

WELCOME TO SEASON 15!



"ALL WE NEED: MEDITATIONS ON QUEER BEING" is a multi-movement choral work that explores themes of identity, community, and the significance of safe spaces for marginalized, specifically queer, individuals. It seeks to reflect the emotional journey of living in a world that often tells us we shouldn't, can't, or don't exist. Through this music, I aim to highlight the struggles and triumphs of finding and creating spaces where we can be our true selves without fear or judgment.

The creation of this piece involved close collaboration with members of the queer community and the singers of SACRA/PROFANA. Personal stories and experiences, honed through workshops, have shaped the lyrics and musical themes.

In this work, I have included solo parts that represent significant elements of the journey.

"The Composer," a tenor role, serves as a reflection of myself, guiding the narrative. Alongside "The Composer," there are "The Guides," three treble voices that help navigate the experience of self-actualization. The choir acts as a kind of Greek chorus, offering shifting perspectives, commenting on the action, and expanding on the themes and ideas presented.

"ALL WE NEED" is a meditation on the necessity of safe spaces and the search for belonging. Each movement reflects different aspects of this journey—from moments of vulnerability and fear to those of strength and solidarity. "The Composer" searches for a place to belong, looking to external sources like school, religion, love, and other people, as well as within music and the art we create. Ultimately, the piece conveys that our true home is within ourselves. It is not something external that can be given or taken away.

The final words of the piece—"You are the room," "you are the air," and "you are the wind"—highlight this realization. "You are the room" signifies the space within which we inherently exist. "You are the air" represents the intangible, invisible substance that fills and expands to fit any space. "You are the wind" reflects movement, action, and our agency. We create our own spaces and dare to take up that space because it is inherent in our being. We don't need anyone's permission to exist; we persist despite obstacles. This is our gift and our right.

- Cory Hibbs

a Space to Belong

JUNE 1, 2024 at 7PM St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral

World Premiere

All We Need Meditations on Queer Being

Music and Poems by Cory Hibbs

1. Recitative: What Do I Have to Tell the World

2. Chorus: Sense the Vastness Your Breath Creates Around You

3. Chorus: Your Face Appears at the Water's Edge

4. Recitative: I Didn't Know What it Meant

5. Chorus: Humming Chorus I

6. Chorus: We Raise Our Eyes to the Endless Stars

7. Chorus: Home is Hard

8. Recitative: Still, Years later

9. Chorus: Is It Winter Still?

10. Chorus: Roots Drink From Stones

11. Recitative: We Sat, Side by Side, in the Car-- Parked

12. Chorus: And Then, The Sound

13. Chorus: In the Clash of Traffic

14. Recitative: There was Peace in the Cadence

15. Chorus: Come Out

16. Chorus: Can You Feel It?

17. Recitative: Today You Swam Through Tides of Scorn

18. Chorus: Humming Chorus II

19. Chorus: Home is Not a Place

20. Chorus: You Set Your Clock

21. Chorus: Sense the Vastness Your Breath Creates Around You

MEET THE CONDUCTORS AND COMPOSER



JUAN CARLOS ACOSTA - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Juan Carlos Acosta is a critically acclaimed American conductor specializing in contemporary vocal music who has led world and regional premieres of choral works by Anthony Davis, Saunder Choi, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Kim André Arnesen, Brandon Waddles, and others. He served as chorus master for the live world premiere of the film Star Trek: Beyond (Michael Giacchino), and the live premiere of music from the television series The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power (Bear McCreary). In addition to contemporary works, Juan Carlos has conducted nearly twenty different masterworks for choir and orchestra, and served as musical director and conductor for six productions of All Is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914, including San Diego Opera's award-winning production, which was hailed as "excellent" by Broadway World, "masterfully conducted" by the San Diego Union-Tribune, and "nothing short of amazing" by OperaWire. Juan Carlos has made conducting appearances with the New York City Opera, Vancouver Chamber Choir, San Diego Opera, Bodhi Tree Concerts, and the Los Angeles Choral Lab. In addition to his role as Artistic Director, Juan Carlos serves as the Director of Worship at the Village Community Presbyterian Church, where he directs the Chancel Choir, Village Community Chorale, and Youth Choir.



CORY HIBBS - COMPOSER

Cory Hibbs is an American composer, performer, and writer based in San Diego. He has earned accolades from ASCAP and the American Composer's Orchestra and served as composer-in-residence for the San Diego Opera. Hibbs co-founded CITY Opera in 2014, praised by the San Diego Union-Tribune for its innovative productions. His work is noted for its expressive power, lyricism, and sensitivity to text. As a performer, Hibbs has appeared in films and stage productions across the country. Dr. Hibbs holds advanced degrees in music composition, theory, and voice from the Peabody Conservatory, Boston University, and SDSU. Hibbs is also noted for his involvement in education and community arts projects.

www.coryhibbs.com

SAVE THE DATES: SEASON 16 Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors



JULY 8-13, 2024
Summer Choral Intensive,
our weeklong camp for students
grades 7-12, culminating in a joint
concert on the 13th at 6pm
Crill Performance Hall,
Point Loma Nazarene University

Fri. Oct 25, 2024:

Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors Featuring music by Fleetwood Mac

> Sat. Dec 14, 2024: A Candle in the Window A Holiday Concert

Sat. Feb 8, 2025:Mirrors

Sat. Mar 29, 2025: Windows

Sun. May 18, 2025: Sliding Glass Doors

Tickets and info at: sacraprofana.org

TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS

SOLOISTS

The Composer - Adam Davis Guide I - Calieanne Grossheim Guide II - Libby Weber Guide III - Lara Korneychuk

SOPRANOS

April Fisher
Calieanne Grossheim
Katina Mitchell
Shea Perry
Libby Weber

ALTOS

Lara Korneychuk Jiachae McGee Ellie Mout Michelle Risling Meghan Rossi

TENORS

Andrew Bearden
Aaron Burgett*
J. Anthony Malerich
Michael Sakell
Kurt Wong

BASSES

Adam Davis
Jonathan Gonzales
Kevin Martin
Allen Pace
Richard Stanford

ACCOMPANIST

Adam Ferrara

*Assistant Conductor

POETRY

1. Recitative: What Do I Have to Tell the World

What do I have to tell the world About what it means To exist in a place that says you shouldn't, Can't, Don't? But I am here. Against all odds, I am here. Still here.

What do I have to tell the world About what it means To love despite the violence, Despite the hate, Despite the isolation? But still I love, Against all odds, I love. Still love.

What do I have to tell the world About the need To create your own space To survive, To grow? To carve a home, Sculpt a family, Fight for safety, In your own country? In your own body? Under your own heart? But still here I am. Against all odds, I am here. I am here.

2. Chorus: Sense the Vastness Your Breath Creates Around You

Sense the vastness your breath creates around you, the stillness, the space.

Sense the boundless, sprawling light, the stars, the network of night.

3. Chorus: Your Face Appears at the Water's Edge

Your face appears at the water's edge,
Spinning out in fluid fractals,
A shattered moon.
And so the image of ourselves
Mirrors to us through others,
twisted,
misread.

In the silence of your room You pray for healing, Another life, Anything but this.

Yet, love in all its forms, like water, carves canyons in your soul, And In the pride of your scars, there is nothing more whole.
You are the face not the mirror, You are the song not the echo.
And nothing within you whatsoever needs healing.

4. Recitative: I Didn't Know What It Meant

I didn't know what it meant,
I had never heard such a thing
And the ease with which they
sung it at me,
taunting...
Then, to survive,
I smiled in semiquavers
And ignored them in drones,
Pretending nothing happened.
Even when an older boy,
I didn't know,
For no reason at all,
Spat on my back.

5. Chorus: Humming Chorus I

6. Chorus: We Raise Our Eyes to the Endless Stars

We raise our eyes to the endless stars.
Here is the land, tilled and broken.
Here is the house, wind-splayed open.
Here is the kitchen.
Here is the table.
Here is the bed.
Silent.
Dead.

We've come to discover America. And here we stand in fields of dust.

We two,
Embracing,
Enfolding,
Tethered,
Ignite a spark,
A civil war.
Your hands rend prairies.
Your back breaks mountains,
Your knees raze cities.

And yet the truth of us, Our mouth, Our heart, Our love Persists.

And here we stand.
under endless stars,
Tilling the land,
Building the house.
Knitted together
In the American body.
Love in all its forms
For the kitchen,
the table,
the bed.

Heart of the American body, Love of the American body, We are The American body.

7. Chorus: Home is Hard

Home is hard, and terrible, and tedious, and the place you should belong-

but even the dirt taunts and even the trees tease.

You carry your home, The weight of it all. The work.

Your jeans?
Cling.
Drag.
A Sweat-soaked weave.
Your bones?
Dense.
Caustic and dry.

Home is tedious, terrible. Home is hard.

And the silence?
Of course, the silence.
The shocking, stinging silence.
The roar of silence.

Home is an accident. Home is unavoidable. Home is burning, blazing, singeing, searing; biting.

All of it hard. All of it stone. All of it home.

8. Recitative: Still, Years later

Still, Years later, As I write this, I am afraid. Queers in the house of God!

The walls have eyes,
The floor a tongue,
And the arches, altar, and tabernacle,
a memory.

I can hide from all but God.

But silence breaks,
As music transforms the space,
The walls shake with echos,
The floor– stretched like a snare,
And the arches, altar and tabernacle–
Flicker to the rhythm of my heart.

It's in my pen.
It's in the songs.
The length of waves,
The frequency,
The amplitude.
Every chord- divine.

We are whole,
We are full,
We are here to show the world
Love sings.



2024-25 SEASON

Save these dates!

1. FROSTIANA NOVEMBER 2 & 3, 2024

2. MESSIAH SING DECEMBER 8, 2024

3. BRAHMS REQUIEM APRIL 26 & 27, 2025

4. MIX TAPEMAY 31 & JUNE 1, 2025

Tickets will go on sale this summer.
Join our email list to be first in line!



SDMASTERCHORALE.ORG

9. Chorus: Is it Winter Still?

Is it winter still?

Didn't spring sow its seeds? Didn't ice melt away? Didn't night's reign end? Didn't moonlight fade?

Didn't stars retreat, When the sun began to rise?

See the Night Phlox and Tuberose plooms Sleepless.

Wasn't there a time When the sun's rays played? Didn't embers ignite? Didn't hope persist? Didn't the world awaken, In every breath?

Those glowing flowers in the garden? We hate them.

10. Chorus: Roots Drink From Stones

Roots drink from stones, Branches cleave the sky, And the crack of leaves whisper wisdom.

Teach us strength. Teach us warfare.

The sun schorches. The wind whips. The poppies unful.

The weight of truth is wood. The verb of truth is flame.

The tree on fire, The grove on fire, The forest on fire. All of it- fire.

11. Recitative: We Sat, Side by Side, in the Car- Parked

We sat, Side by side. In the car— Parked-

The radio singing softly, The world outside vanishing As we spoke under stars Dimming to dawn.

We stood. Face to face. In the dark wings of the stage, Shadowed from view. The choir spinning partsongs, Intricate, Our song improvised, Our silent tune. Our lips could almost, almost...

We wanted to sing it, Claim it. But fear kept the song in our throats.

So we sat. Silent, Side by side, In the car-Parked.

12. Chorus: And Then, The Sound

And then, the sound, and then, the storm, and then, the roar of wind in your ears. And then, the prick, the bite, the sting in your eyes, the flash on your skin.

The torrent of rock, and then, of fire. And then, the rush of earth giving way, the crumble, the cleft. the split.

And then, the opening.

And then, the dawn.

And then, the love, the love. the love.

And then. the love.

13. Chorus: In the Clash of Traffic

In the clash of traffic. In the buzz of circuits, All we need is a pocket, To rest, Together, To read.

See! The dome of the universe behind this button. Where stars unfold, Where creation sings, We'll touch the sky.

Through every quiet corner, every deep recess, Through nooks and bins we'll crawl. In closets. In pouches, In linens you'll sow and take root.

All we need is hollow. All we need is a drawer. All we need is a pantry, A cupboard, A bread box.

14. Recitative: There was Peace in the Cadence

There was peace in the cadence, Escape and protection. Where the act of shaping the lines, Lost in the counterpoint, Offered freedom.

It was in the rhythm That I was found, In the melody, That I awakened, In the harmony, That I connected.

I tried so hard to quell my song, I'm sure there must be a box somewhere. Maybe under that music, That holds a piece of me, Forever.

15. Chorus: Come Out

Come out. Come out. Show us the truth of your spirit Where living is not a land to defend but a world to explore, And every act of being-A defiant act of love.

If we sought only to exist, We could as a shadow. If we sought only to breathe, We could as the breeze. We could as the rain. We could as neon, contained.

In the heart of rebellion, there roars a storm. A wildfire. A hot wind. And If we sought only to stand, We could as a pillar, Bent and bowing, Particles grinding.

What joy there is in the crumble of concrete, The powder and ash, And the choice to bring it all down.

16. Chorus: Can You Feel It?

Can you feel it? The earthquake of their enormous feet. Marching. Their shadow eating streets, buildings, Blocks. Around the corner just out of view Beyond the motorcycles, the queens, the banner held by a thousand hands It can't be measured. Rolling down the avenue A river of prismatic color Washing shame away. Can you feel it? Excitement roars through us.

And then silence As the universe itself leans down to whisper, "Beautiful one, You are born of love, To show loce, To challenge love. Stand and listen. This is your call."

17. Recitative: Today You Swam Through Tides of Scorn

Today you swam through tides of scorn, Through whispers and gales, Waves dark and strange, Where love is a risk And your smile hides before strangers Almost too late, Almost betrayed.

Today you looked for a bed, Through doors and alleys, Love despised and perfect. Where touch is a crime, And your hands long for shackles, Almost burned up, Almost ash.

Today you tore at your arm, Against voices and shame, Self-doubt and hate. But your blood is a trumpet, And you exist despite, Your pain the proof, Rage and being undeniable. Almost gone. Almost betrayed. Almost ash. Almost.

18. Chorus: Humming Chorus II

19. Chorus: Home is Not a Place

Home is not a place. It has no longitude, no latitude. There is no point, No position. There is no district, No zone. No throne. And you...

Home is not a book. It has no story, No plot, There is no cover, No spine. It can't be bound. There is no verse, No stanza. No lines. And you...

Home is not the tie that binds. It's not your blood, Your birth. It's not the tangle of bonds, The braids of lore, The code that came before. Your house, Your race, A tree shaped space, The photo of a face. And you...

You belong to a different kind. Cut by other stones, Different blades, Fostered under foreign shades.

Home is not a place But the sound, imminent, Terrible majesty, Rolling across the horizon, Lifting all in her embrace, that cries, "Yes, I am."

20. Chorus: You Set Your Clock

You set your clock, brush your teeth, Make your bed.

You tie your shoes, Don your sweater, Check your mail.

You fold your laundry, Water your plants, Sweep your floor,

And you are miraculous.

While replacing a light bulb, Taking out the trash, Waiting for the water to boil, You are majestic.

While scrolling on your phone You are the algorithm.

While stirring a cup of coffee or tea You are the alchemist.

Picking up the dropped pen, You draw a sword.

Searching for the remote, You bounty hunt.

Peeling an orange multiplies like loaves and fishes.

Adjusting a chair before sitting, Adjusting a chair, A chair.

21. Chorus: Sense the Vastness Your Breath Creates Around You

Sense the vastness your breath creates around you.
Feel the space expand

You are the room. You are the air. You are the wind.

ART INSTALLATION

In "Blanket Fort," Cory Hibbs reimagines the playful blanket forts of childhood as a profound exploration of independence and sanctuary. This installation, constructed from repurposed wooden chairs and handmade blankets—all sourced from San Diego County—carries the rich histories of its materials, weaving together both personal and communal stories.

The piece confronts the challenges queer individuals face in establishing their own safe spaces in a society that may not always recognize their rights or existence. The structure is more than a simple shelter; it is a bold declaration of resilience and self-empowerment. Dr. Hibbs celebrates the notion of self-created safe spaces, meticulously crafted with intention and care by those who seek solace in them.

Illuminated from within and consecrated by the artist, "Blanket Fort" transcends its material form to become a sacred space. The light filtering through the blankets resembles the colorful glass of a cathedral, while the thick fabric muffles external noise, enhancing the fort's sense of isolation and protection. The strategic arrangement of chairs creates hidden nooks that store energy, memories, creativity, and imagination—key components for sustaining our inherent creative spirits.

Cory invites viewers to enter the fort and engage in a reflective experience, contemplating the significance of safety for marginalized individuals. Through "Blanket Fort," the artist demonstrates the power of community and the enduring spirit of individuals dedicated to forging spaces where they can fully exist and thrive.



www.rainbowspaces.org

ABOUT SACRA/PROFANA

SACRA/PROFANA redefines choral music by combining technical mastery with a dedication to diversity and inclusion in choral repertoire, and an eye toward social justice. The ensemble is acclaimed for its musical diversity; merging pop, classical, and contemporary music with its commitment to amplify the artistic voices of women and individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, alongside traditional works.

As a nonprofit organization, SACRA/PROFANA is committed to innovative choral programming, renewed collaborations with local and regional artists/groups, and service to the surrounding community through unforgettable performances and education programs that change choral students' lives.

SACRA/PROFANA has accomplished remarkable things in 14 previous seasons, including numerous world and U.S. premieres and collaborations with leading regional arts organizations: San Diego Symphony, Art of Elan, San Diego Opera, California Ballet, and many more.

SACRA/PROFANA has also performed with many artists of worldwide renown, including the legendary Irish band the Chieftains, Producer Carlton Cuse (of ABC's hit show Lost), composer Michael Giacchino (Star Trek), and composer Alan Menken and Lyricist Stephen Schwartz in the development of Disney Theatrical's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at La Jolla Playhouse. Some recent highlights include performing the trailer for Amazon Pictures' "Lord of the Rings: Rings of Power" at Comic-Con 2022, and presenting the world premiere performance of the complete song cycle of Amy Gordon's "Songs of Hope in Strange Times." SACRA/PROFANA was also honored to receive the 2023 Chorus America Education and Community Engagement Award.

A debut album, "Elegies & Ecstasies," was released in 2012, and in 2014 SACRA/PROFANA produced the world premiere recording of "when we were children" by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang, available on the Cantaloupe Music record label. Their second album, "A Longing for Christmas" was released in 2021.

STAFF

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AARON BURGETT- Assistant Conductor
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