

May 12th and 19th, 2025
7:30pm
Mill City Church

Artistic Director
Danny Dahlquist-Johnson

Accompanist
Siri Garnaas

The Road Not Taken



Special Thanks

- Mill City Church, for continuing to provide a welcoming home for our choir and for dealing with all of our last minute changes pre-season with how much the choir grew!
- Anne Groton from the St. Olaf Classics Department, for assisting with the translation for "Pax".
- All of the volunteers for helping make our two concerts happen, especially with the addition of a second concert and the silent auction.
- All of the people and businesses for donating money or silent auction items or purchasing ads in our program. All of this goes a long way in helping our growing choir continue to succeed.
- Our Board, for continually providing their creativity, motivation, and passion and being a huge part of the new successes for the Morris Park Singers.
- Our Staff, especially this season, for rising to the occasion and picking up a lot of extra workload than we have ever had in previous seasons.
- Our singers, for their hard work, their trust, and their unending talent.
- All of you, for coming out to support the Morris Park Singers and your continued support.

Choir Board

Anya Klaassen - President
Brandon Reger-Johnson - Vice President
Wendy Anderson - Treasurer
Ellen Nemmers - Member At Large
Joe Scarpellino - Member At Large
Alyson Weber - Member At Large

Choir Staff

Danny Dahlquist-Johnson - Executive Director
Brandon Reger-Johnson - Choir Manager
Siri Garnaas - Accompanist



Director's Notes

"The Road Not Taken" is one of Frost's most famous, and most misunderstood poems. Probably the most popular of the various interpretations is a lesson about forging your path in life. While that is an important life lesson, Robert Frost actually simply wrote this poem as a joke, poking fun at his friend Edward Thomas, who was often indecisive about which route to take when the two went walking. Regardless of which one you connect more with, all of the interpretations have one thing in common: making a decision.

The red pill or the blue pill? Crunchy or creamy peanut butter? Our days are full of decisions. Some are little and seemingly insignificant. Some are important and potentially life altering. Sometimes we put way too much stress on a simple decision. Sometimes we jump into a big decision without taking enough time to weigh the options. From asking the powers that be to "clear my mind", to speaking finding the peace within, to choosing between the high road or the low road, to knowing that you can always return home regardless of the path you take, to gathering the courage to not be "fearful of the night", to knowing when you need to choose face a tough situation head on, to just singing about two friends in a park (like Robert Frost and Edward Thomas), the music this evening is meant to take you on a journey. With this concert, the Morris Park Singers provide our own commentary on the "art" of making a choice and what our brains go through during that process.

Thank you to you all for your support of the Morris Park Singers!! You have no shortage of choices for great choral music in the Twin Cities, and so we thank you for choosing us!

Artistic Director
Danny Dahlquist-Johnson



Program

Gather at the River.....Brian Tate

May 12th Performance

Orange Juice.....opb Noah Kahan
Kirsten Anderson & Miles Kessler

For Good from 'Wicked'.....Stephen Schwartz
Brandon Reger-Johnson & Colin Sullivan

Journey to the Past from 'Anastasia'.....Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty
Olivia Curti

May 19th Performance

Can't Go Back.....opb Rosi Golan
Ethan Hiedeman & Elizabeth Lacy

Three.....opb Sleeping at Last
Travis Loch

Where I Belong.....Joe Scarpellino
Joe Scarpellino

Pax.....Marshall Webb

The Road Not Taken.....Adam Paltrowitz

Loch Lomond.....arr. Jonathan Quick

Soloists: Anissa Lubbers, Colin Sullivan

93 Million Miles.....arr. Susan LaBarr

I Have Loved the Stars Too Fondly.....Heather Sorenson

Cello: Christine Devitt

For Forever from 'Dear Evan Hansen'.....arr. Jacob Narverud

Soloists: Bryn Muraff, Sally Pidgeon, Joe Scarpellino

Swing Low, Sail High.....arr. Evan Powers

Soloists: Salem Weitzenhoffer, Jocelyn Mickelsen, Elise Thompson, Alyson Weber

Ensemble: Kristen Bansen Weigle, Sarah Campbell, Ali Carlson, Christine Devitt,
Keisa Helgersen, Anya Klaassen, Elizabeth Lacy, Rachel Martinez, Ellen Nemmers

Guitar: Joe Scarpellino

Notes

Pax

LATIN

Pax? Ubi est pax?
Mundus qui pacem desiderat.
Fias pax, pax pro mundo nostro.
Fontem inveni
Illa pax penita
Tecum incipit fias pax.
Fias pax!

ENGLISH

Peace? Where is the peace?
A world desires that peace.
May there be peace, peace for our world.
I found the source
Of the peace I sought.
May peace begin with you.
May you become peace!

Kirsten Anderson & Miles Kessler - Orange Juice

This is a song about how the decisions we make have a wide array of implications, affecting our daily lives, relationships, and worldview. These lyrics specifically tackle the difficulties of choosing sobriety as a path forward from trauma, and how this choice fundamentally alters the composition of our lives. While there are decisions big and small, sobriety is one that has a ripple effect felt throughout the lives of the person choosing this path and their loved ones. A decision as monumental as this is one that necessitates empathy, support, and understanding, all of which we need more of in our world.

Brandon Reger-Johnson & Colin Sullivan - For Good

For Good reflects on how the paths we choose and the people we meet along the way shape who we become. Similarly to the traveler in *The Road Not Taken*, Elphaba and Glinda look back on their friendship and acknowledge that all of their choices, both big and small, are forever intertwined. The song shows how relationships and decisions leave lasting marks on us and make us who we are. Even though we might take different directions in our lives, the song serves as a reminder that we are “changed for good” by the people we’ve met and the experiences that we’ve lived.





Olivia Curti - Journey to the Past

This song is about a turning point in Anastasia's life, and how choosing to explore her past will lead her to her future. This song means a lot to me, personally, because while music is not my career, I have decided to continue on the path of being a musician in my personal life. In my early 20's, I wasn't involved with any musical extracurricular activities, but I am now back "where I belong," with being a singer as a large part of my identity. I sang "At the Beginning" from Anastasia for my 6th grade 'graduation' concert, so "Journey to the Past" representing my path as a singer is a full-circle moment.

Ethan Hiedenman & Elizabeth Lacy - Can't Go Back

Can't Go Back is a song about living with the choices that you have made, and trying to move forward despite the what-ifs. The singer has chosen a path to walk, but seems unable to enjoy the path she is walking because she is dwelling on roads untaken. At the same time, the singer realizes that by dwelling on these past choices, she is harming the one she is currently with. The two harmonies flow together yet remain apart. Only a few times does the soprano part sing out, walking its own path - at least until the end of the song, where the lines first echo each other and then converge into unison, coming to a resolution musically and emotionally. This is really Frost's point in the end - whatever path we take, we all end up in the same place.

Travis Loch - Three

Three, to me, is the essence of the struggle we all face in balancing loving our whole selves as we are - the good, the bad, and the ugly - and striving to be the best version of ourselves we can possibly be. Can we break out of the paths and patterns that have not and are not serving us? Can we solidify or forge anew the paths that best serve us? In life the answers to these questions aren't always clear. Life is messy. So maybe most importantly, can we love and be compassionate to ourselves while we figure it out?

Joe Scarpellino - Where I Belong

It's an original song about going where you know you need to be. unapologetically, and confidently. Time is of the essence, and if you know where to go, go!

Choir

* = Section Leader

Soprano

Anissa Lubbers
Anya Klaassen
Bryn Muraff
Elizabeth Lacy
Kaitlin McInerney
Leah Zierhut
Maia Davidson
Olivia Curti
Salem Weitzenhoffer*

Allie Gasiarowski
Amy Donovan
Ashley Berry
Clara Posner
Corey Hughes
Eden Lehr
Emma Jester*
Jackie Tully
Jess Oldroyd
Karen Barrows
Kirsten Anderson
Kirsten Bansen Weigle
Madeline Ellis
Meleta Schuetzle
Michelle Brunt
Siri Garnaas
Sydney Ahrens-Church
TJ Jacobs
Wendy Anderson

Alto

Amy Kurowski-Moen
Angela Kaiser
Anna Garnaas
Christine Devitt*
Cora Fitterer
Elise Thompson
Emily Siderits
Heather Arent
Jen Yenor
Jennifer Underwood
Jenny Cvek-Walmsley
Laura Anderson
Sally Pigeon
Sam Sorenson
Sarah Campbell
Sarah Catcher

Ali Carlson
Alyson Weber
Ameria Elsafy
Ellen Nemmers
Emily Uecker
Holly Wykert
Jessica Rusick
Jocelyn Mickelsen
Julia Liesen
Keisa Helgerson*
Lynette Lamb
Megan Creasey
Morgan Bartlett
Olivia Dorow Hovland
Rachel Godfrey
Rachel Martinez
Rachel Richardson
Sophia Davies

Tenor

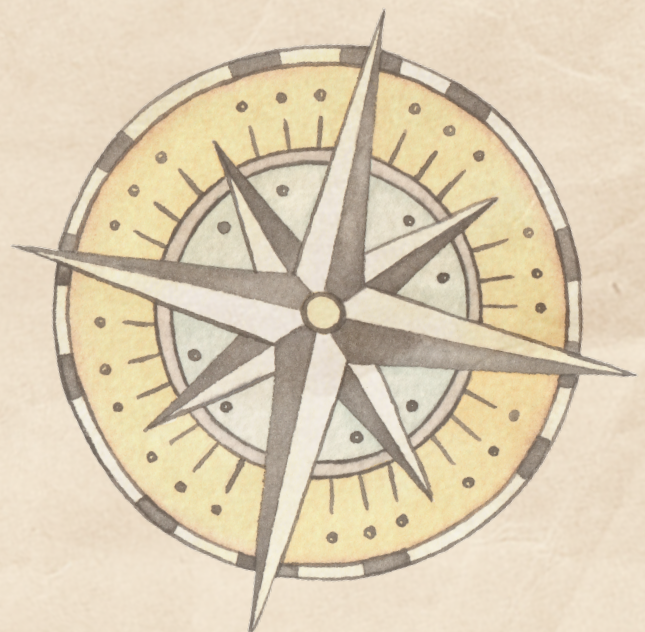
Brandon Reger-Johnson
Colin Sullivan*
Jack Bertelson
Leo Osterbauer
Marco Fields

Joel Carlson*
Kevin Dahlquist-Johnson
Kevin Lindee
Matthew Felland
Peyton Helgerson
Steve Schacht

Bass

Alex Davies*
Benn Villnow
Edward Jones
Johannes Carlsen
Miles Kessler
Philip Groth
Travis Loch

Ariel Lopez
Ethan Hiedeman
Joe Scarpellino*
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