

University and village choral groups plan evening of 'Songs of Love and the Moon'

4/07/15



The Alfred University (AU) Division of Performing Arts presents “Songs of Love and the Moon” at 7 p.m. Friday, April 17, in the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, 5 Church St., Alfred. The concert, open to the public free of charge, will feature the AU Chorus, the AU Chamber Singers, and the Alfred Volunteer Choir Company.

The performance is under the direction of Dr. Luanne Crosby, AU voice and chorus professor. Accompanist will be Laurel Buckwalter, University carillonneur and music specialist.

The production will provide a mix of large and combined choir voices, smaller vocal ensembles, and solos combined to offer an evening of music to welcome spring and celebrate celestial highness on the eve of the new moon.

The program will open with “The Road Home” by American composer Stephen Paulus. The evening’s presentations will also include “Laudate Dominum” by Mozart; “Three Madrigals; “If Music Be the Food of Love;” “Five Hebrew Love Songs” by Eric Whitacre; “Famine Song;” “Moon River” by Johnny Mercer; and “Fly Me to the Moon.”

The combined choirs will close the program with “Song to the Moon” by Z. Randall Stroepe.

Crosby has sung professionally with the Cleveland Opera, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the Finger Lakes. She has been a frequent guest recitalist at Chautauqua Institute, performing in “Three Sopranos” in 2010 and with tenor J.R. Fralick in 2011. She is also featured as a soloist on the CD “With Heart and Voice: Anthems Across America” with Rochester-based chamber choir Madrigalia.

She holds a bachelor of music degree and a master of music degree in music education from the State University of New York at Fredonia and a doctor of musical arts degree in vocal performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music through Case Western Reserve University.

The AU carillonneur since 1994, Buckwalter earned a bachelor of music degree from Houghton College and a master of science degree in education from AU. She is a member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America and has presented guest recitals in six states as well as in the Province of Ontario, Canada.

Among duties in the Performing Arts Division, Buckwalter provides piano instruction and services as accompanist for University ensembles and recitalists and for groups throughout the area. She also gives private piano lessons and is organist at the Union University Church, Alfred.