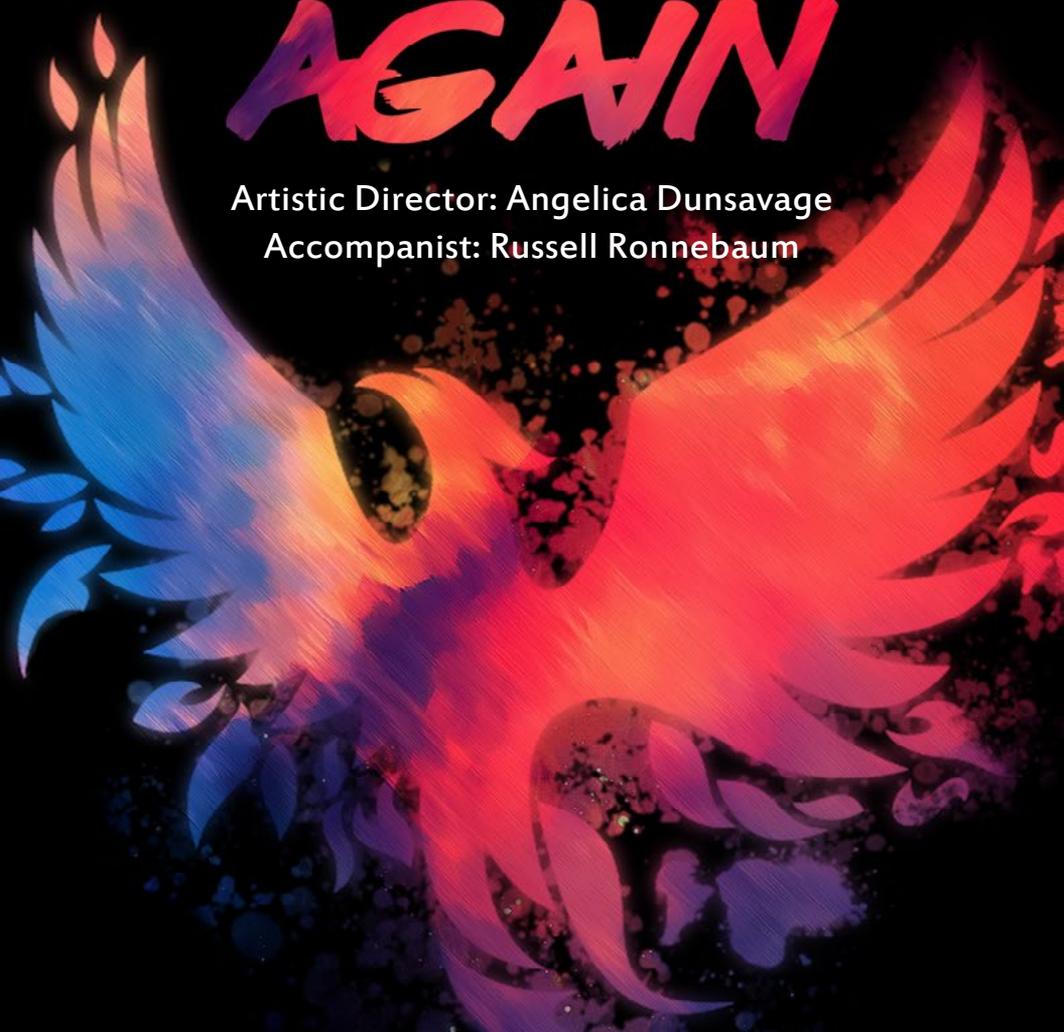




Tucson Masterworks Chorale

# WE RISE AGAIN

Artistic Director: Angelica Dunsavage  
Accompanist: Russell Ronnebaum



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# PROGRAM

## **Yours Are The Hands**

– by *Andrea Ramsey (b. 1977)*

## **It Takes a Village**

– by *Joan Szymko (b. 1957)*

## **Homeward Bound**

– arr. *Mack Willberg (b. 1955)*

## **We Rise Again**

– arr. *Stephen Smith (b. 1966)*

## **I Love You/What a Wonderful World**

– arr. *Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)*

### **Cover Art and Program Design**

Our beautiful program cover for this concert was designed by Jessica Villasenor. You can find her art work on Instagram or Facebook at [@jessvillagraphics](#)



ARIZONA CHORAL  
ARTS ASSOCIATION

# WE RISE AGAIN

**“Still, like air, I’ll rise.”**

– Maya Angelou

Tucson Masterworks Chorale’s virtual fall program, *We Rise Again*, expresses the Indomitable strength of the human spirit. In times of uncertainty and doubt, the program speaks of unity, perseverance, and hope for the future. It features five pieces compiled digitally from audio and video recordings by individual members during socially distanced rehearsals. These video and audio tracks were then professionally mixed to create the choral sound you hear in today’s performance. For our members, this was no easy feat – many of them have never submitted recordings of their individual voices. This fall’s program, more than ever before, demonstrates the determination of our singers to make music together, and we are proud to display their accomplishments today.

The program features five pieces, each inspired by the idea of hope and human connection:

*Yours Are the Hands* by Andrea Ramsey uses text attributed by St. Theresa of Avila. It follows in the tradition of Corpus Christi texts, which describe the body of Jesus. St. Theresa’s text, however, takes a humanistic approach, stating: “Christ has no body now but ours.” In this way, the text and Ramsey’s music display a human obligation for us to be the positive influence we wish to see in the world through our actions. The quiet opening is an invitation for personal reflection, featuring the treble voices. Later, the text “yours are the hands with which he blesses the world” is depicted through lush harmonies reaching upward in range and dynamics like outstretched arms.

Paired with Ramsey's piece, *It Takes a Village* by Joan Szymko takes a parallel approach to the idea of human altruism. The text is an elaboration on the West African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child." The piece begins with a communal heartbeat rhythm, followed by a soloist. Szymko creates a musical village through the use of different motives which express the individuality of each section of the chorus. These motives combine to create a vibrant and complex community, whose members work together for the common good.

The middle of the program centers around the idea of home. Despite life circumstances, there will always be a place we belong. *Homeward Bound's* folk song like text and melody has had many interpretations since its conception by Marta Keen. The song has been used to commemorate personal loss, life transitions, or as a song of travel. To pair with the soaring melody, our video features images of nature leading back to our home in the Southwest.

The namesake of our program, *We Rise Again*, describes that in times of darkness and despair, we will continue to persevere through our determination and that of future generations. This song of hope was originally written for performance by the Canadian group *The Rankin Family*, and is arranged for choir by Canadian composer Stephen Smith. By the production of this virtual concert and others like it, TMC and community arts organizations send the message that choral music will continue for generations to come.

TMC would like to offer our final piece, *I Love You/ What a Wonderful World*, as a message of love to our friends, family, and supporters in Tucson, and around the country. As the Covid-19 virus still continues to affect arts organizations nation-wide, we look forward to the day when "people all over the world are opening up, they're coming around." Despite our difficulties, TMC and Artistic Director Angelica Dunsavage truly believe that it is still a wonderful world, and we thank you for your support of our organization.

TMC and its artistic staff hope that this virtual concert can reach our friends and family in Tucson and beyond. While we are apart from each other for now, know that we love you, and we will keep singing.

# Program Texts

## **Yours Are The Hands** – by *Andrea Ramsey (b. 1977)*

Text attributed to St. Theresa of Avila

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

## **It Takes a Village** – by *Joan Szymko (b. 1957)*

Ashley Sova, soprano soloist

Text adapted from a West African proverb

It takes a whole village to raise our children  
It takes a whole village to raise one child  
We all everyone must share the burden  
We all everyone will share the joy

## **Homeward Bound** – arr. *Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)*

Text and melody by Marta Keen

In the quiet misty morning  
When the moon has gone to bed,  
When the sparrows stop their singing  
And the sky is clear and red,  
When the summer's ceased its gleaming  
When the corn is past its prime,  
When adventure's lost its meaning -  
I'll be homeward bound in time

Refrain: Bind me not to the pasture  
Chain me not to the plow  
Set me free to find my calling  
And I'll return to you somehow

If you find it's me you're missing  
If you're hoping I'll return,  
To your thoughts I'll soon be listening,  
And in the road I'll stop and turn  
Then the wind will set me racing  
As my journey nears its end  
And the path I'll be retracing  
When I'm homeward bound again

**We Rise Again** – *arr. Stephen Smith (b. 1966)*  
Tamara Kahrmanis and Jacob Walters, soloists

Text by Leon Dubinsky

When the waves roll on over the waters  
And the ocean cries.  
We look to our sons and daughters  
To explain our lives  
As if a child could tell us why.

That as sure as the sunrise  
As sure as the sea  
As sure as the wind in the trees.

Refrain: We rise again in the faces of our children.  
We rise again in the voices of our song.  
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean,  
And then we rise again.

When the light goes dark with the forces of creation  
Across a stormy sky.  
We look to reincarnation  
to explain our lives.  
As if a child could tell us why.

That as sure as the sunrise  
As sure as the sea  
As sure as the wind in the trees.

We rise again...

## **I Love You/What a Wonderful World**

– arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

Jacob Walters, tenor solo

Text by Larry Norman and Randy Stonehill

We can be together now and forever

I love you, I love you.

And when I'm praying, I hear him saying

I love you, I love you.

People all over the world, they're opening up, they're coming around,

And they're saying: I love you, I love you, I love you...

Text by Bob Thiele

I see trees of green

Red roses too

I see them bloom

For me and you

And I think to myself

What a wonderful world

I see skies of blue

And clouds of white

The bright blessed day

The dark sacred night

And I think to myself

What a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow

So pretty in the sky

Are also on the faces

Of people going by

I see friends shaking hands

Saying how do you do

They're really saying

I love you  
I hear babies cry  
I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more  
Than I'll ever know  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world  
Yes, I think to myself  
What a wonderful world

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# TUCSON MASTERWORKS CHORALE

## Fall 2020

### **Soprano**

Nancy Carter (2019)  
Laura Couchman (2016)  
Cathy Della Penta (2016)  
Cathy Dinsmore (2017)  
Candy Egan (2019)  
Alison Futrell (2002)  
Patricia Gillingham (2020)  
Sarah Kim (2018)  
Robertta Latham (1992)  
Arlynn Ostlund (2016)  
Wendy Reed (2016)  
Sally Reel (2002)  
Paige Scalf (2019)  
Ashley Sova (2020)  
Marie Valade (2020)  
Dale Whitmore (2010)  
Marie Wiley (2020)  
Priscilla Zimmermann (2020)

### **Alto**

Shirin Antia (2012)  
Nancy Campman-Crofts (2020)  
Sue Gilles (2014)  
Marcia Gold (2016)  
Tamara Kahrmanis (2020)  
Margaret Long (2020)  
Nancy McQuillen (2020)  
Joan Morris (2006)  
Jessica Novak (2020)  
Linda Shaw (2010)  
Zora Shaw (2020)  
Rebecca Standifer (2018)  
MaryBeth Stuenkel (2017)  
Stephanie Tashiro (2012)

## Tenor

George Bray (2014)  
Fred Brinker (2010)  
Michael Day (2017)  
Danielle Dvorak (2018)  
Neil Jacobsen (1995)  
Linda Kayden (2001)  
Norb Promo (2019)  
Richard Rhoades (2015)  
Janet Rowe (1991)  
Jacob Walters (2019)

## Bass

Andrew Comrie (2002)  
Bill Couchman (2016)  
Ron Klaiss (2019)  
Tom McGowan (2019)  
Bill Reiners (2019)  
Daniel Schaller (2015)  
Jesse Thrall (1981)



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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## Angelica Dunsavage

Dr. Angelica Dunsavage serves as Lecturer of Choral Music Education and Voice at Washington State University, where she teaches choral methods, studio voice, and directs the WSU University Singers. Angelica recently received her DMA in Choral Conducting and Music Education at University of Arizona.

She received her MM in Choral Conducting from Bowling Green State University, and her BS in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Angelica is active in the Tucson, Arizona area as the Artistic Director of Tucson Masterworks Chorale, and Vocal Music Teacher at Ironwood Ridge HS. She serves on the AzACDA board as editor of the Antiphon. Her writing has also appeared in the Choral Journal. Angelica's current research on the madrigals of Johann Schein appeared in a poster session at the 2019 NCCO Conference.

Angelica has served in church, community, and public-school teaching positions in the Arizona, Ohio and Pennsylvania areas, and remains in demand as a clinician, vocal teacher, professional chorister, and mezzo-soprano soloist.



ACCOMPANIST

## Russell Ronnebaum

TUCSON MASTERWORKS CHORALE FALL PROGRAM (10-19-20)

Pianist and composer Russell Ronnebaum holds a Masters Degree in collaborative piano from the University of Arizona where he studied under Dr. Paula Fan. He has served as the staff accompanist for the Tucson Masterworks Chorale since 2015. For the spring 2017 Masterworks Chorale series, Mr. Ronnebaum performed as a soloist for Beethoven's 2nd Piano Concerto, Op. 19. In 2019, Russell was named Director of Music and Composer in Residence of [The Rogue Theatre](#) in Tucson, AZ. Mr. Ronnebaum also holds the position as the assistant director of music at [St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church](#) in Oro Valley since 2017.

Past performance and compositional engagements include Artifact Dance Project, The Rogue Theatre, and the University of Arizona. Other performance engagements have been with acclaimed organizations such as the Tucson Symphony Orchestra (TSO), American Wind Symphony Orchestra, and Tucson Masterworks Chorale. His music has been played on 90.5 FM Arizona Public Media, and 91.3 KXCI 'Locals Only' program. Russell made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2016 performing the music of composer Dan Forrest.

Recordings, videos, sheet music, and upcoming concert dates can be found at: [www.RRonnebaum.com](http://www.RRonnebaum.com)

# ABOUT THE CHORALE

The Tucson Masterworks Chorale is the oldest independent choral arts organization in southern Arizona. It began in 1949 as a group of 18 singers, with Governor Samuel Goddard as its first president. Now celebrating its 71st anniversary, the Chorale continues to refine its performances of the great masterworks of choral literature, from pre-Baroque to contemporary, many with orchestral accompaniment. Past performances have included the chorale's participation in the "Rolling Requiem" project, a world-wide acknowledgement of the events of 9/11/01 performed on September 11, 2002; a performance at Carnegie Hall in 2003; and recent collaborations with other groups singing in Varna and Sofia, Bulgaria. In 2014, Tucson Masterworks Chorale was again invited to sing in New York, this time at Lincoln Center, where members performed Duruflé's Requiem under the baton of Dr. Bruce Chamberlain. This past July of 2019, twenty five Chorale members and friends joined with other community choruses in *The Jubilate Mozart Festival Concert* sung in the Salzburg Dom in Austria. The Chorale members also performed with a smaller ensemble from Westchester County, N.Y., in a performance at The Melk Abbey near Vienna.

# Our Mission

Tucson Masterworks Chorale is southern Arizona's leading community chorus, now in its 71st season. We strive to make the great masterworks of choral literature, from pre-Baroque to contemporary, accessible to singers and audience members from all walks of life. We endeavor to grow musically and to encourage cultural participation in our community. We are a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, governed by a volunteer board of directors.

## Board of Directors

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Wendy Reed, Secretary

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Neil Jacobsen, Member

Gary Bacal, Member

George Bray, Member

Linda Shaw, Member

Prudence Eppers, Member

Andrew Comrie, Member

Janet Rowe, Member

Marcia Gold, Member

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