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AT  CTK

July 12, 2020

CONTINUING OUR MISSION DURING
CHANGING TIMES: MUSIC DURING
QUARANTINE



***SPECIAL
MUSIC
OFFERING***

featuring CtK Choir,
Instrumentalists, and Friends

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**Scroll down to first video play button on white screen.*

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

~Micah 6:8

A Prayer for Unity.

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace to take to heart the grave dangers we are in through our many divisions. Deliver your Church from all enmity and prejudice, and everything that hinders us from godly union. As there is one Body and

one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so make us all to be of one heart and of one mind, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and love, that with one voice we may give you praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in everlasting glory. Amen.
~from *The Book of Common Prayer*



Check out my blog
HERE!

FEATURED ARTISTS: Danielle Talamantes & Kerry Wilkerson



During this season of being physically distanced, our rector, David, has encouraged CtK's areas of ministry to consider creative ways to serve one another, stay vital, and facilitate offerings that would not be possible during "normal" circumstances. While a traditional choir experience isn't currently a viable option, CtK choristers were invited to take private voice lessons. Our vocalist friends, Kerry Wilkerson and Danielle Talamantes, graciously stepped into a virtual partnership with the CtK Choir, and we are all the better for it! Below is a transcript of a brief interview.

Ann: *This season has been tough in many regards, but I am grateful that our conversations led to this opportunity for private voice lessons and your helpful and informative vocal health coaching webinar for our very faithful choir members. Not many of us would have had time under normal circumstances! I find it nearly impossible to condense and summarize your impressive careers for our readers. You are both consummate performers, with scores of performances throughout the country and the world. You both teach students ranging from successful opera singers, to college/grad school voice majors, to youth. Perhaps to some, most impressive of all is that you gracefully manage being business partners while married! Let's start with you, Kerry, as you were my initial point of contact. As an Army Band daughter and wife, I've been aware of your excellence as singer and director of The United States Army Chorus for many years. What have been the most meaningful and rewarding experiences for you, in the past, or ongoing?*

Kerry: I suppose looking at this question from a broader perspective, I find my entire career as a musician meaningful and rewarding. As a singer, I have been in situations throughout my career which have given me the opportunity to entertain, uplift, inspire, and comfort people in a variety of settings; some large venues, others very small, intimate and personal. Each situation has brought its own meaning. Sure, there are those unforgettable moments... singing for the Queen of England at the White House, the funerals of President Ford and Reagan, appearing on the front page of the Washington Post twice and center fold in US News & World Report (truly Forrest Gump moments!)... but I've also found immense joy in helping a 13 year old boy figure out how to match pitch as his voice is changing!! When I reflect over the last 35 years, I feel profoundly grateful for the career I am privileged to enjoy.

Ann: *Danielle, I feel like I've known you for years, but while I certainly know you by reputation, we've only been in touch for a few months now. Your career also includes highlights like singing for the Metropolitan Opera in NYC; winning and placing in international competitions; and your most recent CD, Canciones españoles, as well. Same question: what have been the most meaningful and rewarding experiences for you, past or ongoing?*

Danielle: Well, certainly any successful musician can attest to the patchwork quilt texture of all that we do. This may hard to believe but, like Kerry, I have found bowing on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera equally as rewarding and fulfilling as working with scores of singers and helping them achieve their goals, build their confidence, and gain trust in the instrument gifted to them by God. In addition to the Spanish album you mentioned, I also recorded a crossover album, *Heaven and Earth - A Duke Ellington Songbook*. Both of these were with pianist and composer, Henry Dehlinger (one of our dearest friends). One of the most privileged and gratifying things I've done to date is record an entire album of Henry's music, along with Kerry, which was written especially for our two voices. It's called *At that Hour* and is due out on the Avie Record label in the fall! Like Kerry, I also had a Forrest Gump newspaper moment when I landed on the front page alongside Barack Obama after winning a competition in Peru which happened to coincide with his first election win.

Ann: *Neither of you are strangers to the church or sacred music. I recently learned that you, Kerry, were interim Choir Director at The Falls Church when our rector, David Glade, was a pastoral fellow there! You continued a long legacy by serving the music ministry at your home church, Vienna Presbyterian, as well. It was a great source of comfort to our choristers to be assured of your experience, commitment, and heart for church music. Tell us a bit more--how does this experience dovetail with and/or differ from your other engagements?*

Danielle: My mother is an organist and some of my earliest childhood memories involve standing on my tippy toes waiting ever so patiently for her head to nod so I could turn pages during her postlude. She was, in fact, organist at Vienna Presbyterian Church for some time and my formative years were spent in every choir that would allow me to sing; at church, school, or the larger community. While I was still an undergrad at VA Tech, I accepted my first church job and sang with a variety of churches for the next twenty years. That, combined with my graduate studies at Westminster Choir College, facilitated an accumulation of an overwhelmingly

wonderful wealth of the choral canon; in particular, the sacred. While I'm no longer actively employed by VPC, they are my forever church family and I'm so grateful to have been embraced, supported, and loved by that community through my entire life. Truly, some of the most inspiring and lasting memories on the stage have involved performing sacred music; whether as a soloist in huge symphonic works like the numerous settings of the Requiem Mass or a stand alone arrangement like *Ride On, King Jesus* from John Carter's "Toccata," there is no shortage of inspiration from the Holy Spirit to communicate the message of God's word through music.

Kerry: My father has been an ordained pastor in the PCUSA for nearly 60 years. Currently, at the age of 82, he is pastor to a very small congregation in Monroe, NC, and continues to lead worship services via Facebook Live during this pandemic. His life and ministry have been my greatest source of inspiration. Having said that, I never felt the call to ordained ministry. I felt a distinct call to music as a ministry. I was offered my first job as a church musician while attending the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and continued to serve churches in increasing capacities of responsibility throughout my career as a military chorister until landing at Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC) in 2001 as their Assistant Director of Music Ministries; a position I held for 14 years. While I felt the need to resign in 2015 for a variety of reasons, VPC remains a great source of spiritual strength and stability. After 30 years of working in churches (not to mention having grown up as the son of a minister), I realized that one of my deepest desires is to sing the word of God, which I get to do nearly every day! But I especially enjoy the large scale concert works (think Mendelssohn's *Elijah* or Handel's *Messiah*) and the opportunity to sing biblical texts for those who may have never heard them. My performance career now revolves almost exclusively around concert works with sacred texts. Did I plan that? No. I think that's where God has led me and I am way ok with it.

Ann: *You both joined us to sing on an all-volunteer, virtual musical offering of The Prayer of St. Francis. Not that it is to be unexpected on this earth, but these last few months especially have been a time of considerable unrest and heartbreak. I believe that music provides a voice for the ineffable; and prayerful music in particular provides an invitation to God's Spirit to speak gently to us, convicting, encouraging, healing. Thank you for so generously giving your talents.*

Resources During COVID-19

During this extraordinary time of isolation and virtual worship, we offer these resources for your devotion, meditation, and encouragement.

SPECIAL MUSIC: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE JOURNEY: Music of comfort and encouragement from the archives of Christ the King.

SING FOR JOY!: Music selections that support every Sunday of the liturgical calendar with pastoral commentary.

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