



Music for a While

A Choral Concert by
Voices of the Valley

3pm, March 3, 2018

Foothill Presbyterian Church,
San Jose, California

Voices of the Valley presents
Music for a While
Directed by Ms. Stephanie Chan



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Program

Exsultate Deo	Alessandro Scarlatti
And I Saw a New Heaven	Edgar L. Bainton
O Sing a New Song	Michael Cox
Amazing Grace	Traditional, arr. Ed Lojeski

Up the Mountain 上山	arr. Li 李抱忱 編
Your Dream 你的夢	Lin 林聲翕 曲
Flower Song 對花	arr. Shi 施金波 編
Dance of Youth 青春舞曲	arr. Wang 王世光 編

Zu Hilfe!...Stirb, Ungeheur!durch uns're Macht !
from *Die Zauberflöte [The Magic Flute]* W.A. Mozart

Trevor Stockinger, *Tamino*
Angela Lai, *First Lady*
Kathy Hsieh, *Second Lady*
Irene Ma, *Third Lady*
Deborah Yeung, *piano*

There is Nothing Like a Dame
from *South Pacific* Rodgers & Hammerstein
Men's Ensemble

Four Court Decisions	Arthur Frackenpohl
1. A Secretary	
2. The Coffee Break	
3. The Owner	
4. A Woman	

Stephanie Chan, *conductor*
Xuexiao Zhang, *piano*

Notes

Exsultate Deo was written by Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725) in 1708 to celebrate Feast Day at the Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome where he was Chapel Master. The joyous psalm is set to an SATB motet with energetic rhythm and interweaving melody lines.

And I Saw a New Heaven is an anthem by British Australian composer Edgar Leslie Bainton (1880-1956). The expansive melodies depict verses from the Revelations where a new heaven and earth will relieve all deaths and sorrows.

O Sing a New Song by Michael Fox (born 1948) was written for the First Baptist Church of Saginaw, Texas. The song of praise alternates in 3/4, 4/4 and 5/4 times using groups of 2 and 3 eighth notes as the base rhythm, giving the psalm great momentum and a celebratory vibe. Dr Cox is a retired Professor of Music Theory and Composition at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's School of Church Music. His works are published by over sixteen different publishers and he has received the Standard Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) every year since 1987.

The words in the popular hymn **Amazing Grace** were written by John Newton (1725-1807) in England, and first appeared with the now familiar tune of "New Britain" in the tune book, *The Southern Harmony*, by William Walker (1809-1875). Our rendition is a variation on this theme, by Ed Lojeski, a popular choral arranger and director.

「上山」 **Climbing the Mountain** is written by 趙元任 (1892-1982) to the lyrics by 胡適 (1891-1962), arranged by 李抱忱 (1907-1979). It analogizes scaling a mountain to the Chinese people struggling through hard times in their country. It was very popular in its time, and resonated with the reformists during the warlord era in the early 20th century.

「你的夢」 **Your Dream** is a Chinese choral classic standard by 林聲翕 (1914-1991), with lyrics by 徐訏 (1908-1980). The song depicts a colorful dream, with alternating scenes of passion and desolation. The music and the words are perfectly matched with varying tempo and melody, where the use of voices and piano are choreographed to carry the tumultuous emotions of young love.

「對花」 **Flower Song** is derived from a folksong in the Anhui province. It is a flirtatious exchange between men and women, about the flowers that bloom in different seasons, jasmine in the Spring, pomegranate in the Summer, chrysanthemum in the Fall, to plum blossoms in the Winter.

「青春舞曲」 **Dance of Youth** is an 維吾爾族 Uyghurs folksong from the Xinjiang province. It talks about how flowers come and go every year, but that youth once spent does not return.

In the opening scene of the fantasy opera **The Magic Flute** by Mozart (1756-1791), Prince Tamino is chased by a Giant Snake. The Three Ladies, servants of the Queen of the Night, would arrive just in time to kill the Giant Snake. Charmed by the handsome face of the unconscious Prince, the Ladies at first fight over staying to guard the Prince while the others report to the Queen, but eventually leaving the Prince behind.

There is Nothing Like a Dame is from the musical South Pacific, by Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) with lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960). In this song, the men express their longing for the female companionship, and lament how life is empty and colorless without the fairer sex.

The suite of 4 songs in the **Four Court Decisions** are satirical snippets, created from stories found in the New York Times, Watertown Times, and NY Daily Times, about unusual court decisions. **A Secretary** starts with the expression “con amore”, as marked in the music, about a secretary sacked for sending gossip letters on love affairs around the office. **The Coffee Break**, marked “with cream, no sugar”, talks about workers’ compensation eligibility during coffee break. **The Owner**, marked “Mournfully”, talks about a dead person’s estate owing fines to the government. Finally, **A Woman**, marked “In a bald manner”, describes yoghurt company’s liability to a woman whose hair fell out years after eating the yoghurt.” Arthur Frackenpohl is an American composer and Professor Emeritus at the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam.

About Voices of the Valley



Voices of the Valley (VOV) made its debut performance at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum in 1998. Under the music direction by Stephanie Chan, the regularly performing group delivers to the audience well-known choral favorites, and challenges them with rare and delightful works from baroque to contemporary with an international flair.

In addition to its own concerts, VOV is often invited to perform with local performing groups like the National Taiwan University Alumni Chorus North America and Bay Area Showcase Chorus, and to appear on Bay Area Radio/TV Stations. VOV performed Faure's Requiem with the Stanford University Orchestra under the conductor Dr. Cai JinDong in 2008, and collaborated with the renowned XiaMen Philharmonic Orchestra at the San Francisco Davies Symphony Hall in 2009. In 2010, VOV went on its first international concert tour, by invitation from the Chinese University of Hong Kong to perform Dreams of the Red Chamber by Taiwanese composer Eric Liu. In 2017, VOV joined the Hong Kong Oratorio Society in a concert tour sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, performing at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco and the Disney Hall in Los Angeles.

VOV's singers are passionate about choral music. VOV's repertoire includes a vast selection of works from different genres, cultures and musical periods, specializing in staged choral works and modern music. To name a few: Scarlatti's Te Deum Laudamus, Mozart's Requiem, Schubert's Rosamunde, Faure's Requiem, Johann Strauss II's Die Fledermaus, Gilbert and Sullivan's Operettas, Paul McCartney's Liverpool Oratorio, Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera and Sunset Boulevard, Huang Zi's Song of Eternal Lament, Huang YauTai's Mulan Joins the Army, Hsu Tsang-Houei's The Legend of the White Snake and Chen Yi's Chinese Poems.

2018 Board of Directors

Chair	Terence Choy
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Music Director, Stephanie Chan



Stephanie is the founding Music Director of Voices of the Valley. She is a dedicated music teacher and a seasoned choral director. Under her baton, the chorus has won generous patronage and accolades in the Bay Area and has attracted many talented musicians to join its roster. Stephanie earned her Bachelor of Music Degree, summa cum laude, from San Francisco State University. She studied voice with sopranos Nancy Zi, Jeanette Hill, and Kathryn Harvey, and conducting with Dr. Byron McGilvray.

During Stephanie's tenure as Music Director (1983-1993), the choir of St. Paul's Co-educational College was chosen as the Best School Choir in Hong Kong for ten consecutive years. It also won the Gold Award in the Third International Music Festival held in Australia. Stephanie also served as Music Director of the Learners Chorus (1993-1996), whose many concerts premiered contemporary compositions for Hong Kong composers, and was invited as a performing artist for the 1996 Hong Kong Arts Festival. Prior to her return to the Bay Area in 1996, Stephanie was a Lecturer in Voice at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Head of General Musicianship at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts.

Stephanie has been in great demand as a speaker on choral conducting and as guest conductor for choruses including the Hong Kong Children's Choir, the Hong Kong Music Institute, the Northcote College of Education, the Hong Kong International Institute of Music, and the Chinese YMCA Mission Choir. She served as an adjudicator for the 47th and 48th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival. Here in the Bay Area, Stephanie has worked closely with Builder of Christian Artists, and was one of the clinicians for CM2004 and CM2008. Stephanie premiered the Dream of the Red Chamber with VOV in Hong Kong, where she was also invited to conduct the 30th Anniversary Concert of the SPCC Alumni Choir in November 2010.

As a singer, Stephanie has given solo recitals and has performed in opera productions both in California and in S.E. Asia. She is particularly noted for her interpretation of Mozartian roles and German Lieder. She has a wide repertoire in the oratorios and sacred cantatas and is also a great favorite with operettas and musicals. An experienced music teacher in voice and piano, Stephanie is now teaching in Milpitas, California.



Xuexiao Zhang, Piano

Born into a musical family, Xuexiao started learning piano at 3. Her piano teachers include Feilan Li from China Central Philharmonic Orchestra, Hui Zhong from China Central Conservatory of Music, Tiewing Wu from Capital Normal University, and Jinlan Song from China Central Conservatory of Music. After she graduated with a major in Piano from the music department of Capital Normal University, Xuexiao became the piano accompanist for China Central Broadcasting Station Chorus. She was also the A class teacher in Beijing Jiangjie Piano School.

Xuexiao played piano accompaniment for rehearsal of *A Cantata for the set-down Youth*, *Yellow River Cantata*, and Beethoven's *Symphony 9* for V-J Day 70th Anniversary Commemoration Gala. She was the piano accompanist for the Melody Chorus Reunion Concert in 2016. She is a member of Music Teachers' Association of California. She is currently the piano accompanist for Silicon Valley United Chorus, *Zhiyin* Chorus, Melody Chorus, and Voices of the Valley.

Members of Voices of the Valley



Angela Lai, soprano

Angela holds the FTCL Diploma in Singing and ATCL Diploma in Piano. She was a first year student at St Paul's Co-educational College when Ms. Stephanie Chan started teaching there, and has been benefitting from her tutelage in voice, piano and general musicianship ever since. Angela also studied piano with Ms. Yu Jia Ying in Hong Kong and greatly enjoys accompanying her friends. She joined VOV as its first accompanist when the choir was founded.

Anissa Tse, alto

Musical talent runs in the Anissa's family - she and her two siblings have all been members of Voices of the Valley at some point. Anissa's latest performance with the choir was in 2007, and we are very glad to have her back after a long hiatus. Anissa is a holder of ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in Piano.



Betty Lee, alto

Betty joined VOV as a founding member in 1998. She started singing in choirs since high school in Hong Kong. She studied voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan, and holds the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in Singing. She also likes playing the piano and the cello. Besides music, Betty enjoys biking, snowboarding, and traveling. Betty is a clinical pharmacist at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Cammi Tam, soprano

Cammi started singing in choir since 4th grade. She has been studying voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan since 2004 and is a holder of the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in Voice. She was an active dancer during school years and participated in many dance festivals and competitions in Hong Kong. She is currently a Real Estate agent and loan officer.

**Christine Liu, soprano**

A vocal student of Ms. Stephanie Chan's and a returning member of VOV, Christine has enjoyed singing all of her life. Currently she works as an accountant at a Japanese software gaming company. She loves singing to her three-year-old daughter, but her songs tend to be more focused on children's shows for now.

Deborah Yeung, soprano

Deborah has been singing with VOV since 2003 and is a holder of the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificates in Voice and Piano under the tutelage of Ms. Stephanie Chan. She loves Baroque music and is dreaming of owning her own harpsichord. Besides singing and piano, she enjoys traveling, wine tasting, gardening, and country music. Deborah counts beans and crunches numbers at a bay area startup.

**Irene Ma, alto**

Irene started choral singing at the age of 6 and has been singing with VoV since 2003. She is currently studying voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan and received a distinction in both Intermediate and Advance Certificate in Singing by the Trinity College of Music in London. She is both excited and intimidated to be performing on stage. Irene is an Accounting/Finance Consultant mainly servicing startup companies in the Bay Area. Apart from singing, Irene likes to knit, wine tasting, and spends time with her dog.

Ivy Chu, alto

Ivy has fallen in love with choral singing ever since she joined a choir in college. She has been singing with VoV and studying voice with Ms Stephanie Chan since 2015. She holds the Trinity College London Intermediate Certificate in singing with distinction and the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in piano. Ivy participated in church choir for many years and was a part-time Yamaha music teacher for 6 years where she had great joy singing and playing music with kids. She enjoys hiking and playing badminton. She is a Business Analyst at an Electrical Engineering and Construction Company.





Jonathan Jiang, bass

While backpacking in Europe, Jonathan spent a few nights at the Vienna music conservatory and has since been inspired to pursue music ever since. Jonathan holds the the Trinity College London Advance Certificate for Singing, awarded with Distinction under the tutelage of Ms. Stephanie Chan. He is also a co-founder of ProfHire.com, a company which aims to provide a better way to find faculty for universities. When not developing fantastic web applications, he enjoys playing badminton, biking, jogging, and relaxing at various bubble tea shops in the city of San Francisco, and around the BayArea.

Kathy Hsieh, soprano

Kathy started singing in a children's choir in 5th grade. She was active in many pop-music competitions and performances after college. She studies voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan since 2006 and was awarded the ATCL by the Trinity College in London with distinction. She loves to sing and act for the many musicals and operas with VOV and friends. Besides singing she is also a passionate artist and has been working in the computer/mobile-game industry for many years.



Kevin Ng, bass

Kevin has always loved singing and has been ever since high school, when he first joined the church choir at First Chinese Southern Baptist Church in San Francisco. While at FCSBC, he was quite active and directed the Chinese congregation choir for about two years. He currently also sings in the church choir at Silicon Valley Alliance Church, under the direction of Stephanie Chan. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to classical music, as well as contemporary jazz.

Lee Fan, tenor

Lee was acquainted with the Voices of the Valley in 2017, and accompanied the choir in both SF's Herbst Theater and LA's Disney Hall Performances. Lee is taking one step further, now also contributing to the choir vocally by making the men's part exactly 20% stronger.



Michelle Yau, alto

Michelle started singing at an early age and has never stopped. She was member of the Hong Kong Children's Choir, school choirs, Iowa State Singers, and now, VOV. She studied voice with Stephanie Chan, Jean Thomas, and Mary Linduska. A mother of two darling kids, Michelle treasures her time with family and friends. She is also a passionate photographer.

Rex Lee, tenor

Rex sang with his church choir when he was in high school and concert choir in college. Then he didn't--until decades later when VOV took him in.

**Stephanie Leung, soprano**

Stephanie's passion and love for music drew her to Voices of the Valley. This is Stephanie's first season with the choir, and already she is taking an active role as a concert coordinator to make this very performance a reality.

Steve Wong, tenor

At the age of 4, Steve made his first "recording" over his mom's beloved Chinese opera tape. While it was certainly no blockbuster, it brought great joy and fond memory to his mom (and got away without punishment). Later in life, Steve was greatly inspired by teacher and friend, the late Dr. Richard Lin (凌忍揚教授), who led Steve on a journey to serve church choirs in various roles for over 15 years.

**Theresa Chen, soprano**

Theresa joined VOV in 2003. Prior to joining VOV, she sang with the San Jose Chinese Choir and church choirs for 10 years. She took choral conducting lessons from Dr. Angel Chan and voice lessons from Yvonne Wang. Theresa also does ministry work at church and enjoys family life, traveling, pilates classes, and gardening.

Terence Choy, bass

Terence holds the LTCL diploma with distinction in voice and the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in piano. He studies singing with Ms. Stephanie Chan, and is a passionate student of the German Lieder and English art songs. Terence is a founding member of VOV, and frequently directs and choreographs the choir's staged performance, drawing inspirations from the diverse live performances the SF bay area has to offer. Terence is a hardware engineering manager in Flextronics, and enjoys swimming, playing tennis and running under the beautiful California sun.

**Wailin Liao, alto**

Wailin started singing with various choral groups in Hong Kong since secondary school. She was also an active member in the symphonic band and orchestra playing trumpet. She continued singing through and beyond university years, organizing various schools and public concerts. She has been with VOV since 2005 and has been enjoying every moment of making great music with great friends.

Wen-Ying Feng, soprano

Wen-Ying joined VOV in 2013. She plays piano, the bugle and two Chinese instruments liuqin and ruan. Wen-Ying also has great enthusiasm for animals. She loves spending time with family, traveling, and playing European board games in her spare time.



Acknowledgment

We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Alliance Church as our rehearsal venue.



We would like to thank the following friends and members of VOV for volunteering their time and effort to make this concert a reality:

Guest Performer	Trevor Stockinger
Choreographer	Terence Choy
Costumes Manager	Irene Ma
Props Manager	Ivy Chu
Venue Coordinator	Stephanie Leung
Program Notes	Kevin Ng
Graphic Design	Kathy Hsieh
Photographer	Steven Chan
Audio/Video Recording	Clement Chow
Usher	Bonnie Chan
Guest Reception	James Warren