Warum ist das Licht gegeben, Op. 74, No.1  
Warum ist das Licht gegeben?  
Lasset uns unser Herz  
Siehe, wir preisen selig  
Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin  

Johannes Brahms

Witticisms and Lamentations from the Graveyard  
The Grave of John Brown, the Dentist  
To Eleazer Clenn, Aged 6  
Backchat from Hereford Churchyard  
From a Massachusetts Graveyard  
Anacreontic  

Phillip Rhodes

There will be rest  

Frank Ticheli

Two American Folk-song Sketches  
Oh, Dear! What can the matter be?  
Soon one mornin’  

Gail Kubik

Daniel Seigel, baritone

Sure on this Shining Night  

Morten Lauridsen
Warum ist das Licht gegeben?, Op. 74, no. 1

Why is light given to the sufferer, and life to the bitter in spirit; to those who wait for death but it does not come, who search for it more than for hidden treasure, who rejoice to exultation, and are glad to reach the grave; and to the man who has lost his way, whom God has hedged about? (Job 3: 20-23)

Let us lift up our hearts with our hands to God in heaven. (Lamentations 3:41)

Remember how we regard those who have endured as the blessed ones. You have heard of the patience of Job, and understood the Lord's purpose, realizing that the Lord is kind and compassionate. (James 5:11)

With peace and joy I now depart, as God wills it; my heart and mind are at peace, calm and still. When God calls me to his home, then will the sleep of death overcome me. (Martin Luther, 16th c.)

Witticisms and Lamentations from the Graveyard

The Grave of John Brown, the Dentist
Stranger! Approach this spot with gravity;
John Brown is filling his last cavity.

To Eleazer Clenn, Aged 6
This lonely bud, so young and fair, call'd hence by early doom,
Just came to show how sweet a flower in Paradise could bloom.

Backchat from Hereford Churchyard
~ Grieve not for me my husband dear, I am not dead but sleeping here;
with patience wait, prepare to die, and in short time you'll come to I.
~ I am not grieved, my dearest wife; sleep on I've got another wife,
Therefore I cannot come to thee, for I must go and live with she.

From a Massachusetts Graveyard
I came in the morning; it was Spring and I smiled. I walked out at noon; it was Summer and I was glad. I sat me down at even; it was Autumn and I was sad. I laid me down at night; it was Winter and I slept.

Anacreontic (Robert Herrick)
Born I was to be old, and for the die here; After that, in the mould to lie here. But before that day comes, still I be bousing For I know in the tombs there's no carousing.
Kirk Alford, tenor, is a graduate in music of Birmingham-Southern College and has had a lengthy career in a variety of professional singing roles. He is a certified Steinway piano technician and maintains his own business in that field, including the Alys Stephens Center among his clients.

Angel Baker, soprano, was associated with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for many years as an educational program specialist. The Vestavia Hills native earned her MM from the Boston Conservatory and her undergraduate degree from Birmingham-Southern College. She is a member of the choir at Shades Mountain Baptist Church. Angel and her husband James are expecting their third child in October.

Caitlin Caulk, soprano, is a recent graduate of Samford University, and has taught privately in the Birmingham area. She is active in the choir at Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Vestavia Hills. Caitlin and her husband Jeff are eagerly looking forward to the birth of their first child in October.

Ted Clark, baritone, in addition to his considerable interests in choral singing, has developed an expertise in the art of English change-ringing, and is actively involved in these activities nationwide. The Birmingham-Southern College graduate is part of the Human Resources department at UAB Medical Center and sings at Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook.

Virginia Goodall, alto, brings a depth of experience in opera and choral music through her many stage roles, oratorio and choral appearances. A former member of the Opera Carolina company, she currently sings at Canterbury United Methodist Church, Temple Emanu-El, and continues to appear in solo roles in musical theatre and opera in the area. She is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College.

Rebecca Harris, soprano, is a native of Florence. After college, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue formal training in film makeup, and worked for several years in the film industry there in that capacity. The Birmingham-Southern College alumna sings at Canterbury United Methodist Church.

David Higginbotham, tenor, is a native of Jackson, Mississippi, and received his undergraduate degree from Birmingham-Southern College and his MBA from the University of Alabama. He sings in the choir at Canterbury United Methodist Church and is Vice-President of Alabama Title Company in Birmingham.

Randy Mayo, bass, is a native of Hawaii, and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Hawaii, and a master’s in voice from Indiana University. He continues to be active in opera and oratorio, and sings at Canterbury United Methodist Church. Earning his RN in recent years, he is also on staff at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Birmingham.

Stan Nelson, tenor, has many theatre and music credits as director, actor and soloist. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Montevallo and his master’s is from the Florida State University. In addition to his work in theatre and as a member of the choirs of Canterbury United Methodist Church and Temple Emanu-El, he maintains an active career in interior design and special events planning.

Gloria Parvin, alto, a graduate of Samford University and earned her MSW at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a medical social worker at Baptist Medical Center-Princeton, and is soloist at Independent Presbyterian Church. She has also managed education programs for the Nashville Symphony and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Her musical experience includes a wide range of accomplishments, from opera to gospel music and the active world of the Nashville recording industry.

Bert Pitts, bass, is a clinical psychologist and owner of Pitts and Associates in Birmingham. His undergraduate degree is from Birmingham-Southern College and his graduate study included the Eastman School of Music and the University of Rochester in psychology. He is a longtime member of the choir of First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, and also sings at Temple Emanu-El in Birmingham.

Daniel Seigel, baritone, is a graduate of BSC and earned a MM and GPD in opera from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. Recently he has performed with Opera North, NJ Opera, Mobile Opera and Opera Birmingham, where he was a finalist in the 2008 and 2009 Vocal Competitions. He also won the National Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Young Artist Competition in 2009, a prize that led to a Carnegie Hall solo recital debut in October 2010.

Jane Seigel, alto, has pursued professional music and theatre most of her adult life, to great critical acclaim. For over ten years she served as Cantor of Temple Emanu-El in Birmingham, the first to do so professionally for that historic congregation. For several years she was cantor at Congregation Har Hashem in Boulder, Colorado. With an undergraduate degree from Birmingham-Southern College and a master’s degree in counseling from UAB, she began a second career in personal counseling for some fifteen years until her recent retirement. She sings with the Canterbury United Methodist Church choir.
Jennifer Seigel, alto, is a Birmingham native and a graduate of DePauw University, where she majored in voice performance. She received a Masters degree in Music Performance from Birmingham-Southern College, and teaches voice and piano for the BSC Conservatory of Music. She also sings with Canterbury Methodist and Opera Birmingham, and will be starting at UAB School of Medicine this Fall.

Alan Taylor, tenor, is a former member of Sursum Corda, and is now living in the Chicago area, and is working on his master’s degree in voice at Northwestern University. A graduate of Samford University, he sang for several years at Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, and is now a member of the choir at the historic St. James Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Chicago. We are grateful that he has returned to sing especially for this performance.

Ellen Thomas, soprano, is director of the Adult Resource Center at Canterbury United Methodist Church, where she also sings in the church choir. The Auburn University graduate has been involved in choral music her entire life, and for many years was in the Human Resources field.

Joy Ryder Wood, soprano, currently is President of the board of Sursum Corda, and is property manager at The Summit-Birmingham for Bayer Properties. Her undergraduate degree is from Birmingham-Southern College, and she sings with the Canterbury United Methodist Church Choir.

Lester Seigel’s work revolves around three primary areas: at Birmingham-Southern College, he is the Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music and chair of the department, conducting the College’s famed Concert Choir, Hilltop Singers, and teaching related courses. He is the longtime Organist/Choirmaster at Canterbury United Methodist Church, and since its founding in 2006, conductor of Sursum Corda. His other work is primarily as an opera conductor, including recent productions for Opera Birmingham and BSC, and as a recital accompanist and chamber music performer, including a recital with baritone Daniel Seigel at Carnegie Hall, and numerous appearances as part of the Alabama Symphony’s “Concertmaster and Friends” Series.

Sursum Corda

proudly announces the Fall 2012 performances in the Birmingham area!

September 4: Concertmaster and Friends Series
With Daniel Szasz, violin, at Brock Recital Hall, Samford University, 7:30 PM.
Including Whitacre's Five Hebrew Love Songs, Rhodes' Three Appalachian Songs, and more
www.alabamasymphony.org/concertmaster.htm Tickets: (205) 975-2787

November 9: Purcell's Dido and Aeneas
Check our website in the coming weeks for more information about this exciting performance!

December 11: Music for the Christmas Season
In the sanctuary of Canterbury United Methodist Church, 350 Overbrook Road in Mt. Brook, 7:30 PM.
Includes works by Malcolm Archer, Bruckner, Stephen Paulus and Vaughan Williams.

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