Rebirth!
A Springtime Celebration of Light out of Darkness

Loyola University Singers
Bravura Ensemble of Spirito! Singers
Laura Bottei, Organ

Genevan Suite: III. If God the Lord Were Not Our Constant Help
Laura Bottei, Organ

Brenda Portman (b.1980)

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Be Like the Bird
Abbie Betinis (b.1980)

Bright Morning Stars
traditional, arranged by Carling FitzSimmons
Bravura and University Singers

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If Ye Love Me
Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

Lift Thine Eyes, from Elijah
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Bravura

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Stabat Mater
Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

Laura Bottei, Organ

Ave Maria Stella
Gregorian Chant, arranged by J. K. Budziak

Dic Nobis, Maria
Miguel Astor (b.1958)

University Singers

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Aspects of Glory: II. My Home in Glory
Libby Larsen (b. 1950)
Laura Bottei, Organ

There is a Balm in Gilead
traditional Spiritual, arranged by Ysaye Barnwell

Faith is the bird that Feels the Light
Elizabeth Alexander (b. 1962)
University Singers

The Circles of Our Lives
David Brunner (b. 1953)
Bravura

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Poème Symphonique pour les Temps de l’Avent
Rachel Laurin (b. 1961)
Laura Bottei, Organ

Sub Tuum Praesidium
Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)

Salmo 150
Ernani Aguiar (b. 1950)
Bravura and University Singers

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Genevan Suite: IV. Epilogue
Brenda Portman (b. 1980)
Laura Bottei, Organ

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**Bravura Ensemble, Spirito! Singers**

Spirito Singers is a feminist youth choir based in the western suburbs of Chicago. With singers in grades 5-12 hailing from over 25 communities, Spirito inspires its singers to be leaders through music education, performance excellence, and service to others. Spirito’s high school ensemble, Bravura, is an elite auditioned ensemble that tours annually both nationally and internationally. For more information, visit [www.spiritosingers.org](http://www.spiritosingers.org).

Molly Banos
Isabelle Blazis
Sophia Brown
Analise Budziak
Rachel Carlin
Maggie Casiello
Grace Grandall
Maggie Cummins
Fiona Doyle
Gracie Gildea
Olivia Glod
Claire Gustis
Maggie Hawes
Kesi Houar
Zoe Jaksa
Emma Kostal
Vivian Kucklick
Isabel Landman
Kacie Levine
Natasha Lumb
Sophia Marino
Jan Mensik
Skylar Neveu
Evelyn Rosenberg
Meaghan Ryan
Sophia Shirley
Jasmine Su
Oli Verduzco
Rachel Watson
Eva Wojcik
Faith Wrzeciona


**University Singers**

University Singers is the select soprano and alto choral ensemble of Loyola University.

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<th>Leah Ascher</th>
<th>Mya Dixon</th>
<th>Aimee Jaske</th>
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<td>Caroline Lyngen</td>
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<td>Megan Bradley</td>
<td>Gia Gracias</td>
<td>Shelby Repaci</td>
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<td>Mia Hainer</td>
<td>Kacey Shalala</td>
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<td>Anna Chaban</td>
<td>Lily Hogan</td>
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<td>Isabella Cook</td>
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<td>Layla Dagle</td>
<td>Jenelle Janiga</td>
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**Laura Bottei** is excited to be returning to Loyola as an alumna performer. A native of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Laura began studying piano at the age of 5. She graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 2021, summa cum laude, with degrees in music and psychology. While in Chicago, Laura had the joy of serving as the organ scholar at Fourth Presbyterian Church and as associate organist at Madonna della Strada Chapel. Laura is in the final semester of her Master of Music degree at Indiana University, where she studies organ with Christopher Young, improvisation with Jeffrey Smith, and has studied conducting with Walter Huff and Gwyn Richards. She is currently the organist at First United Methodist Church in Columbus, Indiana. Outside of organ and church music, Laura has scholarly interests in psychology, mental health, mindfulness, and feminism. She enjoys powerlifting, musical theatre, dogs, and vegan food.

**Jennifer Kerr Budziak** is an active Chicago area conductor, author, poet, mezzo-soprano, and composer, and is a frequent clinician in the area of vocal technique and conducting at workshops nationwide. Dr. Budziak has served as conductor at many Chicago-area liturgical events and choral festivals, including the National Association of Pastoral Musicians’ national conference in 2009 and the Jubilee Archdiocesan Choir and Symphony Orchestra’s “Field of Faith” celebration at Soldier Field in June 2000.

She has authored or co-authored numerous books and articles on liturgy, ritual, and music, including *Sight-Sing a New Song* (2005), a textbook on sight-singing and music notation for beginners, and *Sowing Seeds, Bearing Fruit: A Five-Year Process for Growing a Singing Congregation*, (July 2012), an Association of Catholic Publishers award finalist. Her compositions for adult and children’s choirs can be found in the catalogs of GIA Publications, World Library Publications, and Oregon Catholic Press. She has served as Editor of Publications for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and is a frequent presenter at the organization’s regional and national conferences.

Dr. Budziak has served on the faculties of North Central College, Concordia University, St. Xavier University, and the Catholic Theological Union. Her areas of research interests include liminal/ritual studies and the social and identity-forming implications of community music-making. She currently serves as an assistant conductor for the Chicago Symphony Chorus.

**Carling FitzSimmons** is a Chicago native, thrilled to be making music in the city she loves. Since returning to Chicago in 2011, Carling has established herself as a masterful singer, conductor, and arts educator. As a conductor of young singers, Carling has worked for Pro Musica Youth Chorus, Chicago Public Schools, and the Merit School of Music, where she serves as Head of Choirs at the Tuition-free Conservatory. As a guest conductor, Carling has worked with the William Ferris Chorale and the Northwest Choral Society, and has led clinics at Goshen College, Kenyon College, and with the Young Naperville Singers.
Lauded for her “sweet-toned singing”, Carling maintains an active performing career, appearing with elite chamber ensembles including Bella Voce, the Rockefeller Decani, and the William Ferris Chorale. Carling is also the founder and Artistic Director of La Caccina, an ensemble that champions and performs diverse, innovative repertoire for women's voices. Under her guidance, La Caccina has established itself as the city's premier treble ensemble, performing in a diverse range of styles, inspiring the next generation of musicians, and commissioning new works. Through La Caccina, Carling has proven herself to be a champion of new music and an innovative conductor, earning praise for her “visionary and generous” leadership. She holds a BA in music and English from Kenyon College and an MM in choral conducting from Michigan State University.

**Texts and Translations**

**Be Like the Bird**  
*Victor Hugo*

Be like the bird that, pausing in her flight awhile on boughs too slight,  
Feels them give way beneath her and sings,  
Knowing she has wings.

**Bright Morning Stars**  
*Traditional*

Bright morning stars are rising  
Day is a'breaking in my soul

Oh where are our dear fathers?  
They are down in the valley a'praying  
Day is a'breaking in my soul

Oh where are our dear mothers?  
They are gone to heaven a'shouting  
Day is a'breaking in my soul

Bright Morning Stars  
Bright morning stars are rising  
Day is a'breaking in my soul

**If ye love me**  
*John 14:15-24*

If ye love me, keep my commandments,  
and I will pray the father, and he shall give you another comforter,  
that he may bide with you forever,  
e'en the spirit of truth

**Lift Thine Eyes, from Elijah**  
*Psalm 121*

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help.  
Thy help cometh from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved: thy keeper will never slumber.
**Ave Maris Stella**  
9th century Latin Hymn

Hail, star of the sea,  
Nurturing Mother of God, ever Virgin  
Happy gate of Heaven

Receiving that "Ave" from the mouth of Gabriel,  
Establish us in peace, transforming the name of "Eva"

Loosen the chains of prisoners,  
Send forth light to the blind,  
Dispel our evils and call us to good..

Show yourself to be a Mother,  
That he who was born for us, of you,  
may hear your prayer

Grant us a pure life and a safe way,  
That seeing Jesus, we may ever rejoice.

Praise be to God the Father,  
To the Most High Christ and to the Holy Spirit  
Be glory to the three in one. Amen.

**Dic Nobis, Maria**  
from the Easter Sequence, Latin Hymn

Tell us, Mary, what did you see on the way?  
I saw the tomb of Christ now living; I saw the glory of his rising,  
Angels standing as witnesses, the shroud and linen cloth.

**There is a Balm in Gilead**  
Traditional Spiritual

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

**Faith is the bird that Feels the Light**  
Rabindranath Tagore

Faith is the bird that feels the light,  
And sings while the dawn is still dark.
The Circles of Our Lives    David Brunner
Again, again we come and go, changing.
Hands join, unjoin in love and fear, grief and joy.
The circles turn, each giving into each, into all.
Only music keeps us here,
Each by all the others held.

In the hold of hands and eyes, we turn in pairs,
That joining, joining each to all again.
And then we turn aside, alone, out of the sunlight gone,
Into the darker circles of return.

Within the circles of our lives, we dance the circles of the years,
The circles of the seasons within the circles of the years,
The cycles of the moon within the circles of the seasons,
The circles of our reasons within the cycles of the moon.

Sub Tuum Praesidium    3rd century Greek liturgical text
Beneath thy compassion,
we take refuge, holy bearer of God
Do not turn away from our supplications
in our time of need,
but from all danger
set us free evermore
Glorious and blessed virgin

Salmo 150    Psalm 150
Praise the Lord in His holy places: praise the Lord in the firmaments of His power.
Sing praise for God’s mighty acts, for the multitude of God’s greatness.
Sing praise with the sound of trumpet: sing praise with psaltery and harp.
Sing praise with timbrel and choir: sing praise with strings and organs.
Sing praise on high sounding cymbals: sing praise on cymbals of joy:
Let every spirit praise the Lord. Alleluia.