

*The William Baker Choral Foundation Presents*

# **Zimria Festivale Atlanta**

Amy Thropp, Music Director & Conductor

Dr. Soo Jin Kim, Accompanist

## **SHIRIM B'AVIV**

### *Singing in Spring*

Sunday Afternoon, 7 May 2017

Congregation Beth Shalom

Dunwoody, Georgia



*How beautiful are the feet upon the mountains,  
They bring the messenger of hope,  
Bringing tidings of peace to all, tidings of salvation.*

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul?*

# Zimria Festivale Atlanta

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## Amy Thropp, Music Director & Conductor



Born in New York, raised in New Jersey, and for the past 28 years an Atlanta resident, Amy Thropp has been the Music Director of Congregation Beth Shalom, in Dunwoody, GA, for 26 years. Amy studied theory, music composition, flute, and choral conducting at the Juilliard School (preparatory division), the University of Denver, and at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and holds a degree in music composition from Berklee. She has been a member of the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers for the past five seasons and a member of the Summer Singers of Atlanta since 2002. As a member of the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers, Amy performed with the group at numerous venues, including four times at Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston, SC. Previously, for ten years, Amy held the post of Musical Director for the Arcado Community Theatre in Lilburn, GA. Prior to that, she was a member of the Raleigh Oratorio Society and an active Jazz performer in Boston. She has performed with the North Carolina Symphony as well as with the New England Conservatory Symphony. Additionally she appeared at Carnegie Hall in a performance of the Brahms Requiem with the Manhattan Symphony.

Amy lives in Chamblee with her husband, Steve, and has two grown children and two grandchildren.

## Soo Jin Kim, Accompanist



**Dr. Soo Jin Kim** holds a doctor of musical arts degree and a master of music degree in organ performance from the University of Georgia, and a master of music degree in piano performance from Georgia State University. During her studies, she received the Sid Guber Award, given to one graduate music student in the United States each year, and was also inducted into the honorary music organization, Pi Kappa Lambda.

Soo Jin has performed numerous concerts as an organist and a pianist. She has also played a piano concerto with the New York Harmonic Orchestra in New York City and has accompanied choral festivals in Atlanta and Washington, DC.

Soo Jin has been an accompanist for the Gwinnett Choral Guild and the Cobb Community Chorus. She also taught organ, piano, and music theory as an assistant professor at Georgia Christian University in Atlanta. She was the staff accompanist and also taught piano for non-majors at Georgia College and State University. She is currently teaching music at Underwood University in Suwanee. Her professional memberships include the American Guild of Organists and the Music Teachers National Association. In addition to working at Underwood University, she currently serves as an organist for the Norcross First United Methodist Church.

# SHIRIM B'AVIV

## ZIMRIA FESTIVALE ATLANTA

Amy Thropp, Music Director & Conductor    Dr. Soo Jin Kim, Accompanist  
Sunday Afternoon, 7 May 2017, 3:00 PM, Congregation Beth Shalom, Dunwoody, Georgia

### *Ma Tovv* – Traditional round

This prayer is said to acknowledge entering into a house of worship. The source is Numbers 24:5, in which [Balaam](#), sent to curse the Israelites, is instead overcome with awe at [God](#) and the Israelites' houses of worship. The text is a quote of Balaam's blessing and is thus the only prayer commonly used in [Jewish services](#) that was written by a [non-Jew](#).

Text:                    *Ma tov v obalecha Ya'akov, mishk'notecha Yisra'el.*  
Translation:        How great are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel.

### *Bashana Haba'ab* – Ehud Manor (1941–2005), Nurit Hirsh (b. 1942) arr. by John Leavitt

This popular song was written in 1971 by the award-winning combination of Israeli songwriter Ehud Manor, and Israeli composer, arranger, and conductor Nurit Hirsh, who has written more than 1600 songs. She has represented Israel at many international song festivals and has written songs for theater, television, and schools.

Text:                    *Bashana haba'a neishev al hamirpeset v'nispor tziporim nod'dot.*  
                              *Y'ladim b'chufsha y'sachaku tofeset bein habayit l'vein basadot.*  
                              *Od tir'eh kama tov yihiyeh bashana haba'ab.*  
Translation:        Next year we will sit on the porch and count migrating birds.  
                              Children on vacation will play tag between the house and the fields.  
                              You will see how good it will be next year.

### *Oseh Shalom* – Nurit Hirsh, arr. R. Neumann

This prayer is sung or chanted at the conclusion of the Amidah section of the Jewish daily and Shabbat services and is found in the concluding text of the *Kaddish Shalem* prayer. Nurit Hirsh's version is a popular melody, commonly sung in many synagogues.

Text:                    *Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu*  
                              *v'al kol Yisrael, v'imru amen.*  
Translation:        May He who makes peace in high places make peace for us  
                              and for all Israel, and let us say amen.

## *Ma Navu* – Yossi Spivak, arr. Audrey Snyder

The source of this folk song is Isaiah 52:7. Yossi Spivak composed this popular tune; his wife, Raya, choreographed a dance that is widely performed both in Israel and around the world. Several members of Zimria Festivale enjoy dancing to this melody.

Text: *Ma navu al beharim raglei bamevasser,  
mashmi'a hayeshua, mashmi'a shalom.*

Translation: How beautiful are the feet upon the mountains; they bring the messenger of hope, bringing tidings of peace to all, tidings of salvation.

## *Yom Zeh Le-Yisrael* – Traditional; arr. Dudley Cohen

Soloist: Gail Foorman

The full version of this *zemer* contains an acrostic of Yitzchak Luria Chazak, and is attributed to the Arizal, the great 16th century Kabbalistic rabbi. The song speaks of the spiritual contentment of Shabbat and also of the *neschama yeteira*, the additional soul that enters the Jew on Shabbat, to enhance his/her tranquility.

Dudley Cohen has composed choral music for school orchestras, choirs, and chamber groups and liturgical music for the synagogue service. He is the founder of the Zemel Chorale, a Jewish choir in London, much like Zimria Festivale.

Text: *Yom zeh l'Yisrael orah v'simcha Shabbat menucha*

*Tzivita pikudim bma'amad Sinai  
Shabbat u'moadim lishmor b'chol shanai  
la'aroch l'fanai mas'et v'arucha, Shabbat menucha*

*Chemdat halevavot l'umab shevurah  
l'neshamot nich'avot neshama yeteira  
l'nefesh m'tzera tasir anacha, Shabbat menucha*

*Kidashta berachta oto mikol yamim  
b'shesbet kilita m'lechet olamim  
bo matz'u agumim basbket u'vitcha, Shabbat menucha*

*Yom zeh l'Yisrael orah v'simcha, Shabbat menucha*

Translation: This day for Israel is light and gladness, a Sabbath of serenity  
You commanded the laws at the assembly at Sinai  
The Sabbath and festivals to keep through all my years  
To prepare before me courses and banquets,  
Sabbath of serenity

Hearts' delight of the shattered nation  
For suffering spirits an additional soul,  
For a troubled soul it soothes sighs,  
Sabbath of serenity

You hallowed, You blessed it more than all days,

In six days You completed the labor of the universe,  
On it, grieving people find tranquility and security,  
Sabbath of serenity

***Sb'ma***, adapted from **Oh Lord, Hear My Prayer**, Moses Hogan (1957–2003),  
arr. A. Thropp

This version was adapted with the text of the *Sb'ma* from the great Moses Hogan's spiritual chorale; Amy Thropp found that the words of the *Sb'ma* fit the emotional spirit of the music and merged them together in this adaptation. Hogan was a pianist, conductor, and arranger of international renown. He is considered by many to be the definitive master of African American gospel choral composition and arranging.

Text: *Sb'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad.  
Baruch sbem kevod malchuto l'olam va'ed.*

Translation: Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.  
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom forever.

***K'dushab***, William W. Dreyfoos  
Soloist: Gail Foorman

Bill Dreyfoos, a member of Zimria Festivale, dedicated this piece to Cantor Deborah Benardot and the choir of The Temple in Atlanta, of which Dreyfoos's family were founding members in 1867. The text is from the additional service for holidays.

Text: *Nekadesb et Shim'cha ba'olam  
K'sbem sbemakdishim oto bish'mei marom,  
Kakatuv al yad nevi'echa, v'kara zeh el zeh v'amar  
Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh Adonai tzeva'ot, m'lo kol ha'aretz k'vodo.  
Adir adireinu, Adonai Adoneinu, ma adir Shim'cha b'chol ha'aretz.  
Baruch kevod Adonai mim'komo.  
Echad hu Eloheinu, hu Avinu, hu Malkeinu, hu Moshi'enu,  
V'hu yashmi'enu b'rachamav l'einei kol chai.  
Yimloch Adonai l'olam, Elohayich tziyon, l'dor vador,  
Halleluyah!*

Translation: We shall sanctify Your name in this world, just as they sanctify it  
In heaven above, as it is written by Your prophet: "And one will call  
another and say, 'Holy, holy, holy is God, Master of legions;  
The whole world is filled with His glory.'"

Our Almighty, God our ruler, how mighty is Your name in all the earth.  
Blessed is the glory of God from His place.  
He is our God; he is our Father; He is our King; He is our Savior.  
And He will let us hear, in His compassion, in the presence of all living:  
"God shall reign forever – your God, O Zion – from generation to generation, Halleluyah!"

## Heavenly Light, Alexander Kopylov (1854–1911)

The Jewish composer Alexander Kopylov became a student at the Russian National Conservatory only because Tchaikovsky, who had befriended him, pushed to allow him to study there; even then, he was only allowed to audit classes, not be an actual participant. He was also close friends with Rimsky-Korsakov, who provided him with additional training. Kopylov wrote for chorus, symphony orchestra, and string quartets. The text was translated from the Russian by Alice Mattullath.

Text:           Sent from heaven, Thy rays were given on great and small to shine.  
                  O Light Divine!  
                  May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light!  
                  Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation.  
                  All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar.  
                  Oh, shine from above, Divine Light of love!  
                  Show us the way unto our God, we pray!  
                  Thou our beacon and guide shalt be! Light Divine, we praise Thee!

## He Watching Over Israel, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

This selection is one of the many gorgeous choruses from Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Elijah*. A grandson of the philosopher [Moses Mendelssohn](#), Felix Mendelssohn was born into a prominent [Jewish family](#). He was brought up without religion until the age of seven, when he was baptized as a [Reformed Christian](#). As an adult, recognizing that he never really explored his Jewish roots, he decided to create an oratorio in the tradition of Bach and Handel, using a story from the Jewish Bible. He selected the Elijah story because he personally could relate to Elijah's struggles to get people to listen to what he had to communicate.

Text:           He watching over Israel slumbers not, nor sleeps.  
                  Shouldst thou walking in grief languish,  
                  He will quicken thee.

## The Best of All Possible Worlds, Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)

Bernstein, known for both his serious and popular music brought both of his worlds together in the composition of *Candide*. Although written for the Broadway stage, *Candide* is really light opera. The play is based on the novella by Voltaire, with lyrics by Lillian Hellman. The music was hailed by the critics when it debuted in 1956, although the libretto was widely criticized as being "too serious." However, it was not very successful financially as a Broadway show, probably due to the fact that it was a bit more musically serious than the average show and didn't connect well with Broadway audiences. It had only 73 performances in two months before closing.

Subsequently, the work has been performed more often by opera companies and at music schools where the challenge of the music is better met. The libretto was rewritten by Hugh Wheeler, which is the most commonly used one today. The overture to *Candide* is a favorite of orchestras and concert bands worldwide.

"The Best of All Possible Worlds," the opening number, takes place in a classroom, where the main characters are being taught the essentials of French society. The song is an outline of the day's lesson.

Text:           Let us review lesson eleven.  
                  Paragraph two, axiom seven.

                  Once one dismisses the rest of all possible worlds,  
                  one finds that this is the best of all possible worlds.

Pray, classify pigeons and camels.  
Pigeons can fly. Camels are mammals.

There is a reason for everything under the sun.

Objection! What about snakes?

Well, let me see... 'Twas Snake that tempted mother Eve.  
Because of Snake we now believe that though depraved,  
we can be saved from hellfire and damnation. Because of snake's temptation.

If Snake had not seduced our lot, and primed us for salvation,  
the Lord God could not pardon all the sins that we call cardinal,  
involving bed and bottle.

Now, on to Aristotle.

Mankind is one. All men are brothers.  
As you'd have done, do unto others.

It's understood in this best of all possible worlds.  
All is for the good in this best of all possible worlds.

Objection! What about war?

Well, it seems to me... Though war may seem a bloody curse,  
it is a blessing in reverse.  
When cannon roar, both rich and poor by danger are united.  
'Til everything wrong is righted.

Philosophers made evident the point that I have cited.  
'Tis war makes equal, as it were, the noble and the commoner,  
thus war improves relations.

Now, on to conjugations.

Amo, amas, amat, amamus.

Proving that this is the best of all possible worlds.  
With love and kisses, the best of all possible worlds.

Quod erat demonstrandum!

Q. E. D.

Amo, amas, amat, amamus.

Quod erat demonstrandum  
In this best of all possible, best of all possible worlds!



## *Shiru*, Allan E. Naplan

Dance-like rhythms and an exuberant melody bring out all the beauty of the Hebrew text in this jaunty original that leaps with joy. The text of this song is adapted from Psalms 96 and 98.

Text:           *Shiru shir chadash; shiru, hari'u kol ha'aretz.  
Pitz'cbu v'ranenu v'zameru, hari'u kol ha'aretz.  
Yismechu hashamayim v'tagel ha'aretz,  
Yir'am hayam u'melo'o, ya'aloz sadai v'chol asher bo,  
Az yeranenu kol atzey ya'ar.  
Nebarot yimcha'u chaf, yachad barim y'raneinu.*

Translation:   Sing, sing a new song; sing strongly, all the earth.  
Break forth into joyous songs of praise!  
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult,  
The sea and all within it thunder, the fields and all within them be joyful.  
Let all the trees of the forest shout with joy.  
Let the rivers clap their hands and the mountains sing joyously together.

---

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