

Paul Stelben

July 14, 2022 at 6:00pm

1. New beginnings

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938)
and J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)

It's Love

Jill Scott (b. 1972)

Over and Over

Beach House

Remember Me

Kristen Anderson Lopez (b. 1972)
and Robert Lopez (b. 1975)

2. Finding community

Ivy

Frank Ocean (b. 1987)

Como La Flor

Selena (1971-1995)

Un Día

J Balvin (b. 1985), Dua Lipa (b. 1995)
Bad Bunny (b. 1994), and Tainy (b. 1989)

3. Fighting for justice

Mississippi Goddam

Nina Simone (1933-2003)

I Like That

Janelle Monáe (b. 1985)

4. Searching for inner peace

Die For You

The Weeknd (b. 1990)

Sonatine

Stefano Colletti (b. 1973)

5. Here we are

Theme from "Jupiter"
from *The Planets*
incorporating the hymn tune *St. Columba*

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
Traditional

Notes

The selections under “New beginnings” all reflect personal growth. For example, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, which J.W. and J.R. Johnson wrote in response to the severe discrimination black communities faced in the United States in the late 1800s, was my first of many arrangements representing communities that are less commonly represented on the carillon.

“Finding community” refers to the different groups of people I’ve connected with since moving to Philadelphia. For instance, I associate *Ivy* with my ArtistYear colleagues, while I associate *Como La Flor* with my students and colleagues at Olney Charter High School.

“Fighting for justice” features two arrangements that call for social change in different ways. In *Mississippi Goddam*, Nina Simone expresses her anger and frustration about the continued violence and lack of substantial change during the Civil Rights Movement. On the other hand, in *I Like That*, Janelle Monáe takes pride in her sexuality, refusing conformity. I feature them here to continue spreading their voices.

The selections under “Searching for inner peace” are simply some of my absolute favorites to play. I hope you’ll enjoy them too.

It is so tempting to dwell on the past or long for the future, but it is so challenging to truly live in the moment. “Here we are” is a celebration of this present moment we share together as a community, listening to music and connecting.

I’ve outlined what this program means to me, but I encourage you to find your own meaning as you listen.

Bio

Paul Stelben is a music teacher, freelance carillonist, and computer programmer based in Philadelphia, PA. He is a member of the carillon studio at First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG). Paul grew up in Connecticut studying piano and bassoon, and at Yale, he studied carillon with Ellen Dickinson. This past year, he worked as an ArtistYear Fellow at Olney Charter High School, and he is excited to continue working in Philadelphia as a teaching artist. On the side, Paul develops software for non-targeted analysis of contaminants (such as PFAS) for the Pollitt Lab at the Yale School of Public Health. He also enjoys jamming with friends, playing Frisbee, and exploring the world on foot.

