

eVoco
Mixed Ensemble
Presents

Come to the Woods

Saturday, April 5th @ 7pm

Christ Episcopal Church

1351 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY

Sunday, April 6th @ 4pm

St. Peter's by-the-Sea

500 S Country Road, Bay Shore, NY

David Fryling, *conductor*

Brianna Blake, *piano*

eVoco Voice Collective is supported by Long Island Grants for the Arts through funds provided by the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and administered by The Huntington Arts Council.





www.evoco.vc



Come to the Woods

We ask that the audience hold their applause until the end of each section

Zephyr Rounds.....Robert Vuichard

*Rachel Goodman, Seanna Silver,
Kyla Surajbali, & Leandra Wahlen, soloists*



I. Reflections.....Jake Runestad
Innisfree.....Gerald Custer



II. The Peace of Wild Things.....Jake Runestad
Clearing at Dawn.....Alvin Trotman
Rachel Goodman, soprano
April Rain Song.....Robert A. Harris



III. Come to the Woods.....Jake Runestad



The Little Creek.....Matt Carlson
Mixed Ensemble joined by our Invited High School Voices

NOTE FROM THE CONDUCTOR

Our program takes its inspiration from three works of American Naturalist authors, set to music by the 21st century American composer Jake Runestad. Though not originally conceived or composed as a set, Runestad later recognized the common threads between his compositions “Reflections (2016),” “The Peace of Wild Things (2013),” and “Come to the Woods (2015),” re-releasing them as his American *Triptych*.

Of the work, the composer writes, “The texts span the USA from East to West featuring authors Henry David Thoreau (Massachusetts), Wendell Berry (Kentucky), and John Muir (California). Each movement expresses an aspect of our human connection with the natural world and journeys through a rushing river, a peaceful lakefront, and a wind storm in the Western Sierra mountains.”

I hope you’ll be as inspired as we are by the words of these three naturalist philosophers, whose passion reveal a deep love of—and connection to—nature, inspired by the terrifying beauty of our world.

-Dave Fryling

ZEPHYR ROUNDS

The wind blows where it pleases.
You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.

- John 3:8

I. REFLECTIONS

We live but a fraction of our life.
We do not fill all our pores with our blood;
we do not inspire and expire fully and entirely enough,
so that the wave of each inspiration
shall break on our farthest shores,
rolling ’til it meets the sand which bounds us,
and the sound of the surf comes back [to us].
Why do we not let on the flood,
raise the gates,
and set all our wheels in motion?

There is the calmness of the lake
when there is not a breath of wind;
so it is with us.
Sometimes we are clarified and calmed
as we never were before.
We become like a still lake of purest crystal
and without an effort
our depths are revealed to ourselves.
All the world goes by us
and is reflected in our deeps.
Such clarity!
Obtained by such pure means!

By simple living,
by honesty of purpose.
To be calm, to be serene!

- Henry David Thoreau

Social reformer—Naturalist—Philosopher—Transcendentalist—Scientist—Writer. These are just some of the terms by which the work of Thoreau can be categorized. It is perhaps the many “lives” of Thoreau, both individually and collectively, that beckon such a diversity of people to his writings.

Henry David Thoreau lived in the mid-nineteenth century during turbulent times in America. He said he was born on July 12, 1817, “in the nick of time” in Concord, Massachusetts, during the flowering of America when the transcendental movement was taking root and when the anti-slavery movement was rapidly gaining momentum. His contemporaries and sometimes-neighbors include Nathaniel Hawthorne, Bronson Alcott, Margaret Fuller, and his mentor, Ralph Waldo Emerson.

As a social reformer whose words echo the principles on which the United States was founded—that it is a person’s duty to resist injustice where it is found—Thoreau’s writings influenced Gandhi’s work in India, Tolstoy’s philosophy in Russia, and Dr. King’s civil rights stand in the United States. Wherever in the world individuals and groups embrace human rights over political rights, they invoke the name of Henry David Thoreau and the words of his essay “Civil Disobedience:” “Can there not be a government in which the majorities do not virtually decide right and wrong, but conscience? . . . Must the citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator? Why has every man a conscience, then?”

As a naturalist, Thoreau understood that the path to a greater understanding of our life on earth is through an understanding of the natural world around us and of which we are a part. “We can never have enough of nature,” Thoreau asserted in Walden. “We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and Titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thunder cloud, and the rain which lasts three weeks and produces freshets. We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander.”

- The Walden Woods Project

INNISFREE

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight’s all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet’s wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart’s core.

-William Butler Yeats

Born into the Anglo-Irish landowning class, Yeats became involved with the Celtic Revival, a movement against the cultural influences of English rule in Ireland during the Victorian period, which sought to promote the spirit of Ireland's native heritage. Though Yeats never learned Irish Gaelic himself, his writing at the turn of the century drew extensively from sources in Irish mythology and folklore.

Yeats was deeply involved in politics in Ireland and, in the twenties, despite Irish independence from England, his verse reflected a pessimism about the political situation in Ireland and the rest of Europe, paralleling the increasing conservatism of his American counterparts in London, T. S. Eliot and Ezra Pound. His work after 1910 was strongly influenced by Pound, becoming more modern in its concision and imagery, but Yeats never abandoned his strict adherence to traditional verse forms.

William Butler Yeats was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923 and died on January 28, 1939, in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France.

- Poets.Org

II. THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

- Wendell Berry

Poet, novelist, farmer, and environmentalist Wendell Berry lives in Port Royal, Kentucky near his birthplace, where he has maintained a farm for over 40 years. Mistrustful of technology, he holds deep reverence for the land and is a staunch defender of agrarian values. His poetry celebrates the holiness of life and everyday miracles often taken for granted, and whether he is writing poetry, fiction, or essays, his message is essentially the same: humans must learn to live in harmony with the natural rhythms of the earth or perish.

- Poetry Foundation

CLEARING AT DAWN

The fields are chill, the sparse rain has stopped;
The colors of Spring teem on every side.
With leaping fish the blue pond is full;
With singing thrushes the green boughs droop.
The flowers of the field have dabbled their powdered cheeks;
The mountain grasses are bent level at the waist.
By the bamboo stream the last fragment of cloud
Blown by the wind slowly scatters away.

- Li Bai , translated by Arthur Waley

A Chinese poet of the Tang Dynasty, Li Bai (also known as Li Po, Li Pai, Li T'ai-po, and Li T'ai-pai) was probably born in central Asia and grew up in Sichuan Province. He left home in 725 to wander through the Yangtze River Valley and write poetry. In 742 he was appointed to the Hanlin Academy by Emperor Xuanzong, though he was eventually expelled from court. He then served the Prince of Yun, who led a revolt after the An Lushan Rebellion of 755. Li Bai was arrested for treason; after he was pardoned, he again wandered the Yangtze Valley. He was married four times and was friends with the poet Du Fu.

Li Bai wrote occasional verse and poems about his own life. His poetry is known for its clear imagery and conversational tone. His work influenced a number of 20th-century poets, including Ezra Pound and James Wright.

- Poetry Foundation

APRIL RAIN SONG

Let the rain kiss you
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops
Let the rain sing you a lullaby
The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk
The rain makes running pools in the gutter
The rain plays a little sleep song on our roof at night
And I love the rain.

- Langston Hughes

Hughes, more than any other black poet or writer, recorded faithfully the nuances of black life and its frustrations in the 1920s. In Hughes's own words, his poetry is about "workers, roustabouts, and singers, and job hunters on Lenox Avenue in New York, or Seventh Street in Washington or South State in Chicago—people up today and down tomorrow, working this week and fired the next, beaten and baffled, but determined not to be wholly beaten, buying furniture on the installment plan, filling the house with roomers to help pay the rent, hoping to get a new suit for Easter—and pawning that suit before the Fourth of July."

Lindsay Patterson, a novelist who served as Hughes's assistant, believed that Hughes was "Critically, the most abused poet in America.... Serious white critics ignored him, less serious ones compared his poetry to Cassius Clay doggerel, and most black critics only grudgingly admired him. Some, like James Baldwin, were downright malicious about his poetic achievement. Hughes was unashamedly black at a time when blackness was démodé, and he had the wit and intelligence to explore the black human condition in a variety of depths."

- Poetry Foundation

III. COME TO THE WOODS

Another glorious day, the air as delicious
to the lungs as nectar to the tongue.

The day was full of sparkling sunshine,
and at the same time enlivened with one of
the most bracing wind storms.

The mountain winds bless the forests with love.
They touch every tree, not one is forgotten.

When the storm began to sound,
I pushed out into the woods to enjoy it.
I should climb one of the trees for a wider look.

The sounds of the storm were glorious with
wild exuberance of light and motion.
Bending and swirling backward and forward, round and round,
in this wild sea of pines.

The storm-tones died away, and turning toward the east,
I beheld the trees, hushed and tranquil.
The setting sun filled them with amber light, and seemed to say,
“Come to the woods, for here is rest.”

- John Muir

John Muir (born April 21, 1838, Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland—died December 24, 1914, Los Angeles, California, U.S.) was a Scottish-born American naturalist, writer, and advocate of U.S. forest conservation, who was largely responsible for the establishment of Sequoia National Park and Yosemite National Park, which are located in California. He and other conservationists founded the Sierra Club in 1892.

Muir's enduring contributions to the conservation and preservation of America's wilderness have been far-reaching. His conviction that wilderness areas should be federally protected as national parks has given generations of U.S. citizens and tourists an opportunity to appreciate America's landscapes as they exist in the absence of human industrial influence.

Despite his legacy as a towering figure in American environmental conservation, it must be noted that Muir's deeply harmful attitudes toward Black and Indigenous peoples have also had a lasting impact on the Sierra Club and the broader conservation movement. His actions and writings contributed to an American land ethic that has long romanticized and idealized the heroic white man alone and at peace in the wilderness, leaving little room for Indigenous relationships with their ancestral lands or for the participation of other minorities in conservation efforts.

- Encyclopaedia Britannica

THE LITTLE CREEK

Come with me to the little creek
Where my thoughts are running free.
They might run swift or they might run deep,
But these waters wind their way through me.

When we reach the hill, we'll follow it down.
Cross the rough and rocky ground.
Get a little bit lost and a little bit found,
But it evens out when we hear that sound.

Why are we so scared to search our centers?
It may seem so, but every door you enter
You find a piece of something inside you never knew.
Keep moving through.

You've got your pain, I've got mine.
It's hard to say it'll work out fine.
But we can share the load when we share a sigh.
At the creek our dreams are by design.

It flows in you, and it flows in me.
Some days you will find it, some days it's hard to see.
There's twists and there's turns and there's lessons to learn by the creek.
Take a breath and think.

Please don't be so scared to search your center.
Let those seeds grow, 'cause every door you enter
You find a piece of something inside you never knew.
Keep moving through.
Believe it's true
I know that you
Will keep moving through.

Make a little change at the little creek.

- Matt Carlson

"Jane Jones was the co-founder and president of Gettysburg Children's Choir, and an elementary music teacher in Gettysburg, PA for 30+ years. She helped to build our community choir from the ground up into a thriving organization, and was a mentor to me as I started my career as a choir director. She passed suddenly from cancer in 2018 while I was writing The Little Creek. I dedicated this piece to her to honor her memory and thank her for all she has done to support choral music in our area."

"Jane was a person that had such a huge impact on those around her. In writing the lyrics, I channeled the comfort, wisdom, and encouragement she has given me over the years. My hope is that singers and listeners feel some of those same feelings when they hear the Creek. I can't think of a better way for her to live on than that."

- Composer Matt Carlson

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



eVoco* Voice Collective is an award winning collection of singers of the highest musical, technical, and expressive abilities whose shared mission is to invite listeners into the extraordinary experience of singing, together. We are passionate advocates for excellence in the choral & vocal art, presenting evocative concerts and recitals of the highest caliber, summoning the power of the human voice to remind us all of our shared human experiences. Our current projects include the Mixed Ensemble, the Treble Ensemble, the Open Door Ensemble, and our Voice Recitals featuring the Young Vocal Artist Award winners. In 2017, the eVoco Mixed Ensemble received the second place award in the national American Prize for Choral Performance—Community Chorus division.

eVoco firmly believes in the transformative and educational power of music, and we welcome everyone to observe our work together. All of our Mixed and Treble Ensemble rehearsals are open to the public. Teachers and students of music, especially, are encouraged to join us throughout the process. Our hope is that our weekly work together will not only prepare us for each concert series, but also—and just as importantly—will serve as a continual learning space for students, educators, and music enthusiasts alike.

**From the Latin evocare [ex- (“out”) vocare (“to call”): to lure, to summon; to evoke*

eVoco Mixed Ensemble

Soprano 1

Taina Brantley
Mary Beth Finger
Andrea Galeno
Bonnie La Gatta
Grace Rowan
Kayla Sorensen
Kyla Surajbali
Leandra Wahlen

Alto 1

Kristin Bertrand
Sydney Hankins-Wright
Beth Hsu
Emily Ilson
Courtney Martin-Cox
Melody Mercieca
Annie Rodriguez
Maria Rueda
Kristina Strang

Tenor 1

Benjamin Arendsen
David Catalano
Tony DiTaranto
Michael Fernandez
Jason Fitzpatrick
Tyler Humphrey
Luigi Mondì

Bass 1

Joshua Blum
Thomas Buzzi
Calob Congdon
Dana Contino
Alex Plotkin
Carlos Villatoro
Brian Vollmer
Alex Wind

Soprano 2

Devon Brady
Julianna Curran
Vanessa D’Aconti
Rachel Goodman
Christina Regan
Tess Siegel
Sanna Silver
Josephine Zerone

Alto 2

Dory Agazarian
Natalia Antkowiak
Erin Bevan
Jen DeStio
Jessica Mischke
Jane Park
Leah Petraglia

Tenor 2

Joseph Albano
Kevin Barry
Brodie Centauro
Jimmy Gratta
Daniel Santangelo
Douglas Schwartz

Bass 2

Jared Berry
Jim Brosnan
Paul Ceglie
Karl Huth
Connor Martin-Cox
Alexander Roff
JP West

Piano

Brianna Blake



David Fryling (www.DavidFryling.org) is director of choral activities at Hofstra University, where he conducts the Hofstra Chorale and Hofstra Chamber Choir, teaches beginning and advanced studies in choral conducting, and supervises choral music education student teachers during their field placements. In fall 2014, David was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame as the “Educator of Note,” and in spring 2017, he was awarded The American Prize in Conducting in both the community division and the college and university division.

An energetic and engaging conductor, clinician, and adjudicator of professional, community, and high school choirs, David’s recent invitations include various all-state and regional honor choirs, master classes, workshops, and

adjudications throughout New York and in Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia.

From 2007 to 2013, David spent his summers as coordinator of the Vocal Artists program at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan, where he was conductor and music director of the World Youth Honors Choir and Festival Choir & Orchestra. He has since been a frequent guest artist on the conducting faculty of the New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) School of Choral Studies and has served on the faculty at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp in Sitka, AK.

In fall 2013, David founded the eVoco Voice Collective, a nonprofit organization of singers of the highest musical, technical, and expressive abilities. The group comprises two main ensembles: the Mixed Ensemble and the Treble Ensemble; presents a yearly concert series and a recital; and awards young artist scholarships to outstanding high school singers.

Before coming to Long Island, David served as music director and conductor of the University of Michigan Arts Chorale and assistant conductor of the Michigan Chamber Singers, University Choir, and the internationally acclaimed Michigan Men’s Glee Club. While in Ann Arbor, he was also the music director and conductor of the Michigan Youth Women’s Chorus, a year-round all-state honors choir composed of select high school sopranos and altos from across Michigan. In addition to his professional teaching and conducting responsibilities, David is a past president of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Eastern Region, and currently serves as ACDA national president.



Brianna Blake is a music educator, conductor, and collaborative pianist. Originally from Nyack, NY, Brianna received both a B.S. in Music Education and an M.A. in Music Education with a concentration in choral conducting from Hofstra University. Ms. Blake is the High School Choral Director and Theater Music Director in the Locust Valley Central School District, as well as Adjunct Professor of Music at Hofstra, where she conducts the University Chorus. Brianna originally joined eVoco as a singer, but is grateful to now be part of the dance at the piano bench.

High School Invitational Singers

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our
High School Guest Artists on *The Little Creek*:

Megan Acuti - <i>East Rockaway</i>	Rose Link - <i>Smithtown</i>
Johnathan Bonilla - <i>Locust Valley</i>	Anthony Lucchese - <i>Manhasset</i>
Alondra Cabrera - <i>Farmingdale</i>	Melanie Luis - <i>Westbury</i>
Cameron Calderado - <i>Seaford</i>	Sean Lynch - <i>East Rockaway</i>
Kevin Castellano - <i>Smithtown</i>	Peter Martelli - <i>Manhasset</i>
Angelina Casto-Boutin - <i>Westbury</i>	Scarlett Modlin - <i>Locust Valley</i>
Marilena Castoro - <i>Smithtown</i>	Katherine Monaco - <i>Manhasset</i>
Liana Chetty - <i>South Huntington</i>	Gianna Moreano - <i>Locust Valley</i>
Leah Chung - <i>Port Washington</i>	Marina Norbreus - <i>Manhasset</i>
Elliot Colatosti - <i>Hicksville</i>	Carina Onesto - <i>Bellmore-Merrick</i>
Savannah Dixon - <i>Hicksville</i>	Ty Rambeau - <i>Farmingdale</i>
Leah Dong - <i>Port Washington</i>	Elizabeth Ramos - <i>Bellmore-Merrick</i>
Fiona Duffy - <i>East Rockaway</i>	Alexandra Rivas - <i>Locust Valley</i>
Damon Failla - <i>Seaford</i>	Sophia Romano - <i>Farmingdale</i>
Julia Fasciano - <i>South Huntington</i>	Amelia Saladino - <i>Cold Spring Harbor</i>
Sam Fiore - <i>Cold Spring Harbor</i>	Christina Sherwin - <i>Farmingdale</i>
Aeron Go - <i>Seaford</i>	Nicholas Stallon - <i>Smithtown</i>
Victoria Hasan - <i>West Hempstead</i>	Daniel Stebner - <i>East Rockaway</i>
William Herbert - <i>Farmingdale</i>	Ava Vaden - <i>Farmingdale</i>
Josef Hunter - <i>North Shore</i>	Julia Velez - <i>Locust Valley</i>
Sia Kacharaba - <i>Bay Shore</i>	Gavin Wahlen - <i>Middle Country</i>
Maya Karagiannakis - <i>Locust Valley</i>	Caroline Winchester - <i>North Shore</i>
Matthew Kilfeather-Bonello - <i>Hicksville</i>	Max Yulico - <i>Cold Spring Harbor</i>
Tanesha Kumar - <i>Hicksville</i>	

*Thank you for adding your voices to ours.
We hope to see and hear you again in the near future!*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Treble Ensemble: Still I Rise!

*Saturday, June 14th @ 7pm
St. Peter's by-the-Sea
500 S Country Road in Bay Shore, NY*

*Sunday, June 15th @ 5pm
Cathedral of the Incarnation
50 Cathedral Ave, Garden City, NY*

For tickets and concert information visit www.evoco.vc

Young Artist Awards

Apply now at evoco.vc/young-artists-awards
Applications due May 1st.

Young Artists Competition Live Round

*Saturday, May 31st at 7:00pm
Shapiro Family Hall at Hofstra University*



DONORS

PATRON \$1,000+ David & Janet Fryling

PARTNER \$500 - \$999 Joan Drewes
The DiTaranto Family
Elaina Finger
Leah Master
The Shah Family

SUPPORTER \$250 - \$499 Melinda Beauchamp
Alex & Sam Plotkin

FRIEND \$100 - \$249 Richard Blake
Jesse Blumberg
Max Denler
Nancy Deutsch
Andrea Galeno
Assunta Galeno
Anthea Jackson
Susan Martin
Diana Schuld

FAN *Up to \$100* Alex Canovas
Mary Beth Finger
Melanie Gladstone
Katie Grogg
Sydney Hankins-Wright
John & Anna Ievoli
Joshua Kogut
Patrice McDonald
Melody Mercieca
Kerri Mulder
Christina Regan

*Join our list of donors simply by
opening your phone's camera and
following the link from this code:*



75 YEARS OF MUSIC

BABYLON CHORALE

OUR TIME

Saturday, June 7, 2025 @ 5:30pm & 8:00pm

Two performances

Bayway Arts Center, East Islip

*Blending 60s inspired music with modern tunes
of hope and peace*



75th ANNIVERSARY GALA

Monday, June 9, 2025

Captain Bills, Bay Shore

Join us in celebrating 75 years of music

For more information, visit
www.babylonchorale.org



Our concert audiences are your target audience. And you get the satisfaction of supporting your local arts community in the process!

Advertising your business or organization in an eVoco program is an effective way to get your message out to a highly responsive audience. And it makes smart business sense.

{ your ad
HERE }



Add your voice to ours!

Contact advertising @ [eVoco.vc](mailto:evoco@evoco.vc) or visit www.evoco.vc/advertising

*We'd love to hear your thoughts on today's concert.
Please share your feedback with us!*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Top Shelf Design Studio and Bill Stefanowicz for their graphic design, to our friends who assisted at this concert by helping with tickets and ushering, and to the staff at Christ Church Manhasset and St. Peter's by-the-Sea. A special thanks to the Hofstra University Department of Music, Dr. Francesca Cassio, Chair, for your continued support.

THE EVOCO BOARD

Andrea Galeno, *President*
Dory Agazarian, *Development Chair*
Terry Bendel, *Advertising Chair*
Jared Berry, *Secretary*
Brianna Blake, *Special Projects Chair*
Tony DiTaranto, *Member at Large*
David Fryling, *Artistic Director*
Sydney Hankins-Wright, *Social Chair*
Alex Plotkin, *Manager*
Christina Russo, *Venues Chair*
Kyla Surajbali, *Marketing Chair*
Brian Vollmer, *Treasurer*



www.evoco.vc