



# NEC Children's Choir Chamber Chorus and Youth Chorale

Laura Nevitt, conductor  
NEC Children's Choir and Chamber Chorus  
Chris Lockman, piano

Erica J. Washburn, conductor  
NEC Youth Chorale  
Lingbo Ma, piano

Thursday, May 22, 2025  
7:30 p.m.  
NEC's Jordan Hall

## PROGRAM

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*NEC Children's Choir*  
Laura Nevitt, conductor  
Chris Lockman, piano

**Victoria Ebel-Sabo**  
(b. 1957)

*Wind on the Hill*

Shengyu Cui, flute

**American Folk Song**  
arr. Laura Nevitt

*All the Pretty Little Horses*

**English Folk Song**  
arr. Christopher Lockman

*The Tailor and the Mouse*

**Laura Nevitt**  
(b. 1985)

*Chickadee*

Shengyu Cui, flute

**Corinne Savage, Olivia Lynn Barton**  
(b. 1995) (b. 1996)  
arr. Roger Emerson

*If I Were a Fish*

*NEC Children's Choir and NEC Chamber Chorus*

**Irish Folk Song**  
arr. Christopher Lockman

*Song of the Seagull*

Shengyu Cui, flute  
Olga Kaminsky, violin

NEC Chamber Chorus  
Laura Nevitt, conductor  
Chris Lockman, piano

**Ralph Vaughan Williams**  
(1872–1958)

*Spring*

**Uno Naissoo**  
(1928–1980)

*Metsa Telegramm*

**Abbie Betinis**  
(b. 1980)

*Be Like the Bird*

**Gioacchino Rossini**  
(1792–1868)

*Duetto buffo di due gatti*

**Laura Nevitt**

*Tree Toad*

**Charles Hutchinson Gabriel**  
(1856–1932)  
arr. Kenneth Paden  
adapted by Rollo Dilworth

*I Sing Because I'm Happy*

NEC Youth Chorale  
Erica J. Washburn, conductor  
Lingbo Ma, piano

**Veljo Tormis**  
(1930–2017)

*Tuul kõnnumaa kohal* from *Sügismaastikud*

**Stephen Chatman**  
(b. 1950)

*Roses I Send to You* from *Songs of a Prospector*

**Eric Whitacre**  
(b. 1970)

*Animal Crackers, vol. 1*

The Panther

The Cow

The Firefly

Henri Youmans '25 MM, conductor

**Chinese Folk Tune**  
arr. Reed Criddle

*Boat on Tai Lake* 太湖船

Henri Youmans '25 MM, conductor

Sophia Knappe, cello

**Randall Thompson**  
(1899–1984)

*Choose Something Like a Star* from *Frostiana*

**John Lennon, Paul McCartney**  
(1940–1980) (b. 1942)  
arr. Daryl Runswick

*Blackbird*

**Morten Lauridsen**  
(b. 1943)

*Sure on This Shining Night* from *Nocturnes*

## Wind on the Hill

No one can tell me,  
Nobody knows,  
Where the wind comes from,  
Where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere fast as it can,  
I couldn't keep up with it,  
Not if I ran.

*A.A Milne*

## All the Pretty Little Horses

Hush-a-by,  
Don't you cry,  
Go to sleepy little baby.

When you wake,  
You shall have  
All the pretty little horses.  
Blacks and bays,  
Dapples and grays,  
Coach and six a little horses.

## The Tailor and the Mouse

A tailor had a little mouse  
Hi diddle um come feed-al  
They lived together in one house  
Hi diddle um come feed-al

*Hi diddle um come tarum tirum,  
Through the town of Ramsey,  
Hi diddle um come over the lea,  
Hi diddle um come feed-al*

The tailor thought his mouse was ill  
Hi diddle um come feed-al  
So he gave it half of one blue pill  
Hi diddle um come feed-al

*Hi diddle um come tarum tirum ...*

*(The text continues on the following page. Please turn the page quietly.)*

The tailor thought his mouse would die  
Hi diddle um come feed-al  
So he baked it in an apple pie  
Hi diddle um come feed-al

*Hi diddle um come tarum tirum ...*

The tailor thought his mouse was dead  
Hi diddle um come feed-al  
So he bought another in his stead  
Hi diddle um come feed-al

*Hi diddle um come tarum tirum ...*

## **Chickadee**

The chickadee in the apple tree  
Talks all the time very gently.  
He makes me sleepy.  
I rock away to the sea-lights.  
Far off I hear him talking  
The way smooth bright pebbles  
Drop into water...  
Chick-a-dee-dee-dee...

*Hilda Conkling*

## **If I Were a Fish**

If I were a fish and you caught me  
You'd say "Look at that fish"  
Shimmering in the sun  
Such a rare one  
Can't believe that you caught one  
If I were a fish and you caught me  
You'd say "Look at that fish"  
Heaviest in the sea  
You'd win first prize  
If you caught me.

Why's everybody on the internet so mean?  
Why's everybody so afraid of what they've never seen?  
If I was scrolling through and I saw me  
Flopping around and singing my song  
I'd say "Man, they're cute" and sing along

If I were a rock you would pick me up  
And say "That's a nice rock"  
Skippiest on the lake  
Plop, plop, plop  
I'm the perfect shape  
And if I were a sock you would put me on  
And say "That's a nice sock"  
Happiest as a pair  
I found you now I'm not scared

Why's everybody on the internet so mean?  
Why's everybody so afraid of what they've never seen?  
If I was scrolling through and I saw me  
Flopping around and singing my song  
I'd say "Man, they're cute" and sing along

How lucky are we  
Of all the fish in the sea?  
You get to be you  
And I get to be me  
Just let 'em be mean  
We're as free as can be  
To be the you-est of you  
And the me-est of me

If I were a fish ...  
Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

*Olivia Barton*

### **Song of the Seagull**

All day long o'er the ocean I fly,  
My bright wings beating fast through the sky;  
I hunt fishes all down the bay,  
And ride on rocking billows in play.

All night long, in my rock home I rest;  
Away up on a cliff is my nest.  
The waves murmur below,  
And winds fresh from the sea o'er me blow.

I'll sail off, scouting new lands to dwell;  
Find more birds with stories to tell.  
Through soft mist and salt-scented air,  
We'll sing songs of the journeys we share.

*(The text continues on the following page. Please turn the page quietly.)*

When rain falls and clouds crowd the shore,  
When night falls and light is no more,  
I'll stay strong; I won't run and hide.  
I'll soar on with hope as my guide

## Spring

When Summer dons her dress of green.  
And all the land is bathed in sun;  
Down by the brook the willows lean  
And in and out the children run;

When Autumn with a golden train  
Steps forth in all her proud array,  
Then farmers work with might and main  
To stack the harvest safe away.

When Winter follows stark and cold  
And all the land is wrapped in sleep,  
Then beasts begin to seek their fold  
And birds to warmth and shelter creep.

But when at last comes smiling Spring,  
And birds and beasts awake once more,  
Then must we all for gladness sing,  
For Spring holds happiness in store.

*Frances M. Farrer*

## Metsa Telegramm

*Tok, tok, tok,  
Rähn see telegramme toksib.  
Tok, tok, tok,  
"Ärge murdke puude oks!"  
Tok, tok, tok,  
Üle metsa keset vaikust  
Tok, tok, tok,  
Rähni trade kõikjal kaigub.*

*Hoidke ilu! Metsa elu!  
Olgu teile sõbraks ju siin iga puu!*

*Ja kaitskem metsa kaunist rüüd.  
Siis mets meil mühab alati.  
Ka linnupesi kaitske nü,*

## Woodpecker's Warning

*Tok, tok, tok,  
Comes a signal from the forest.  
Tok, tok, tok,  
Comes an echo like a chorus;  
Tok, tok, tok,  
Breaking through the morning silence,  
Tok, tok, tok,  
Driving deep into our conscience.*

*Save the forest! Join the chorus!  
There is much that we can do, and you can  
too!*

*While birds still serenade the morning sky  
While beasts still run, while streams still  
ripple on;*



*Et kajaks röömus linnu hüüd.*

We all are one, we cannot let them die;  
Move quickly now before they're gone!

### **Be Like the Bird**

Be like the bird that,  
pausing in her flight awhile on boughs too slight,  
feels them give way beneath her, and sings,  
knowing she hath wings.

*Victor Hugo*

### **Duetto buffo di due gatti**

"Meow"

### **Tree Toad**

Every night I see little shadows  
I never saw before.  
Every night I hear little voices  
I never heard before.  
When night comes trailing her starry cloak,  
I start out for slumberland,  
With tree-toads calling along the roadside.  
Good-night, I say to one, Good-by, I say to another:  
I hope to find you on the way  
We have traveled before!  
I hope to hear you singing on the Road of Dreams!

*Hilda Conkling*

### **I Sing Because I'm Happy**

I sing because I'm happy.  
I sing because I'm free.  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

I sing (oh yes, I sing) because (oh because) I'm happy.  
I sing (oh yes, I sing) because (oh because) I'm free.  
For his eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

*(The text continues on the following page. Please turn the page quietly.)*

I'm so happy, yes!  
I'm so happy, yes, I am!  
For his eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

*Civilia D. Martin*

### **Tuul kõnnumaa kohal**

*Tuul kõnnumaa kohal  
Tuul koolnukollase kõnnumaa kohal.*

*Teekäänul kõhinal naeris paar surnud puud*

Viivi Luik

### **Wind Over the Barrens**

Wind over the barrens  
Corpse-like yellowish over the barrens

Road bending rattling laughter some lifeless  
trees

*Translation by Ritva Poom*

### **Roses I Send to You**

Oh roses, whose beauty is subtle and rare,  
For you my beloved so gentle and fair,  
Roses I send to you  
All I intend to you  
Love and devotion I solemnly swear.

Oh beautiful messengers, fragrant and fair,  
And greeting the morning all guiltless of care,  
Roses I send to you  
Such I commend to you  
Roses to grace your dark tresses of hair.

So blushingly conscious each bud how demure!  
But sad that their beauties so briefly endure!  
Roses I send to you  
All I intend to you  
Yet ere they fade may they carry secure.

*George Winkler*

### **The Panther**

The panther is like a leopard  
Except it hasn't been peppered.  
If you behold a panther crouch  
Prepare to say "ouch".

Better yet, if called by a panther,  
Don't anther.

### **The Cow**

The cow is of the Bovine ilk  
One end is moo,  
The other milk.

### **The Firefly**

The firefly's flame  
is something for which science has no name.  
I can think of nothing eerier  
Than flying around with an unidentified glow  
on a person's posterior.

*Ogden Nash*

### **Boat on Tai Lake**

The green mountains and gleaming wáter are restfully still;  
A gusto of wind blows on the surface of the lake.  
Row, oh row, forward, oh forward.

At dusk, there are few people out;  
The reflection of the moon on the surface of the wáter undulates.  
Row, oh row, forward, oh forward.

Water plants abound on the bank of Tai Lake;  
Breezes waft the fragrance of reeds and flowers.  
Row, oh row, forward, oh forward.

The setting sun is reflected in the water's images and the mountains' glow.  
The Surface o the lake slightly shows the sail's reflection.  
Row, oh row, forward, oh forward.

*Shen Zhi, English translation by Reed Criddle*

### **Choose Something Like a Star**

O Star (the fairest one in sight),  
We grant your loftiness the right  
To some obscurity of cloud —  
It will not do to say of night,  
Since dark is what brings out your light.  
Some mystery becomes the proud.

*The text continues on the following page. Please turn the page quietly.)*

But to be wholly taciturn  
In your reserve is not allowed.  
Say something to us we can learn  
By heart and when alone repeat.  
Say something! And it says, "I burn."  
But say with what degree of heat.  
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.  
Use language we can comprehend.  
Tell us what elements you blend.  
It gives us strangely little aid,  
But does tell something in the end.  
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,  
Not even stooping from its sphere,  
It asks a little of us here.  
It asks of us a certain height,  
So when at times the mob is swayed  
To carry praise or blame too far,  
We may choose something like a star  
To stay our minds on and be staid.

*Robert Frost*

### **Blackbird**

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these broken wings and learn to fly;  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to arise.  
Blackbird, fly,  
Blackbird, fly,  
into the light of a dark, black night.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night  
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see;  
All your life  
You were only waiting for this moment to be free.  
Blackbird, fly,  
Blackbird, fly,  
into the light of a dark, black night.

*John Lennon and Paul McCartney*

### **Sure on This Shining Night**

Sure on this shining night  
Of star made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night  
I weep for wonder  
Wand'ring far alone  
Of shadows on the stars.

*James Agee*

### **NEC Preparatory School Children's Choir**

Laura Nevitt, director  
Lena Wong '25 MM, student manager  
Chris Lockman, pianist

Gaelle Dumel	Arielle Meng	Emma Shi
Nina Dundas	Linh Nguyen	Judá Soto
Julian Hirshfield	Olivia Obholzer	Alexander Thomas
Briella Hosch	Elyza Oglice	Wagtowicz
Iran Korangy	Eliot Oglice	George Wang
Ivy Liao	Vincent Ren	Almaia Watkins
Lily Li-Nagy	Logan Sen	Anna Katalena Zawadowski
Yohann Magloire		Victoria Zhang

### **NEC Preparatory School Chamber Chorus**

Grace Ann Callahan	Katherine Ge	Jai Sathiraju
Luce de Rinaldis	Savannah Kaminsky	Jessica Tang
Jackson Dundas	Victoria Paromova	Max Tran
Eliza Gastrock	Emily Peng	Addy Elizabeth Weed
	William Peng	

### **Laura Nevitt**

*Conductor, NEC Children's Choir and Chamber Chorus*

Laura Nevitt is a conductor, composer, and educator based in Boston. She earned degrees in Composition and Music Education from the University of South Carolina and a M.M. in Choral Conducting at Boston Conservatory, studying with George Case.

As a fierce advocate for new music, they love working with composers and have conducted over 35 premieres of new works. She is especially passionate about giving voice and space to gender marginalized musicians and poets through choral and vocal music.

Laura is the Founder & Artistic Director of Lilith Vocal Ensemble, Children's Chorus and Chamber Choir Director at New England Conservatory Prep, a Teaching

Artist with Boston Lyric Opera and Handel & Haydn Society, and Music Director at First Parish UU in Needham, MA, where she is also Artistic Director of the newly formed “To The Fore” Concert Series, focused on bringing historically marginalized voices to the forefront. She is a Founding Member and Former Co-Artistic Director of Nightingale Vocal Ensemble, and former Associate Conductor at Voices Boston Children’s Choir.

Their compositions are frequently performed by musicians across the country, some highlights being the Handel & Haydn Society Youth Choruses, Choral Arts Initiative, the Evelyn Duo, Voices Boston Children’s Choir, Boston Conservatory Choir, Nightingale Vocal Ensemble, Lilith Vocal Ensemble, BRACE New Music Choir, the UofSC Concert Choir, sparks & wiry cries’ songSLAM, Source Song Festival, Quorum, Opera on Tap Boston, Una Voce (Community Music Center of Boston), the East Central College Choir in Missouri, First Parish UU in Needham, and the Choir of Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church in Cambridge, First Presbyterian Church (Columbia, SC) Children’s Choirs, Greater Columbia Children’s Choir, and the First Presbyterian Church Chamber Choir during the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC.

At First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, she directed the Primary and Junior Choirs, supervised the Children’s Music Program, and was a section leader in their Chancel and Chamber Choir. In Columbia, she kept a private studio of guitar and voice students and was the chorus teacher at CrossRoads Intermediate School in Irmo, SC. During her time as a choral director in South Carolina, Nevitt’s ensembles consistently earned superior ratings at the Carowinds Festival of Music in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Music USA Festival in Orlando, Florida.

As a soprano, she has performed Reich’s *Drumming* with New York-based ensemble So Percussion.

**NEC Preparatory School Youth Chorale**

Erica J. Washburn, director

Henri Youmans ’25 MM, student manager and assistant conductor

Lingbo Ma, pianist

Naomi Carney	Robert Moorman	Lena Wong
Arthur Chen	Claire Park	Christopher Yoo
Bailee Green	Alla Petrosyan	Henri Youmans
David Jiang	Leo Ren	Eddie Zhou
Lindsay Kwon	Avika Shukla	Kevin Zhou
Paul Lee	Nivriti Thakur	Grace Zhuo
Darya Leshchiner	Ariel Wang	

## Erica J. Washburn

*Conductor, Youth Chorale*

Conductor and mezzo-soprano Erica J. Washburn has been Director of Choral Activities at New England Conservatory since 2009 and is Chair of the Preparatory School Choral Department. Known for her student-centric approach to classroom and rehearsal instruction, and commitment to the performance of new music, Washburn 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 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* can be heard on Albany Records, with the New England Conservatory Symphonic Winds.

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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