

Muses of the Night

Parallels and Crossings

From the Director's Notebook

This concert program was conceived as a sonic exhibition of musical paintings on the theme of “night”. Some pieces are miniature in size, but each is unique both in terms of its expressive and emotional state, as well as in the structure of its musical language. Their infinite scale of musical colors will reflect on the eternal beauty of the night.

This program gives listeners a chance to disconnect from the digital world that we are constantly plugged into because of our electronic devices, turning instead to the world within ourselves. We invite our audiences on a journey through realms of imagination, the wellspring for humankind's finest expressions of beauty – the arts. As the artist Svetoslav Roerich said, when we turn the TV on, we turn ourselves off.

We hope our program will lift audiences to spheres of thought beyond the reach of the smartest phone, to spend an evening tuning in to ideas and images arising from within rather than from a screen. This concert features music inspired by a time that has always fascinated poets, writers, artists, and composers. The night is represented in the program with three themes: “evening prayer,” “nocturnal landscape,” and “nighttime mystery” – just a sampling of the infinite variety of nocturnal imagery in art.

Throughout the RCCNY's history, we have enjoyed the support of many friends – listeners and choir members alike - who have shared in our creative journey. We especially cherish the memories of those who have departed. Tonight, we dedicate Sergei Taneyev's powerful “Stars” to our friends who have passed. They include supporters, members of the Board, some of the choir's earliest and founding members and singers, composers whose music we have performed, and friends whose words of gratitude have helped us. Among them are those who have recently passed: Daniel Entin, Vladimir Galitzine, Pauline Jonas, Evgeny Kalinin, Yuri Shibanov, Veljo Tormis, Alya Tregubov and Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

Nikolai Kachanov