



Concerts at the Point
presents ...

CANTUS VOCAL ENSEMBLE

MARCH 29, 2026, 3:00 PM

WESTPORT POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1912 MAIN ROAD, WESTPORT POINT, MASSACHUSETTS

TAMMI J. MEEHAN

OUR COVER ARTWORK FOR THIS CONCERT is a painting titled “A Call” by Dartmouth painter Tammi J. Meehan. Meehan is an intuitive painter with work spanning more than three decades. She integrates her degrees in art and counseling psychology in her practices with clients and in her artwork. Her multi-faceted interests ranging from Jungian Psychology to Quantum Physics are additional recognizable influences.

Meehan brings a passion for color and texture to her work, using acrylic and oil paint, oil stick, dry pigment, charcoal, and graphite to create magnificent surfaces that flirt with the viewer and the impulse to touch. She has a solo show, UNION, opening in April at GATLIN Fine Framing in Dartmouth, and another at Frederick Douglass Gallery at Gallery X in New Bedford in November. You can see more of her work at tammijmeehan.com.

Meehan is a member of South Coast Artists, a non-profit organization supporting artists and art activities in Dartmouth, Westport, Tiverton, and Little Compton. We are excited to collaborate with SCA to feature work by their members on our program covers. SCA is known for its two Open Studio events in the summer, but they do so much more – visit southcoartists.org.

Concerts at the Point

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

CANTUS VOCAL ENSEMBLE

LAND THAT I LOVE

FINLANDIA — **JEAN SIBELIUS**

LEJANAS VOCES (DISTANT VOICES) — **CARLOS CORDERO**

LERON, LERON SINTA (LERON, LERON MY DEAR) — **TRADITIONAL**

FILIPINO FOLK SONG; ARR. SAUNDER CHOI

RIMAS TROPICALES (TROPICAL RHYMES) — **TANIA LEÓN**

III. La Guitarra (The Guitar)

EL MANISERO (THE PEANUT VENDOR) — **MOISÉS SIMONS;**

ARR. YOSVANY ESTEPE DÍAZ

TAREKITA — **REENA ESMAIL**

FENGYANG SONG — **ANHUI FOLK SONG; ARR. CHEN YI**

TIPITIN — **MARÍA GREVER; ARR. RAUL DOMINGUEZ**

N-400 ERASURE SONGS — **MELISSA DUNPHY**

II. N-400: An Erasure

THAT LONESOME ROAD — **JAMES TAYLOR & DON GROLNICK;**

ARR. SIMON CARRINGTON

INTERMISSION . . .

AVE QUE EMIGRA (MIGRATING BIRD) — **GABY MORENO;**

ARR. ALEXANDER NISHIBUN

MANUSH DHORO MANUSH BHOJO (EMBRACE HUMANITY SERVE
HUMANITY) — **BAUL RASHID UDDIN; ARR. SHABNAM ABEDI***

PLAKATAP — **SYDNEY GUILLAUME**

THE ROAD HOME — **“PROSPECT” TUNE FROM SOUTHERN HARMONY;**

ADAPTED BY STEPHEN PAULUS

**Arrangement commissioned for Land That I Love through the generous support of Doug and Ruth Crane.*

Lyrics and translations are provided in a separate handout.



CANTUS VOCAL ENSEMBLE



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, the 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 fifty 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 which recognizes the exemplary work of an ensemble that respectfully and authentically presents works incorporating Black and Latinx traditions and experiences. In line with Cantus's 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's 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 thirty-one Minnesota high schools throughout their award-winning program's fifteen-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.

THE PERFORMERS

TENORS

JACOB CHRISTOPHER

Member: 2016-present

Hometown: Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

Education: B.A. Vocal Performance, Luther College

ALEXANDER NISHIBUN

Member: 2019-present

Hometown: Flaherty, Kentucky

Education: M.M. Vocal Performance, New England Conservatory of Music; B.A. Music, Huntingdon College

PAUL JOHN RUDOI

Member: 2008-2016, present

Hometown: Keystone Heights, Florida

Education: B.M. Vocal Performance, Hartt School at University of Hartford, M.M. Choral Conducting, University of Oregon

PAUL SCHOLTZ

Member: 2015-present

Hometown: Waverly, Iowa

Education: B.A. English, Luther College

BARITONES

ROD KELLY HINES

Member: 2021-present

Hometown: Detroit, Michigan

Education: M.M. Vocal Performance, Georgia State University; B.A.

Vocal Performance, Claflin University

JEREMY WONG

Member: 2020-present

Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii

Education: M.M., Vocal Performance, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa;

B.M.A., Music, DePauw University

BASSES

SAMUEL BOHLANDER-GREEN

Member: 2013-present

Hometown: Webb City, Missouri

Education: B.M. Music Education, University of Missouri–Kansas City

CHRIS FOSS

Member: 2008-present

Hometown: Council Bluffs, Iowa

Education: M.M. Choral Conducting, University of Nebraska; B.M.

Commercial Music, Millikin University





PROGRAM NOTES

“A nation’s culture resides within the hearts and in the soul of its people” (Mahatma Gandhi), and there can be no clearer means to express that collective heart and soul than through music. This is the vision for *Land That I Love*.

Land That I Love is a program of fourteen songs, presented as a commemoration of our nation’s 250th anniversary. The program offers a powerful look at national identity as reflected through music by composers whose lives or ancestries include migration, all sung *a capella*. A few are staples of the classical and popular vocal repertoire. Others are written by contemporary composers, and a few are arrangements of traditional folk songs. Taken together, they are a celebration and an invitation to reflect on home, belonging, arrival, and the stories that have carried us.

Through this diverse and moving repertoire, *Land That I Love* honors voices too often left at the margins of classical music programming. It connects past and present, showing that migration is not only a historical fact, but also an ongoing reality that shapes families, neighborhoods, and art forms today. Each work invites us into someone else’s story, fostering understanding, empathy, and recognition of our shared humanity. For those whose families have migrated, pieces like *Leron Leron Sinta*, *Manush Dhoru*, or *Mi Tierra* affirm identity, memory, and culture in ways both personal and universal.

Land That I Love is more than a concert; it is a celebration of the diverse voices and histories that continue to shape the United States. By bringing these works together in song, Cantus invites audiences to reflect on where we’ve come from, who we are now, and how the stories of migration will continue to define the future of this country.

ARTIST'S LETTER FROM ROD KELLY HINES, CANTUS BARITONE AND TOUR
MANAGER

When Cantus began preparing *Land That I Love*, we spent a lot of time considering the story that we wanted to tell in celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary. Right now, the "melting pot" of American identity feels like it's boiling over. It's impossible to ignore the sheer amount of noise out there; the temperatures are rising and don't seem close to cooling anytime soon. But, as we know so well in Cantus, with patience and empathy, we can transform cacophony into harmony. We wanted to create a program that felt inclusive and celebratory, acknowledging that by embracing our differences, we can begin to break barriers and recognize the universal, quintessentially human traits that connect us all.

It felt important to have the featured composers share their own reflections on what it means to live, create, and belong in America. By placing those voices alongside a kaleidoscopic musical journey through songs in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Bengali, Haitian Créole, and Chinese, we start to hear America not as a single, monolithic song but as a chorus of interwoven stories. That chorus attains even more strength and depth when placed beside beloved American anthems like *America the Beautiful* and the poetry of Maya Angelou, inviting us to consider how our national identity is continuously shaped by new voices joining the conversation.

In that sense, the collaborative process we practice at Cantus feels like a microcosm of this idea. We gather as eight artists with unique stories, backgrounds, and perspectives, bringing our full selves into the room. We listen closely, we trust one another, and we allow each unique voice to shape the whole. What emerges is something greater than the sum of its parts, a reminder that difference and unity need not be at odds, that harmony exists only when many distinct notes are heard together.



BRIEF NOTES ABOUT THE COMPOSERS AND ARRANGERS

Those of you who regularly attend Concerts at the Point know that we strive to provide program notes that help our audience to connect with the composers and work being presented. It is likely that many of the composers in today's program are unknown to you; these brief profiles are offered as an introduction to the talented artists whose work you're hearing today.

FINLANDIA — Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Jean Sibelius is a Finnish composer of the late Romantic and early modern periods, widely regarded as his country's greatest composer. Finlandia was written in 1899-90 as part of a protest against increasing censorship from the Russian Empire.

LEJANAS VOCES (DISTANT VOICES) — Carlos Cordero (1992-)

Carlos Cordero is an award-winning American composer, born in Venezuela where he was a choral conductor with El Sistema. He now composes, conducts and offers hugs in Austin Texas.

LERON, LERON SINTA (LERON, LERON MY DEAR) — Traditional Filipino folk song; arr. Saunder Choi (1988-)

Saunder Choi is an LA based Filipino-Chinese composer, arranger and conductor.

RIMAS TROPICALES (TROPICAL RHYMES) — Tania León (1943-)

Tania León is a Cuban-born American composer of both large-scale and chamber works, and 2021 Pulitzer Prize winner.

EL MANISERO (THE PEANUT VENDOR) — Moisés Simons (1889-1945)

Moisés Simons was a Cuban composer, pianist and orchestra leader. This piece is considered by many to be the quintessential sound of early 20th century Cuban music.

TAREKITA — Reena Esmail (1983-)

Reena Esmail is an Indian-American composer of Indian and Western classical music, including orchestral, chamber ensemble and voice.

FENGYANG SONG — Anhui Folk Song; arr. Chen Yi (1953-)

Chen Yi is a renowned Chinese-American composer and violinist, known for blending Chinese traditions and Western classical forms.

TIPITIN — María Grever (1885-1951)

María Grever is a Mexican-American composer who studied with Claude Debussy. She is best known for the song “What a Difference a Day Makes.”

N-400 ERASURE SONGS — Melissa Dunphy (1980-)

Melissa Dunphy is an Australian-American award-winning composer best known for her vocal, political and theatrical music.

THAT LONESOME ROAD — James Taylor (1948-) & Don Grolnick (1947-1996); arr. Simon Carrington (1942-)

James Taylor is an American singer-songwriter and guitarist. Don Grolnick was an American jazz pianist, composer, record producer, and session musician who recorded with just about every great American singer of the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Simon Carrington is an English conductor, singer and double bass player, and founding member of the vocal ensemble the King's Singers.

AVE QUE EMIGRA (MIGRATING BIRD) — Gaby Moreno (1981-)

Gaby Moreno is a Guatemalan born, Grammy-winning singer-songwriter and guitarist. She is best known for composing and performing work for movies and television.

MANUSH DHORO MANUSH BHOJO (EMBRACE HUMANITY SERVE HUMANITY) — Baul Rashid Uddin (1889-1964); arr Shabnam Abedi (1995-)

Baul Rashid Uddin is a renowned Bengali mystic minstrel, folk poet and composer. Shabnam Abedi is a highly sought after multi-genre vocalist, educator, and composer/arranger. *Arrangement commissioned for Land That I Love through the generous support of Doug and Ruth Crane.*

PLAKATAP — Sydney Guillaume (1981-)

Sydney Guillaume is a Haitian-American composer of contemporary classical music.

THE ROAD HOME — “Prospect” tune from Southern Harmony; adapted by Stephen Paulus.

Southern Harmony is a hymn and tune book compiled by William “Singin’ Billy” Walker and first published in 1935. Stephen Paulus (1949–2014) was an award-winning composer, best known for his operas and choral music. He lived in the Twin Cities area.

Source for all material: Wikipedia



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Concerts at the Point

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