

HOPEWELL VALLEY Chorus

But Beautiful

A spring concert celebrating the beauty of the heavens,
the earth, and the soul.

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

St. James Church
115 E. Delaware Ave,
Pennington, NJ



The Hopewell Valley Chorus (HVC) provides the joy of choral music to its members,
through its members, and to the community.

HVC does not discriminate against its members, staff, or any other person regardless
of race, creed, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or
intellectual ability, national origin, ancestry, or religion.

HVC is not affiliated with any of the organizations that provide us venues for
performances or rehearsals, and does not endorse any political, social, religious,
and/or cultural ideology that such organizations may hold.

Welcome!



Welcome to Hopewell Valley Chorus's Spring Concert titled "But Beautiful," conducted by Brian Clissold, our artistic director, and supported by our accompanist Sungryung Kim. Thank you to St. James Church for hosting us once again for this event.

Our concert today reflects a celebration of many different types of beauty: the beauty of the heavens, the earth, and the beauty of the soul. In December, we performed Movements I and II of the Rutter Gloria. This afternoon, we will complete the piece with our performance of Movement I.

Hopewell Valley Chorus is in its 65th year as your community chorus. Open to all without auditions, the Chorus provides the opportunity to learn and perform a wide variety of music under professional leadership in a welcoming environment. If you would like more information about our chorus, including singing with us, please talk to any of us or visit our website at hopewellvalleychorus.org. Our Fall season will start right after Labor Day.

We continue to be hugely grateful for generous financial support from our donors, including many individuals, organizations, and area businesses. Special thanks go to the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Hopewell Harvest Fair for their recent grant awards. And of course, behind the scenes, a dedicated group of volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors and contribute in many other ways to the Chorus's success. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

Christina Rowntree
Hopewell Valley Chorus President

Large-print programs are available at the ticket desk.

Visit us on the web: www.hopewellvalleychorus.org

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hvchorus

Contact us by email: hopewellvalleychorus@gmail.com

But Beautiful

Brian Clissold, Artistic Director

Sungryung Kim, Pianist

Gloria (Movement 1)

John Rutter

No Time

Traditional Camp Meeting Songs,
arranged by Susan Brumfield

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Traditional hymn,
arranged by Alice Parker

If I Loved You (from Carousel)

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein
Ethan Fastag-Rosenfield, countertenor
David Schwartz, accompanist

The Dark Around Us

Text by Wendell Berry,
music by Sean Ivory
Liam Reilly, cello
Brennan Clissold, percussion

I Dream a World

Text by Langston Hughes,
arranged by André J. Thomas

It All Fades Away (from The Bridges of Madison County).

Jason Robert Brown
Brent Gerike, tenor

Dirait-on

Text by Rainer Maria Rilke,
music by Morton Lauridson
Nathan Schwed, conductor

Liebst du um Schönheit

Clara Wieck Schumann,
edited and arranged by James McCullough

But Beautiful

Words by Johnny Burke,
music by James Van Heusen,
arranged by Steve Zegree

I Love You/What a Wonderful World

Arranged by Craig Hella Johnson
Brent Gerike, tenor

Texts and Translations

Gloria: Movement I

*Glória in excélsis Deo
et in terra pax homínibus bonae voluntátis.
Laudámus te,
benedícimus te,
adorámus te,
glorificámus te,
grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam
glóriam tuam.*

Glory be to God on high
and on earth peace towards men of good will.
We praise thee,
we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory.

No Time

Rise, oh, fathers rise; let's go meet 'em in the skies.
We will hear the angels singing in that morning.
Oh, I really do believe that, just before the end of time,
We will hear the angels singing in that morning.
Rise, oh mothers, rise...
No time to tarry here, no time to wait for you.
No time to tarry here, for I'm on my journey home.
Brothers, oh, fare ye well, brothers, oh, fare ye well,
Brothers, oh, fare ye well, for I'm on my journey home.
Sisters, oh, fare ye well...
No time to tarry here, no time to wait for you.
No time to tarry here, for I'm on my journey home.

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters, with their deep and solemn roar.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM.
And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM.
Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM!

Texts and Translations

If I Loved You

If I loved you
Time and time again I would try to say
All I'd want you to know
If I loved you
Words wouldn't come in an easy way
Round in circles I'd go
Longin' to tell you
But afraid and shy
I'd let my golden chances pass me by
Soon you'd leave me
Off you would go in the mist of day
Never, never to know how I loved you
If I loved you

I Dream a World

Of such I dream,
I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, a world!

The Dark Around Us

The dark around us, come,
Let us meet here together,
Members one of another,
Here in our holy room.
Here on our little floor,
Here in the daylit sky,
Rejoicing mind and eye,
Rejoining known and knower,
Light, leaf, foot, hand, and wing,
Such order as we know,
One household, high and low,
And all the earth shall sing.

It All Fades Away

There was something in the desert
There was someplace wild and green
And a child in a village I passed through
There are places that I've travelled
And so many things I've seen
And it all fades away but you

I was sliding down a mountain
I was burning in the sun
I was crying with amazement at the view
I was capturing a moment
But when all is said and done,
Well it all fades away but you

I have sailed across the oceans,
Passed the cities and the farms
On a never-ending quest for something new
And the only thing that mattered
Was the four days in your arms
And it all fades away but you

It All Fades Away (continued)

There is one thing that's eternal
That cannot be torn apart
There is one thing that remains forever true
Past the thinking, past the breathing
Past the beating of my heart
It will all fade away but you

Dirait-on

*Abandon entouré d'abandon
tendresse touchant aux tendresses...
C'est ton intérieur qui sans cesse
se caresse, dirait-on;*

*se caresse en soi-même
Par son propre reflet éclairé
Ainsi tu inventes le thème
du Narcisse exaucé*

Abandon surrounding abandon,
tenderness touching tenderness...
Your oneness endlessly
caresses itself, so they say;

self-caressing
through its own clear reflection.
Thus you invent the theme
of Narcissus fulfilled.

Liebst du um Schönheit (If you love for beauty)

*Liebst du um Schönheit,
O nicht mich liebe!
Liebe die Sonne,
Sie trägt ein gold'nes Haar!*

If you love for beauty,
O love not me!
Love the sun,
She has golden hair!

*Liebst du um Jugend,
O nicht mich liebe!
Liebe den Frühling,
Der jung ist jedes Jahr!*

If you love for youth,
O love not me!
Love the spring
Who is young each year!

*Liebst du um Schätze,
O nicht mich liebe!
Liebe die Meerfrau,
Sie hat viel Perlen klar!*

If you love for riches,
O love not me!
Love the mermaid
Who has many shining pearls!

*Liebst du um Liebe,
O ja, mich liebe!
Liebe mich immer,
Dich lieb' ich immerdar!*

If you love for love,
Oh yes, love me!
Love me always;
I shall love you forever!

Texts and Translations

But Beautiful

Love is funny, or it's sad;
Or it's quiet, or it's mad;
It's a good thing or it's bad;
But beautiful.
Beautiful to take a chance,
And if you fall, you fall
And I'm thinking I wouldn't mind at all.
Love is tearful, so they say.
It's a problem or it's play.
It's a heartache either way,
But beautiful.
And I'm thinking, if you were mine
I'd never let you go:
And that would be but beautiful, I know.
But beautiful
And I'm thinking, if you were mine
I'd never let you go.
And that would be but beautiful, I know.

I Love You/What a Wonderful World

We can be together now and forever, I love you, I love you
And when I'm praying, I hear Him saying, "I love you, I love you"
People all over the world, they're opening up, they're coming around
And they're saying, "I love you, I love you, I love you..."
I see skies of blue and clouds of white
Bright, blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."
The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
But also on the faces of the people going by
I see friends shaking hands, saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying, "I love you."
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow,
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know
And I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."
People all over the world, they're opening up, they're coming around
And they're saying, "I love you, I love you, I love you..."
We can be together now and forever, I love you, I love you, I love you
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world
I love you, I love you, I love you...

Chorus Members

Soprano

Kendra Brito
Susan Flick
Tamara Gallant
Penny Gardner
Gayle Holtzman*
Tami Kaplowitz
Inger Magnusson
Jeanne Nahan
Christina Rowntree
Terry Trubiano
Margret van Vuuren
Renée Varias

Alto

Carole Allison
Megan Bonomo
Patricia Carr
Abbi Clissold
Megan Hitzel
Claire Hooks
Sonya Legg
Ellen Longo
Nancy Mattek
Valerie Nelson*
Christine Piatek
Elaine Pollak
Katy Simonsen
LuAnn Wood
Michelle Zechner

Tenor

Cecilia Aerstin*
Gail Hart
Thomas Henderson
Scott Lundquist
Kate O'Neill
Sandy Stein
Klaus Zechner

Bass

Nathan Schwed
Santo DiRaimondo

* Section Leader

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Penny Gardner, Sonya Legg, Ellen Longo

Biographies

Brian Clissold, Artistic Director

An accomplished conductor, Brian Clissold has had great success working with choirs, and, more specifically, specializing in community-based choirs throughout the Midwest. Brian recently served as artistic director of The Celebration Singers (Cranford, NJ). A baritone, he is a founding member of the professional New York-based ensemble, Manhattan Chorale. He performs regularly in renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall and has sung numerous roles in oratorios, masses, and operas. He has frequently appeared with the Battle Creek (MI) Symphony Orchestra and Butler University (IN) Symphony and is sought after as a clinician and adjudicator in Michigan, Indiana, New Jersey, and New York. Brian was recently named conductor-in-residence with Manhattan Concert Productions. Prior to moving to the Northeast, Brian led the Vivace Youth Singers of Fort Wayne (IN), the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, and the Fort Wayne Youth Symphony. From 2008 to 2010, he worked with the Indianapolis Children's Choir, establishing and conducting the Lebanon (IN) Regional Satellite Choir and working closely with Henry Leck and Ruth Dwyer. While in Indianapolis, Brian was active in the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and worked closely with Dr. Eric Stark. For 11 years, he served the Music Center of South Central Michigan as conductor of both the Battle Creek Girls Chorus and Community Chorus where he prepared numerous choral-orchestral works for performance. Brian holds a BM in Music Education from Western Michigan University and a MM in Conducting from Butler University.

Sungryung Kim, Pianist

Sungryung began to study the piano at the age of seven in Seoul, South Korea. There she received the Award of Excellence in a youth piano competition. In 2011 she moved to Maryland, where she accompanied school choirs in concerts and festivals. After moving to New Jersey in 2020, she studied with Dr. Kanamaru at the College of New Jersey and received a Bachelor of Music in piano performance in 2023. At the College, she accompanied other students, played with the wind ensemble, and performed with the orchestra as soloist in Grieg's piano concerto.

Brent Gerike, Tenor

Brent Gerike is thrilled to join the Hopewell Valley Chorus for this special performance. A versatile musician and arts administrator, Brent has built a career that blends performance, production, and leadership in the performing arts. As a tenor, he has performed with the Handel & Haydn Society of Boston, the Manhattan Chorale, the New York Choral Society, and the New York Philharmonic at venues including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Beyond performance, Brent is an accomplished producer and stage manager, overseeing productions at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the Apollo Theater, and more. He also led event production for The Met Museum's Sleeping Beauties exhibit and the Woodstock Film Festival. Brent holds a B.A. in Music and Spanish from Luther College and is excited to collaborate with his friend and conductor, Brian Clissold, for this performance.

Nathan Schwed, Choral Conducting Intern

Nathan is thrilled to be singing with and conducting the Hopewell Valley Chorus again this season. As a choral musician, Nathan has performed in concerts at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kimmel Center, and NJPAC. Currently pursuing his Bachelor of Music Degree in Choral Music Education at The College of New Jersey, Nathan sings in the TCNJ Chorale and holds a Choral Librarian/Manager position. His other current engagements include serving as a Conducting Fellow with the Princeton Boychoir, Peer Tutor for the Music Department, President of the American Choral Directors Association collegiate chapter at TCNJ, Choral Scholar and Bass Section Leader at St. Andrew Church, and he teaches vocal and piano lessons at Acoustix Music Studio. He is beyond thankful to the members and leaders of the Hopewell Valley Chorus for affording him the opportunity to learn and grow as a conductor and for being such a warm and caring community.

Ethan Fastag-Rosenfield, Countertenor, 2025 Scholarship Winner

Ethan graduates from Hopewell Valley Central High School in June with plans to major in Vocal Performance at Muhlenberg College. Music has been the center of Ethan's life from early childhood. He sings Countertenor and has performed in the classical, baroque, jazz, and musical theater genres. Ethan has been active in numerous musical groups/choirs in high school and has won a number of awards for musical excellence. He enjoys horseback riding, piano and voice lessons and has worked as a camp counselor. Congratulations to Ethan!

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Hopewell Valley Chorus
P.O. Box 93
Pennington, NJ 08534

Or you can donate online using the QR code below or visiting www.hopewellvalleychorus.org/support.



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