



eVOCO  
Mixed Ensemble

SEVEN SONGS  
OF THE  
RUBAIYAT

Saturday Nov 5th @ 8pm

Christ Episcopal Church  
1351 Northern Blvd., Manhasset, NY

Sunday Nov 6th @ 4pm

St. Peter's by-the-Sea  
500 S Country Rd., Bay Shore, NY

David Fryling, *conductor*  
Brianna Brickman, *piano*



## *Seven Songs of the Rubaiyat*

- Seven Songs of the Rubaiyat**.....Adolphus Hailstork
- I. Come! Come! Come fill the cup!  
Response: **Sing, My Child**.....Sarah Quartel  
*Mary Beth Finger & Luigi Mondì, soloists*
- II. The worldly hope men set their hearts upon  
Response: **And the Swallow**.....Caroline Shaw
- III. Ah, my beloved, fill the cup that clears today  
Response: **Between Water and Air**.....Dale Trumbore
- IV. Ah, make the most of what we yet may spend  
Response: **Faire is the Heaven**.....William Harris
- V. (SSA) Oh, threats of Hell and hopes of paradise!  
Response: **Afternoon on a Hill**.....Eric William Barnum
- VI. (Bar SOLO) The revelation of devout and learn'd  
*Alex Plotkin, soloist*  
Response: **And I Heard a Voice**.....Arvo Pärt
- VII. I sent my soul into the invisible
- 1000 Beautiful Things**.....Annie Lennox, arr. Hella Johnson  
*Victoria Devine (Saturday) & Courtney Cox (Sunday)*  
*Mixed Ensemble joined by our Invited High School Voices*

## NOTES, TEXTS, & TRANSLATIONS

“YOLO”

- Drake(?)

“The future depends on what you do today.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

Horace’s ancient (and questionably translated) sentiment, “Carpe diem quam minimum credula postero” (literally, “Pluck the [ripe] day, trusting as little as possible in the next one”), written down in 23 BCE, was even then not a novel idea. The goddess Siduri’s advice to Gilgamesh in the face of the death of his dear friend, Enkidu, was to “dance and be merry, feast and rejoice. Let your clothes be fresh, bathe yourself in water, cherish the little child that holds your hand, and make your wife happy in your embrace.” Our future is infinitely unsure, the past full of useless regret; only the present, it seems, is worth living in and living for.

Omar Khayyam’s poetry for Seven Songs of the Rubaiyat doubles down on this sentiment. Exhortations to “come fill the cup” that “clears today of past regrets” are followed with the dismissal of “Prophets” and the “Learn’d” as insignificant story-tellers with nothing to teach us. Self-examination is useless even if we had “seven thousand years” of yesterdays to right our wrongs and rethink our paths. Khayyam would most certainly recognize the sentiment in “YOLO” (you only live once).

But carpe-ing one’s diem does not necessarily imply that we should live out our most indulgent life. Being aware of the present is a tool for reflection, for meditation—and for growth. YOLO can be a powerful motivator, but Mahatma Gandhi’s response is a strong rebuke to using our 4th dimension limitations as an excuse to live as though no one else exists or matters.

So today we present a conversation. We hear Epicurean arguments and responses from poets who suffer the same challenges – being human – yet who find different meaning in that experience. We float between water, and air, trying to decide daily what to make of (make with?) our allotted thousand beautiful things.

- *Dave Fryling*

### SEVEN SONGS OF THE RUBAIYAT

#### **I. Come! Come! Come fill the cup!**

Come! Come!

Come fill the cup, and in the fire of Spring  
Your winter garment of repentance fling;  
The bird of time has but a little way to flutter,  
and the bird is on the wing.  
Come fill the cup!

- *Omar Khayyam (1048 – 1131)*

#### ***Response: Sing, My Child***

Sing for the promise in each new morning.  
Sing for the hope in a new day dawning.  
All around is beauty bright!

...continued

Wake in the morning and sing, my child.  
Dance in the joy of the day unfolding.  
Dance as you work and dance as you're learning.  
All around is beauty bright!  
Take in the day and dance, my child.

But when troubles come and worry is all that can be found,  
Gather your strength and hear your voice.  
Sing, my child.

Laugh in the cool and the fresh of the ev'ning.  
Laugh in your triumph laugh in succeeding.  
All around is beauty bright!  
Rest in the evening and laugh, my child.

Peace in the stillness and dark of the night.  
Peace in the dreams of your silent delights.  
All around is beauty bright!  
Sleep in the night and peace, my child.

But when troubles come and worry is all that can be found,  
Gather your strength and hear your voice.  
Sing, my child.

Dance, my child.  
Laugh, my child.  
Peace, my child.

- Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)

## **II. The worldly hope men set their hearts upon**

The worldly hope men set their hearts upon  
Turns ashes or it prospers; and anon  
Like snow upon the desert's dusty face  
Lighting a little hour or two is gone.

- Omar Khayyam (1048 – 1131)

### **Response: And the Swallow**

How beloved is your dwelling place o lord of hosts.  
My soul yearns, faints, my heart and my flesh cry out.  
The sparrow found a house, and the swallow her nest where she may hold her young  
They pass through the valley of bakka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains  
also cover it with pools.

- Psalm 84: 2-4 & 7

## **III. Ah, my beloved, fill the cup that clears today**

Ah, my beloved, fill the cup that clears today of  
past regrets and future fears.  
Tomorrow! Why, tomorrow I may be Myself  
with yesterday's seven thousand years.

- Omar Khayyam (1048 – 1131)

**Response: Between Water and Air**

I'm walking on the beach this brisk November morning,  
the bleached sea grass bending in the wind, when there,  
up ahead, in the pewter waves, I see a surfer in his wet suit,  
sleek as a seal, cutting in and out of the curl, shining in the light.  
[I'm on the far side of sixty, athletic as a sofa, but] this is where  
the longing starts, the yearning for another life, the one  
where I'm lithe and long-limbed, tanned California gold,  
short tousled hair full of sunshine. The life where I shoulder my board,  
stride into the waves, dive under the breakers, and rise; my head shaking  
off water like a golden retriever. I am waiting for that perfect wave to come,  
so I can crouch up and catch it, my arms out like wings, slicing back  
and forth in the froth, wind at my back, sea's slick metal polished  
before me. Nothing more important now than this balance between  
water and air, the rhythm of in and out, staying ahead of the break,  
choosing my line like I choose these words, writing my name  
on water, writing my name on air.

- Barbara Crooker, originally published as "Surfer Girl"  
*Text in brackets has been omitted from this setting.*

**IV. Ah, make the most of what we yet may spend**

Ah, make the most of what we yet may spend,  
Before we into dust descend;  
Dust into dust, and under dust to lie,  
Sans wine, sans song, sans singer, and sans end!

- Omar Khayyam (1048 – 1131)

**Response: Faire is the Heaven**

Faire is the heaven where happy soules have place  
In full enjoyment of felicitie;  
Whence they do still behold the glorious face  
Of the Divine, Eternall Majestie;

Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins  
Which all with golden wings are overdight  
And those eternall burning Seraphins  
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;

Yet fairer than they both and much more bright  
Be the Angels and Archangels  
Which attend on God's owne person without rest or end  
These then in faire each other farre excelling  
As to the Highest they approach more neare  
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling

Fairer than all the rest which there appeare  
Though all their beauties joynd together were;  
How then can mortal tongue hope to expresse  
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

- Edmund Spenser (1552? - 1599)

## V. Oh, threats of Hell and hopes of paradise!

Oh, threats of Hell and hopes of paradise!  
One thing at least is certain, This life flies;  
One thing at least is certain and the rest is lies;  
The flow'r that one has blown forever dies.

- Omar Khayyam (1048 – 1131)

### **Response: Afternoon on a Hill**

I will be the gladdest thing  
Under the sun!  
I will touch a hundred flowers  
And not pick one.

I will look at cliffs and clouds  
With quiet eyes,  
Watch the wind bow down the grass,  
And the grass rise.

And when lights begin to show  
Up from the town,  
I will mark which must be mine,  
And then start down!

- Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892 - 1950)

## VI. The revelation of devout and learn'd

The revelation of devout and learn'd  
Who rose before us, and as prophets burn'd  
Are all but stories, which, awoke from sleep  
They told their comrades, and to sleep return'd.

- Omar Khayyam (1048 – 1131)

### **Response: And I Heard a Voice**

Ja ma kuulsin hääle taevast ütlevat: Kirjuta! Õndsad on surnud, kes  
Issandas surevad nüüdsest peale; tõesti, ütleb Vaim, nad hingavad  
oma vaevadest, sest nende teod lähevad nendega ühes.

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the  
dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit,  
'that they may rest [literally, "breathe"] from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'*

- John, Revelation 14:13

## VII. I sent my soul into the invisible

I sent my soul into the invisible,  
Some letter of that after-life to spell:  
And by and by my soul return'd to me and answer'd:  
"I myself am Heaven and Hell!"

Come! Come!  
Come fill the cup, and in the fire of Spring  
Your winter garment of repentance fling;  
The bird of time has but a little way to flutter,  
And the bird is on the wing.  
Come fill the cup!

- Omar Khayyam (1048 – 1131)

## 1 000 BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Every day I write the list  
Of reasons why I still believe they do exist  
*A thousand beautiful things*  
And even though it's hard to see  
The glass is full and not half empty  
*A thousand beautiful things*

So, light me up like the sun  
To cool down with your rain  
I never want to close my eyes again  
Never close my eyes...

I thank you for the air to breathe  
The heart to beat  
The eyes to see again  
*A thousand beautiful things*  
And all the things that's been and done  
The battle's won  
The good and bad in everyone  
*A thousand beautiful things*

So, here I go again  
Singin' by your window  
Pickin' up the pieces of what's left to find  
Pickin' up the pieces...

The world was meant for you and me  
To figure out our destiny  
*A thousand beautiful things*  
To live, to die, to breathe, to sleep,  
To try to make your life complete  
*A thousand beautiful things*

So, light me up like the sun  
To cool down with your rain  
I never want to close my eyes again  
Never close my eyes...

## 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, 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  
Victoria Devine  
Mary Beth Finger  
Doreen Fryling  
Alanna Mahon  
Elizabeth Owens  
Joslyn Thomas

#### **Alto 1**

Jen DeStio  
Andrea Galeno  
Sydney Hankins-Wright  
Beth Hsu  
Jessica Mischke  
Maria Rueda  
Christina Russo

#### **Tenor 1**

Benjamin Arendsen  
David Catalano  
Anthony DiTaranto  
Thomas Kroszner  
Luigi Mondì

#### **Bass 1**

Thomas Buzzi  
Malcolm Gilbert  
James Ludwig  
Brian Messemer  
Alex Plotkin  
Brian Vollmer

#### **Soprano 2**

Courtney Cox  
Emma Harrington  
Kristin Howell  
Emily Ilson  
Christina Regan  
Lisa Richardson

#### **Alto 2**

Dory Agazarian  
Natalia Antkowiak  
Amanda Branson  
Quinn McClure  
Melody Mercieca  
Jane Park

#### **Tenor 2**

Brodie Centauro  
Michael Fernandez  
Jimmy Gratta  
Kevin Hamablet  
Douglas Schwartz

#### **Bass 2**

Jared Berry  
Paul Ceglie  
Dana Contino  
Thomas Lownds  
Connor Martin  
Nevin Shah

#### **Piano**

Brianna Brickman





**David Fryling** ([www.DavidFryling.org](http://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, Mississippi, Michigan, 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.

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 vice president.



Pianist **Brianna Brickman** is an active collaborative pianist on Long Island and across the Hudson Valley. She is the High School Choral Director in the Locust Valley Central School District and also serves as both the Middle School and High School Musical director. In addition, she maintains a private piano and voice studio. Whether she is standing among the voices or sitting at the piano, she is deeply honored to be part of the dance.



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## 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, to the staff at Christ Church Manhasset, and to Mark Engelhardt at St. Peter's by-the-Sea. A special thanks to the Hofstra University Department of Music, Dr. Philip Stoecker, Chair, for your continued support.

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and

ROSE ASPINALL

Orchestrated by Ed Hagan  
Arranged by Kenneth Richardson

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**Rev. Dr. Jeffrey L. Hooker, Pastor**

**Kenneth Richardson, Music Director**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Add these to your calendar!*

### **Treble Ensemble: Home in Me (Commission Project)**

*Concert 1 – 1/7/23 8pm*

*Christ Episcopal Church, 1351 Northern Blvd, Manhasset*

*Concert 2 – 1/8/23 4pm*

*St. Peter's by-the-Sea, 500 S Country Rd, Bay Shore*

### **Mixed Ensemble: Refuge**

*Concert 1 – 3/11/23 8pm*

*Christ Episcopal Church, 1351 Northern Blvd, Manhasset*

*Concert 2 – 3/12/23 4pm*

*St. Peter's by-the-Sea, 500 S Country Rd, Bay Shore*

### **Treble Ensemble: All Shall Be Well**

*Concert 1 – 6/10/23 8pm*

*Christ Episcopal Church, 1351 Northern Blvd, Manhasset*

*Concert 2 – 6/11/23 4pm*

*St. Peter's by-the-Sea, 500 S Country Rd, Bay Shore*

**For tickets and concert information visit [www.evoco.vc](http://www.evoco.vc)**

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