

**Sopranos**

Gabriela Wenda-Collier  
 Jane Banzhaf  
 Jaycee Chinn  
 Kat White  
 Kim Meyer  
 Lisa Abo  
 Lisa Dewane  
 Maurine Reed  
 Sarah Daly  
 Susannah Hazelrigg  
 Tia Cope

**Tenors**

Andrea Waner  
 Cande Copeland  
 Jo Childers  
 Martha Narey  
 Quatez Scott  
 Timothy Osborn

**Altos**

Ann Hahn-Baiyor  
 Bekki Henthorn  
 Carla Miller  
 Diana Wilson  
 Kay Fullerton  
 Kim Bosse  
 Sandy Nance  
 Sara Matlock

**Basses**

Bob Gibson  
 Dustin Carlson  
 Jim Kreitler  
 Jim Wharton  
 Ron Abo  
 Walter LaMendola

# For A Breath of Ecstasy

## A Choral Concert of Reflection, Bliss, and Love

Saturday, April 13, 2024  
 3:00 PM

**Taylor Gonzales, Music Director**  
**Brenda Olmsted, Collaborative Pianist**

Presented by



*Thank you for your continued support of Foothills Community Choir. If you would like to make a donation, please use the QR codes below.*

Wheat Ridge Community Chorale

[foothillscommunitychoir@gmail.com](mailto:foothillscommunitychoir@gmail.com)



**Zelle**



*With gratitude to Jefferson Avenue United Methodist Church for sharing this beautiful space.*



*Thank you to the City of Wheat Ridge  
Cultural Commission for your sponsorship.*

Originally from Westminster, MD, **Zachary Gnall** is a current first-year graduate student at the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver studying **oboe** performance. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Shenandoah University, where he graduated in May 2023. Dedicated to the advancement of music in America, he is a Brother in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, as well as a member of the National Association for Music Education. Beyond graduate school, he aspires to both teach and pursue studies in conducting.

**Olasuyi Ige** is a **violinist**, educator, and composer who received his Bachelor's in Violin Performance from the University of Denver Lamont School of Music (Magna Cum Laude) and is currently pursuing his Masters in violin performance at the Lamont School of Music. Olasuyi Ige performs regularly with regional orchestras such as the Cheyenne Symphony, Arapahoe Philharmonic, Boulder Symphony, and Greeley Philharmonic. Olasuyi has also spent time working with the nonprofit organization called El Sistema Colorado which provides group and private music lessons to underrepresented youth in the Denver area.

**Julia Maisto** is a Denver-based **violinist** and violist specializing in chamber music. Most recently, Julia has performed with the Lamont Symphony Orchestra and the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music. Julia holds a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Vermont, where she studied under the direction of Evelyn Read and was the recipient of the Lyman Rowell Award and Yandell Scholarship.

**Violist Josquin Larsen** performs across the Front Range as a soloist, chamber musician and in orchestras. He lives in Northern Colorado with his partner and two whippets, Wally and Coda.

As a soloist, chamber musician, teacher, and activist, **Katie Burns** aims to use the **cello** to engage people in unique and meaningful musical experiences. Katie received her Master of Music in Cello Performance and Suzuki Cello Pedagogy at the University of Denver. She currently runs an active private cello studio in Denver, CO, serves as String Pedagogy Specialist and Teaching Artist for El Sistema Colorado, and teaches for Lamont Suzuki Strings.

## Bios

**Conductor and pianist Taylor Gonzales** joined the Foothills Community Choir as Music Director in Fall 2023. Following a successful engagement as guest conductor with the group in April 2023, Taylor fell in love with the community of artists that make up Foothills Community Choir and committed to the organization long-term.

Taylor holds several conducting positions in the region. He is the Music Director of the Wild Beautiful Orchestra, a flexible group of Denver-based musicians creating transformative musical experiences for diverse audiences. He also conducts the Chancel Choir at Trinity United Methodist Church in downtown Denver, as well as directs the Silvers Singers Choir located in Lakewood, CO. He previously served as the Associate Conductor for the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, and as cover conductor for the Littleton Symphony Orchestra and Stratus Chamber Orchestra. He co-founded the Puget Sound Concerto Orchestra, where he served as the orchestra's first Music Director.

Taylor grew up in Central Oregon before trading in the dry High Desert landscapes for the green, rainy pastures of Washington State. He earned a music degree from the University of Puget Sound and went on to earn his master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Denver. As a pianist, Taylor performed with numerous orchestras including the University of Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra and the Sunriver Music Festival Orchestra. When not performing, Taylor enjoys exploring artsy Denver neighborhoods, dreaming up the next big musical project, or playing with the cat, Pippin.

**Brenda Olmsted** is an accomplished **collaborative pianist**. She is the pianist for the Foothills Community Choir, she plays the piano for church services at her church and is a piano teacher. She started taking lessons at the age of seven and fell in love! She played for the chorus in junior high school and then became head accompanist in the 10th grade. She loved playing for the concert and show choir and for the school musicals. She played the organ for her high school commencement ceremonies for several years. She played the piano and organ for the junior choirs at her church growing up. Brenda left Pennsylvania and relocated to Colorado with her family, and quickly found a church and a community choir that she became the accompanist for. She has been the accompanist for a community choir for about thirty years, along with some weddings and senior community centers here and there. Brenda's love and compassion for music flows through her every single day! She is always humming and singing songs in her head all the time. She loves to sight read, play for fun, and teach students of all ages!

## Program

### **Why We Sing (2005)**

Greg Gilpin (b. 1964)

### **For the Beauty of the Earth (2017)**

Music by John Leavitt (b. 1956)

Text by Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)

### **O Radiant Dawn (from The Strathclyde Motets) (2008)**

Music by Sir James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Text from the Antiphon for December 21

### **In the Middle (2016)**

Music by Dale Trumbore (b. 1987)

Text by Barbara Crooker (b. 1945)

of a life that's as complicated as everyone else's,  
struggling for balance, juggling time.  
The mantle clock that was my grandfather's  
has stopped at 9:20; we haven't had time  
to get it repaired. The brass pendulum is still,  
the chimes don't ring. One day I look out the window,  
green summer, the next, the leaves have already fallen,  
and a grey sky lowers the horizon. Our children almost grown,  
our parents gone, it happened so fast. Each day, we must learn  
again how to love, between morning's quick coffee  
and evening's slow return. Steam from a pot of soup rises,  
mixing with the yeasty smell of baking bread. Our bodies  
twine, and the big black dog pushes his great head between;  
his tail, a metronome, 3/4 time. We'll never get there,  
Time is always ahead of us, running down the beach, urging  
us on faster, faster, but sometimes we take off our watches,  
sometimes we lie in the hammock, caught between the mesh  
of rope and the net of stars, suspended, tangled up  
in love, running out of time.

—Barbara Crooker, from Radiance.

### **Brenda Olmsted, piano**

--- Short Pause ---

**For a Breath of Ecstasy (2017)**

Music by Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)  
Text by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933) from her anthology of poems  
entitled *Love Songs*

**Musicians**

Zachary Gnall, oboe  
Olasuyi Ige, violin 1  
Julia Maisto, violin 2  
Josquin Larsen, viola  
Katie Burns, cello

**I. Wealth Enough For Me**

I have no riches but my thoughts,  
Yet these are wealth enough for me;  
My thoughts of you are golden coins  
Stamped in the mint of memory;

And I must spend them all in song,  
For thoughts, as well as gold, must  
be  
Left on the hither side of death  
To gain their immortality.

**II. Peace Flows into Me**

Peace flows into me  
As the tide to the pool by the shore;  
It is mine forevermore,  
It will not ebb like the sea.

I am the pool of blue  
That worships the vivid sky;  
My hopes were heaven-high,  
They are all fulfilled in you.

I am the pool of gold  
When sunset burns and dies—  
You are my deepening skies;  
Give me your stars to hold.

**III. Who Gave My Soul to Me**

I gave my first love laughter,  
I gave my second tears,  
I gave my third love silence  
Thru all the years.

My first love gave me singing,  
My second eyes to see,  
But oh, it was my third love  
Who gave my soul to me.

**IV. For You I Am Still**

I sang my songs for the rest,  
For you I am still;  
The tree of my song is bare  
On its shining hill.

For you came like a lordly wind,  
And the leaves were whirled  
Far as forgotten things  
Past the rim of the world.

The tree of my song stands bare  
Against the blue —  
I gave my songs to the rest,  
Myself to you.

**V. Spend All You Have On Loveliness VI. And I For You**

Life has loveliness to sell,  
All beautiful and splendid things,  
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,  
Soaring fire that sways and sings,  
And children's faces looking up  
Holding wonder like a cup.

Life has loveliness to sell,  
Music like a curve of gold,  
Scent of pine trees in the rain,  
Eyes that love you, arms that hold,  
And for your spirit's still delight,  
Holy thoughts that star the night.

Spend all you have for loveliness,  
Buy it and never count the cost;  
For one white singing hour of peace  
Count many a year of strife well lost,  
And for a breath of ecstasy  
Give all you have been, or could be

The moon is a curving flower of  
gold,  
The sky is still and blue;  
The moon was made for the sky to  
hold,  
And I for you;

The moon is a flower without a stem,  
The sky is luminous;  
Eternity was made for them,  
Tonight for us.

**VII. Let Me Love**

Until I lose my soul and lie  
Blind to the beauty of the earth,  
Deaf though shouting wind goes by,  
Dumb in a storm of mirth;

Until my heart is quenched at length  
And I have left the land of men,  
Oh, let me love with all my strength  
Careless if I am loved again.

**Please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall  
after the concert.**