



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

People seldom leave home when times are good. They usually leave when facing difficulties of every imaginable type. In the late 1600's and 1700's, people were shifting away from the difficulties of European life and heading to the new America. But in the late 1800's and early 1900's, immigration to America and Canada began to escalate.

Before they left for America, many probably only saw America as a distant land. They were willing to try and add their talents and energies to those who had already preceded them. One of the principal places people entered America was through Ellis Island in the harbor of New York City.

By the time they arrived, many had endured a long journey at sea. They were tired and probably had lots of questions. They likely felt a mixture of excitement and fear. What would it be like to live in America? Could the skills they had support living there? How would they be treated by others? Would they have any friends beyond a few they had met onboard the ship they traveled in? How would they ever reconnect to family and friends left behind?

Peter Boyer took these ideas into account as he composed the text and music for Ellis Island. His portrayal is both stunning and powerful in encapsulating what it must have felt like to be an immigrant to the United States. Our concert repertoire includes actors sharing authentic recollections of immigrant experiences. We will also feature other songs that are meant to compliment and embellish the sentiment elicited by Mr. Boyer's work, **Ellis Island**.

**Ken Hollenzer** – Executive Director

**David 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, or support us with a sponsorship. The options are described at:

**[www.musicinportland.org/support](http://www.musicinportland.org/support)**.

### Donor Information:

Anonymous – **\$50,000**

Anonymous – **\$7,000**

Kyle Gorman – **\$300** (In honor of Cpl Russell Gorman, US Army Air Corps, WWII.

PGE Employee Giving – **\$1,580**

Amazon Smile – **\$443.61**

Benevity Fund – **\$390.00**



# PORTLAND CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

## David Thomas: Professional Bio

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  
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

\*section leader

# Ellis Island

## THE DREAM of AMERICA

### Musical Selections

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

**Sing a New Song** – Words and music by Ronald Staheli  
*Choir* with Kathy Jensen and Laura Leavitt on piano

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

**Who Can Sail Without the Wind** – traditional Swedish folk song  
arranged by Dan Forrest – *Choir* with Kathy Jensen and Laura Leavitt on piano

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

**Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor** – a poem by Emma Lazarus as inscribed upon the  
pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, music by Irving Berlin, arranged by Roy Ringwald  
Lorenz Bilbo soloist – *Choir and Orchestra.*

**Two Immigrants** – a poem by Maya Porcelli, music by Jenni Brandon  
*Choir*, Kathy Jensen on piano, Kristopher Duke on cello

**I Hear America Singing** – quoting the spiritual, “Walk Together Children”  
arranged by Andre J. Thomas – *Choir and Orchestra.*

### Intermission

please use this time to visit our partner organizations in the lobby.

**Ellis Island: the Dream of America** – Peter Boyer’s featured orchestral score,  
with poignant Ellis Island stories from the late 1800s and early 1900s  
*presented by actors from PSU*

**TWO IMMIGRANTS** tells the story of two young immigrants who come to America from a different land. They seek out what many immigrants did in coming to America – a chance to build a life, grow a career and family, and live the American dream. This poem by Maya Porcelli, a student at California School of the Arts – San Gabriel, is inspired by the family story of Dr. Michael J. Patzakis and Susan Giorkaris Patzakis, whose families came through Ellis Island early in the 20th century. This poem beautifully tells of what their parents left behind, but in coming together they created a new story of love, family, and hope, and so many opportunities for their children and grandchildren. I think it captures not only a beautiful tribute to their family and Greek heritage, but tells the story of the spirit and harmony of many immigrants who came to America's shores from another country.

The music moves through light and darkness as the immigrants are faced with heartache and loss. The cello adds a deep, resonant voice of the immigrant as they search for their footing in the rocky terrain of a new language, new experiences, and new emotions. The choir explores these emotions, supported by the piano's often forward movement like that of a large ship crossing the ocean on its way to Ellis Island. The work ends with a feeling of hope as the immigrants create a new life in this new land.

## *A Great American Love Story*

By Maya Porcelli

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.



## Edward Higgins: Professional Bio

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 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

### Violas

Sharon Eng, Principal  
Katie Swanson  
Brenda Liu  
Katherine San Diego

### Cellos

Kristopher Duke, Principal  
Kevin Jackson  
Amelia Hunnicutt  
Paula Flynn

### String Bass

Garrett Jellesma, Principal  
Robert Busey

### Flute

Rachel Rencher  
Pippa Randolph

### Oboe

Alan Juza  
Karen Strand

### Clarinet

Eric Tishkoff  
Andy Sharma

### Bassoon

Nicole Buetti  
Gary Zaganiacz

### Saxophone

No  
Mary Sue Tobin

### Horn

Jennifer Harrison  
Dan Partridge  
Rebekah Schaub  
Liz Uzelac

### Trumpet

Brett Randolph  
Jason Gunderson  
Scott Winks

### Tuba

Steve Fulks

### Trombone

Jon Warton  
Heidi Aispuro

### Percussion

Brian Gardner  
Will Reno  
Nick Rose  
Jonathan Barker

### Piano/Keyboard

Kathy Jensen +

\* 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.



## Special Thanks to our Production Crew:

**Executive Producer & Technical Director** – Brad Goodwin

**Recording Engineer** – Greg Blaisdell

**Technical Lead** – Mark Deason

**Video & Still Photography Lead** – Jordan Bigelow

**Camera Crew** – Kathie Robbins, Josh Bretzing

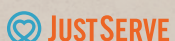
**Poster & Flyer Design** – Jordan Hayter

**Program Layout & Design** – Steven Lowe

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