

Nightingale

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

mythology OF THE PLANETS

NOVEMBER 20 @ 8 PM

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | CAMBRIDGE

NOVEMBER 21 @ 6 PM

PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, ASHMONT | BOSTON

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

BEN PERRY & LAURA NEVITT

MUSIC BY

**TAVENER, MILHAUD, OSTRZYGA,
LABARR, KONING, THOMPSON, & TAKACH**



\$20 SUGGESTED DONATION

Nightingale Vocal Ensemble

Mythology of the Planets

November 20, 2021
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Cambridge, MA

November 21, 2021
Parish of All Saints, Ashmont
Boston, MA

REPERTOIRE

The Eternal Sun

John Tavener

Mythweaver

Kelvyn Koning

Naissance de Venus

Darius Milhaud

Mars' Song

Stefan Thompson

Jupiter

Michael Ostrzyga

Helios: IV. Saturn

Timothy Takach

The Wisdom of the Moon

Susan LaBarr

Featuring Nightingale Artists

Rose Hegele
Madison Spahn
Olivia de Geofroy
Hannah Carlson
Kelvyn Koning
Emerald Barbour
Melanie Donnelly
Maria Whitcomb
Rachael Murray
Laura Nevitt
Kartik Aaysola
Daniel Esteban Lugo
William Farrell
William Benoit
Sullivan Hart
Ben Perry
Eric Ritter
Kirby Stalley
Nicholas Ford
John Moorman

Projection
Chad Dorsey

Audio
Gabriel Muenzer

Video
Julie Richardson

POEMS, TEXTS, AND TRANSLATIONS

SUN

The Rising of the Sun

Painting by François Boucher (1703-1770)

Evadne

Poem by Hilda Doolittle (1886-1961)

I first tasted under Apollo's lips,
Love and love sweetness,
I, Evadne;
My hair is made of crisp violets
Or hyacinth which the wind combs back
Across some rock shelf;
I, Evadne,
Was a mate of the God of light.

His hair was crisp to my mouth,
As the flower of the crocus,
Across my cheek,
Cool as the silver-cress
On Erotos bank;
Between my chin and throat,
His mouth slipped over and over.

Still between my arm and shoulder,
I feel the brush of his hair,
And my hands keep the gold they took,
As they wandered over and over,
That great arm-full of yellow flowers.

The Eternal Sun

Text by Frithjof Schuon

Music by John Tavener (1944-2013)

In the sky shines the sun which God conceived
As the image of another Sun, whose light
No earthly eye can reach - Earth cannot see Divine Mystery.

The sun's splendour, standing proudly in the sky,
Is not eternal - see how it sets.

MERCURY

The Souls of Acheron

Painting by Adolf Hiremy-Hirschl

Mercury, The God of Luck

Poem by Maxwell S. Gemmell

Dancing swift and silly,
Whimsical Will' of the Wisp,
Light Spirit of the Morning Dawn;
Swiftly thou pines,
To fill the coffers of Bank Fortuna.
Gold is thine Element,
Greed thy Vice.

Fleeting quietly through a wet dark night,
Robin Goodfellow is that thee I spy?
Over the rainbow his hoard he keeps.
Fly, Fairy Fly!
Quick is thine essence,
And hollow thy name.
The top hat
On the fat cat.
Thus is your visage,
Charming sprite!

Jolly and free you fly!

Come back! Come back!
Yells the gambler,
The thief, the wolf
Humankind.

Joyful and silly you may be,
Hermes! I call forth thee,
And arrest thine deception hence.
Forever to spin,
Such is thine fate.
Wheel of Fortune's Kin.
Thou shalt never know Love,
Save for that which glows brightest.

Mythweaver (2021)

Text and music by Kelvyn Koning (b. 1994)

Who are they who stories tell
of gods and mortal folk as well?
The one with wingéd foot and helm
with messages for ev'ry realm,
The herald of eternal springs,
a nightingale who, longing, sings:

"How beautiful the feet
of the peaceful ones who greet!
And how beautiful the song
that the peoples pass along!"

Who are we who weaveth myths
and poetry like silversmiths?
The ones with tales of love and youth
that look to stars for light and truth,
The keepers of the human heart
till Hermes leads us to depart.

VENUS

Birth of Venus (1480s)

Painting by Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510)

Naissance de Vénus

Text by Jules Supervielle

Music by Darius Milhaud (1892-1974)

I. Les Heures

Voyez l'onde qui se teint de rouge,
Comme elle bouillonne !
C'est le sang d'Uranus
Qui tomba du haut du ciel
Comme dans l'eau le fer rouge,
Il fait un long bruissement
Regardez,
Sans tenir compte des lentes coulées
humaines
Une Vierge nait soudain de la vague
féconde
Déesse,
Elle est déesse écumeuse
Et dans ses yeux
À distance de caresse
Sont les grandes profondeurs qui se
dérobaient à nous au secret de l'océan.

II. Vénus

Je sors du marin murmure
Avec paroles à la bouche
Je nais fille déjà grande
Et je vous regarde en face
Ruisselante de beaux jours que je n'aurai
pas vécu
Je suis là de plus en plus comme un cœur
touché d'amour
Et mon cœur est plein de lignes
Filles de mon harmonie.

III. Le Vent

Naviguant sur votre conque,
Laissez le jeune homme Vent vous pousser
vers le rivage
Où vous appellent les Heures
Née de la mer
C'est sur terre que vous attend l'avenir
Et précieuse comme l'air
Rien en vous ne peut finir.

IV. Les Heures

Voici la Terre et ses arbres
Voici la Terre et ses hommes
Et leurs têtes bourdonnantes
Comme le haut des forêts
Approchez,
Voici venir d'insolites messagers
Et pour mieux vous adorer
Le passereau se fait cygne
Et le cygne devient ange
Et la colombe, colombe !

I. The Hours

See the wave that stains itself in red,
How it bubbles!
It is the blood of Uranus
Which fell from the sky
Like in the water the red(-hot) iron
It makes a long murmur
Look,
Without considering the slow human flow
A Virgin is suddenly born from the fertile
wave
Goddess,
She is a goddess made of foam
And in her eyes
At a distance from tenderness
Are the vast depths that hid from us the
secret of the ocean

II. Venus

I come out of the marin murmure
With words on my mouth
I am born girl already grown
And I look at you head on
Dripping with
beautiful days that I will have never
experienced
I am here more and more like a heart
touched by love
And my heart is full of lines
Daughters of my harmony.

III. The Wind
Navigating on your conch shell
The young man Wind pushes you towards
the shore
Where the Hours beckon to you
Born of the sea
It's on earth where destiny awaits you
And precious like the air
Nothing in you can finish/end.

IV. The Hours
Here is the Earth and her trees
Here is the Earth and her people
And their heads buzzing
Like the top of the forests
Come closer,
Here come strange harbingers
And to better love/adore you
The passerine fashions itself into a swan
And the swan becomes angel
And the dove, dove!

MARS

Mars with Cupid (1649)

Painting by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (1591-1666)

Mars: Ode (2017)

by Saili Katebe (The Blissful Nomad)

Your face forever flushed a royal crimson,
Your heart forever ready to brace the fight.
A man at arms, the ward of godly might.

Phobos and Deimos follow and echo your iron will,*
They march for a thousand leagues to feed you life.
Armored to the hilt holding your place in swollen nights.

We listen for coming glory in the tremors of your spear,
That summit of your Olympus that is the envy of your peers.
Your secret love for Venus showed your skill in love and war,
Though your size may strike us slight, your power harbors more.
Those torrents of raging mists rouse your passion for the fray,
Through the vigor of our Ares we live to fight another day.

(*The two moons of mars)

Mars' Song (2021)

Text and music by Stefan Thompson (b. 1987)

War! More war! Give me War!
Combatting, fighting, struggles, raging;
Attacking, plaguing, foes enraging!
Clashing, slashing, pain, tormenting;
Affliction rising, hurt, blood shedding!
Desolation, desperation,
Torture, sadness, tribulation!
Confiscation, destitution,
Sorrow, trouble, deprivation!
Repressing, crushing, overturning,
Dominating, overwhelming,
Silencing, suppressing stifling,

Intimidating, overpowering war!

I give myself to war,
My challenge and my creed!
I raise my shield and sword,
An army trails my lead!
I wait to sound the battle cry,
As terror, dread, and pain draw nigh!

I marvel at pain.
But if I seek peace, could I command an infantry?
Could I bear immortality?
Could "Guardian" be my name?
But if I seek war,
Olympus' gates will welcome me;
Unspoiled my honor rests with me;
Destruction is my gain.

Ruin. Peace. Devastation or peace?
Devastation or...

Torture, anger, overthrowing,
Stripping, seizing, loss, distressing war!
Demolition, subjugation,
Dispossession, devastation!
War!

JUPITER

Jupiter Enthroned

Painting by Heinrich Friedrich Füger (1751-1818)

Holy Cosmos

Poem by Nathalie Handal

We've been told space
Is like two dark lips colliding
Like science fiction
It outlines a small cosmos
Where fear hides in a glow

Where negative space
Becomes a place for wishing
A constellation of hazy tunes
Of faint sharp vowels
A glossary of meteors
A telescope to god
A cold bright white
Maybe distance damages us
Maybe Jupiter
Will suddenly surprise us
With a notion of holiness
But instead an old planet
Takes over all the space
And we are reminded
Of the traces of fire
In our gaze
Defining our infidelities

Jupiter

Music by Michael Ostrzyga

**(Text is the names of Jupiter)*

Jupiter
Optimus
Maximus
Majestatis
Dyaus
Pitar
Celestial God
Et emitte caelitus lucis tuae radium
Caelestis
Fulgurator
Victor
Lucetius
Pluvius
Latarius
Stator
Feretrius
Terminus
Tonans
Summanus.
Rex tremendae Majestatis

SATURN

Saturn with a Scythe, Sitting on a Stone and Clipping Cupid's Wings

Painting by Ivan Akimov (1744-1814)

On Time

Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)

And an astronomer said, Master, what of Time?
And he answered:
You would measure time the measureless and the immeasurable.
You would adjust your conduct and even
Direct the course of your spirit according to hours and seasons.
Of time you would make a stream upon whose bank you would sit and watch its flowing.

Yet the timeless in you is aware of life's timelessness,
And knows that yesterday is but today's memory and tomorrow is today's dream.
And that that which sings and contemplates in you is still dwelling within the bounds
Of that first moment which scattered the stars into space.

Who among you does not feel that your power to love is boundless?
And yet who does not feel that very love, though boundless,
Encompassed within the centre of his being, and moving not
from love thought to love thought, nor from love deeds to other love deeds?
And is not time even as love is, undivided and spaceless?

But if in your thought you must measure time into seasons, let each season encircle all the
other seasons, and let today embrace the past with remembrance and the future with longing.

Helios IV: Saturn (Longing for Infinity)

Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Music by Timothy Takach

When I was nine years old,
I first looked through a telescope,

And what i saw astounded me:
Floating in the inky black,
The orb of Saturn, like pearl,
Encircle in its perfect rings.
So small it seemed, and yet as large
As almost a thousand Earths;
So close, and yet so very far away.

The sight awoke in me
A longing for infinity
And all its wonders;
The spinning planets, burning stars;
Galaxies of endless worlds
Hurling headlong through the void;
The many-colored nebulae-
Graveyards of exploded stars,
And nurseries of the new;
The universe extending
In ever-widening spheres
Of color, light, and energy;
An endless source of wonder and humility.

This journey through infinity
Began for me when I first beheld
The icy rings of Saturn
From a field on Earth
That summer evening
When I was nine years old.

MOON

Diana and Endymion

Painting by Francesco Trevisani (1656-1746)

A Hymn to the Moon

Poem by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

Thou silver deity of secret night,
Direct my footsteps through the woodland shade;
Thou conscious witness of unknown delight,
The Lover's guardian, and the Muse's aid!
By thy pale beams I solitary rove,
To thee my tender grief confide;
Serenely sweet you gild the silent grove,
My friend, my goddess, and my guide.
E'en thee, fair queen, from thy amazing height,
The charms of young Endymion drew;
Veil'd with the mantle of concealing night;
With all thy greatness and thy coldness too.

The Wisdom of the Moon

Text by Jan Richardson

Music by Susan LaBarr (b. 1981)

(God of the two lights,)
I love the sun,
Its revealing brilliance,
Its lingering warmth;
But in the dark of night,
Let me learn
The wisdom of the moon,
How it waxes and wanes
But does not die,
How it gives itself
To shadow,
Knowing it will emerge whole
Once more.

May we all learn the wisdom of the moon, and the other celestial bodies as well.
Thank you for joining Nightingale on this journey through the Mythology of the Planets!

Join us for:

"Dreams" on February 12th and 13th, 2022

"Ocean" on April 23rd and 24th, 2022.

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