

**Miami Collegium Musicum**  
Donald Oglesby, Director

*presents*

**Prayer for Ukraine**  
**and for our World**  
A Benefit Concert



Saturday, May 21, 2022 @ 7:30 pm  
Riviera Presbyterian Church  
5275 Sunset Drive, Miami

Sunday, May 22, 2022 @ 5:00 pm  
St Andrew's Episcopal Church  
14260 Old Cutler Road, Palmetto Bay

## Program Notes

**Prayer for Ukraine (Молитва за Україну)** is a patriotic Ukrainian hymn published in 1885, which became a spiritual anthem for Ukraine. The text was written by Oleksandr Konytsky, and the music was composed by Mykola Lysenko.

**The Ukrainian National Anthem (Ще не вмерла України і слава)** was composed in the 19th century by Mykhailo Verbytsky and became the official national anthem of Ukraine in 1992 shortly after the downfall of the former Soviet Union. The song was also used as the anthem of the Ukrainian People's Republic in the first half of the 20th century during struggles for independence.

**A Ukrainian Prayer** was composed by John Rutter specifically for the crisis currently unfolding in Ukraine. The composer writes: "How can a composer respond to a global tragedy? By writing music is the most obvious thing. Like everybody, I've been shocked and dismayed by the events of recent days, and the first thing I wanted to do was write some music that would respond in my own way... I hope the meaning of the text will resonate in people's hearts and reach out to the people of Ukraine in their hour of need."

**Va, Pensiero**, also known as the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves," is from Verdi's opera Nabucco (1842). It recalls the period of Babylonian captivity after the loss of the First Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE. Written during a period of Italy's struggle for independence from foreign control, the text was thought by some to represent sympathy with that struggle. For this reason, the piece has assumed a patriotic significance for Italy.

**Lincoln: On the Walls of His Memorial** (2015), composed by Dr. David Pegel, interweaves passages from President Lincoln's two most revered presidential speeches, the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural Address, both of which are inscribed on the walls of his memorial in Washington.

**Keep Watch, Dear Lord**, also by Dr. Pegel, is a setting from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer: "An Order for Compline". The text explores the Lord for safety and comfort through the night, especially for those who suffer.

Dr. Pegel is an active composer, performer, educator, and multi-instrumentalist in the Miami area, and has collaborated with Miami Collegium Musicum and the Miami Bach Society.

**Cherubic Hymn No.7** was composed by Dmitry Bortniansky (1751-1825), a Ukrainian and Russian composer, harpsichordist and conductor. Born in the city of Glukhov (in present-day Ukraine), Bortniansky studied music in Italy and St. Petersburg, and served for many years at the court of Catherine the Great. He is important to the musical history of both Ukraine and Russia, with both nations claiming him as their own.

**There is a Balm in Gilead** is a traditional African American spiritual dating at least to the 19th century. The "Balm in Gilead" is a reference from the Old Testament, but the lyrics of this spiritual refer to the New Testament concept of salvation through Jesus Christ. The "Balm of Gilead" is interpreted as a spiritual medicine.

**Alleluia** is a choral work by American composer Rachel Currea, an award-winning, Miami-based composer, pianist, conductor and recording artist. "Alleluia" is from Rachel's sacred choral album "The Reformation 500 Anniversary Album – Celebration of Spirit", which hit #1 on the Traditional Classical Billboard Charts in 2017.

**Dona Nobis Pacem** is one of the most famous choral movements from "The Mass in B Minor", J.S. Bach's last major artistic undertaking. The "Dona Nobis Pacem" concludes this immense, extended setting of the Mass ordinary by recalling the music of thanks expressed in the earlier section "Gratias Agimus Tibi". By stressing "Pacem" (peace) and quoting "Gratias" (thanks), Bach was asking for peace in order to give thanks and praise God.

**Prayer for Ukraine (tr. Dmytro Shostak)**

Lord, oh the Great and Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Bless her with freedom and light  
Of your holy rays.

With learning and knowledge enlighten  
Us, your children small,  
In love pure and everlasting  
Let us, oh Lord, grow.

We pray, oh Lord Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Grant our people and country  
All your kindness and grace.

Bless us with freedom, bless us with wisdom,  
Guide into kind world,  
Bless us, oh Lord, with good fortune  
Forever and evermore.

**Va, Pensiero**

([www.yusyrovych.com/eng/Va-Pensiero-English-translation](http://www.yusyrovych.com/eng/Va-Pensiero-English-translation))

Hasten thoughts on golden wings.  
Hasten and rest on the densely wooded hills,  
where warm and fragrant and soft  
are the gentle breezes of our native land!

The banks of the Jordan we greet  
and the towers of Zion.  
O, my homeland, so beautiful and lost!  
O memories, so dear and yet so deadly!

Golden harp of our prophets,  
why do you hang silently on the willow?  
Rekindle the memories of our hearts,  
and speak of the times gone by!

Or, like the fateful Solomon,  
draw a lament of raw sound;  
or permit the Lord to inspire us  
to endure our suffering!

## Note on the Ensemble

Miami Collegium Musicum is a volunteer chamber choir of singers of different backgrounds, all with extensive choral experience. Founded in 1977 by Dr. Donald Oglesby at the University of Miami Frost School of Music, the ensemble has presented acclaimed performances of many choral masterpieces in collaboration with Miami Bach Society, Mainly Mozart Festival, the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Naples Philharmonic.

Collegium has toured England, France, Germany, and Italy, and most recently in Washington D.C. In 1987 the group sang at the mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II in Miami. Today, the ensemble is an independent, non-profit organization presenting free performances to the general public.

## Note on the Program

This program is our musical response to the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine. The pieces in the first set express care for Ukraine. Those in the next set are responses to tragedies from very different times and places: the Babylonian Captivity of the Jewish people and the American Civil War. We intend this set to represent understanding for Ukraine's experience and acknowledgment that its plight is of universal dimension. The last set expresses comfort and hope, so deeply needed in times of trial.


We hope that you will feel called, as we do, to help as you can with a donation to one of the two charities we have carefully selected to support the Ukrainian cause.

Please join us in supporting these wonderful organizations providing material assistance to the people of Ukraine and others affected by conflict.

Scan the codes below with your camera app to donate online, or drop a check or cash in the basket provided.


Suggested min. donation: \$10

### Project CURE



Project CURE, the world's largest distributor of donated medical resources to areas of need around the world, is shipping medical supplies to hospitals in Ukraine.

### World Central Kitchen



WCK is serving millions of fresh meals to Ukrainian families fleeing home as well as people remaining in the country.

Our singers are all volunteers. We rely on audience contributions to continue producing choral programs to enrich our community. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and designate Miami Collegium Musicum as your charity, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to us, at no charge to you.

Thank you for your support!

Follow us for updates on future events:

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 collegium.musicum.miami

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