

# I DREAM A WORLD



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Inspired by “I Dream a World”, the poem by Langston Hughes, we explore people’s relationships with each other, with their world and with the divine. This key poet and leader of the Harlem Renaissance envisioned a world where love reigns and where people of all creeds and ethnicities might learn to appreciate each other and get along. Many of the world’s cultures affirm the power of compassion to connect people, despite differences, despite “otherness”. Major religions teach that the divine is love itself and they celebrate the power of love to transform. This album examines these viewpoints, exploring the world we’ve been given, the world we’ve made and the world we want.

Ragazzi’s **Choral Scholars** and **Concert Group** repertoire ranges from the *Agnus Dei* of Gabriel Fauré’s *Requiem* to the Sufi chant *Adinu*, which celebrates this belief that religion is about love. We also present the moving, Oscar award-winning, *Glory* from the film *Selma*. Rehearsals for these recordings included discussions about the civil rights movement, exploring parallels with what happened in South Africa in the days of apartheid. To that end, Concert Group and Young Men’s Ensemble join together in songs from Africa that celebrate freedom and love. When the boys sang Tshotsholozza while on tour in South Africa in 2015, audiences would jump up, dance and sing along with this unofficial national anthem of freedom. We attempt to capture that powerful, raw joy in this and other songs from Africa, celebrating freedom and love.

The repertoire of our **Young Men’s Ensemble** finds a crossroads at the intersection of emotion and environment, where vibrant descriptions of nature are contrasted with the powerful emotions of love, loss, solitude, and hope. From George Mead’s *Down in the Valley* to David Childs’ *The Silent Land*, these selections offer dual discoveries about our emotional relationship to the physical world.

Our boys and young men sing music from the Islamic tradition, the Jewish tradition, music from North America, Africa and Europe, music from centuries ago to yesterday. In all these they sing with understanding and heart.

## I DREAM A WORLD

I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind—  
Of such I dream, my world!  
— Langston Hughes



## TRANSLATIONS

### DOMINE DEUS, FROM MASS IN G MAJOR BWV 236

(sung in Latin)

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
who takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Thou who takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayers. Thou who sittest at  
the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.





**SELECTIONS FROM  
FAURÉ REQUIEM, OPUS 48**

*(sung in Latin)*

**SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

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**AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sins of the world,  
give them rest.

Let light eternal shine on them, Lord,  
with your saints for eternity,  
for you are merciful.  
give them eternal rest, Lord,  
and let light always shine on them.

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**IN PARADISUM**

Into paradise may angels draw them,  
on your arrival, may the martyrs receive you  
and lead you into the holy city Jerusalem.  
May the chorus of angels receive you,  
and with Lazarus, once a beggar,  
may you have eternal rest.



## SHIRU

(sung in Hebrew)

Sing a new song  
Sing, shout all the earth.  
Break forth, sing aloud, and play music  
Shout all the earth  
Sing all the earth  
Sing a new song  
Let the heavens rejoice  
Let the earth be glad  
Let the sea roar and all that fills it  
Let the field exult, and all that is in it  
Let the trees of the forest sing for joy  
Let the rivers clap their hands  
Let the mountains sing for joy  
SING!

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## TSHOTSHOLOZA

(sung in Zulu and Ndebele)

Go forward, go forward on these mountains.  
The train is coming from South Africa.  
You are running away on those mountains.  
The train is coming from South Africa.  
— translation courtesy of Jeffery Ames

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## ADINU

(sung in Arabic)

I follow the religion of love,  
Wherever love is found, for love is my



religion and my faith.  
Holy, holy, holy. You are the Lord God.  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
— translation by Akram Haddad, Sr. & Jr.

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## BABA YETU

(sung in Swahili)

From the video game *Civilization IV*, this text is Chris Kiagiri's Swahili adaptation of *The Lord's Prayer*.



**Joyce Keil**  
Artistic Director;  
Director of Concert Group  
and Choral Scholars

**Jesse Buddington**  
Director of Young Men's  
Ensemble

**Ihang Lin**  
Piano Accompanist

**Othello Jefferson**  
Organ Accompanist

**Tania Nanevicz**  
Violin

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### CHORISTERS

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**Concert Group**  
Misha Aganin  
Aidan Bannon  
Charlie Berman  
Andreas Brey  
Jimmy Carlson  
Brandon Cho  
Alex Cox  
Lucas Fedronic  
Jeffrey Fung  
Justin Fung  
Quinn Goldberg  
Jason Grodem  
Thomas Harrick  
Alexander Hauer-Molero  
Nicholas Hu

Nicholas Jiang  
Laurent Klein  
Luke Kovscek  
Calvin Mader-Clark  
Kyle Matthys  
Nick McKee  
Brice Miller  
Jan Olshansky  
William Peironnet V  
J.B. Pellegrin  
Jack Pine  
David Replicon  
Michael Sacco  
Cameron Smith  
Owen Stephenson  
Nathan Tan  
Sebastian Velayos  
Javier Vizcardo  
George Wehner  
Jesse Wilen  
Joey Williams

### Young Men's Ensemble

Nicholas Abraham  
Ben Bruxvoort  
Will Buxton  
Christian Canellos  
Austin Chan  
Tanson Chan  
Liam Clancy  
Karl Clayter\*  
Max Cordoba  
Mikio Dahlgren  
Grant Economou  
Tommy Evans-Barton

Ethan Feng  
P. J. Frantz\*  
Cole Gannon  
Tom Goldberg\*  
Benjamin Goya\*  
Ian Henry  
Jamie Holmstrom\*  
Gabe Igtanloc  
Chris Jawetz  
Sean Jawetz\*  
Andrew Kraft  
Lucas Loaiza  
Zachary Mamis\*  
Enrico Milletti  
Joshua Navarro  
Peter O'Shea\*  
Sean Parkis  
Henry Phipps\*  
Justin Privitera  
Partha Rao\*  
Colston Rienhoff\*  
Everett Schafer\*  
Julian Scigliano\*  
Nick Stefanko  
Aidan Stevens\*  
Blake Thomas  
Max Usman  
Chris Varseveld  
Levi Vigdorich  
Ben Vogel  
Quinn Wilson  
Alex Wu  
Wiley Yu

\*Members of Choral Scholars



**Joyce Keil**, Artistic Director and co-founder of Ragazzi, has served as panelist, adjudicator, and guest conductor for music teachers and choirs throughout the Western United States. An experienced teacher, she has served on the faculties of the College of Holy Names, Notre Dame de Namur University, and Lick-Wilmerding High School in San Francisco. Ms. Keil studied under the “Dean of Choral Music”, Howard Swan, at Occidental College and later with John Alexander at Cal State Northridge. She has prepared choirs for San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Symphony, for conductors such as Herbert Blomstedt, Michael Tilson Thomas, David Robertson, Donald Runnicles, Raymond Leppard and James Conlon. She is the founder of the choral program and Advanced Placement Music Theory curriculum at Crystal Springs Uplands School, where students received unanimous superior ratings for their ensemble and solo work. Ms. Keil has served as the Western Division and California State Chair of the Boychoir Committee for the American Choral Directors Association, and has sat on the College Board for Advanced Placement Music Exams. Ragazzi Boys Chorus, under Joyce Keil’s leadership, was named a *CBS Best Choir of the Peninsula* in 2013 and has been cited by the San Francisco Chronicle as one of four elite youth choruses in the Bay area.

**Jesse Buddington**, Director of Ragazzi’s Young Men’s Ensemble, began singing at the age of six with Ragazzi Boys Chorus. He participated in several Ragazzi recordings as a soloist, first as a treble and later as a tenor. Through Ragazzi, Jesse helped co-found an acappella quartet, *Quartertones*, which recorded two CDs and toured nationally. Jesse went on to pursue his degree in vocal music from UC Santa Cruz, with an emphasis on early music. A veteran of UCSC’s acclaimed opera program, Jesse regularly performs in operatic roles as both a tenor and countertenor. He currently sings with Ragazzi’s alumni ensemble, Ragazzi *Continuo*. Jesse maintains a private voice studio and has taught workshops in vocal sight-reading and early vocal techniques. When he isn’t singing or talking about singing, Jesse oversees the music licensing operations of Loudr.fm. Jesse is an avid Tuvan throat singer and vocal percussionist.

**Ihang Lin**, accompanist, a winner of the American Protégé concerto competition, was invited to make her Carnegie Hall debut in 2012, performing solo piano works by Maurice Ravel. Dr. Lin received a special recognition award in 2012 at the San Antonio Piano Competition and First Prize in the 2009 Aaron Richmond Piano Competition. She has been invited to international piano competitions, including the Virginia Waring, Cincinnati World, and Nena Wideman competitions. Dr. Lin taught at Boston University and was a piano faculty member and accompanist at South Shore Conservatory. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Taipei National University of the Arts, a Master of Music from New England Conservatory, and Doctor of Musical Arts from Boston University. A Ragazzi Boys Chorus accompanist since 2014, Ms. Lin is also the rehearsal pianist at Opera San Jose, where she has participated in numerous productions.

**Othello Jefferson**, accompanist, is a native of San Francisco. He received his Bachelor of Music Degree in Voice from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and a Single Subject Music Credential from San Francisco State University. As Choir Director at his alma mater, Lowell High School, he worked with Michael Morgan (Oakland East Bay Symphony), The King's Singers, and Chanticleer and won performance awards in the International Children's Culture and Art Festival in Shenzhen, China. Othello is the recipient of a Gospel Music Award from San Francisco's Academy of Gospel and a Negro Spirituals Heritage Keepers Award from the Friends Of Negro Spirituals in Oakland. He is the Choir Director at Redwood City's Sequoia High School, Minister Of Music at First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (San Francisco), and Minister Of Music for the Western Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

**Tania Nanevicz**, violinist, is a native of Palo Alto. She received a Bachelor degree in Biology at Stanford University while also attending the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has soloed with the Stanford Orchestra, the Brown Symphony Orchestra and multiple youth groups including the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra. She has attended programs at Tanglewood, Music Academy of the West, and the Brisbane Conservatory and has performed with local orchestras in the Bay area and New York area. She currently enjoys playing chamber music with her husband, performing with local youth groups and working as a cardiologist at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

## ABOUT THE CHORUS

Founded in 1987, Ragazzi Boys Chorus provides outstanding musical education and performance opportunities for boys and young men, ages 7 to 18. About 200 singers — from over 100 schools and over 30 communities — participate in this internationally recognized program. Under the leadership of artistic director and co-founder, Joyce Keil, Ragazzi Boys Chorus performs a wide range of traditional and contemporary works for both the treble and changed voice. Ragazzi participated in the San Francisco Symphony's recording of Stravinsky's *Perséphone*, part of a GRAMMY winning best classical album. The chorus also produces its own discography. Ragazzi made its Carnegie Hall debut in 2014 and regularly tours in the United States and internationally to widen chorus members' musical and cultural horizons, and deepen Ragazzi's reputation for performance excellence.

Ragazzi is organized into four chorus levels for trebles, and one for changed voices. You hear Concert Group, Young Men's Ensemble and the Choral Scholars in these recordings. Concert Group and Young Men's Ensemble rehearse three to four hours per week, but Choral Scholars and Concert Group rehearse together for only one hour per week, plus two weekend hours once a month. They have mastered Ragazzi's extensive music theory program, which every chorister begins upon joining the program. Ragazzi takes pride in training young choristers as singers and musicians.

The trebles in these recordings are members of Ragazzi's elite Concert Group. These boys range from 5th to 8th grade. They learn very challenging music and are called on to collaborate with outside groups who require skilled trebles. This group tours every year, alternating between domestic and international destinations.

**Ragazzi's Young Men's Ensemble and Choral Scholars** are changed-voice singers. Choral Scholars are an internal honor choir selected from the larger Young Men's Ensemble. These groups tour domestically and internationally.

Membership in these performing levels of Ragazzi Boys Chorus requires superb musicianship, vibrant singing, and excellent citizenship.

**Ragazzi Boys Chorus** is committed to excellence in musical performance and education. The Ragazzi experience instills self-confidence, cooperation, leadership, sensitivity and tenacity, helping our boys develop into young men of character and distinction. Ragazzi serves our boys and the community by performing a diverse selection of choral works to the highest artistic standards. — *Ragazzi Boys Chorus Mission Statement*

Producer and Digital Editor: Steve Barnett  
(Barnett Music Productions, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

Recording and Mastering Engineer: Preston Smith  
(Perfect Records, St. Paul, Minnesota)

Assistant Recording Engineer: Robert Gatley (Skywalker Sound)

Recorded at Skywalker Sound, a Lucasfilm, Ltd company,  
Marin County, California, in June and August of 2016.

The production of this recording was underwritten in part by Kristina and George Phipps, Kate Ridgway and Rick Holmstrom, Gabriela and David Wehner, Lisa Hane and Hugh Rienhoff, Donna Howe and Juan Loaiza, and Maria and Gene Frantz.

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Edited and mastered at Perfect Records

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