

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a vibrant red, draped dress and a matching necklace, is captured in a dynamic pose. She is looking off to the side with an expressive face, her right arm extended forward. The background is dark, with a textured, red, crystalline structure visible behind her.

# Welcome to NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY

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# NEC Chamber Singers

Erica J. Washburn, director

## Something Old: *An Origin Story* and Something New: *The Line Between*

with special guest Andrew Lenox

Friday, April 28, 2023  
7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.  
NEC's Jordan Hall

In 1947, NEC Acting Director Harrison Keller recognized the pre-eminent brilliance of a 26 year-old Lorna Cooke DeVaron (1921-2018) and hired her to formally launch the NEC Choral Department. For the next four decades, Lorna built the department, programming repertoire that spanned from the early middle ages to commissioning new choral works, performing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and touring the world with her NEC choristers. Since her retirement in 1988, those of us who have held the post as NEC Director of Choral Activities have done our best to follow in the immense footprints she left.

In closing the Choral Department's 75th Anniversary season—in honor of Lorna's legacy as well as all those who came before me and had a hand in shaping choral music at NEC—the 2022-2023 Chamber Singers will take you on an evolutionary journey, celebrating the emergence of western classical polyphony during the height of the European Renaissance, to pushing the boundaries of how the choral sound can be featured in non-traditional ways in the 21st century.

The 7:30PM program, "Something Old: An Origin Story" will expose you to a handful of some of the most brilliantly conceived motets and madrigals of the Renaissance, featuring works by Ockeghem, desPrez, Byrd, Lotti, as well as motets and partsongs by Romantic period composers who favored Neo-Renaissance part-writing for choir. In the spirit in which the selected motets on this program were originally performed— from cathedral balconies, during a Christian service, that permitted the singers to be heard but rarely seen—the Chamber Singers will perform the first half of the concert from the Jordan Hall balcony. You are encouraged to permit yourself the freedom to close your eyes and rest in the sound and solace they offer, withholding applause until this portion of the program is complete. Following a short intermission, the choir will perform the second half of the program from the Jordan Hall stage, in their characteristic "U" standing arrangement, allowing them the opportunity to interact with one another as dramatic singing artists, telling stories of Love: its longing, loss, appeal, and joy.

The 10:00PM program, "Something New: The Line Between" is a collaborative venture, featuring Andrew Lenox, a former NEC Chamber Singer, dedicated to carrying the tradition of choral singing into a new aural space. The choristers will combine sung material with live-produced electronic sounds informed by, and steeped in, the tradition of house music of today—which is itself born out of a need to break new cultural and artistic ground and rebel against the staid and respectable world of classical music. The famous American dancer Agnes de Mille is quoted as having said, "The truest expression of a people is in its dance and in its music. Bodies never lie." It is our fervent wish that you will be a part of this artistic experience with us—stand at your seat, sway, even dance in the aisle when you feel compelled. Join us, and come just as you are.

# SOMETHING OLD: *An Origin Story*

7:30 pm

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*Please hold your applause until the end of this set.*

**William Byrd**  
(1543–1623)

*Sing Joyfully*

**Johannes Ockeghem**  
(ca. 1425–1497)

from *Missa Prolationem*

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

*solo quartet:*

Yumeng Xing, Kayden Carter,

Calvin Wamser, Nicholas Ottersberg

**Antonio Lotti**  
(ca. 1667–1740)

*Crucifixus à 8*

**Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina**  
(ca. 1525–1594)

*Sicut cervus*

**Heinrich Schütz**  
(1585–1672)

*Selig sind die Toten*

**Anton Bruckner**  
(1824–1896)

*Os justi*

*short intermission*

**John Dowland**  
(1562–1626)

*Now, O Now, I Needs Must Part*  
soloist: Madeleine Wiegers, soprano  
solo quartet:  
Yoomin Kang, Madeleine Wiegers,  
Calvin Wamser, Stellan Connelly Bettany

**Josquin des Prez**  
(ca. 1440–1521)

*Mille regretz*

**Robert Pearsall**  
(1795–1856)

*Lay a garland*

**Thomas Morley**  
(1557–1603)

*Fire, fire*

**Thomas Weelkes**  
(ca. 1575–1623)

*Thule, the period of cosmography*

**Vittoria Aleotti**  
(1574–1646)  
transcr. by Amelia LeClair

*Hor che la vaga aurora*

**Giaches de Wert**  
(1535–1596)

*Vezzosi augelli*

# **SOMETHING NEW: *The Line Between***

10:00 pm

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**Andrew Lenox**

(b. 1986)

***The Line Between*** (2023)

Introduction

the deep and nameless fields

If I could tell you

*soloist:* Ashley Chen

Pretty Bird

*soloists:* Chloe Thum, Madeleine Wiegers

Coming Home

*Pre-recorded voices:*

Stellan Connelly Bettany, Ashley Chen, Killian Grider,  
Riccardo Lucas Hernandez, Yoomin Kang, Nicholas Ottersberg,  
Anna Poltronieri Tang, Margaret Storm, Chloe Thum, Calvin Wamser  
and Madeleine Wiegers

Michael Clark Wonson, Lighting Designer and Technical Staff

We are deeply grateful to the NEC Administration and  
Advancement & Engagement Office  
for their continued support of new musical ventures.

We are also grateful *every day* to  
Bob Winters, Sean Mulcahy, Rayna DeYoung  
and the entire Concert Halls staff  
and to

Lisa Nigris and the entire RPTS Staff  
for all that they do so that we can just... sing.

## **Texts and translations, in program order:**

### 7:30 Concert

#### **Sing joyfully**

Sing joyfully unto God our strength.

Sing loud unto the God of Jacob.

Take the song and bring forth the timbrel, the pleasant harp, and the viol.

Blow the trumpet in the new moon, ev'n the time appointed, and at our feast day.

For this is a statue for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.

*Psalm 81:1-4*

#### ***Kyrie eleison/Christe eleison***

*Kyrie eleison.*

*Christe eleison.*

*Kyrie eleison.*

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

#### ***Crucifixus***

*Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato:  
passus et sepultus est.*

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate:  
suffered and was buried.

#### ***Sicut cervus***

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,  
ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus.*

As the hart yearns for the water springs.  
so longs my soul for thee, O God.

#### ***Selig sind die Toten***

*Selig sind die Toten die in dem Herren sterben,  
von nun an.*

*Ja, der Geist spricht: Sie ruhen, von ihrer Arbeit,*

*und ihre Werke folgen ihnen nach.*

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord  
from henceforth.

Yea, saith the Spirit: they may rest from their  
labors,  
and their works follow them.

## ***Os justi***

*Os justi meditabitur sapientiam,  
et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.  
Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius  
et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.  
Alleluia.*

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,  
and his tongue speaks what is just.  
The law of his God is in his heart  
and his feet do not falter.  
Alleluia.

## ***Now, O Now, I Needs Must Part***

Now, o now, I needs must part,  
Parting though I absent mourn.  
Absence can no joy impart  
Joy once fled cannot return.  
While I love I needs must love,  
Love lives not when Hope if gone.  
Now at last Despair doth prove,  
Love divided loveth none,  
Sad despair doth drive me hence,  
This despair unkindness sends,  
If that parting be offence,  
It is she which than offends.

Dear when I am from thee gone,  
Gone are all my joys at once,  
I lov'd thee and thee alone,  
In whose love I joyed once.  
And although your sight I leave,  
Sight wherein my joys do lie,  
Till that death doth sense bereave,  
Never shall affection die.  
*Sad despair doth drive me hence...*

Dear, if I do not return,  
Love and I shall die together  
For my absence never mourn  
Whom you might have joyed ever.  
Part we must though now I die,  
Die I do to part with you.  
Him despair doth cause to lie  
Who both liv'd and dieth true.  
*Sad despair doth drive me hence...*



### ***Mille regretz***

*Mille regretz de vous abandoner  
Et d'eslonger vostre fache amoureuse,  
J'ai si grand dueil et peine douloureuse,*

*Qu'on me verra brief mes jours definer.*

A thousand regrets at deserting you  
and leaving behind your loving face.  
I feel so much sadness and such painful  
distress  
that it seems to me my days will soon  
dwindle away.

### **Lay a garland**

Lay a garland on her hearse  
of dismal yew;  
Maidens, willow branches wear;  
say she died true.  
Her love was false, but she was firm,  
Upon her buried body lie  
lightly, thou gentle earth

### **Fire, fire**

Fire, fire, my heart! Fa la la la...  
O help! O help!, Alas, O help!  
Ay me, I sit and cry me,  
And call for help, alas, but none comes nigh me  
Fa la la la...

O, I burn me! Alas, alas! Fa la la la...  
I burn, I burn! Alas, I burn!  
Ay me, will none come quench me?  
O cast, cast water on, alas, and drench me.  
Fa la la la...

### **Thule, the period of cosmography**

Thule, the period of cosmography,  
Doth vaunt of Hecla, whose sulphurous fire  
Doth melt the frozen clime and thaw the sky;  
Trinacrian Aetna's flames ascend not higher.  
These things seem wondrous, yet more wondrous I,  
Whose heart with fear doth freeze, with love doth fry.

### ***Hor che la vaga aurora***

*Hor che la vaga aurora  
Sovra un caro di foco  
appar in ogni loco,  
Co'l figlio di Latona;  
Che'l suo dorato crine  
A l'Alpi e'à le campagne à noi vicine Mostra.  
Con dolci accenti  
Questi la ben temprata lira suona,  
Ondi gli spiriti pellegrini intenti,  
O dono l'armonia,  
Che l'alme nostre al ciel erg'et invia.*

Now that lovely Dawn  
riding a fiery chariot  
appears everywhere  
with Latona's son,  
and shows her flaxen hair  
to the Alps and the countryside near us.  
With sweet tones  
he plays his well-tuned lyre,  
so that wandering spirits listen intently  
to the harmony  
that lifts and sends our souls heavenward.

### ***Vezzosi augelli***

*Vezzosi augelli infra le verdi fronde  
temprano a prova lascivette note.  
Mormora l'aura, e fa le foglie e l'onde  
Garrir, che variamente ella percote  
Quando taccion gli augelli, alto risponde;  
Quando cantan gli augei, più lieve scote.  
Sia caso o d'arte, or accompagna, ed ora  
Alterna i versi lor la musica ora.*

Small, pretty birds among the verdant  
boughs,  
compete in modulating their sweet notes.  
The breeze murmurs, and makes the foliage  
and the stream stir variously as it strikes.  
When the birds are silent, it rises;  
when the birds sing, it blows more softly.  
Either by chance or by art, the breeze now  
accompanies, now alternates with the birds'  
music.

Torquato Tasso

## 10:00 Concert

### **If I could tell you**

Time will say nothing but I told you so  
Time only knows the price we have to pay;  
If I could tell you I would let you know.

If we should weep when clowns put on their show,  
If we should stumble when musicians play,  
Time will say nothing but I told you so.

There are no fortunes to be told, although,  
Because I love you more than I can say,  
If I could tell you I would let you know.

The winds must come from somewhere when they blow,  
There must be reason why the leaves decay;  
Time will say nothing but I told you so.

Perhaps the roses really want to grow,  
The vision seriously intends to stay;  
If I could tell you I would let you know.

Suppose the lions all get up and go,  
And the brooks and soldiers run away;  
Will Time say nothing but I told you so?  
If I could tell you I would let you know.

*W. H. Auden*

### **Pretty bird**

Fly away little pretty bird,  
Fly, fly away  
Fly away little pretty bird  
and pretty you'll always stay.

I see in your eyes a promise  
Your own tender love you'll bring  
But fly away, little pretty bird.  
Cold runneth the spring.

Love's own tender flame warms this meeting,  
And Love's tender songs you'd sing  
But fly away little pretty bird,  
and pretty you'll always stay.

I cannot make you such promise  
Love is such a delicate thing,  
Fly away, little pretty bird,  
for he'd only clip your wings.

Fly away little pretty bird,  
and pretty you'll always stay.  
Fly far beyond the dark mountain  
To where you'll be free, evermore,

Fly away little pretty bird,  
Where the cold winter winds don't blow.

*Hazel Dickens*

New England Conservatory Choruses  
Erica J. Washburn, Director of Choral Activities  
Jiawei Gong, Chenzhejun Jackie Hu, Margaret Storm,  
Wanrou Tang, and Calvin Wamser - graduate conductors  
Sally Millar, administrator  
Da-Yu Liu and Changjin Ha, rehearsal accompanists

### **NEC Chamber Singers**

Stellan Connelly Bettany

Emelia Marie Boydston

Kayden Carter

Ashley Chen

Edward Ferran

Agne Giedraityte

Jiawei Gong

Killian Grider

Riccardo Lucas Hernandez

Chenzhejun Jackie Hu

Weza Jamison-Neto

Yoomin Kang

Molly Knight

Corinne Luebke-Brown

Nicholas Ottersberg

Anna Poltronieri Tang

Margaret Storm

Longfei Flora Sun

Wanrou Tang

Chloe Thum

Calvin Wamser

Madeleine Wiegers

Yumeng Xing

Fausto Miro, guest artist

The NEC Chamber Singers is an auditioned ensemble, open to all majors at NEC, of 24-28 musicians who perform challenging works from all style periods, with a particular emphasis on 19th-21st century a cappella works. The choir rehearses three times a week and experiences choral music-making in an intimate ensemble setting, typically in the round. Each NEC Chamber Singer is a musician seeking to understand the principles and nuance of superior choral artistry so that they may be prepared for professional opportunities and expectations outside of the Conservatory. The choristers diligently prepare their music outside of scheduled rehearsals which makes the brief time spent together musically invaluable. The

ensemble typically performs eight to ten times each academic year: on campus in the Conservatory's Jordan Hall and at off campus venues in and around greater Boston.

**Andrew Lenox** - the artist alias of composer Andrew Haig - is a producer, audio engineer, composer, and remixer of music across multiple genres. He works primarily with the physical embodiment of sound: how it interacts with the body of the performer, how it feels within a performance space, and how the audience experience is perceived in both a physical as well as an emotional way. Born in the US but educated in both Germany (B.A. in Composition, Cologne, 2019) and the Netherlands (M.A. in Composition, The Hague, 2021), his music has been performed widely in Europe, the UK, the US, and Japan. His current projects involve a series of solo works with electronics after a concept developed with collaborative musicians during the pandemic quarantine of 2020, a soon-to-be released 4-track EP of dance music, and a book in-development about the collaborative process. Mr. Haig's acoustic influences include the works of Rebecca Saunders, György Kurtág, and Pierluigi Bilone, as well as the electronic stylings of artists such as Surgeon, Rose, and the performing collective Sandwell District. He lives and works in Provincetown, MA.

### **Erica J. Washburn**

#### *Director of Choral Activities*

Conductor and mezzo-soprano Erica J. Washburn has been Director of Choral Activities at New England Conservatory since 2009. Known for her student-centric approach to classroom and rehearsal instruction, and commitment to the performance of new music, she is the recipient of several outstanding alumni awards, including the distinguished honor of induction to the Westminster Choir College Music Education Hall of Fame.

As a conductor, Washburn has worked with Kansas City, MO based Cardinalis, the Yale Schola Cantorum, the East Carolina University Women's Chorale, and the Eastman Women's Chorus. She is a sought-after guest clinician who frequently leads state and regional festival choruses, and spent five summers as a conductor and voice faculty member for the New York State Summer School of the Arts School of Choral Studies.

Under her direction, the NEC choirs have been featured on several live and pre-recorded broadcasts, including the North Carolina based station WCPE Great Sacred Music, WICN Public Radio, and WGBH Boston. The choirs can also be heard in collaboration with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project on the BMOP/Sound recording Paul Moravec: The Blizzard Voices.

Washburn's stage credits include appearances as Madame Lidoine in Francis Poulenc's Dialogues of the Carmelites, Rebecca Nurse in Robert Ward's The Crucible, Mother/Allison in the premiere of Lee Hoiby's This is the Rill Speaking and others. Her recital and orchestral solo credits are numerous, and her live premiere from Jordan Hall of the late Richard Toensing's *Night Songs* and *Evening Prayers* with the New England Conservatory Symphonic Winds can be heard on Albany Records.

Shostakovich *Symphony No. 13, (Babi Yar)*  
Tenors/Basses of NEC Symphonic Choir join the Tanglewood Festival Chorus,  
Boston Symphony Orchestra, Andris Nelsons, conductor  
*Thursday-Saturday, May 4-6, Symphony Hall, Boston*  
tickets required

### **Upcoming Concerts at NEC**

Visit [necmusic.edu](http://necmusic.edu) for complete and updated concert and ticketing information

#### **FIRST MONDAY IN JORDAN HALL**, Laurence Lesser, artistic director

Kurtág Hommage à Schumann; Ligeti Quartet No. 2; Schumann Quintet in E-flat Major

*Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

#### **TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC**

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

*Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

#### **HONORS ENSEMBLE: QUARTET LUMINERA**

Masha Lakisova and Kristy Chen, violin; Njord Fossnes, viola; Davis You, cello

*Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

#### **PRATT RESIDENCY CONCERT**

*Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

#### **CHAMBER MUSIC GALA**

*Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

#### **CMA CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

*Sunday, May 7, 2023, 10:00 am -10:00 pm, Eben Jordan*

#### **ARTIST DIPLOMA RECITAL: Changyong Shin, piano**

Changyong Shin '24 AD studies with Wha Kyung Byun

*Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

#### **HONORS ENSEMBLE: SONA QUARTET**

Joshua Brown and Thompson Wang, violin; Cara Pogossian, viola; Claire Park, cello

*Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

#### **FACULTY RECITAL: STEPHEN DRURY, piano**

*Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

## **Upcoming Concerts at NEC**

*—continued*

### **HONORS ENSEMBLE 8**

Yun Janice Lu, piano; Yiliang Eric Jiang, violin; Jeffrey Ho, cello

*Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

**SONATA NIGHT 46**, Pei-Shan Lee, director

Music for Piano Four Hands by Franz Schubert

*Friday, May 12, 2023 at 8:30 p.m., Brown Hall*

## **Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC**

*all programs subject to change*

**Edward Ferran**, *tenor* (BM)

Student of Bradley Williams

*Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall*

**Yeh-Chun Lin**, *viola* (BM)

Student of Mai Motobuchi

*Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall*

**Natalie Boberg**, *violin* (BM)

Student of Valeria Kuchment

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 12:00 noon, Brown Hall*

**Megan Dillon**, *saxophone* (DMA '24)

Student of Kenneth Radnofsky

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 12:00 noon, Pierce Hall*

**Lila Dunn**, *soprano* (MM)

Student of Carole Haber

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 12:00 noon, Burnes Hall*

**Christopher Ferrari**, *jazz saxophone* (BM)

Student of Jerry Leake, Jason Moran, Miguel Zenón, and Joe Morris

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 12:00 noon, Eben Jordan*

**Elizabeth Kleiber**, *flute* (BM)

Student of Cynthia Meyers

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

## Upcoming Student Recitals at NEC

—continued

**Xiang Li**, *French horn* (MM)

Student of Richard Sebring

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., Pierce Hall*

**Lydia Plaut**, *viola* (BM)

Student of Mai Motobuchi

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., Burnes Hall*

**Hao Wang**, *cello* (MM)

Student of Yeesun Kim

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Eben Jordan*

**Soobin Kong**, *cello* (MM)

Student of Laurence Lesser

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

**Minyi Wang**, *double bass* (MM)

Student of Donald Palma

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Keller Room*

**Yihe Wang**, *baritone* (GD)

Student of MaryAnn McCormick

*Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall*

**Subin Oh**, *flute* (BM)

Student of Renée Krimsier

*Monday, May 1, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., Williams Hall*

**Chenxi Fu**, *bass* (MM)

Student of Michael Meraw

*Monday, May 1, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

**Evren Ozel**, *piano* (MM)

Student of Wha Kyung Byun

*Monday, May 1, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall*

**Samuel Rockwood**, *oboe* (MM)

Student of Mark McEwen

*Monday, May 1, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Keller Room*



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Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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