



PORTLAND  
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

*Ellis Island*

# THE DREAM *of* AMERICA

**JUNE 18, 2022**

2 PM & 7 PM

**PSU LINCOLN HALL**

1620 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR

*A unique musical exploration of America and its  
growth as a nation of immigrants*

[www.MusicInPortland.org](http://www.MusicInPortland.org) | 971-867-4618

# Ellis Island

## THE DREAM of AMERICA

**P**eople often leave home, not when times are good, but when faced with difficulties. In the late 1600's and 1700's, many people separated from the challenges of European life searching for opportunity in the New World. The late 1800's and early 1900's saw some of the largest immigration waves to America and Canada. One of the principal places people entered America was through Ellis Island in the harbor of New York City.

Before leaving their homelands, many knew little about the distant land America. They were willing to try and add their talents and energies to those who had already preceded them. They arrived tired and filled with questions. What would it be like to live in America? Could their skills support them and their families? How would they be treated by others? Would they ever reconnect to family and friends left behind? Having endured a long sea voyage, they set out on a new journey to answer these questions, filled with feelings of excitement, fear, and hope.

Peter Boyer captures the essence of this immigrant experience in his powerful work *Ellis Island: Dream of America*. Boyer transports us to the turn of the 19th to 20th Centuries via his inspiring musical composition and the script he created using authentic recollections of immigrant experiences from the Ellis Island Oral History Project. In this concert we offer selected excerpts of Boyer's *Ellis Island: Dream of America*, combined with contemporary choral works that underscore the inspiring themes in each immigrant story you will hear.

We are excited to connect this historical look at immigration with present-day America in collaboration with our community partners: Just Serve, Refugee Care Collective, Catholic Charities, Butterfly Boxes, Portland Refugee Support Group, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization. We invite you to visit these partners in the lobby after the concert and discover how you can help extend compassion and assistance to refugees in our community. You can help us ensure the dream of America finds those who seek it today, as it did at Ellis Island a century ago.

June 18, 2022

**Ken Hollenzer** – Executive Director

**David M. Thomas** – Artistic Director

## WE NEED YOU

Since 2004, Portland Choir & Orchestra has performed professional music at affordable prices all around the Portland metro area to thousands each year. We are actively working to expand our reach, and seek funding to help bridge the gap between ticket sales and the costs of putting on our concerts.

- Your sponsorship allows us to keep ticket prices low and connects you to our audience.
- Your contribution is needed, and is tax deductible. Portland Choir & Orchestra is a non-profit organization that receives its funding solely from donations, sponsors, and ticket sales.
- You can make a one-time donation, a monthly donation, or provide sponsorship for our organization. The options are described at: [www.musicinportland.org/support](http://www.musicinportland.org/support).

## Thank You To Our 2021-2022 Season Donors:

Anonymous – **\$50,000**

Anonymous – **\$7,000**

Kyle Gorman – **\$300**

*In honor of Cpl Russell Gorman, US Army Air Corps, WWII.*

Dala Walter – **\$300.00**

Reser Family Foundation – **\$1,000.00**

Terry Sweet – **\$40.00**

Barbara Winkel – **\$250.00**

Joel Jorgenson – **\$100.00**

*[FIRST Real Estate Consulting]*

PGE Employee Giving – **\$1,580**

Amazon Smile – **\$443.61**

Benevity Fund – **\$390.00**

Camas Life Magazine – **\$100.00**

*[Mike Terry]*



# PORTLAND CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

## David M. Thomas, Artistic Director

David M. Thomas enjoys a strong reputation throughout the Pacific Northwest as a conductor who fuses technique and artistry to provide a compelling and transformative musical experience.

Dr. Thomas excels as a choral musician through his unwavering commitment to healthy vocal production in the choir. Influenced early on by the beautiful soprano voice of his mother, Beverly Thomas, and her work building a thriving children's and youth choral academy, Dr. Thomas spent much of his childhood years engrossed in the art of singing. As a teen, he took quickly to conducting, found early success leading his peers in rehearsal and performance, laying a strong foundation for his future education and career path. Earning an undergraduate degree in vocal performance (Brigham Young University) provided the confidence and skill necessary to elicit healthy, energetic singing from choristers.



Dr. Thomas attributes much of his success as a conductor and pedagogue to his years of study and performance with Dr. Ronald Staheli. Valery Uspensky, Stanislav Legkov and Mack Wilberg also played key roles in his development as a musician. Dr. Thomas (baritone) soloed in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's well-known weekly television broadcast, on the Mariinsky Theatre stage, and has prepared choirs or collaborated as a guest conductor with many prestigious ensembles including the Oregon Repertory Singers and the Newport Symphony Orchestra.

After earning additional degrees in Russian language (BA) and choral conducting (MM) at Brigham Young University, Dr. Thomas received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatoire in St. Petersburg Russia. He has continually integrated Russian music in his performance and research, providing performance coaching for ensembles and soloists, and presenting scholarly work at national and regional level professional conferences. Dr. Thomas is highly sought after as a clinician and adjudicator. Artistic Director of Portland Choir & Orchestra since 2007, Dr. Thomas also finds great joy teaching and performing with his wife Emily (Soprano) and, together, raising their five children.

## CHOIR MEMBERS

### Soprano 1

Jenny Davis  
Heidi Dominguez  
Cynthia Greathouse  
Jamey McClellan

### Soprano 2

Kristi Crusan  
Deb Dougal  
Maren Driaza  
Tammy Fry  
Ingrid Adams  
Tara Janson  
Cristina Kennington  
Barbara Laney  
Wendy Latta  
Jamie McKell  
Jennie Peterson\*  
Brooke Ryles  
Amy Updike

### Alto 1

Janet Apostalon  
Amy Bak  
Stefani Carlton  
Pricilla Dickinson  
Stephanie Fry  
Jenny Gennings  
Allyn Kirnak  
Kathryn Latour  
Christa Lowe  
Jodi Peterson  
Amanda Porter  
Pamela Russell  
Helen Shellman  
Eliza Turner

### Alto 2

Jessica Allred  
Margie Armstrong  
Rachelle DesRochers  
Danelle Dullum  
Jackie Emmett  
Stephanie Fields  
Kristen Gardiner  
Cheryn Hunter  
Dhanya Mary Jacob  
Kathy Jensen  
Kathy Logan  
Deanna Peabody  
Mary Ann Shamrell  
Nicole Stoddard\*  
Daya Tracy

### Tenor 1

Keith Biggs  
Anton Conklin  
Marci Dayley  
David Robbins  
Tarry Smith  
Patti Weenig

### Tenor 2

Ian Allred  
Lorenz Bilbo  
Matt Davis\*  
Joe Everton  
Erik Hoggan  
Ken Hollenzer  
Doug Lowder

### Bass 1

Curtis Bedont\*  
Mark Deason  
Jim Evensen  
Clark Green  
Jim Istook  
Donald Jensen  
Kenneth Peterson

### Bass 2

Parker Fuhriman  
Dustin Geddes  
Michael Rex  
Howard Russell

### Piano

Kathy Jensen

\*section leader

# Ellis Island

## THE DREAM *of* AMERICA

**The Star Spangled Banner** – Francis Scott Key, John Stafford Smith, arranged by Robert Russell Bennett

*Welcome & Introduction of Special Guests: Ken Hollenzer, David M. Thomas*

**Sing a New Song** – Words and music by Ronald Staheli – Piano: Kathy Jensen & Laura Leavitt

*\*Prologue*

*\*Words of Helen Lansman Cohen*

**America, the Dream Goes On** – Lyrics by Alan and Marilyn Bergman, music by John Williams, arranged by John Higgins and Paul Lavender

*\*Words of James Apanomith*

**Who Can Sail Without the Wind** – Traditional Swedish folk song arranged by Dan Forrest – Piano: Kathy Jensen & Laura Leavitt

*\*Words of Lillian Galleta*

**Distant Land, A prayer for freedom** – Words and music by John Rutter

*\*Words of Lazarus Salamon*

**Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor** – from the poem by Emma Lazarus as inscribed upon the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, music by Irving Berlin, arranged by Roy Ringwald – Baritone: Lorenz Bilbo

*\*Words of Helen Rosenthal*

**Two Immigrants** – from the poem "A Great American Love Story" by Maya Porcelli, music by Jenni Brandon, Cello: Kristopher Duke – Piano: Kathy Jensen

*\*Words of Emanuel "Manny" Steen*

**I Hear America Singing** – quoting the spiritual, "Walk Together Children" arranged by Andre J. Thomas

*\*Words of Katherine Beychok*

*\*Epilogue*

\*Excerpts from **Ellis Island: The Dream of America** – Peter Boyer's featured work for actors and orchestra, presenting poignant immigration stories from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Texts from the Ellis Island Oral History Project. Script created and music composed by Peter Boyer.

**After the performance please visit our community partner organizations in the lobby**

## SELECTED SONG LYRICS

### Sing a New Song

Sing a new song unto God! Praise His holy name!  
With gladdened heart and voice triumphant sing unto God!  
Sing a new song unto God! Praise the light Devine!  
Sing a new song unto God! Sing a new song unto God!

Praise Him for His comfort, praise Him for His love.  
For His word of truth sing praise to God Above,  
With the song of a trumpet, with the song of a drum,  
With the sound of a human voice crying out to heaven in song.

Praise Him for His mercy. Praise Him for His Care.  
Praise Him for the beauties of life, near us everywhere.  
There's good earth beneath your feet, and a sun in the heavens above!  
There are people all around you, who share his love.

### America...The Dream Goes On

America, America, and the dream goes on!  
There's a song in the dust of a country road  
On the wind it comes to call  
And it sings in the farms and the factory towns  
And where you think there'd be no song at all  
And the words are the words that our fathers heard  
As they whistled down the years  
And the name of the song is the name of the dream  
And it's music to our ears  
And the words that we read on the courthouse walls  
are the words that make us free  
And the more we remember the way we began  
The closer we get to the best we can be  
Was there ever a time we forgot it's worth  
All the struggles and the scars  
If we leave to the children a sky full of hope  
And a flag that's filled with stars  
Remember the voice of Jefferson  
And the sound of Thomas Paine  
Lincoln sang at Gettysberg about America  
Listen well to the wind and you can hear  
From Oregon to Maine  
Though the voices are changing  
The song's the same as it sings from sea to sea  
And as long as the music is strong and clear  
We'll know that tomorrow will always be free  
America, America, and the dream goes on!

### Who Can Sail Without the Wind?

Who can sail without the wind? Who can row without oars?  
Who can leave a parting friend without shedding tears?  
I can sail without the wind, I can row without oars,  
But I can't leave a parting friend without shedding tears.

### Distant Land

I see a distant land: it shines so clear. Sometimes  
it seems so far, sometimes so near.  
Come, join together, take the dusty road; Help  
one another: share the heavy load.  
The journey may be long: no end in sight; There may  
be hills to climb, or giants to fight:  
But if you'll take my hand, We'll walk together  
toward the land of freedom, freedom, freedom.

I hear a distant song: it fills the air. I hear it,  
deep and strong, rise up in prayer:  
'O Lord, we are many; help us to be one.  
Heal our divisions: let thy will be done.  
I know the time will come when war must cease:  
A time of truth and love, a time of peace.  
The people cry, 'How long? Till all our world  
can join the song of freedom, freedom.

I touch a distant hand and feel its glow,  
The hand I hoped was there: at last I know.  
Swords into ploughshares: can it all come true?  
Friends out of strangers: start with me and you.  
I see another time, another place. Where we  
can all be one, one human race.  
The walls will melt away, we'll come together  
on the day of freedom, freedom, freedom, freedom.

### Two Immigrants

Two immigrants came together,  
Hoping to create a mosaic out of broken glass.  
There were borders running through them,  
As natural as the veins running through their bodies.  
They were ill-fitting puzzle pieces,  
Stuck between oil and water.  
They promised their mothers they would not forget her.  
So they spoke the language she taught them  
In hushed whispers.  
Two immigrants came together,  
Trying to feel less homesick.  
Home is where the heart is  
And they thought that their hearts were far from them.  
Stuck to the gates of Ellis Island.  
They wept in each other's arms  
Under the smog covered moon  
For their lost brothers and sisters.  
So they created makeshift hearts  
From yellowed picture albums  
And music sheets.  
Two immigrants came together,  
And made each other their home.



# PORTLAND CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

## Edward Higgins, Orchestra Director

One of the most highly sought after conductors of the Pacific Northwest, Dr. Edward Higgins has spent his musical career imparting the joys of music as a performer, educator, and conductor.

Dr. Higgins began his versatile performance career with the Spoleto Festival Orchestra in Spoleto, Italy, where he served as Principal Trumpet on such works as the Grammy-winning recording of Samuel Barber's *Antony and Cleopatra*. After two seasons Dr. Higgins went on to hold the Principal Trumpet position of the Sacramento Symphony. He achieved comparable accolades in the Midwest as a professional tubist, holding principal positions in the La Crosse Symphony and St. Joseph Symphony Orchestras.

As a conductor, Dr. Higgins spent 15 years as Director of Bands at Portland State University and a decade serving as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Portland Wind Symphony. Most recently, Dr. Higgins has taken his baton worldwide – appearing in such diverse locales as New York's La Guardia School of Music and Art (featured in the 1980 motion picture titled "Fame"), The British Columbia all Province Orchestra, Seattle's Rainier Symphony Orchestra and the Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou, China.

Higgins has collaborated on the concert stage with notable artists such as, Glenn Dicterow (Concertmaster, New York Philharmonic), Charles Schlueter (Principal Trumpet Emeritus, Boston Symphony), Ronald Baron (Principal Trombone Emeritus, Boston Symphony), Fred Korman (Principal Oboe, Emeritus, Oregon Symphony) and world-renowned trumpet soloist Carl "Doc" Severinsen.

Dr. Higgins holds a Doctorate in Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in trumpet performance from the Juilliard School. He currently serves as a Professor of Music at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon.



## ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

### 1st Violin

Ann Christensen – *Concertmaster*  
Brandon Buckmaster  
*Assistant Concertmaster*  
Tara Burke \*  
Eri Nogueira  
Don Power  
Mary-Kathryn Rodriguez

### 2nd Violin

Briana Nielson, *Principal*  
Marya Kazmierski  
Bev Louthan  
Jessica Scott  
Elisa Boynton  
Lacey Peters

### Viola

Sharon Eng, *Principal*  
Katie Swanson  
Brenda Liu  
Katherine San Diego

### Cello

Kristopher Duke, *Principal*  
Kevin Jackson  
Jonah Thomas  
Paula Flynn

### String Bass

Garrett Jellesma, *Principal*  
Robert Busey

### Flute

Rachel Rencher, *Principal*  
Pippa Randolph

### Oboe

Alan Juza, *Principal*  
Karen Strand

### Clarinet

Eric Tishkoff, *Principal*  
Andy Sharma

### Bassoon

Nicole Buetti, *Principal*  
Gary Zaganiacz

### Saxophone

Mary Sue Tobin

### Horn

Jennifer Harrison, *Principal*  
Dan Partridge  
Rebekah Schaub  
Liz Uzelac

### Trumpet

Brett Randolph, *Principal*  
Jason Gunderson  
Scott Winks

### Trombone

Jon Warton, *Principal*  
Heldi Aispuro

### Tuba

Steve Fulks, *Principal*

### Percussion

Brian Gardner, *Principal*  
Will Reno  
Nick Rose  
Jonathan Barker

### Piano/Keyboard

Kathy Jensen +  
Qin Ouyang

\* Personnel Manager

+ Orchestra Librarian

# The Actors

## WHO ARE THEY

Helen Lansman Cohen — **Christina Osborn**

James Apanomith — **Bobby Tramontina**

Lillian Galletta — **Rebekah Morin**

Lazarus Salamon — **Robert McFarlane**

**Christina Osborn** is an American old-time musician and student of classical literature and language at Portland State. She has worked in the theater mostly as a stage manager and lighting technician and is excited to be onstage for this work of American history.

**Bobby Tramontina** is a Pittsburgh native who is excited and grateful to be getting involved in the Portland theatre scene. He is currently studying in The Actors Conservatory's two-year training program.

**Rebekah Morin** was born and raised in Vancouver Washington and the greater Portland Metro Area. Rebekah is currently a Junior at Portland State University in the pursuit of earning her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. She began acting when she was a freshman in high school and immediately fell in love with it. She would later studied Theatre at Clark College in Vancouver, WA and eventually transferred to PSU. She hopes to learn more from her professors and peers about the art of acting. She is grateful that she has the opportunity to attend PSU and for the opportunity to participate in this production.

**Robert McFarlane** just finished his sophomore year at Portland State University and aspires to be a professional actor in a traveling or repertoire theatre. He has been acting since early high-school and hasn't been able to quit since. His credits include Caden in Thanksgiving Play by Larissa FastHorse at Boise State University, Winnie in The Drag by Mae West at Boise State University and Francis in Suite Surrender at Boise Community Theater.

Helen Rosenthal — **Erin Way**

Emanuel "Manny" Steen — **Dylan O'Harra**

Katherine Beychok — **Brook Hogan**

**Erin Way** is an artist and storyteller appearing in countless television and film roles, working with fellow artists such as Mark Ruffalo, Miranda July, Marianna Palka, Bryce Dallas Howard, Joe Dante, Ron Howard, Tony Hale and Ben Kingsley. She recently developed a long form television show loosely based on her own life. Currently she can be seen in Hulu's "The Handmaids Tale." She teaches locally at PSU and The Studio NW.

**Dylan O'Harra** is an actor, writer and musician originally from Anchorage, Alaska. He is grateful to be involved in this beautiful project! Dylan is a graduate of The Pacific Conservatory Theater's actor training program, where he also interned as a dramaturg. Dylan is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at Portland State University. You can see him in the upcoming film "The Value of Nothing," directed by Kelly Goddell. For more information, visit [www.dylanoharra.com](http://www.dylanoharra.com)

**Brook Hogan** is an actor and improviser performing in the Portland area. She is involved in local theatre and film productions, performs at Comedy Sportz, and attends acting classes at The Studio NW. Brook enjoys spending time with her family and debating what movie to watch. She's a wife, mother of two daughters, and an Air Force veteran.

**Karin Magaldi** (*Monologue director*), works professionally as a playwright, dramaturg, and director and is also Associate Director of Theater in the School of Music & Theater at Portland State University.



# CHOIR AUDITIONS

Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass



Scan this code to learn more and sign up for your audition time

[MusicInPortland.Org](http://MusicInPortland.Org)

*We welcome singers from all walks of life who enjoy singing a variety of excellent choral music*

*Fun people, professional conductors, exciting event production*

*Weekly rehearsals and 2-3 concert events per year*

*Join us in bringing uplifting, professional-quality music to our Portland/Vancouver community*

## Special Thanks to:

### Artistic Staff

Artistic Director – Dr. David M. Thomas

Orchestral Director – Dr. Edward Higgins

Assistant Choir Director – Jennie Petersen

Concert Master – Ann Christensen

### Administrative Board

Executive Director and President – Ken Hollenzer

Finance Manager – Kerry Morgan

Treasurer – Tara Janson

### Operational Staff

Executive Producer and Technical Director – Brad Goodwin

Technical and Computer Lead – Mark Deason

Wardrobe – Marci Daley

Box Office Coordinator – Stephanie Fry

Public Relations and Marketing – Keith Biggs

Program Advisors / Venue Coordinator – Don & Kathy Jensen

Transportation – Michael Rex

### Production Crew

Recording Engineer – Greg Blaisdell

Video and Still Photography Lead – Jordan Bigelow

Camera Crew – Kathie Robbins, Josh Bretzing

Concert Art Concept Design – Jordan Hayter

Program Layout and Design – Steven Lowe

Don't miss our annual  
Christmas concert  
**DECEMBER 3**  
NEWMARK THEATRE

Visit [MusicInPortland](http://MusicInPortland) for details & tickets

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Refugee Care Collective



PORTLAND  
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA