



GOLDEN  
GATE  
SYMPHONY  
Orchestra & Chorus

*CARMINA BURANA AND CABARET*  
URS LEONHARDT STEINER  
MUSIC DIRECTOR / CONDUCTOR  
SPRING 2019

# PROGRAM

## **Matthew Arnerich / Diane Frank**

Tree of Life Variations\*

*Soloists: Loretta Taylor —Violin & Erik levins —Cello*

## **Armando Gonzalez Siles**

Madrecita Querida\*

## **Allison Lovejoy / Geoff Ball**

The 7 Deadly Pleasures Suite\*\*

*Orchestration & Arrangements by Greg Stephens*

*Soloists: Zoltan DiBartolo, Ariela Morgenstern, Steffanos X,  
Ben Flax, Robin Coomer, Mete Tasin, Alexis Lane Jensen*

Jazz Combo:

*Allison Lovejoy — Piano*

*Greg Stephens — Trombone*

*Galen Green — Saxophone*

*Randy O'Dell — Drums*

*Bil Hager — Bass*

***Intermission***

*\*May 12 performance*

*\*\*May 18 performance*

MATTHEW ARNERICH / DIANE FRANK

## THE TREE OF LIFE VARIATIONS

Last November, Diane Frank attended a performance of my Sonata for Cello and Piano. After the concert she introduced herself, and I was touched that my piece resonated so deeply with her. A few days later she asked if I'd be interested in composing a piece to accompany a poem she wrote in memory of the victims of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, especially her friend, Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz. I said I'd be honored and had already wanted to compose a piece in memory of the victims. We discussed ideas and afterward I got to work. It was composed between November 2018 and March 2019.

The Tree of Life Variations is inspired by *Tree of Life*, a poem by Diane Frank. She wrote the poem as a prayer for her friend, Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, to grieve the tragedy in Pittsburgh and to honor his memory. The piece begins with the poem, followed by the main theme played by the clarinet. Each variation evokes aspects of the poem and has titles reflecting that. Scales, rhythms and techniques found in klezmer music are incorporated throughout the piece. Variation six, "shattering souls," evokes the horror of the tragedy. A chaos of sound swirls in the strings, and eleven solitary forte chords, one for each of the lives taken, are spaced through out the variation. It ends with the sound of sirens in the horn and clarinet. The variations that follow seek to heal the wounds of the tragedy through faith (mourner's Kaddish) played on the cello, nature (the forest) and community (dancing, art). Death and hate do not have the final word. *Tree of Life* ends with joyous music that "shines a light in the dark world."

—Matthew Arnerich

**Matthew Arnerich** is a composer and pianist from Santa Rosa, California. "When composing, my aim is to write music that inspires. To light a fire in the soul of performers and listeners." He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Music and Composition with a Minor in German from Sonoma State University. He's written music for piano, chamber ensembles, orchestra and recently completed a work commissioned by the Navarro trio.

**Diane Frank** is an award winning poet, novelist, and cellist in the Golden Gate Symphony. Her new book of poems, *Canon for Bears and Ponderosa Pines* (Glass Lyre Press, 2018), is full of poems about music, dance and art. *Blackberries in the Dream House*, her first novel, won the Chelson Award for Fiction and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Diane teaches at SF State University and Dominican University. She lives in San Francisco, where she dances, plays cello, and creates her life as an art form.

## Tree of Life

Kaddish for Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz

*It's a form of praying,  
to hold the darkness inside yourself  
and embrace it  
the way you would hold water  
in a flowing river.*

*To wake up  
with tears flowing from a dream  
your face a field  
of milkweed  
as the pods scatter  
in a wind of prayer  
embracing the growing cold.*

*I remember where he sat  
by the window  
at the bottom of the flood plain  
where the rivers emptied  
into the streets that afternoon.  
Fire trucks creating a wake  
as they moved through the water.*

*And when the bullets came  
he ran towards the shattering souls,  
following his instincts  
always to help,  
to heal the wounded  
and the dying.*

*His friends  
hold each other  
reaching out through time  
and a dark river –  
holding seeds planted long ago  
by the Tree of Life,  
say Kaddish in front of an open  
Ark of the Covenant.*

*He would want you to find your light  
and embrace it again,  
to walk back into the forest  
we call the world.*

*Hold his memory  
the way you would hold his face.  
Let his voice ripple  
through time.  
Where the trunk of a redwood tree  
thick with the rings of centuries  
was burned by lightning,  
shine your light  
into the dark world.*

—Diane Frank