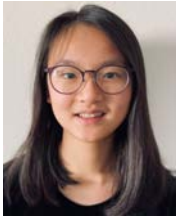




XueXiao Zhang 張雪宵, piano

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.



Kayi Sze 施嘉懿, piano

Kayi is an enthusiastic pianist and violinist. She began playing the violin at the age of 4 and the piano at the age of 7. Currently, she studies piano with Constanze Lee and violin with Andrew Chan. At the age of 12, Kayi became an Associate of Trinity College London (ATCL) in Violin. She is now preparing to obtain the Licentiate of Trinity College London (LTCL) in Violin and the Associate of Trinity College London (ATCL) in Piano. Kayi has won several awards in both piano and violin, including 1st place in the Hong Kong International Youth Performance Arts Festival (Violin), 2nd place in the US International Open Music Competition (Piano), and 3rd place in the Piano Competition for Elite Performers (Hong Kong). She served as the concertmaster of the United Christian College (Kowloon East) Orchestra and acted as the conduit between the conductor and orchestra for musical performances at the Hong Kong Baptist University Academic Community Hall in front of an audience of over 1,300 people. Kayi is passionate about performing and sharing her music with others.

Voices of the Valley is a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization, supported by donations, membership fees and proceeds from ticket sales of its public performances. We are grateful for your support.

Save the date for our next performance

November 9, 2024 at Tateuchi Hall, CSMA Mountain View

Join our mailing list to stay in touch
<https://tinyurl.com/2s36vf7j>



VOICES OF THE VALLEY

CHORAL CONCERT

清韻合唱團



Saturday, May 18th, 4:30pm

Foothill Presbyterian Church
5301 McKee Rd, San Jose, CA 95127



For more information, visit www.voicesofthevalley.org



Voices of the Valley 清韻合唱團 *presents*

I Love Life

A Choral Concert

Directed by Stephanie Chan 陳鳴鶯

4:30pm, May 18, 2024

Foothill Presbyterian Church, San Jose, California

Program

Melodies of Love

arr. Joseph M. Martin

In My Heart There Rings a Melody
Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus
He Keeps Me Singing

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

Hail Holy Queen

trad., arr. Marc Shaiman

Kathy Hsieh, *soprano*
XueXiao Zhang, *piano*

鄧麗君組曲 Teresa Teng Medley

編曲 高竹嵐

小城故事 Stories in a Small Town
但願人長久 May We Be Blessed with Longevity
何日君再來 When Will You Return
路邊野花不要採 Do Not Pick the Roadside Wildflowers

Ladies Chorus
Kayi Sze, *piano*

夜來香 Night-Blooming Jasmine 詞 李雋青 / 曲 姚敏 / 編曲 劉毅文

Cammi Tam, *soprano*

彎彎的月亮 Crescent Moon 詞 潘偉源 / 曲 李海鷹 / 編曲 施明新

思念 Longing 詞 喬羽 / 曲 谷建芬 / 編曲 金巍

XueXiao Zhang, *piano*

Stephanie Chan, Music Director 音樂總監 陳鳴鶯

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.



During Stephanie's tenure as Music Director (1983-1993), the choir at St. Paul's Co-educational College was chosen as the Best School Choir in Hong Kong for 10 consecutive years and earned the Gold Award in the Third International Music Festival held in Sydney, Australia. Stephanie also served as the Music Director of the Learners Chorus, whose many concerts premiered contemporary compositions for Hong Kong composers. Prior to her return to the Bay Area, she was a Lecturer in Voice at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Head of the General Musicianship Department at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

Stephanie has been in great demand as a speaker on choral conducting, vocal workshops and as guest conductor for concert performances. The choruses she has worked with include the Hong Kong Children's Choir, the Hong Kong Music Institute, the Northcote College of Education, the Hong Kong International Institute of Music, the Chinese YMCA Mission Choir, the SPCC Alumni Choir, Ching Ching Chorus, and Melody Chorus. She also served as an adjudicator for the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival, and worked as a clinician with Builder of Christian Artists in the Bay Area.

Stephanie has maintained a private teaching studio and held annual students recitals since 1983. She has nurtured numerous young musicians throughout the years. Her students have won many awards and excelled in music festivals and competitions including the Pan Pacific Scholarship for Singers in Australia, the Brother Cassian Scholarship for Singers, the Barbara Fei Scholarship for singers and the Trinity Exhibition Awards.

Voices of the Valley Members (2024)

Sopranos

Bonnie Chan
Cinnie Chan
Theresa Chen
Wen Ying Feng
Kathy Hsieh
Cammi Tam
Helen Lin
Christine Liu
Anissa Tse
Deborah Yeung

Altos

Mina Chan
Alice Cheung
Tiffany Lai
Betty Lee
Clare Lee
Charmian Li
Irene Tang
Michelle Yau

Tenor

David Fung
Major Lai
Hans Lui
Ekman Tsang

Bass

Terence Choy
Jonathan Jiang
Cheong Leung
Matthew Wong

About Voices of the Valley 清韻合唱團

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 collaborate 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 蔡金冬 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 紅樓夢 by Taiwanese composer Eric Liu 劉新誠. In 2017, VOV joined the Hong Kong Oratorio Society in a concert tour sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, 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 黃自 Song of Eternal Lament 長恨歌, Huang YauTai's 黃友棣 Mulan Joins the Army 木蘭從軍, Hsu Tsang-Houei's 許常惠 The Legend of the White Snake 白蛇傳 and Chen Yi's 陳怡 Chinese Poems.

Home on the Range

arr. Paul Peck

If Ever I Would Leave You from Camelot

Lerner & Loewe

Mary Ann

arr. Harry Dexter

Male Voice Ensemble
XueXiao Zhang, *piano*

Who Will Buy? from Oliver!

Lionel Bart / arr. Norman Leyden

Ladies Chorus
Anissa Tse, *soprano*
Charmian Li, *mezzo-soprano*
Michelle Yau, *alto*
Kayi Sze, *piano*

Connected

Brian Tate

Family Life from Liverpool Oratorio Paul McCartney / arr. Nicholas Hare

I Love Life

Mana-Zucca & Cassel / arr. Gian Luigi

XueXiao Zhang, *piano*



Scan QR code to view lyrics
<https://tinyurl.com/w9nsn25c>

Acknowledgments

VOV is indebted to the Silicon Valley Alliance Church as their rehearsal venue



Special thanks to the following volunteers for making this performance possible:

Concert Manager
Stage Manager
Photographer
Videographer
Ushers

Carinna Cheung, Wai Lin Liao
Rex Lee
Steven Chan
Angela Lai
James Hakewill, Trevor Stockinger

Program Notes

Welcome to the first public performance for Voices of the Valley since 2019, when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted all social activities. We are delighted to connect with our audience once again with a program that celebrates the love of life.



John Rutter

We open our concert with Christian service music. Spiritual and musical nourishments sustained many of us through tough times in the last few years. For some, it even reawakened our inner sense of humanity. **Melodies of Love** by *Joseph Martin* (1959-) depicts the love of music that swells from the depths of our hearts. **All Things Bright and Beautiful** is an Anglican hymn written by *William Henry Monk* in 1887 to words written by *Cecil Frances Alexander* in 1848. UK choral director and composer *John Rutter* (1945-), best known for his sacred choral music, created an arrangement in 1984 that is widely considered an essential classic for any choir. *Marc Shaiman's* (1959-) arrangement of **Hail Holy Queen** was made for the blockbuster movie *Sister Act*. The nuns' performance of this number is the pivotal turning point that helped the church recruit new members. We hope our performance will help bring new audiences to us too!

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, difficulty in travel prolonged separation of families and friends. For our American Chinese immigrant VOV members, it meant multiple years missing journeys to those we loved in Hong Kong, Taiwan and China. We therefore bring you a suite of popular Chinese songs that hearkens to the music of our homelands. Taiwanese singer *鄧麗君* (*Teresa Teng*) was one of the most influential pop figures in the 20th century. She was immensely popular in Chinese communities around the world, as well as in Japan and Southeast Asia. The four songs in **鄧麗君組曲**



Teresa Teng 鄧麗君

(Teresa Teng Medley) – including *小城故事* (*Stories in a Small Town*), *但願人長久* (*May We Be Blessed with Longevity*), *何日君再來* (*When Will You Return*), *路邊野花不要採* (*Do Not Pick the Roadside Wildflowers*) – were popularized by Teng in 1970s. Interestingly, the choral music arranger of this medley, *高竹嵐* *Chu-Lan Kao* (1985-), is also a statistician and a board game designer. The original **夜來香** (**Night-blooming Jasmine**) was composed by Shanghai pop songwriter *黎錦光* *Jin-Guang Li* (1904-1993) in 1940 and was first recorded in 1942 by *李香蘭* *Yamaguchi Yoshiko* (1920-2014), a Japanese national born and raised in China. This song was further popularized by Teresa Teng in Hong Kong and in Taiwan. Due to geopolitical controversies, the song was banned in mainland China, despite being wildly popular and generally considered a Chinese classic. Our choral arrangement is created by *姚敏* *Min Yao*, *劉文毅* *Wen-Yi Liu* and *李雋青* *Juan-Qing Li*.

In Chinese culture, a full moon is often associated with family reunions. **彎彎的月亮** (**Crescent Moon**), by pop songwriter *李海鷹* *Hai-Ying Li* (1954-), laments family separation and reminisces on their hometown. We present a choral arrangement by *施明新* *Ming-Xin Shi* (1929-2002) and *丁家琳* *Jia-Lin Ding* with Cantonese lyrics by *潘偉源* *Wai-Yuen Poon* (1953-). **思念** (**Longing**) by *谷建芬* *Jian-Fen Gu* (1935-) with lyrics by *喬羽* *Yu Qiao* (1927-2022) sings to the humming joy of reunion, even if, at the end, it leads to another separation.



With the normalization of work-from-home jobs for adults and zoom-from-home classes for children, we all have been re-examining the importance of home life. **Home On the Range**, which depicts an idealized home life, is the “unofficial anthem” for the American West. It first appeared in the mid 19th century, and was popularized in the 1930s by *Bing Crosby*, who recorded the song multiple times. It was adopted as the Kansas State Song in 1947. From spending 24x7 with our most beloved, we know it can be “too much of a good thing”. **If Ever I Would Leave You**, from the musical *Camelot* by *Frederick Loewe* (1901-1988), features Lancelot proclaiming his faithfulness to Guenevere despite the hardship they face. **Mary Ann** traces its roots from a calypso song from Trinidad entitled *Down by the Seaside Sifting Sand*. It is a light-hearted declaration of love and a marriage proposal. **Who Will Buy** is from the musical *Oliver!* by *Lionel Bart* (1930-1999), which in turn is based on the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. The orphan Oliver is awoken up by street vendors and basks in the wonderful morning seeing the clear blue sky from his first night on a comfortable bed. It is a reminder for all of us to cherish what we may otherwise take for granted.



As we re-engage in our social lives, our new perspectives gained from the pandemic further strengthen our bonds with our community. **Connected** by *Brian Tate* (1954-) is a syncopated rhythmic a capella song that celebrates connections and mutual dependence of people. **Family Life** is from the *Liverpool Oratorio* by *Paul McCartney* (1942-). It describes the ebb and flow of familial relationships – the deep love punctuated by the occasional bickering and temper tantrum. A family unit, at the end of the day, is still the safe space where people grow together despite the ups and downs throughout their lives. **I Love Life** is the most celebrated and popular work by *Mana-Zucca Cassel* (1885-1981), an American actress, singer, pianist and composer, with lyrics by her husband *Irwin M. Cassel* (1886-1971). The song exudes enthusiasm and positivity towards the human experience.

We wish our audience the same exuberance in the fullness of life and love.