International Voices Houston
2024/2025 Season

Candle in the Window

Songs for Peace

funded in part by the
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through Houston Arts Alliance

Mark Vogel
Artistic Director

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3400 Main Street/Midtown
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Saturday, December 14 at 7pm
Sunday, December 15 at 3pm

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Sing with us!

Auditions to be held January 2025

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Contact development@voiceshouston.org for more information

INTERNATIONAL VOICES HOUSTON

International Voices Houston is a multicultural choir in Houston, Texas, that inspires, educates, and brings joy to its audiences through world music. We perform international choral works in their unique styles and languages. We celebrate our cultural diversity as part of the greater Houston community through our collaborative environment of camaraderie, learning, and growth.

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The tradition of placing a candle in the window goes back centuries, transcending several cultures and religions. In colonial America, it was a sign to strangers that food and shelter were available to those in need. In some Christian traditions, a candle placed in the window is a way to symbolically welcome Joseph and Mary. During the 1700s in Ireland, a candle signaled to banished Catholic priests that it was safe to slip into their home to say Mass. In the Jewish tradition, placing the candles of the Hanukkiyah in the window is a way to share the miracle of Hanukkah with the larger community. Using this beautiful symbol of welcoming and hope, we begin our program of songs for peace with "The Candle Is a Symbol."

The French Christmas carol, "Un flambeau, Jeanette, Isabelle" is a song about two milkmaids who bring torches lighting the way to visit the infant Jesus. Also set in the Nativity scene, "Xicochi Conetzintle" is sung in the Nahuatl language of central Mexico, singing of the angels who have come to rock the baby to sleep. Continuing our candle theme, "Juego a que me quemo" is a Colombian folk song, portraying a humorous dancing game involving a 'candela.' Sung in Portuguese, "A Nossa Lapinha," is based on a traditional song performed in Brazil in early January on Epiphany, when the nativity scene is ceremonially burned with reverence and nostalgia. Sung in Ladino, a language with influences from both Hebrew and Spanish, "Ocho Kandelikas" is a joyous celebration of the eight little candles of Hanukkah.

We conclude the first half of our program with three songs for peace: "A Bridge of Peace" is a powerful choral composition by Gwyneth Walker, using the poetry of the Israeli poet, Ada Aharoni. The lyrics use the metaphor of tree branches (Jaffa Orange in Israel, Olive on Arab lands) reaching out across the sky to create a 'bridge of peace.' We continue with the heartfelt "Iraqi Peace Song," sung in Arabic. This touching lullaby offers a wish for a peaceful future for our children. "Amani," the Swahili word for peace, reverberates throughout "Kuimba Nafsi Yangu" as the lyrics ask us to "Sing for peace, sing for joy."

Our program continues with a tryptic of folk songs from around the world: "Jumalo" from Latvia, "Divane Aşık Gibi" from Turkey, and "Feng Yang Ge" from China. Composed in 1866, "He Mele Lahui Hawai'i" was composed by Queen Lili'uokalani to become the new national anthem of Hawai'i. Its lyrics conclude with a call for "peace to be granted throughout the land." Using Latin text by Hildegard von Bingen, "Caritas," by Elaine Hagenberg, sings of an abundant love that dwells in each of us, building to a gorgeous high point on the word, "pacis" (peace). Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen offers a new Christmas carol, using candles to symbolize joy, hope and courage. And we conclude our program with "Song of Peace," a joyous new arrangement of Jean Sibelius' famous "Finlandia" anthem, this time incorporating Zulu words to exuberantly proclaim our message of peace.

Mark Vogel,
Artistic Director

International Voices Houston
Candle in the Window

Mark Vogel, Artistic Director
Paul Butt, Accompanist

Ingrid Gerling, *violin*; Sasha Loukachine, *percussion*; Sean Walker, *percussion*; Daniel Saenz, *cello*
also featuring: Andy Black, *guitar/bass*; Charlie Burrus, *guitar*; Karen Chew, *guitar*

The Candle Is a Symbol — Andy Beck

Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle — Trad. French carol; arr. John Rutter
featuring: Kat Hastings, Brittany Henry, Yue Jiang, Lesley Kellet, Carolyn Leap, Diana Reyes, Lindsay Reilly, Debra Sodimu

Xicochi Conetzintle — Gaspar Fernandes

Juego a que me quemo (Chispa candela) — Trad. Colombian; arr. Julián Gómez Giraldo

A Nossa Lapinha — Folclore Brasileiro; arr. Daniel Afonso, Jr.

Ocho Kandelikas — Flory Jagoda; arr. Joshua Jacobson
Tina Boroughs, soloist

A Bridge of Peace — Gwyneth Walker; text by Ada Aharoni

Iraqi Peace Song — Trad. Iraqi song; arr. Lori Tennenhouse
Doreen Lee, soloist

Kuimba Nafsi Yangu — Jacob Narverud

INTERMISSION

Jumalo — Latvian folk song; arr. Laura Jēkabsone

Divane Aşık Gibi — Turkish folk song, Black Sea region; arr. Walter Strauss

Feng Yang Ge — Chinese folk song; arr. Ruth Morris Gray

He Mele Lahui Hawai'i — Queen Lili'uokalani
featuring: Chinnu Alli, Kat Hastings, Yue Jiang, Victoria Stoddard

Caritas — Elaine Hagenberg

I Will Light Candles This Christmas — Kim André Arnesen; text by Howard Thurman

Song of Peace — Jean Sibelius; arr. Gary Fry

The Candle is a Symbol
Sung in English

There's a place in the window for a candle burning bright,
And that candle in the window is a symbol of peace tonight.

Of peace, sweet peace,
The candle is a symbol of peace.
Of peace, sweet peace,
That candle in the window shines for peace.

There's a place at the table for a candle burning clear,
And that candle at the table is a symbol that hope is here.

Of hope, true hope,
The candle is a symbol of hope.
Of hope, true hope,
That candle at the table shines for hope.

The candle is a symbol, but only a start
To sharing the light from your heart.
Of love, pure love, the candle is a symbol of love.
And joy, great joy,
That candle in the window shines for love, and peace, and hope, and joy.

Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle
Sung in French

Un flambeau, Jeanette, Isabelle!
Un flambeau, courons au berceau!
C'est Jésus, bonnes gens du hameau,
Le Christ est né, Marie appelle,
Ah! ah! ah! que la mère est belle,
Ah! ah! que l'Enfant est beau!

C'est un tort quand l'Enfant sommeille,
C'est un tort de crier si fort.
Taisez-vous, l'un et l'autre, d'abord!
Au moindre bruit, Jésus s'éveille.
Chut! chut! chut! il dort à merveille,
Chut! chut! chut! voyez comme il dort!

Doucement, dans l'étable close,
Doucement, venez un moment!
Approchez, que Jésus est charmant!
Comme il est blanc, comme il est rose!
Do! do! do! que l'Enfant répose!
Do! do! do! qu'll rit en dormant!

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village,
Christ in born and Mary's calling,
Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother!
Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son!

It is wrong when the Child is sleeping,
It is wrong to talk so loud.
Silence, all, as you gather around,
Lest your noise should waken Jesus:
Hush! Hush! see how fast he slumbers;
Hush! Hush! see how fast he sleeps!

Softly to the little stable,
Softly for a moment come!
Look and see how charming is Jesus,
How he is white, His cheeks are rosy!
Hush! hush! See how the Child is sleeping;
Hush! hush! see how he smiles in dreams!

Xicochi Conetzintle
Sung in Nahuatl

Xicochi, xicochi, xicochi conetzintle	*Sleep, sleep, sleep, precious baby*
Caomiz huihui joco in angelos me	*Indeed, the angels have come here*
Aleloya, aleloya	*to rock you to sleep*
	Alleluia, alleluia

Juego a que me quemo (Chispa candela)
Sung in Spanish

Chispa candela juego a que me quemo,	*A spark, a flame, let's see if I get burned.*
Chispa candela que me estoy quemando.	*A spark, a flame, I am burned already.*
Las mujeres en un baile	*Women, when they are dancing*
cuando se apagan las velas,	*And the candles go out,*
La que no pellizca muerde y	*She who doesn't pinch, bites you,*
la que menos corre vuela.	*She who barely runs, flies.*
¡Ay! ¡Ay! ¡Ay! ¡Ay! me quemé.	*Ay, Ay, Ay, I got burned!*
¡Ay! ¡Ay! ¡Ay! abuelita me quemé.	*Ay, Ay, Ay, Grandma, I got burned!*
Me dicen que soy el diablo,	*People call me a devil,*
yo no soy el diablo, no.	*But I am no such thing.*
Yo me confesé en Remedios y	*I took confession down in Remedios,*
oí misa en Yolombó.	*And I heard Mass in Yolombó.*
¡Ay! ¡Ay! ¡Ay! ¡Ay! me quemé.	*Ay, Ay, Ay, I got burned!*
¡Ay! ¡Ay! ¡Ay! abuelita me quemé.	*Ay, Ay, Ay, Grandma, I got burned!*
Y este juego se acabó,	*But this game is over,*
La chispita se apagó.	*And now the little sparkle is out.*
¡Ay! se apagó.	

A Nossa Lapinha
Sung in Portuguese

A nossa lapinha já vai se queimar.	*Our little lapa is about to be burned.*
E nós pastorinhas devemos chorar.	*And we, the little shepherdesses, should cry.*
Que dor eu sinto em meu coração	*I feel such pain in my heart*
De ver a lapinha virada em carvão.	*For seeing the little lapa turned into coal.*
A nossa lapinha já vai se queimar.	*Our little lapa is about to be burned.*
Em fogo, em brasa, já vai se acabar.	*In fire and flames it will soon end.*

Ocho Kandelikas
Sung in Ladino

Hanuka linda 'sta aki, ocho kandelas para mi.	*Beautiful Chanukah is here* *Eight candles for me.*
Una kandelika, dos kandelikas, tres kandelikas, kuatro kandelikas, sintju kandelikas, seysh kandelikas, siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi.	*One candle, two candles,* *Three candles, four candles,* *Five candles, six candles,* *Seven candles,* *Eight candles for me.*
Los pastelikos vo kumer, con almendrikas i la miel.	*I will eat the little pies* *With almonds and honey.*
Muchas fiestas vo fazer, con alegrias i plazer.	*I will give many parties* *With happiness and pleasure.*

A Bridge of Peace
Sung in English

O my Palestinian sister, daughter of Abraham,
Let us build a sturdy bridge
From my orange world to yours,
A bridge of peace
And hold human hands high
Full of free stars of twinkling peace.
And none shall make them afraid.

O my Palestinian brother, son of Abraham,
Let us build a sturdy bridge
From your olive world to mine,
A bridge of peace
Above the boiling pain of acid rain
And hold human hands high
Full of free stars of twinkling peace.
And none shall make them afraid.

I do not want to be your oppressor,
You do not want to be my oppressor,
Or your jailer, or my jailer,
We do not want to make each other afraid
Under our vines and under our fig trees
Blossoming on a silver horizon
Above the bruising and the bleeding
Of poisoning gases and scuds.

And so, my Arab sister (my brother),
Let us build a strong bridge
Of jasmine understanding.
Where each shall sit with her baby,
And each shall sit with his child,
Under her vine and under his fig tree -
And none shall make them afraid.

Iraqi Peace Song
Sung in Arabic

Salaa-man lee 'ah'-ee-na-ee-ka
Yaaa Maw-'teh'-nan
Ha-bee-ban, Ya-fee-'dhu',
Na-dan wa-'kh'-'dhe'-ra-ar
Wa Kaee-fa A'gh'a-nee-ka
Kaee-fa al-na-'kh'ee-lu
Kaee-fa al-sha-na-shee-lu
Kaee-fa al-'seh'-'gh'aar

Peace to your dreams,
Peace to your children.
Underneath the whispering trees,
Where your sons and daughters are free
In the beauty
We will see through your eyes of peace.

Peace to my heart.
Peace to my homeland.
Peace to the world.
Peace to my country, my love.

Kuimba Nafsi Yangu
Sung in Swahili

Kuimba nafsi yangu,	*Sing my soul,*
Kuimba moyo wangu.	*Sing my heart.*
Kuimba kwa amani,	*Sing for peace,*
Kuimba kwa furaha.	*Sing for joy.*
Sana upendo, sana mpenzi wangu.	*There is so much love here, yes!*
Na wewe. Ey na wewe. Ndiyo.	

Jumalo
Sung in Latvian

Zirgs pie zirga, rats pie rata jumalo, jumalo	*Horse to horse, wheel to wheel jumalo, jumalo*
Viss uz Rīgu aizripoja jumalo, jumalo	*It all rolled to Riga jumalo, jumalo*
Tie atvede Kurzemē jumalo, jumalo	*They brought to Kurzeme jumalo, jumalo*
Visus Rīgas dārgumiņus, jumalo, jumalo	*All of Riga's treasures jumalo, jumalo*
Kur tu ņēmi tēva dēls	*Where did you get it, father's son?*
jumalo, jumalo	*Jumalo, juamlo*
Tik raženu kumeliņu jumalo, jumalo	*A colt this big jumalo, jumalo*
Rīgā pirku naudu devu	*In Riga I bought and gave money*
jumalo, jumalo	*jumalo, jumalo*
Ar tiem zeltz iemauktiem jumalo, jumalo	*For those golden bridles jumalo, jumalo*
Pavadiņas galiņā rīta zvaigzne ritināj	*At the end of the leash, the morning star rolled*

Divane Aşık Gibi
Sung in Turkish

Divane aşık gibi de dolanırım yollarda	*Like a lunatic lover,*
Kız senun sebebune	*I'm roaming around the streets*
Kaldum İstanbullarda	*Because of you girl, because of you dear*
	I stayed in Istanbul.
Buban beni bubamdan da	*Let your father ask me from my father just once*
Bir kerecuk istesun	*Let him say, "By God's command,*
Allah'ın emri ilan	*She will be my daughter-in-law."*
Gelunum olsun desun	
Sar belune belune de Tarabulus kuşağu	*Wrap up Tarabulus (Tripoli) belt*
E kız sen de demi sun	*around your waist*
alsam ha bu u şağu	*Girl would you say*
	If only I had taken (married) this boy.
Al şalum yeşil şalum da dün	*My red scarf, my green scarf,*
ya yı do laşalum	*let's wander the world*
Sen yağmur ol ben bulut	*You'll be the rain, I'll be the clouds*
Maçka'da buluşalım	*Let's meet at Maçka.*

Feng Yang Ge
Sung in Chinese

Zuo sho luo, you sho gu,	*Left hand gong, right hand drum,*
Shou na zhe luo gu, lai chang ge.	*hold a gong and drum*
	Come sing!
Bie de ge er wo ye bu hui chang.	*I can't sing other songs.*
Dan hui chang ge Feng Yang ge.	*I can only sing a Fengyang song*
Feng, Feng, ge, yi yo ya.	*Come, sing a Fengyang Song*
Drr lang dang piao e piao.	*Get a bell, let it ring*
Drr piao, drr piao, piao you	*Get a bell, let it ring*
Drr lang dang piao e piao.	*Ring out, ring out*
	Ring out a little more
	Ring, ring, ring, and ring

He Mele Lāhui Hawai'i
Sung in Hawai'ian

Ka Makua mana loa	*Almighty Father bend thine ear*
Maliu mai iā mākou	*And listen to a nation's prayer*
E hāliu aku nei	*That lowly bows before thy throne*
Me ka na'au ha'aha'a	*And seeks thy fostering care*
E mau ka maluhia	*Grant your peace throughout the land*
O nei pae 'āina	*Over these sunny sea girt isles*
Mai Hawai'i a Ni'ihau	*Keep the nation's life, oh Lord,*
Ma lalo o kou malu	*And on our sovereign smile*
E mau ke ea o ka 'āina	*Grant your peace throughout the land*
Ma kou pono mau	*Over these sunny isles*
A ma kou mana nui	*Keep the nations life, oh Lord*
E ola e ola ka mō'ī	*And upon our sovereign smile*
E ka haku mālama mai	*Guard him with your tender care*
I ko mākou nei mō'ī	*Give him length of years to reign*
E mau kona noho 'ana	*On the throne his fathers won*
Maluna o ka noho ali'i	*Bless the nation once again*
Hā'awi mai i ke aloha	*Give the king your loving grace*
Maloko a kona na'au	*And with wisdom from on high*
A ma kou ahonui	*Prosperous lead his people on*
E ola e ola ka mō'ī	*As beneath your watchful eye*
Ho'oho e mau ke	*Grant your peace throughout the land*
Ma lalo o kou aloha nui	*Bless O Lord our country's chiefs*
Na Li'i o ke Aupuni	*Grant them wisdom so to live*
Me nā maka'āinana	*That our people may be saved*
Ka lehulehu nō a pau	*And to You the glory give*
Kia'i mai iā lākou	*Watch over us day by day*
Me ke aloha ahonui	*King and people with your love*
E ola nō mākou	*For our hope is all in You*
I kou mana mau	*Bless us, You who reign above*
E mau ke ea	*Grant your peace throughout the land*

Caritas
Sung in Latin

Caritas abundat in omnia,	*Love abounds in all,*
De imis excellentissima	*From the depths most excellent*
Super sidera,	*To beyond the stars,*
Atque amantissima in omnia,	*And loving toward all,*
Quia summo regi	*She has given the highest king*
Osculum pacis dedit.	*The kiss of peace.*

I Will Light Candles This Christmas
Sung in English

I will light Candles this Christmas; candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch, candles of courage for fears ever present,

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days, candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living, candles that will burn all year long.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Song of Peace
Sung in English and Zulu

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine;
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine.

But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
O, hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

Ngine culo livela kuwe Baba,
Lokuthula emhlabeni wonke.
Emazweni lapho sihlala khona,
Yiza Baba uhlale nathi.

Nanti culo, iculo lokuthula,
Lokuthula kwezizwe zonke.
O, hear our song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for all!

INTERNATIONAL VOICES HOUSTON LEADERSHIP

ARTISTIC STAFF

Artistic Director	Mark Vogel
Accompanist	Paul Butt

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Choir Manager	Lindsay Reilly

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FINANCE

Finance and Bookkeeper	Andrew McDiarmid

MUSICAL LEADERSHIP

Mark Vogel, Artistic Director

Since arriving in Houston in 2014, Mark Vogel has established himself in this city's vibrant musical culture as a performer, conductor, and educator. In addition to his position as Artistic Director of International Voices Houston, he is also Professor of Music at Lone Star College-North Harris, and Music Director at Congregation Beth Israel. Other positions have included Choir Director at Lone Star College-University Park, Music Director at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, Interim Artistic Director of the Woodlands Chorale, and music instructor at the Kinkaid School and St. Pius X High School. He is also known for his creative piano performance-lectures, given at such venues as San Jacinto College and the UT Health and Science Center.

His extensive musical training includes a Master's degree in piano performance from Manhattan School of Music studying with Ruth Laredo, and a Bachelor's degree in piano performance from the University of Iowa studying with Rene Lecuona.

Mark moved to Houston from Washington, D.C., where for nine years he was an active music director and pianist, performing at such venues as the Kennedy Center, Strathmore Concert Hall, National Cathedral, Wolf Trap Performing Arts Center, and the Library of Congress. He has performed with ensembles including Washington Master Chorale, the Fairfax Chamber Ensemble, Washington Men's Camerata, Aurora Opera, the Washington Ballet Orchestra, the Army Chorus, Woodley Ensemble, Vienna Choral Society, and more.

Paul Butt, Accompanist

Paul was born in Alaska, grew up in Oregon, and now lives in Houston. He began studying music seriously when he was awarded lessons from the American Guild of Organists in High School.

Paul attended Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and graduated with a degree in piano performance. He moved to Houston to attend Rice University and graduated with a Master's degree in organ performance.

Paul has played for choirs on tour in Ireland, France, Austria, and most enjoyed playing for choral events at St. Patrick's, Dublin, and Notre Dame and La Madeleine, Paris. He has been a musician for Lutheran, Methodist, Christian Science, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, and Episcopal churches.

Paul is presently organist at First Methodist Houston. He has been accompanying International Voices Houston since 2007.

International Voices Houston

presents

arte puro

Mezzo-soprano Cecilia Duarte and percussionist Jesús Pacheco, in collaboration with International Voices Houston musicians, present a recital celebrating Hispanic culture and music.

Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 7pm at MATCH


International
VoicesHouston
2024/2025 Season
¡Viva la Musica!
Coming to MATCH
May 3 & 4, 2025
Tickets available soon!