



presents

# *Youth and Music!*

Volti welcomes our Choral Institute choirs from:

Acalanes High School  
Bruce Lengacher, Conductor

The Head-Royce School  
Robert Wells, Conductor

Ecco  
Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir  
Eric Tuan, Conductor

The Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts  
Kristen Grzeca, Conductor

142 Throckmorton Youth Choir  
Sue Bohlin, Conductor

*First Unitarian Universalist Center of San Francisco*  
*October 24, 2015*



Welcome!

Volti welcomes you to this first concert of our 37th season. We are pleased to share the stage with the talented and accomplished choirs from our Choral Institute for High School Singers, and to premiere a piece by PEBCC graduate and sometime Volti singer Eric Tuan.

## PROGRAM

*The program will last about an hour and a half, and will be presented without intermission*

### **Volti**

Robert Geary, Conductor

***The Blue of Distance***

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė

### **Acalanes High School Concert Choir**

Bruce Lengacher, Conductor

***Blood on the Saddle***

Canadian Folk Song arr. Trent Worthington

Cam Beattie and Joe Kahler, whistling soloists

***Legenda***

Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky

***I Sing Because I'm Happy***

Traditional arr. Rollo Dilworth

Sue Bohlin, Accompanist

### **The Head-Royce School**

Robert Wells, Conductor

Selections from ***Dido and Aeneas***

Henry Purcell

Kymry Esainko, Accompanist

### **Acalanes High School Chamber Singers**

Bruce Lengacher, Conductor

***Alleluia***

Michael Taverner

***O Sacrum Convivium***

Frank LaRocca

### **142 Throckmorton Youth Choir**

Sue Bohlin, Conductor

***Somebody That I Used to Know***

Andre De Backer (Gotye), arr. by Martin Lorenz  
(based on Pentatonix arrangement)

**Ecco**

**Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir**

Eric Tuan, Conductor

*Two Estonian Lullabies*

Veljo Tormis

*Daemon Irreplit Callidus*

György Orbán

**Volti**

Robert Geary, Conductor

*Songs of Lowly Life*

Stacy Garrop

**Concert Choir**

**The Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts**

Kristen Grzeca, Conductor

*Musick's Empire*

from *Tryptich*, Lloyd Pfautsch

*Waldesnacht*

Johannes Brahms

*Luk Luk Lumbu*

Budi Susanto Yohanes

**Massed Choirs**

Eric Tuan, Conductor

*Darkness and Slight Light*

Eric Tuan

Poem: Caitlin Hernandez

*World Premiere, Volti Choral Institute Commission*

\* \* \*

Special thanks to:

Sue Bohlin, piano

Don Ososke, recording engineer

Justin Montigne, Publicity

Tim Dunn, Graphic Design

Kerry Parker and the staff at First Unitarian Universalist Center of San Francisco

Rick Garcia, Emily Ordway and the staff at CYO Camp, Occidental

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir for use of risers

Dependable Deliveries and Tim Silva for production assistance

## ABOUT THE VOLTI CHORAL INSTITUTE

Volti's Choral Institute for High School Singers is a musically-intensive, content-rich weekend that engages high school choirs with young professional singers. Now in its 15th season, the Choral Institute offers two sessions: one in September or October for mixed choirs, and one in January or February, usually for treble voice choirs.

The goals of the Choral Institute are to use the precious rehearsal time at the Institute weekend to develop music that will be useful for the choirs back home. Members of Volti act as section leaders in the music the group is learning as a whole; lead sectional rehearsals; give voice lessons and master classes; assist the high school conductors in teaching each choir's repertoire; and sit side by side with the high school singers in mass group rehearsals. In these ways the Volti singers can lead by example as well as give some private voice instruction to individuals who may not have access to it at home. A highlight of the weekend is the Saturday evening concert when each choir performs for the others, with evaluation and constructive criticism from the Volti singers.

This year, for the first time, the participating choirs commissioned a piece of music. We have had composers-in-residence before -- Morten Lauridsen, Kirke Mechem and Stacy Garrop -- but we have never before commissioned a composer to write a piece specifically for the Choral Institute. Working with the composer and poet on the birth of a new piece of music is an incredibly powerful and enriching experience for the Choral Institute singers. You will hear the world premiere tonight of Eric Tuan's *Darkness and Slight Light*, and you will hear the poem read by its author, Caitlin Hernandez.

Students who complete the Choral Institute are entitled to complimentary tickets to Volti concerts, and they are invited to join the San Francisco Choral Society with a tuition waiver and complimentary scores for their summer concert.

Educating, developing, and mentoring the singers of tomorrow is one of the most important things we can do. If you are a high school choir conductor who would like to bring your choir to the Choral Institute, or if you know a high school singer who might want to attend as an individual, you can find more information on our website, [www.VoltiSF.org/institute.html](http://www.VoltiSF.org/institute.html), or contact our executive director:

Barbara Heroux, Barbara @ VoltiSF.org.

The Volti Choral Institute for High School Singers  
is supported in part by a grant from  
The Bernard Osher Foundation.



**Volti**  
**San Francisco, California**

**Volti's** twenty professional singers, under the direction of founder and Artistic Director Robert Geary, are dedicated to the discovery, creation, and performance of new vocal music. The ensemble's mission is to foster and showcase contemporary American music and composers, and to introduce contemporary vocal music from around the world to local audiences. The group has commissioned nearly 100 new works, by emerging as well as established composers.

**Robert Geary**, founding Artistic Director of the professional ensemble Volti, the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, and the Golden Gate International Choral Festival, also serves as Artistic Director of the San Francisco Choral Society. Geary's dedication to today's choral music has fostered the careers of several leading composers and has led to nearly 200 new works and a total of nine ASCAP awards for Adventurous Programming. His choirs have won numerous awards at prestigious competitions in Asia, Europe, Russia, and North America. Geary has conducted in 26 countries and recorded for Koch International, Swiss International Radio and Innova. He has prepared choirs for some of the world's leading conductors and has served as a clinician and guest conductor in the US, Finland, Denmark, and Singapore.

***The Blue Of Distance (Tolumos mėlynumas) (2010)***

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė (b. 1973)

Commissioned by Gaida Festival, Vilnius, Lithuania

Premiered on October 25th, 2010 at Gaida festival by the choir Jauna Muzika, conductor Vaclovas Augustinas

**Composer's Note:**

When searching for the lyrics for my choral piece, I encountered an alluring phrase "the blue of distance." It remained just a poetical-philosophical hint since the text itself doesn't get utilized at all. Instead, the function of the lyrics is given to a set of speech sounds – mostly humming or the sung open vowels "a-e-i-o-u." In one part of the piece these vowels-letters appear as chords, they determine the succession of entrances of choral voices and their interrelationships.

*The Blue of Distance* (from Rebecca Solnit "A Field Guide to Getting Lost")

"The world is blue at its edges and in its depths... that color of horizons, of remote mountain ranges, of anything far away. The color of that distance is the color of an emotion, the color of solitude and of desire, the color of there seen from here, the color of where you are not. And the color of where you can never go. For the blue is not in the place those miles away at the horizon, but in the atmospheric distance between you and the mountains... Blue is the color of longing for the distances you never arrive in, for the blue world..."

© Rebecca Solnit, reprinted with the permission of the author

**The Volti Singers:**

**Soprano**

Kelly Ballou\*  
Yuhi Aizawa Combatti  
Lauren Eigenbrode\*  
Shauna Fallihee  
Cecilia Lam

**Alto**

Danya Clevenger  
Monica Frame  
Rachel Rush\*  
Emily Ryan\*  
Colby Smith

**Tenor**

Ben Barr  
Ryan Matos  
Timothy Silva\*  
Jacob Thompson  
Jeffrey Wang

**Bass**

Jeff Bennett  
Sidney Chen  
Peter Dennis  
E.E. "Chip" Grant IV\*  
Jefferson Packer\*  
Philip Saunders

\* Choral Institute Faculty

**Concert Choir and Chamber Singers**  
**Acalanes High School**  
**Lafayette, California**

**The Acalanes High School Concert Choir** is the intermediate level ensemble in the choral program at Acalanes. They perform at all home concerts, participate in Choral Institute, sing at CMEA Choral Festivals, and a majority of their members are involved in the annual Spring Musical production.

**The Acalanes High School Chamber Singers** is the top auditioned mixed ensemble at Acalanes High School. This ensemble is one of two advanced ensembles in the choral program. Chamber Singers performs literature of all musical periods and frequently have in repertoire music that is considered to be at a college level. They have competed and performed in England, Switzerland, France, Chicago, New York, Seattle, and Los Angeles.

**Bruce Lengacher** received his Bachelor of Music Education and a Master of Arts in Education from San Francisco State University. He is in his seventeenth year as the director of choral activities at Acalanes High School in Lafayette where he also serves as the chairperson of the Visual and Performing Arts Department. Bruce has served as the General / Classroom Music and the Choral Representative for the Bay Section of the California Music Educators Association and is presently the CMEA Bay Section Choral Representative. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association for Music Education. Bruce has worked with Ragazzi Boys Chorus, the Peninsula Girls Chorus, Chanticleer and Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir. In 2010 he received the Rose Award from Acalanes as the Teacher of the Year, and received the Choral Music Educator of the Year from CMEA Bay Section in 2015. He is a composer/arranger, a clinician, and a founding member of the Choral Project. He lives in El Cerrito with his wife, Leslie.

**Acalanes Concert Choir Singers**

**Soprano**

Kat Bautista\*  
Emma Broback\*  
Sarah Bullaro  
Sadie Donneley\*  
Nicole Gagliardi\*  
Kaia Johnson\*  
Ophelia Luchin  
Maggie Ortiz Fischer  
Emma Perkins  
Meredith Pierce  
Lauren Ramlan\*  
Michaela Sasner\*  
Doe Steinbrecher  
Nicole Wiseman  
Katie Wolf

**Alto**

Margo Audley  
Alex Calendar  
Emily Carr\*  
Callie Ericksen\*  
Rachel Ferreira\*  
Emily Gray  
Carly Grisham  
Kaitlyn Johnson  
Cecily Kenny\*  
Rebecca LaMotte  
Alex Matson  
Hope Noonan-Stoner\*  
Lay Templeton  
Jilliane Vallesteros  
Jessica Wang\*  
Lexi Williams  
Taylor Wondolowski\*

**Tenor**

Cameron Beattie\*  
Cameron Burrill\*  
Oscar Lloyd\*  
Charlie Manzano-Mallison\*  
Brian Ohleyer\*  
Morgan Orsolini\*

**Bass**

Harrison Bauer\*  
Ben Barret  
Axel Jurgens  
Joe Kahler\*  
Jonathan Le\*  
Lane Millhouse  
Joseph Moran\*  
Dylan Orsolinis\*  
Tyrian Smyth\*

\* = also in **Chamber Singers**

**Colla Voce**  
**The Head-Royce School**  
**Oakland, California**

**The Head-Royce School** is an independent, non-denominational, college preparatory school located in the wooded hills of Oakland, California, overlooking the San Francisco Bay. The K-12 school offers a challenging coeducational program in which the arts are strongly valued as an important component in the development of the whole child. For more information about the school, visit our website at [headroyce.org](http://headroyce.org).

Colla Voce has consistently received superior ratings at California Music Educator's Association choral festivals and gold awards at the Heritage Festivals. The ensemble tours annually and has also toured abroad to England in 2003, the Czech Republic in 2006 and South Africa in 2012.

**Robert Wells**, director of vocal music at Head-Royce, received his Bachelor of Arts in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory in Boston and his Master of Arts in choral conducting and vocal performance from San Jose State University. Mr. Wells was a conductor for the Piedmont Children's Choirs for ten years prior to his arrival at Head-Royce. He currently conducts three choirs and is enjoying his twenty-third year as the vocal music director at Head-Royce.

***Dido and Aeneas***, Opera in Three Acts Henry Purcell (1659-1695)  
Henry Purcell was one of England's greatest composers. Purcell's output of dramatic music was all incidental music written for plays, with the exception of *Dido and Aeneas*, considered to be one of the first complete English operas ever composed. The tragic opera in three acts was written for the Josias Priest's School for Young Gentlewomen in Chelsea. Nahum Tate, a contemporary of Purcell's, wrote the libretto and adapted the story from Virgil's *Aeneid*.

Colla Voce will perform the full opera for the student body at Head-Royce later this semester. Tonight, Colla Voce will sing concertized and abbreviated selections from Act 1, including several choruses, arias and recitatives.

The story:  
Surrounded by her attendants in her court, Dido, Queen of Carthage, is inconsolable, still mourning the death of her husband some time ago. Her sister and handmaiden, Belinda, tries desperately to cheer her up, but Dido is depressed, saying that she and peace are nothing more than strangers now. Belinda suggests to Dido that finding love will cure her grief. Belinda wants Dido to marry Aeneas, a Trojan hero who escaped Troy after it fell to the Greeks, who has asked permission to rest his men for a while in Carthage. Dido fears that falling in love will make her a weak ruler, but Belinda points out that even great heroes find love. When Aeneas enters Dido's court, Dido still has reservations and greets him coldly. Finally, her heart warms up to the idea and she answers his marriage proposal with a yes. At the end of Act 1, the Sorceress and several other witches appear. They put a curse on the relationship between Dido and Aeneas, thus setting the stage for the next two acts of this tragic opera.

**Colla Voce Singers**

**Soprano**

Aviva Davis (Belinda)  
Anisha Kaul  
Sheilana Langham (Witch 1)  
Rohaana Sarkar  
Sofia Zografos  
Simi Gill  
Leeza Lu  
Julia Milani  
Lauren Marie McCormack (Dido)

**Alto**

Lulia Admokom  
Raeka Attari  
Liv Robinson  
Mayfair Rucker  
Stacey Vu  
Hind Jadallah-Karraa  
Margot Johnson

**Tenor**

Ruthie Dewit  
Sadie Holzman (Sorceress)  
Babette Thomas  
Lee Camp  
Larry Dang (Aeneas)

**Bass**

Andrew Dogaru  
Omar Jadallah-Karraa  
Kaya Pearson-Gaglia  
Sammy Shrestha

## 142 Throckmorton Youth Choir Mill Valley, California

**142 Throckmorton** is the address of the historic Throckmorton Theatre in Mill Valley, home to iconic comedians (i.e. Dana Carvey, Mark Pitta, Mort Sahl, Robin Williams), and produces first class music (i.e. Left Coast Ensemble), art shows, live theater, and choral music for adults and teens. The group of auditioned high-school aged singers (also known as Throckappella) is in its 5th year and just beginning year two under the direction of Sue Bohlin. They meet on Wednesday night for 90 minutes, study theory and a variety of music, and attended the Choral Institute for the first time this year. [www.throckmortontheatre.org](http://www.throckmortontheatre.org).

**Sue Bohlin** has performed music on stages all over the world and has worked with numerous arts organizations including symphonies and opera companies, children's and adult choruses, school and church choirs, instrumental ensembles, theaters and dance groups. In addition to the Throckmorton Choir, Sue also works as Associate Conductor and Accompanist for the Piedmont East Bay Children's choir, and has been Volti's main rehearsal pianist for many years. A former oboist and experimental theater music director, Sue composes and arranges for choirs she has been associated with. She is published with Santa Barbara Music and Alliance Music. A graduate of the Conservatory at University of the Pacific, Sue lives with colleague and husband Robert Geary in Sausalito.

### 142 Throckmorton Youth Choir Singers

Estella Bastian	Gillian Bell	Lily Bogas*
Mohini Bryant-Ekstrand	Ryan Clahan *	Amanda DoValle*
Oliver Febbo	Natalie Fox	Makena House
Alexandra Korngut	Faith Mattheson *	Price Ohmer *
Ava Roches *	Jacob Siderman	Emma Spike-Neaman *
Daisy Stephens *	Camilla Tarpey- Schwed	Max Tripp

\* = soloists

\* \* \*

### Ecco Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir Oakland, California

Since 1982, the award-winning Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir has offered exceptional music and choral training to hundreds of boys and girls from schools throughout the San Francisco East Bay Area. Under the leadership of founder and artistic director Robert Geary, PEBCC seeks to advance the choral arts through education, performance, and collaboration at the highest artistic level, fostering individual development and international relationships. **Ecco**, the high-school mixed ensemble of PEBCC, rehearses once weekly and prepares students for the transition to choral music-making at the collegiate level. Drawing on the culminated talents of maturing PEBCC students, Ecco presents a variety of challenging choral literature, ranging from Renaissance polyphony to vocal jazz to newly commissioned works.

Ecco director **Eric Tuan** enjoys a varied career as conductor, singer, collaborative pianist, and composer in the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition to his work with Ecco, he serves as director of music at Christ Church Los Altos and as the founding director of the chamber choir Convivium. Eric has sung professionally with Volti, Cappella SF, and the Philharmonia Baroque Chorale, and has worked as a staff accompanist for Stanford's music department. His choral music has been performed by leading Bay Area choral ensembles and is published by E.C. Schirmer. Eric received his undergraduate degree from Stanford University, and recently completed a Master of Music in Choral Studies at the University of Cambridge with the support of a Gates Cambridge Scholarship.



**Two Estonian Lullabies (1989)**

Veljo Tormis (b. 1930)

Perhaps Estonia's most famous living composer, Veljo Tormis has gained worldwide recognition for his mesmerizing settings of Finno-Ugric folk melodies. Rather than "developing" the melodies through variation and counterpoint, Tormis allows the hypnotic repetition of the melody to dominate his arrangements; as he has often stated, "I don't use folksong; folksong uses me."

*Laulan lapsele (I Sing for My Child)*

Hushaby, lullaby!  
I sing for my child  
like a duck for her duckling,  
a heath hen for her darling,  
a crane for her deary.

*Lase Kiike Käia! (Let the Cradle Swing)*

Hushaby, lullaby, let the cradle swing!  
Let sleep come!  
Doggy came to meet us,  
a stick in his paw, a sack on his back,  
large boots on.

We then present *Daemon Irrepit Callidus* by Hungarian composer György Orbán, who has served as professor of composition at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. Orbán sets a poem by a 17th-century monk that warns of the many temptations of the devil, underlaying the text with a playful and challenging choral setting.

***Daemon Irrepit Callidus (1997)***

György Orbán (b. 1947)

The Demon sneaks expertly  
Tempting the honorable heart;  
He sets forth trickery amidst praise, song and dance.  
However amiably the Demon acts,  
It is still worth less than the heart of Jesus.

The Flesh is tempted by sensuality;  
Gluttony clings to our senses;  
It overgrows, it encroaches, it stretches.  
However appealing the Flesh is,  
It is still worth less than the heart of Jesus.

Though the Universe may confer  
Thousands upon thousands of praises,  
They neither fulfill nor put out the desire of the heart.  
However appealing the whole Universe is,  
It is still worth less than the heart of Jesus.

**Ecco Singers**

Michael Adams  
Sarah Beasley  
Andrés Beck-Ruiz  
Alexandra Blanter  
Sophia Bransfield  
Sarah Chin  
Milo DeOlivares  
Ruth DeWit  
Tobias Fischer  
Grace Foster  
Claire Hanke  
Jane Hood  
Brandon Hopcraft

Nora Hurley  
Dylan Jones  
Brooke Jurasius  
Anna Konstantopolous  
Nicolas Lai  
Bryn Lawson  
Henry Loran  
Rebekah Lorencz  
Florence-Faith Matteson  
Seth Moure  
Koyuki Narter  
Lyla Neely  
Mariah Papy

Aurelia Ramirez  
Genevieve Raushenbush  
Maria Rogers  
Carmen Sanchez  
William Schaff  
Keith Sibal  
Sara Siqueira  
Elka Sorensen  
Eliana Tallarida  
Maddie Tuning  
Delphina Wedell  
Naama Weksler

## Volti

Volti's second set is selections from Stacy Garrop's *Songs of Lowly Life*.

**Stacy Garrop** (b. 1969) received a 2012 commission from the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard University, awards from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Omaha Symphony, New England Philharmonic, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, and the Sackler Composition Prize, as well as two Barlow Endowment commissions. The San Francisco Choral Society recently commissioned and premiered her oratorio *Terra Nostra*. Stacy is Head of Composition and Associate Professor of Composition at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. [www.garrop.com](http://www.garrop.com)

### ***Songs of Lowly Life* (2011)**

Composer's Note:

When Volti commissioned me for a new choral piece, I seized the opportunity to feature the poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar. Dunbar was the first African-American poet and novelist to gain national and international recognition. Born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1872, his mother was a former slave and his father had escaped from slavery prior to serving in the 55th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and the 5th Massachusetts Colored Cavalry Regiment during the Civil War. Dunbar began writing poetry as a child and published his first book of poems, called *Oak and Ivy*, when he was twenty. This was followed by eleven additional books of poetry, four books of short stories, five novels, and a play. The subject matter of Dunbar's poems encompasses a wide array of topics, from his observations of nature, love, and life to his renditions (many of which are written in dialect) of African American life. Dunbar's life was ultimately cut short when he contracted tuberculosis and died at the age of 33 in 1906. The title for my song cycle is taken from Dunbar's 1896 book *Lyrics of Lowly Life*, from which several of these texts were drawn.

\* \* \*

### **Concert Choir The Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts San Francisco, California**

**The Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts** is a public high school dedicated to the development of the "whole student" through an intensive arts curriculum. The "SOTA" vocal department auditions 8th grade students throughout the bay area for acceptance into its rigorous and rewarding program. Each student in the vocal department will partake in four years of intensive training in music theory, piano, phonetics and diction, Italian, French, and German art songs, vocal jazz and ensemble singing. Graduates of the SOTA vocal department have been accepted into some of the country's finest music conservatories such as Oberlin Conservatory, Curtis Institute of Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and many more. The Chamber Ensemble recently received third place in the Golden State Choral Competition and the department has received unanimous superior ratings in competitions and festivals. When not immersed in study, the department is dedicated to musical outreach in middle schools during this desperate time for arts education in public schools. We thank you for the opportunity to perform for you!

Texas native **Kristen Grzeca** is thrilled to step into a new role this year as Director of Vocal Music at SOTA, where she has taught and conducted as an Artist in Residence for six years. A dedicated music educator, Kristen has taught at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, San Francisco State University, and UC Berkeley. Kristen also maintains a diverse and accomplished private studio in San Francisco and Oakland. Kristen holds degrees from SFCM (M.M. - Voice Performance & Opera Studies) and UC Berkeley (M.A. - Music History & Literature), where she specialized in the musicological and performative intersections of voice, opera, gender studies, and media.

## SOTA Concert Choir Singers

### Soprano

Fortescue, Elisabeth  
Hays, Arlyss\*  
Marquez, Alyzza Michelle  
Norris, Tasneem  
Williams, Malkia  
Demirovich, Ayra  
Nemoff, Mackenzie  
Stewart, Ella\*  
Abaya, Jillian Anne  
Goell, Maya  
Levavi, Sivan  
Sabella, Briana  
Suarez, Emilie

### Soprano/Alto

O'Connell, Violet  
Applegate, James  
Greene, Aiyana  
Lewis, Nia  
Abiol, Makeda  
Clark Steinmetz, Josie\*  
Cronan, Emily  
Dencarnacao, Paige  
Friedland, Naomi  
Ho-Vuong, Danielle  
Simotas, Kathlynn\*  
Yamamoto, Momo  
Main, Nicholas  
Powell, Cimone  
Nelson, Hope\*  
Rohan, Mackenzie  
Hovhannisyann, Rubina  
Kennedy, Ava  
Murphy, Lucy\*  
Nelson, Cora  
Norris, Aasiya  
Scott, Angelica  
Shaw, Kaeli  
Dearman, Maya  
White, Bonnie  
Berkman, Ariella

### Alto

Zimmer, Jamie\*  
Carter, Tory  
Harkins, Olivia  
Heron, Fionn  
Huang, Henry  
Thomas, Lauryn  
Huang, Vicky  
Ferguson, Zoe  
Moore, Simone\*  
Day, Jacqueline  
Schumann, Mara  
Muzio, Madeleine  
Siegel, Samuel  
Mitchell, Daniel  
Love, Sean

### Tenor 1

Guerra, Vyncent  
Johnson Smith, Antonio  
McGill, Draven  
Sharon, Christian (Cap)  
Tarlov, Max  
Cunningham, Dorian\*  
Kelly, Joseph (Jojo)

### Tenor 2

Nemoff, Caden  
Doyle, Ryan\*  
Fong, Thomas  
Fraser, Julien  
Moody, Dante  
Paddock, Joseph (Oliver)  
Rakos, Nicholas (Nico)  
Siegel, Seth  
Sisser, Cole  
Rivas, Cristian  
Sims-Dickson, Skyler

### Bass 1

Atken, Arion  
Goldstein, Noah  
Hoekendijk, Kees  
Jordan, Drake  
Lin, Kyaw (George)  
Tiapula, Evan  
Williams, Romeire  
Bibliowicz, Gabriel  
Kelly, John (Johnny)  
Hill, Kelvin (KaeJay)  
Paddock, Jackson\*  
Leung, Vincent\*  
Laurent, Shayron  
Wu, Hansen

### Bass 2

Harris, Trey  
Koskela, Nelson  
L'Etoile-Goga, Jacob  
Savant, Nathan  
Stacy, Ben  
Wong, Evan\*  
Granados, Julian  
Alvarez, David  
Cuyjet, Julian

\* = Section Leaders

**Massed Piece  
All Choirs Combined**

***Darkness and Slight Light* (2015)  
World Premiere Performance**

**Composer: Eric Tuan (b. 1970) Poet: Caitlin Hernandez (b. 1970)**

*Darkness and Slight Light* was commissioned for Volti's September 2015 Choral Institute for High School Singers. Participating choirs include the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers from the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts (Kristen Grzeca, director), Colla Voce from the Head Royce School (Robert Wells, director), Ecco from the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir (Eric Tuan, director), the Chamber Singers from Acalanes High School (Bruce Lengacher, director), and Volti (Robert Geary, director).

***From the composer***

When I was asked to compose a massed piece for Volti's 2015 Choral Institute, I knew it would be an ideal opportunity to collaborate with Bay Area writer Caitlin Hernandez. Caitlin, who is blind, has been a close friend since high school. Her writing – which spans both words and music – includes musicals and theater pieces that have been performed by CRE Outreach, the only all-blind theater troupe in the United States. Her short stories, poetry, and nonfiction pieces have also been published online and in various anthologies. One of Caitlin's passions is writing for young adults, and I knew that her words would have a special resonance for the high school singers at Choral Institute.

Caitlin's probing discussion of blindness and sight brings up questions about who we are and how we form our own identity. I have sought to counterpoint Caitlin's poetry with a musical language that draws on different facets of my own experience. The first movement references elements of my Japanese-American heritage, especially the ethereal harmonies of the shō (mouth organ); the second is reminiscent of the Anglican choral tradition I was immersed in while studying in England this past year; and the third reflects the lush sonorities of contemporary American choral music. I hope the piece encourages you also to reflect on your identity and ask, "Would I be the same?"

***From the poet***

As a person who has been totally blind since birth, I am often asked what blindness is like, what I most wish I could see, and if, given the opportunity, I would choose to have vision. There are no simple answers to these questions; if anything, my responses have become more varied and complicated over the years. What I do believe--and what I tried to capture in this poem--is that, though blindness is certainly isolating and frustrating at times, it also shapes my life in many uniquely beautiful ways. Every blind person's experience is different; no two blind people navigate the sighted world in the same way. For me, blindness is most manageable when sighted friends strive to truly understand it: when they find the empathy, courage, and time to meet me halfway between their vision and mine and build a bridge.



Rehearsing *Darkness and Slight Light* at the Choral Institute, September 2015

Sunrise, clouds, and things I can't see,  
What sky looks like while I'm riding a swing,  
Whether the breeze has silvery wings,  
I'd love to know,  
Just to know.

I have learned to wait:  
For people,  
For my turn,  
For the places where I fit.  
I have found treasures  
In dark corners, overlooked.  
I know how to love, to listen, to stay.  
Strength to try and to trust comes with time.  
I can breathe happiness,  
Taste joy,  
Feel friendship on my skin,  
Hear hearts that tune to mine.  
But if I didn't live  
In darkness and slight light,  
Would it be the same?  
Would it be the same?

You draw me pictures with your words.  
You take my hand to smooth the paths.  
The sound of your smile is my rainbow.  
It is enough,  
More than enough,  
More than many people see.  
But if I could open my eyes—  
Just once,  
Just to know—  
Before returning  
To darkness and slight light,  
Would I be the same?  
Would I be the same?

-Caitlin Hernandez

## SUPPORTERS OF VOLTI

THANK YOU to all of our donors! Like most arts organizations, Volti relies on your donations to stay alive. Ticket sales account for only a small portion of our expenses. Knowing that you are asked for contributions from all sides, we are particularly grateful to those who choose to support the arts. Volti is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation, EIN 94-2699509. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Donations listed below were received in the 12-month period ending September 30, 2015. We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact Barbara Heroux, Executive Director, with any corrections needed, at 415-771-3352 or Barbara @ VoltiSF.org.

PRESTO	\$10,000 and above	Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation Elizabeth W. Jones
ALLEGRO	\$2,000 and above	The Aaron Copland Fund for Music - Performing Ensembles Program The Bernard Osher Foundation The Amphion Foundation New Music USA Patricia Caspersen Richard and Marilyn Collier Greta Larson Terry McKelvey and Heli Roiha Mary Anne Shattuck The Zellerbach Family Foundation
ALLEGRETTO	\$1,000 and above	Anonymous Richard Eigenbrode and Pat Nicholas Robert Geary Richard and Sigrid Jarrett Kathy and David McMahon Ted Morgan Suzie and Dick Rahl Tom Scripps/Canyon Development Company Jim and Joyce Smith Mark Wings
NEW WAVE FUND		Gifts designated to promote the "new wave" of music for the 21st Century, from the Maestro and his surfing (and other) buddies: Robert Geary, Lewis Butler, Canyon Development Company, Ted Morgan, Sue Bohlin, David McMahon, Gregory Topakian, Jim Moylan
CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS		Aetna Foundation * Apple Computer * Franklin Templeton Investments Google * Levi Strauss & Co. * SanDisk Corporation * Amazon Smile

*Thanks to these companies for providing Employer Matching Grants.*

*Does your employer offer matching grants? Ask your HR department -- it's an easy way to double your charitable contributions.*

Volti is particularly grateful for the many years of general operating support we have received from the City of San Francisco through its Grants for the Arts program.





## SUPPORTERS OF VOLTI (continued)

MODERATO	\$500 and above	Pat and Priscilla Abercrombie * Cynthia Adams * Clara Basile * Janet Crane and Rod Freebairn-Smith * Caroline Damsky * Emily De Falla * Connie and Jon Hartung * Barbara Heroux * David Jones and Donald Williams * Morten Lauridsen * John and Kathleen Leones * Ruppenthal Foundation for the Arts * Mark Perry and Melanie Peña * Patricia Sakai * Kenneth Siegel
ANDANTE	\$250 and above	Anonymous * Alice Aronow * Sue Bohlin * Linda Brewer * Lewis Butler and Catherine Armsden * Carol Fleming * Darla Jan Holst * Bruce Homer-Smith * Robert and Kate Huber * William Klingelhoffer * Bernhard and Ursula Krevet * Craig and Marina Mautner * Robert and Victoria Paterson * Sydni Roberson * Emily Sachs * Ted and Adrienne Savetnick * Lisa and James Taylor * Norman Young
ADAGIO	\$100 and above	Anonymous * Cantor Roslyn Barak and Congregation Emanu-El * Wendy and Joel Bartlett * Jane Cook * Donald Crockett * Hugh Davies * L. Peter Deutsch * Paul Gerken * Arlene Getz * John and Tamra Hege * Joan Hull and John Phillips (The Parsonage B&B, San Francisco) * Ilyas Iliya * Barbara Imbrie * Lory Kitamura-Tintor * Roderick Lowe * Phil Lowery and Kelcey Poe * Leon and Helen Luey * Linda Lyons * Michael May * Joanna McClure * Kirke and Donata Mechem * Anne and Jamie O'Connell * Nicole Paiement and Brian Staufenbiel * Peter and Irene Reich * Alex and Suzanne Rush * Tracy Schmidt * Mark Shattuck * Frayda Simon * Dorothy Slattery * Betty Smith * Paul and Andrea Swenson * Gregory Topakian * Sidney Williams
LARGO	Up to \$99	Anonymous * Marion Anderson * William Armour * Nathaniel Berman * Ed Betts * Carlin Black * Signe Boyer and Ed Laak * Katherine Breeden * Kathi and David Brotemarkle * Teresa and Bruce Caldwell * Tish Campbell * Sidney Chen * Dean Curtis * Mary Donovan * Linda and Robert Eger * Michael Eisenberg and Jessica Togasaki * Diana Feinberg * Ellen and Allen Fisher * Susan Ford * Lynne-Marie Frame * Gael Helander * Eric Howe * Marian Keeler * Sharon Keeton * Mardi Louisell * Claudia Lowder * Steve May * Kelsey Menehan * Justin Montigne * Inara and David Morgenstern * James Moylan * Judith Murio and Todd Jolly * Denise Newman * Judith Ostapik * Loretta Reid * Kurt Rohde * Ann Sagramoso * Albert Sammons Jr. * Douglas Scott * Harold Segelstad * Benjamin and Jane Simon * Ronald and Carol Steininger * James Stewart * Cole Thomason-Redus * Patricia and William Tilley * Judy and Chuck Tumlinson * Eric Tuan * John and Vee Tuteur * Patrick Vaz * Bruce and Irmgard Willock * Mary Wings * Janice Wright * O'Brien Young * Dolores Zacconi

### THANK YOU

to all our donors, volunteers and supporters.  
We sing your praises!



Artistic Director: Robert Geary  
Executive Director: Barbara Heroux  
Composer in Residence: Mark Wings  
Artistic Adviser: Sidney Chen

\*\*\*

[VoltiSF.org](http://VoltiSF.org).

Board of Directors:  
Richard J. Collier, President  
Kathy J. McMahon, Vice President  
Mary Anne Shattuck, Secretary  
Richard Eigenbrode, Treasurer  
Patricia Caspersen  
Emily M. De Falla  
Elizabeth Jones  
Yuhi Aizawa Combatti, Singers' Representative



Volti  
P.O. Box 15576  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
415-771-3352  
info@VoltiSF.org  
www.VoltiSF.org

## ABOUT VOLTI

Volti's twenty professional singers, under the direction of founder and Artistic Director Robert Geary, are dedicated to the discovery, creation, and performance of new vocal music. The ensemble's mission is to foster and showcase contemporary American music and composers, and to introduce contemporary vocal music from around the world to local audiences. The group has commissioned nearly 100 new works, by emerging as well as established composers.

Hailed by San Francisco Classical Voice as "Best of the Bay 2014-2015" and "undoubtedly the finest collection of new music singers we have," Volti boasts a 36-year track record of some of the most imaginative and innovative repertoire yet composed. Composers seek opportunities to partner with these stellar musicians, who are known for their sheer technical brilliance as well as their vibrant, passionate sound. Nationally recognized as a pioneer in new vocal music, Volti is the first ensemble to have won the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music six times, a testament to the fresh perspective and new voices the group brings to life.

Art is redefined in every generation by the best and the brightest, artists who are paying attention to the world around them. Volti seeks composers who explore timely issues of the modern human experience. At a Volti concert you might hear music exploring aspects of the modern human experience such as social justice, political and class strife, and different conceptions of God/spirit. Volti explores the nexus between poetry and sound, the translation of inspiration to creation, the evocative power of an artist compelled to express this thing, at this time, in this way. At its best, it's the aural equivalent of a sunspot -- an explosion of energy, a flash of brilliance, a glimpse of some eternal truth seen in a new and breathtaking way.

Please join us for our upcoming concerts, November 7 in Piedmont and November 8 in San Francisco.

**VOLTI**  
SAN FRANCISCO  
ROBERT GEARY'S LEADING-EDGE NEW MUSIC CHAMBER GROUP

**37<sup>TH</sup>**  
SEASON  
2015-2016

**AMY BETH KIRSTEN**

**THE NEXT PAGE**  
*The Year of the Young Composer*

**NOVEMBER 7, 2015 8 PM**  
PIEDMONT CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
801 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont

**NOVEMBER 8, 2015 4 PM**  
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN  
1111 O'Farrell St., San Francisco