

Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center
May 17-18, 2025

Already Home

**THE
WORLD
WE SHARE**

Already Home

May 17 & 18, 2025 | Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center

Meagan Johnson, *Artistic Director* Ross Dryer, *Collaborative Pianist*

CJ McConnell, *Percussion* Majerle Thompson, *Bass* Tai Jackson, *ASL Interpreter*

Turn	Emil Adler and Julie Flanders, arr. Keiji Ishiguri, adapted by Kirsten Oberoi <i>Jennifer Mathews (Sat), Kat Widgery (Sun), solos</i>
Awake	Lea Morris, Text based on the poem by Manón Voice
The Seed	Aurora Aksnes, Michelle Leonard, Nicolas Rebscher
Water Fountain	Nathaniel Brenner and Merrill Garbus, arr. Kristopher Fulton <i>Sherry Dubois, Sally McSpadden, Becky Marsh, and Robin Jones, clapping</i> <i>Ross Dryer and Sarah Thrasher, percussion</i>
Big Yellow Taxi	Joni Mitchell, arr. Roger Emerson <i>Sally McSpadden, guitar</i> <i>Jane Potter, Christine Hawkins, Alyssa Melkus, solos</i>
The Lost Words Blessing⁺	Words and Music by The Spell Songs Ensemble, after Robert Macfarlane's <i>The Lost Words: A Spellbook</i> , arr. Jim Molyneux
A Thing That Can Ignite⁺	Music by Laura Nevitt, Text by Emily Dickinson
Fire	Katerina Gimon <i>Dennese Adkins, Kristen Hidding, Amy Chenault, Becky Marsh, Kelly Hannon-McCreary, Sherry DuBois, Small Group</i> <i>Sherry DuBois, Holly Miller, Emily Wilhelm, solos</i>
The Peace of Wild Things	Joan Szymko, Text by Wendell Berry <i>Kylie Williams, solo</i>
We Shall Be Known	MaMuse



Song lyrics & additional program information are [HERE!](#)

Scan this QR code or go to indianapoliswomenschorus.org/
alreadyhome for more information about today's concert and IWC.

— *Intermission* —

More Waters Rising*	Saro Lynch-Thomason, arr. Saunder Choi <i>Sarah Rowley (Saturday), Miranda Reseigh (Sunday), solos</i>
What a Wonderful World	George David Weiss and Bob Thiele, arr. Mark A. Brymer
Open Water	Sarina Partridge
Okâwîmâw Askiy (Mother Earth)	Sherryl Sewepagaham, Woodland Cree-Dene
Easy on the Earth	Luke Wallace, arr. Shawn Kirchner <i>Emily Wilhelm, Amy Chenault, solos</i>
My Heart Be Brave	Marques L. A. Garrett, Text by James Weldon Johnson
Awake	Lea Morris, Text based on the poem by Manón Voice
A Million Dreams	Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, arr. Mac Huff <i>Margaret Gray, Mollie Hernandez, Saturday solos Erin Gabrielson, Holly Miller, Sunday solos</i>

**IWC Small Ensemble*

** SSAA Voicing World Premiere, Co-commissioned with Orange County Women's Chorus*

Program Notes

The Seed – In the context of gardening, to “suffocate” a seed means that the seed has been trapped in overly dense or moist soil, and it is unable to grow.

Water Fountain translation – “se pou zanmi mwen” (Haitian Creole): “it is for my friends.”

Okâwîmâw Askiy translation – “Okâwîmâw askiy, niyanân kitawâsimsak, kisâkihitanan.”
(Woodland Cree) “Mother Earth, we are your children, we love you.”

Easy on the Earth – Please join us on the Refrain!

Easy on the Earth, lightly on the water, remember this place is for us all to wander.
Easy on the Earth, lightly on the water, remember who this place is for.

Please see digital program for complete song lyrics.

From our Artistic Director

“If you need a world to belong to, look around — you’re already home. And what you seek, you’ve already found. Turn around to me, you will see no reason to be lonely.” (Julie Flanders, “Turn”)

This powerful invitation opens today’s concert. In a season of exploring *The World We Share*, recognizing our deep interconnection with one another in the dance of community, we widen our perspective to include all living things, and our Earth, the home we all share. We sing our first song, “Turn,” from the first-person perspective of the Earth — that the “me” we are invited to turn to is not just another person, but the very ground we walk on every day.

Robin Wall Kimmerer — a mother, scientist, decorated professor and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation — writes powerfully about our relationship with the more-than-human world. In her best-selling book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, and her newest work, *The Serviceberry* (which members of IWC read as a book club this spring), Kimmerer invites us to shift our world view from one of scarcity to one of abundance, and to a heart-stance of gratitude and generosity in response to the overflowing gifts of the world. She writes:

“Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond.”

How then, do we grapple with the realities of climate devastation and catastrophe? We can no longer ignore that this beautiful planet, our only home, is in crisis because of human, government, and corporate exploitation and greed. More than that, the places and communities who bear the least responsibility for the causes of environmental crisis are the very ones who feel the damages most keenly.

In today's concert, we don't shy away from these realities. Humans have harmed our air, our water, our soil, our forests. As we sing today: "when the last tree has fallen and the rivers are poisoned, you cannot eat money, oh no!" We sing about the insanity of preventing access to clean and healthy water — the life source of all living things — and the fires that rage in our world. We sing these songs not to induce fear, cause shame, or to make us feel powerless, but because we have to speak the truth... and because we need to grieve for something precious that we've lost and continue to lose. Robin Wall Kimmerer also wrote:

"Until we can grieve for our planet we cannot love it—grieving is a sign of spiritual health. But it is not enough to weep for our lost landscapes; we have to put our hands in the earth to make ourselves whole again. Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair. Not because I have my head in the sand, but because joy is what the earth gives me daily and I must return the gift."

And that — the gift of joy, the choice to daily choose joy over despair — is why we are singing this concert about the Earth and climate hope, even in the midst of political turmoil and attacks on our freedoms, our environment, and an inclusive way of life. We sing as a chorus of voices in resistance to the hatred and despair that others expect will crush us. Our connection to the Earth and all of Life can be an inexhaustible well of hope, of joy, of nurture, of literal nourishment, and of inspiration. It can fuel us for the work today and all the work ahead.

All we have to do to access those things is to simply stop and recognize — *we're already home.*

In harmony,

Meagan Johnson
Artistic Director

Indianapolis Women's Chorus Members

Dennese Adkins*	Meg Hart**	Jane Potter
Sara Allaei +	Christine Hawkins* +	Melanie Raplee
Michelle Arthur	Mollie Hernandez	Miranda Reseigh ⁺
Jodie Barnett ⁺	Eva Hernandez-	Mary Roberts*
Elizabeth Beers*	Ramaswamy	Jenny Robinette
Cara Berg Raunick ⁺	Melissa Hibdon	Kate Roelecke**
Sarah Blair**	Emily Hickman**	Sara Rolfe
Mary Bondeson*	Kristen Hidding* +	Lisa Roller
Vicki Bynum* +	Morgan Holinka**	Sarah Rowley*
Maya Cameron	Jennifer Isenhower	Mary Ryker Hernandez
Cat Cardwell**	Robin Jones ⁺	Claire Scheele
Mary Beth Carlson	Kris Kauffman	Joanna Schreck**
Amy Chenault	Rachel Kempin ⁺	Ali Schumacher
Jennifer Collins**	Jayne Kercheval	Heather Shepherd
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Elizabeth Enas**	Ciara McHugh	Maria Valentine
Rachel Erikson	Emily McIntire	Katherine Vellenga ⁺
Stephanie Everett**	Sally McSpadden*	Sarah Viktora
Katie Fedeler**	Alyssa Melkus	Misty Waters
Jane Ferris	Sarah Mihelic	Helen Weber-McReynolds
Erin Gabrielson	Marty Miles ⁺	Lisa Weidekamp
Allie Gentry	Janet Miller*	Kat Widgery
Lannae Gordon**	Jana Miller* +	Tina Wiesert**
Elizabeth Gorman	Holly Miller ⁺	Emily Wilhelm**
Mandie Gould*	Michaela Miller	Kylie Williams
Margaret Gray*	Anne Murphy**	Shirah Winicur**
Evan Greeley	Alicia Oskay**	Larisa Woodruff
Andrea Grotenhuis	Divya Pathak**	Cortnee Yarbrough*
Abigail Hale**	Lauren Peters	
Lizzie Hallinan	Sara Peterson* ⁺	
Kelly Hannon	Liz Piekarczyk**	

* IWC Small Ensemble

** Leave of absence for this concert

⁺ Chorus & Section Leadership



Meagan Johnson, Artistic Director

Meagan Johnson is a dynamic, interdisciplinary artist-educator who integrates expertise in choral conducting, voice education, and the Alexander Technique to create whole-person-centered educational experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds. As a choral conductor, Meagan is respected for her holistic pedagogy, deeply thoughtful programming, and joyfully impactful performances in her work with adult community choral ensembles. Since 2015, she has been Artistic Director of Indianapolis Women's Chorus, which has nearly tripled in size during her tenure.

Meagan is also a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique with a background in classical voice, and maintains an active studio in Indianapolis. She has served on the faculties of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Butler University, Marian University, and University of Indianapolis. Meagan holds bachelor's and master's degrees in voice performance and music education from Ithaca College, and teacher certification from Alexander Technique Urbana.



Ross Dryer, Collaborative Pianist

Ross Dryer, collaborative pianist, received his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and his Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he studied with Dr. Peter Miyamoto. In addition to his work with IWC, he is currently employed as the choir accompanist at Fishers High School and has worked with several theater programs in Columbia and Indianapolis.



Sherry DuBois, Artistic Administrative Assistant

Sherry DuBois provides essential logistical and administrative support for the chorus, including chorus internal communication, rehearsal and music coordination, website management, and much, much more. A Project Manager with IU Health, she has an MBA in Healthcare Management and also serves as the choral accompanist at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Sherry has been a proud IWC soprano since 2016.

IWC remembers these singers and leaders who have passed away

Joey Burt, stage manager & supporter

Pamela O'Haver Day, chorus member

Sharon Farley, chorus member

Esther Fuller, chorus leader & supporter

Kathleen "Kassie" George, chorus member

Phillis Green, chorus leader & supporter

Holly McLin, chorus member

Pam Mueller, chorus member

Juliet Port, chorus member

Mary Ellen Reed, chorus member

Christy Lynn Stossmeister, chorus member

If a name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and contact us at info@indianapoliswomenschorus.org.

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- *First Mennonite Church, our rehearsal home*
- *St. Richard's School for extra tech rehearsal space*
- *Our amazing singer and community volunteers who help make all we do possible*

Donors and funders help us expand our impact

We are so pleased you can share this concert with us today!

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to IWC to supplement our income from ticket sales, sponsors, and grants. Your gift funds:

- *Access to chorus membership and concert performances for those with limited resources*
- *Higher production costs and larger venues as IWC grows*
- *Additional staff time to support our growth and expanded community outreach*

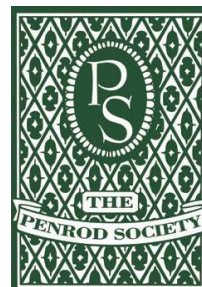
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- *In the lobby at this concert*
- *With this QR code or online at indianapoliswomenschorus.org/support*
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Interested in planned giving to support IWC? Email us at giving@indianapoliswomenschorus.org

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Mission: Indianapolis Women's Chorus sings diverse and powerful music to build an inclusive community, inspire change, and nurture the human spirit.

JOIN IWC FOR FOR THESE EVENTS!

Pride Community Music Night – Friday, June 27, 7pm (*Shelton Auditorium, Butler University*) Join IWC, the Pride of Indy Band, and other community singers!

Registration is still open for the BCAS **Intergenerational Pride Festival Choir Camp June 26-27**. Learn more at butlerartscenter.org/camps.

IWC Open Rehearsal (August 3) and Auditions (August 9-10): Auditions are held once a year. We welcome singers in the soprano/alto (treble) range, including women and nonbinary, gender expansive, and transgender singers. To be notified about audition details, email info@indianapoliswomenschorus.org. We'd love to have you join us!

Other exciting events are in the works!

Please join our e-newsletter list at Indianapoliswomenschorus.org/joinmailinglist to receive information about upcoming IWC events.