



# DEEP RIVER

SPRING 2026



## *I was an odd duck growing up.*

My parents often remind me that as a child I could never stop humming and singing to myself. Sometimes it even affected the people around me, like the time I was moved to the outfield so I could keep singing while still contributing, if only lightly, to my baseball team. Most of the time, though, it just meant I was alone in my own little musical world. That is, until I found choir.

Once I joined a choir, there wasn't much else I wanted to do. I still sang solos at my family's little Methodist church, and to myself while I played with my Power Rangers and stuffed animals, but above all I looked forward to singing every week with the other kids in the Jacksonville Children's Chorus. When I was accepted into the American Boychoir in New Jersey, my obsession with being part of a choral community reached another level.

Those years were formative, offering me glimpses of the hard work and exciting rewards that come with studying and performing music. At a boarding school for music, we spent just as much time in rehearsal as we did on academics. I remember a lot of favorite repertoire, including "Hej, igaztsad," a quick and catchy Hungarian folk song featured on our **Deep River** program, which influenced both my love for upbeat, challenging repertoire and for writing fun interplay between choral lines. More than anything, many of those early pieces have stayed with me three decades later and helped shape my path as both a singer and a composer.

But it's more than just the repertoire. My memory of this music is inextricably tied to the communities in which I sang them. The choristers next to me were filled with as much enthusiasm for music-making as I was, and, more importantly, I knew I would be accepted for who I am, obsessions and all. I know that each of us in Cantus have similar stories of music and identity formation and I'm excited for you to hear some of those stories during our performance.

So, we present this collection of our favorites—choral standards that you will recognize alongside songs that will be new to many—as a testament to our love of the music and its power to shape our lives.

**Paul John Rudoi**  
*tenor*

This digital concert is made possible thanks to the generous support from Lenny and Louise Anderson.

## *Mission*

Cantus gives voice to shared human experience by inspiring audiences through song and word, sparking new depths of understanding and empathy.

## *Values*

Vulnerability • Collaboration • Learning  
Inclusion • Accessibility • Distinctiveness



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*Baritone, Cantus*

# CANTUS

Now entering its 31st season, the “engaging” (*New Yorker*) low-voice ensemble Cantus is widely known for its trademark warmth and blend, innovative programming and riveting performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century. The *Washington Post* has hailed the Cantus sound as having both “exalting finesse” and “expressive power” and refers to the “spontaneous grace” of its music making. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* called the group nothing short of “exquisite.”

As one of the nation’s few full-time vocal ensembles, Cantus has come to prominence with its distinctive approach to creating music. Working without a conductor, the members of Cantus rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing to the entirety of the artistic process, creating programs that give voice to shared human experiences. As the *Minnesota Star Tribune* has written, “The main hallmark of the Cantus sound has always been sheer quality and an unbroken belief in the special way that vocal music has of warming and invigorating the human spirit.”

Cantus enjoys a vigorous schedule of national and international touring, in addition to home concerts in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Cantus has performed at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, UCLA, San Francisco Performances, Tanglewood and Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival. Cantus also

makes all of its home concerts available online. This pandemic-prompted innovation has brought the ensemble’s programs to audiences spanning 50 states and sixteen countries.

Cantus records for the UK-based Signum Classics label which has released the popular *COVID-19 Sessions*, *Manifesto*, holiday album *Into the Light*, *Alone Together* and *Fields of Wonder*. Cantus also has a deep catalog of recordings released on the group’s eponymous label.

Committed to the expansion of the vocal music repertoire, Cantus actively commissions new music and seeks to unearth rarely performed repertoire for low voices. Cantus has received commissioning grants from New Music USA, the National Endowment for the Arts, Chorus America, American Composers Forum and Chamber Music America. In 2023, Cantus was honored with the Alice Parker Fund Award from Chorus America that recognizes the exemplary work of an ensemble that respectfully and authentically presents works incorporating Black and Latinx traditions and experiences. In line with Cantus’ ongoing commitment to fostering new works for tenors, baritones and basses, the ensemble has partnered with composer and former Cantus bass Timothy C. Takach and Graphite Publishing on the Cantus Choral Series, distributing Cantus’ signature arrangements and compositions for ensembles everywhere to

perform and enjoy.

Cantus has a rich history of collaborations with other performing arts organizations, including the Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Boston Pops, Chanticleer, The Swingles, Canadian Brass, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Lorelei Ensemble, Theater Latté Da and the James Sewell Ballet. The ensemble is heard frequently on both classical public radio nationwide and on SiriusXM Satellite Radio.

Integral to the Cantus mission is its commitment to preserve and strengthen music education in schools. Cantus works with more than 5,000 students each year in masterclass and workshop settings across the country and has been in-residence in 31 Minnesota high schools throughout their award-winning program’s 15-year history. The Cantus High School Mentorship program offers Cantus artists in-residence at one Twin Cities-based high school for the entirety of the school year. Cantus has also broadened its work by launching a yearly, statewide festival in partnership with American Choral Directors Association Minnesota catered to high school tenor and bass singers. Additionally, the ensemble hosts a biennial Cantus Commission Competition to encourage the creation of new repertoire through cash prizes, a performance, recording and potential publication of winning composers.

## TENORS



BIO

**JACOB CHRISTOPHER**

GRAPHIC DESIGN

MEMBER: 2016-present



BIO



**ALEXANDER NISHIBUN**

MUSIC & MEDIA LIBRARIAN

MEMBER: 2019-present



BIO

**PAUL JOHN RUDOI**

PROGRAMMING

MEMBER: 2008-2016, 2023-present



BIO



**PAUL SCHOLTZ**

COMMUNICATIONS

MEMBER: 2015-present

## BARITONES



BIO

**ROD KELLY HINES**

TOUR MANAGER

MEMBER: 2021-present



BIO



**JEREMY WONG**

EDUCATION  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

MEMBER: 2021-present



BIO

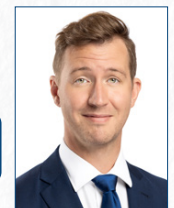
**SAMUEL  
BOHLANDER-GREEN**

PRODUCTION

MEMBER: 2013-present



BIO



**CHRIS FOSS**

STAFF COMPOSER

MEMBER: 2008-present

## BASSES

# DEEP RIVER

*This one-hour program will be performed without intermission.*

## **Shenandoah**

American Folk Song; arr. James Erb, Marshall Bartholomew

## **For the Beauty of the Earth**

Conrad Kocher; arr. Paul John Rudoi

## **Sakura (Cherry Blossom)**

Traditional Japanese Folk Song; arr. Ko Matsushita

## **Wanting Memories**

Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

## **These Are the Threads\***

Simon Pearson

## **Hej, igazítsad! (Hey, Straighten Your Step!)**

Traditional Hungarian Folk Song; arr. Lajos Bárdos

## **Marvellous Error!**

Edie Hill

## **Witness**

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Moses Hogan

## **This Little Light of Mine**

Traditional Gospel; arr. Rod Kelly Hines

## **Danny Boy**

Irish Folk Song; arr. Jameson Marvin

## **Grow Little Tree**

Andrea Ramsey

## **Lux Aurumque**

Eric Whitacre

*\* World Premiere, winner of the 2025-26 Cantus Commission Competition*

## Shenandoah

Traditional American Folk Song; arr. James Erb (1926-2014) and Marshall Bartholomew (1885-1978)

Oh Shenandoah, I long to see you,  
And hear your rolling river.  
Oh Shenandoah, I long to see you,  
'Way, we're bound away, across the wide Missouri.

I long to see your smilin' valley  
And hear your rolling river.  
I long to see your smilin' valley ,  
'Way, we're bound away, across the wide Missouri.

'Tis seven long years since last I see you,  
And hear your rolling river.  
'Tis seven long years since last I see you,  
'Way, we're bound away 'cross the wide Missouri.

## For the Beauty of the Earth

Music by Conrad Kocher (1786-1872); arr. Paul John Rudoi (b. 1985)  
Text by Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth,  
Over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

## Sakura (Cherry Blossom) *sung in Japanese*

Traditional Japanese Folk Song, arr. Ko Matsushita (b. 1962)

桜 桜 sakura sakura  
弥生の空は yayoi no sora wa  
見渡す限り mi-watasu kagiri  
霞か雲か kasumi ka kumo ka  
匂いぞ出ずる nioi zo izuru  
いざや いざや izaya izaya  
見に行かん mini yukan

Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms,  
Across the spring sky,  
As far as you can see.  
Is it a mist, or clouds?  
Fragrant in the air.  
Come now, come now,  
Let's look, at last!

桜 桜 sakura sakura  
野山も里も noyama mo sato mo  
見渡す限り mi-watasu kagiri  
霞か雲か kasumi ka kumo ka  
朝日に匂う asahi ni niou  
桜 桜 sakura sakura  
花ざかり hana zakari

Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms,  
In fields and villages  
As far as you can see.  
Is it a mist, or clouds?  
Fragrant in the morning sun.  
Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms,  
Flowers in full bloom.

## Wanting Memories

Ysaÿe M. Barnwell (b. 1946)

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.  
Yes, I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

You used to rock me in the cradle of your arms.  
You said you'd hold me 'til the pains of life were gone.  
You said you'd comfort me in times like these and now I need you.  
And now I need you...And you are gone.

So, I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.  
Since you've gone and left me, there's been so little beauty,  
But I know I saw it clearly through your eyes.

Now the world outside is such a cold and bitter place.  
Here inside I have few things that will console.  
And when I try to hear your voice above the storms of life,  
then I remember that I was told.

Yes, I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.  
Yes, I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

I think on the things  
that made me feel so wonderful when I was young.  
I think on the things  
that made me laugh, made me dance, made me sing.  
I think on the things  
that made me grow into a being full of pride.  
Think on these things,  
for they are true.

And I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.  
I thought that you were gone,  
but now I know you're with me.  
You are the voice that whispers all I need to hear.

I know a "Please", a "Thank you", and a smile will take me far.  
I know that I am you and you are me, and we are one.  
I know that who I am is numbered in each grain of sand.  
I know that I've been blessed again and over again.

Yes, I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.  
Yes, I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me  
to see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

## These Are the Threads

Simon Pearson

WINNER OF THE 2025-26 CANTUS COMMISSION COMPETITION

How does it start?  
Why does it happen?  
Does music find us, or do we find our music?  
When does it begin?

Was it...  
Your humming at the side of the bathtub?  
Or a jingle from children's TV?  
Or a lullaby baby don't you cry  
A robin singing high in a tree?

These little things that I barely remember  
These are the threads through it all  
Weaving away

What happens next?  
Nature or nurture?  
Does music make us, or do we make the music?  
How does it become part of our being?  
Is it just the silly happenstance of living?

Like the...

First time I touched a piano  
Or the first time I danced a samba  
The first time I sang with a choir  
Oh these are the things that I fondly remember  
These are the threads

These are the threads through a thousand choices  
The cord that draws them all together  
And though I strove for so long to try to be so different  
Now I see that these are the threads through it all  
Weaving away

These are the threads through a thousand choices  
The line that joins them all together  
When I'm lost and confused these threads are there to guide me  
Now I see these are the threads through it all

These threads are the things that make us human  
These are the the threads

Weave away  
The beauty of happenstance awaits.

**Hej, igazítsad! (Hey, Straighten Your Step!) *sung in Hungarian***

Traditional Hungarian Folk Song; arr. Lajos Bárdos (1899-1986)

*Hej, igazítsad jól a lábod,  
tíz farsangja, hogy már járod,  
haj dana dana dana danajdom...*Hey, straighten your feet properly,  
you've been dancing for ten carnival seasons already.  
(*nonsense refrain*)*Hej, ez a kislány atyám fija,  
szereti jaz apám fija,  
haj dana dana dana danajdom...*Hey, this young girl belongs to my father's son;  
and my father's son loves her.*Hej a szívemnek nagy a búja,  
te légy rózsám orvoslója,  
haj dana dana dana danajdom...*Hey, my heart carries great sorrow;  
be the one who heals it, my rose.*Hej, nem aludtam csak egy szikrát,  
eltáncoltam az éjszakát,  
haj dana dana dana danajdom...*Hey, I did not sleep even a spark (not a wink);  
I danced away the entire night.**Marvellous Error!**

Music by Edie Hill (b.1962)

Text by Antonio Machado (1875 - 1939), translated by Robert Bly (1926 - 2021)

Last night, as I was sleeping,  
I dreamt – marvellous error! –  
that a spring was breaking  
out in my heart.  
I said: Along which secret aqueduct,  
Oh water, are you coming to me,  
water of a new life  
that I have never drunk?Last night, as I was sleeping,  
I dreamt – marvellous error! –  
that I had a beehive  
here inside my heart.  
And the golden bees  
were making white combs  
and sweet honey  
from my old failures.Last night, as I was sleeping,  
I dreamt – marvellous error! –  
that a fiery sun was giving  
light inside my heart.  
It was fiery because I felt  
warmth as from a hearth,  
and sun because it gave light  
and brought tears to my eyes.Last night, as I slept,  
I dreamt – marvellous error! –  
that it was God I had  
here inside my heart.**Witness**

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

For my Lord, for my Lord,  
My soul is a witness for my Lord.*(Refrain)* My soul is a witness for my Lord.  
Yes! I'm a witness for my Lord,  
My soul is a witness for my Lord.  
Who will be a witness for my Lord?Oh, I haven't been to heaven but-a I been told  
That the streets up there are paved with gold.  
Oh, I wanna go to heaven and I wanna go right,  
Yes, I wanna go to heaven all dressed in white.*(Refrain)*Well, Daniel was a Hebrew chile  
Who went to pray to his God for a while.  
The King at once for Daniel did send  
An' he put him down in the lion's den.Well, you read about Samson from his birth,  
The strongest man that lived on the earth.  
Delilah shaved his head just as clean as your hand,  
An' his strength became as a common man.*(Refrain)*Who will be a witness?  
Daniel was a witness, Samson was a witness.  
Moses was a witness, Jonah was a witness.  
Peter was a witness for my Lord.Will you be a witness?  
Paul was a witness, Silas was a witness,  
Mary was a witness, Noah was a witness.  
Witness, for my Lord!

## This Little Light of Mine

Traditional Gospel; arr. Rod Kelly Hines (b. 1992)

This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.

Everywhere I go  
I'm gonna let it shine.

## Danny Boy

Irish Folk Song; arr. Jameson Marvin (b. 1941)

Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling,  
From glen to glen and down the mountain side,  
The summer's gone and all the flow'rs are dying,  
'Tis you, 'tis you must go and I must bide.

But come ye back, when summer's in the meadow,  
Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow,  
'Tis I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow,  
Oh Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so.

And if you come when all the flow'rs are dying,  
And I am dead, as dead I well may be,  
You'll come and find the place where I am lying,  
And kneel and say an "Ave" there for me.

And I shall hear, tho' soft you tread above me,  
And all my dreams will warm and sweeter be,  
If you won't fail to tell me that you love me,  
I'll simply sleep in peace until you come to me.

Oh come ye back, when summer's in the meadow,  
Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow,  
'Tis I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow,  
Oh Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so.

## Grow Little Tree

Andrea Ramsey (b. 1977)

Grow, little tree.  
Stretch your arms and spread your leaves.  
What will you be?

Grow, little tree.  
Wave your branches wild and free  
For all to see.

I'll grow too, just like you.  
Nurture me, I look to you  
For what you do.

Teach me to dance,  
Dance in the wind,  
Stand and soak up the sun.

And when the storm brings a shower,  
Let the earth catch my tears  
And sprout a new flow'r.

Grow, little tree...

## Lux Aurumque (Light and Gold) *sung in Latin*

Music by Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Text by Edward Esch (b. 1970); Latin translation by Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

*Lux,  
Calida gravisque pura velut aurum  
Et canunt angeli molliter  
Modo natum*

Light,  
Warm and heavy as pure gold  
And the angels sing softly  
To the new-born babe.

To complete a brief survey on your concert experience, scan the QR code, or email us at [info@cantussings.org](mailto:info@cantussings.org)



Scan the QR code below for Cantus tickets, newsletter sign-up, social media links, and more!

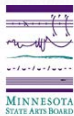


# KEEPING CANTUS VITAL

The singers, staff, and Board of Directors of Cantus thank you for your support of Cantus in the past year. Your contributions ensure that we continue to provide artistic and educational enrichment to our community here in the Twin Cities and beyond. Thank you to the following donors who allow Cantus to continue giving voice to shared human experiences. The following list honors our donors for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2025. Cantus strives for accuracy in its donor listings. If your name is listed incorrectly, please contact Zachary Colby at [zcolby@cantussings.org](mailto:zcolby@cantussings.org).

We are incredibly grateful for your extraordinary support of Cantus.

*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.*



A complete list of Cantus donors can be found on our website at [cantussings.org/donors](https://cantussings.org/donors) or by scanning the following QR code.



MEDIA PARTNER



## CANTUS LEGACY CIRCLE



Cantus is proud to welcome donors to join our **Legacy Circle**, an opportunity to make a lasting impact and ensure Cantus' vitality for years to come. If you have included Cantus in your estate plan, or would like to, we cordially invite you to join our Legacy Circle. Please know that by joining the Legacy Circle, you may remain anonymous, and there is no minimum estate gift amount to join.

To join the Legacy Circle, simply complete and return the form available on our website, or contact our Director of Development, Zachary Colby, at 612-435-0046 for more information.

Tom Arneson  
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Through the generous support from our donors, the eight full-time musicians of Cantus provide innovative world-class music, meaningful educational and engagement residencies, and increased access to in-person and online concerts through pay-what-you-can tickets.

Thank you for considering a contribution today to ensure the future of this work. You may donate by scanning the QR code to the right, visiting the website link below, or by calling (612) 435-0046, ext. 3.



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[cantussings.org/how-to-give](https://cantussings.org/how-to-give)

SAVE THE DATE • MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026



**CANTUS**  
i d o i

**SILVER SCREEN SHOWSTOPPERS**



**MORE INFO**

What does it mean to create beauty in the face of injustice? During the Harlem Renaissance, Black poets, musicians, and artists answered that question with works of brilliance.

In **Genius Child**, Cantus honors that legacy through two evocative song cycles: H. Leslie Adams' *Nightsongs* and Ricky Ian Gordon's *Genius Child*.

With texts by Langston Hughes, Georgia D. Johnson and others, the music brings to life voices that continue to resonate, urging us to reflect on our shared histories and the enduring power of art to inspire change.



**MORE INFO**

*Genius Child*

**JULY 14-17, 2026**

C O V E R S

# Dolly & Friends

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music celebrating the legendary Dolly Parton and her profound influence on generations of artists. From timeless classics like "Jolene" and "9 to 5" to unforgettable ballads like "I Will Always Love You," Dolly's songwriting brilliance continues to inspire artists across the musical spectrum.

In *Dolly & Friends*, you'll also hear fresh interpretations of songs by iconic female artists such as Beyoncé, Norah Jones, Indigo Girls, Chappell Roan, and many more. Together, these performances pay tribute to the wit, warmth, and wisdom that have made Dolly Parton a true living legend. Don't miss this dazzling night of rhinestones, harmonies, and heart!

## May 30 - June 7, 2026



TICKETS



[cantussings.org/dolly-and-friends](https://cantussings.org/dolly-and-friends)

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