew
That I had waited there for you.



Arise My Love

Joan Szymko

Note from the Composer

At its core, the message of "Arise My Love" is universal : *Love is love is love.*

This work was commissioned by Renaissance City Women's and Men's Choirs and the Indianapolis Women's and Men's Choruses as an "anthem" to be sung at GALA Choruses Festival International, Montreal, 2004 (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses). The texts adapted for this piece were chosen specifically to acknowledge that all committed, loving couples seek the blessing of the larger community and desire that their union be graced by the Divine One.



Text

(adapted from *The Song of Solomon*
and hymn tune, *At the River*)

Arise my love, arise my fair one, come away.
The winter is passed, the rains are all over and gone;
And the flowers appear on the earth,
And the time of our singing has come,
And a band of many colors is riding the sky.

Arise my love, arise my fair one, come away.
Our winter is passed, the rains are all over and gone.
Our winter is passed, the storms are all over and gone.
And we'll gather at the river, that beautiful river;
And there's just one river of Love,
Yes there's just one river of Love.
Arise, arise, arise!

Lovely Chance

Jacob Narverud

A driving echoed verse bursts into a dancelike, mixed-meter refrain, brilliantly capturing the nature of Sara Teasdale's vivid poetry. Narverud's contrasting B section takes a more contemplative approach, gradually growing to a recapitulation of the spirited main chorus.



Text by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

O lovely chance, what can I do
To give my gratefulness to you?
You rise between myself and me
With a wise persistency;
I would have broken body and soul,
But by your grace, still I am whole.
Many a thing you did to save me,
Many a holy gift you gave me,
Music and friends and happy love
More than my dearest dreaming of;
And now in this wide twilight hour
With earth and heaven a dark, blue flower,
In a humble mood I bless
Your wisdom—and your waywardness.
You brought me even here, where I
Live on a hill against the sky
And look on mountains and the sea
And a thin white moon in the pepper tree.

Still I Sing Alleluia

Kyle Pederson

Note from the Composer

I've always loved the Scottish melody, Loch Lomond; it's just achingly beautiful. The tune rarely (ever?) is performed in a worship setting, though, since the original lyrics are all about a body of water and a soldier's plight. So I set to work crafting lyrics that I hope speak into the turbulence and challenges we face as individuals—and as a community.

Text

With Spirit before me,
with Spirit behind,
with Spirit below and beside me;
with Spirit all around,
even where affliction's found;
I will sing, I will sound, "Alleluia."

When darkness descends
and the night never ends;
when my shadows and demons surround me;
when questions I spin
echo answerless within;
even then, even then, "Alleluia."

Alleluia, still I sing "Alleluia."
Open us to You
'til we sing, "Alleluia."

Weave joy in our gain,
bring us hope in our pain;
hear our prayers that we offer to you, Lord;
breathe life into death,
draw us closer with each breath;
that our lips may confess, "Alleluia."

So praise the Father and praise the Son,
praise the Spirit who moves in all through all;
all creation sound
the word so profound;
let us sing, let us live, "Alleluia!"



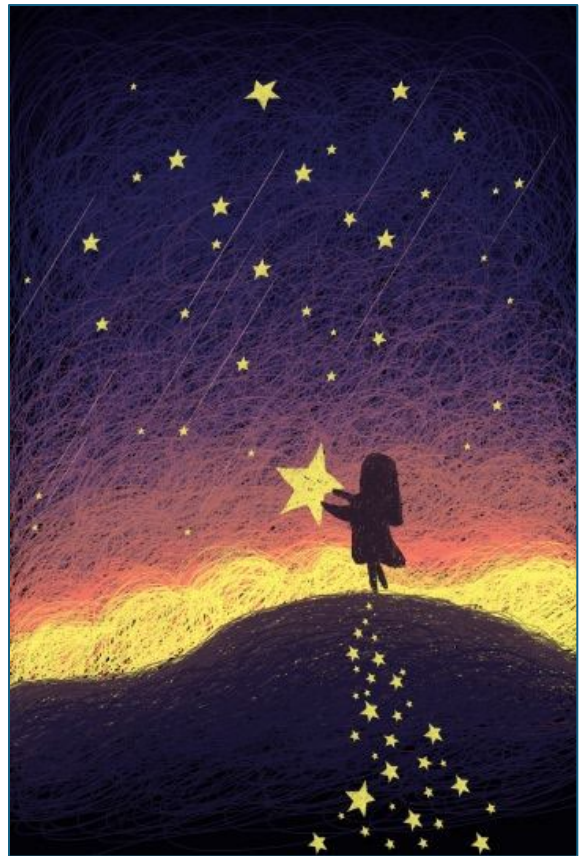
Give Me Your Stars to Hold

Bruce W. Tippette

Sara Teasdale's text is superbly set in a steady and flowing concert work. Musically satisfying yet accessible, this arrangement features diverse part-writing, close harmonies, and wonderful examples of text painting. Beautiful!

Text by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

Give me your stars to hold
Peace flows into me
As the tide to the pool by the shore
It is mine forever more
It ebbs not back like the sea
I am the pool of blue
I am the pool of gold
My hopes are fulfilled in you
Give me your stars to hold
When sunset burns and dies
You are my deepening skies



Red River Valley

Jack Zaino

Lilting and lovely, this is a fresh, contemporary take on the traditional. It's the beloved American folk song with light syncopation, a few updated lyrics, and a newly composed refrain.

Fun fact: Jack is from Connecticut and a self-described “lifetime Husky”. Check out his website! jackzaino.com



Text

From this valley, they say you are going.
I will miss your bright eyes and sweet smile
For they say you are taking the sunshine
That has brightened our path for a while.

Come and sit by my side if you love me.
Do not hasten to bid me adieu.
But remember the Red River Valley
And the one who is your friend so true.

Though the road may wind and bend,
You will always have a friend
Waiting here in the Red River Valley.
Ev'ry day that we're apart,
I will hold you in my heart
Waiting here in the Red River Valley.

There's a world far beyond this sweet valley.
There are people you'll meet on the way.
Tell me stories of ev'ry adventure
When you return to this valley one day.

On Springfield Mountain

Vicki Tucker Courtney

Note from the Composer

On Springfield Mountain is one of the earliest known American ballads. It is about 21-year-old Timothy Myrick, who was bitten by a poisonous rattlesnake while mowing his father's land on Springfield Mountain, now Wilbraham, Massachusetts. The fatal bite killed him a few hours later in Farmington, Connecticut on August 7, 1761.

Songs about current news in neighboring communities were passed around and passed down as a way of communicating life events throughout America. Understandably, folk songs were known to have many different versions of lyrics and melodies. This folk song story includes his future wife, known as Sally or Molly. And while the original take was heartfelt and reverently sung, in the 1830's it developed into a song of comedy telling the death of Timothy's fiancé because of trying to suck the poison out while having a broken tooth.

Text

On Springfield mountain there did dwell
A lovely youth whom I knew well

This lovely youth one day did go
Down to the meadow for to mow

He mowed a while and then did feel
A pois'nous serpent bite his heel

And with a blow he laid that serpent low
And Timothy died, gave up the ghost
And off to heaven he did post

Come all young men, and warning take
And don't get bit by a rattlesnake



Together

Bethany Main

Note from the Composer

2024 was a difficult year for our family; one marked by several losses. Yet, in those difficult moments, we found incredible solace in the love and care of our friends, family, coworkers, and students. In the midst of grief and faced with many tough days, I often reflected on the Ram Dass quote, “We’re all just walking each other home.”

The words remind me that we can’t ever know what every person we interact with is carrying with them that day. In our choirs, in our schools, and in our communities, we must lead with love and kindness. Our time together in music can be a sanctuary for the hurting, and a bright light for those who need it.

There are countless opportunities each day to care for the humans around us. I hope this piece will remind you that the only way through life is to do it together.

Text

Oh, we learn and we grow,
As we walk each other home,
Together, oh together.

Here is where I want to be,
Beside you, a melody,
Voices joined as one, together.

Built on trust and hope and care,
And always being there,
A guiding light now and forever.

Come along. Come with me.
You and I will plant the seeds.

Through the trials we endure,
Hearts united strong and sure,
Sailing smooth in stormy weather.

A tapestry,
A sanctuary,
A place to belong in song.

Oh, look at how we’ve grown,
As we walk each other home,
Together, oh together.

