

Emergent Universe Oratorio

The ***Emergent Universe Oratorio (EUO)*** will be performed in Cleveland, Ohio on June 30, 2017 in collaboration with the **Deep Time Journey Network**, and the **World Union of Jesuit Alumni (WUJA)** on the historic occasion of their first ever international World Congress in North America. The concert is also as a high profile public event for the Greater Cleveland community. In addition, a definitive professional recording of the Oratorio will be made, to “stand as a legacy, as the composition enters the choral-orchestral repertoire and continues to be performed across the nation.”

Both the performance and recording will take place in the **Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center at the Temple – Tifereth Israel**, Case Western Reserve University. The Maltz Performing Arts Center is a beautiful, state-of-the-art concert hall with superb audio and video recording capability. The concert will be live streamed.

To reach this highest standard of performance, Cleveland’s **BlueWater Chamber Orchestra** has been engaged for the performance in collaboration with the **Cleveland Chamber Choir**. They will perform under the baton of Scott MacPherson.

In the ***Emergent Universe Oratorio*** the music and libretto embody and reflect a new collective human consciousness that recognizes human beings are integral to the birth and entire developmental process of the Universe. Just as the ‘noosphere’ emerged from the biosphere, this transformed consciousness emerges from the entire 13.8 billion years of the Universe Story, and is utterly dependent upon it. In the words of Gus Speth, “the story of the universe has the potential to change our civilization.” To change the story, the frame of reference, is to change the way we see, experience, and know — and to ultimately transform our relationship with, and response to every level and being in the complex and creative web of life.

This cosmic celebration for a flourishing future of Earth was written by Vermont composer and ATA Board member, Sam Guarnaccia. The Oratorio tells the Great Story of the Universe from the Big Bang to the emergence of Earth’s global consciousness, in a series of alternating intensively scored recitatives with major lyrical choral sections. It is chiefly inspired by the axial work of Teilhard de Chardin and historian, author, and ‘geologist’ Thomas Berry. The work was directly inspired by ATA co-Vice Presidents, Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker’s film ***Journey of the Universe***, and draws from the poetic works of Rainer Maria Rilke, Gerard Manley Hopkins, William Blake, Wendell Berry, and John Elder.

A particularly powerful aspect of the ***EUO*** Project for the WUJA 2017 World Congress is its potential impact on this global organization which is a world leader in educational, scientific,

and religious influence. As a prominent Jesuit, Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si**, has dramatically energized the emergence of the field of 'religious and spiritual ecology' as an integral part of the worldwide expansion of ecological dialogue --- "In order to address ecological problems properly, religious and spiritual leaders, laypersons, and academics have to be in dialogue with scientists, environmentalists, economists, businesspeople, politicians, and educators." Tucker & Grim, *Movement of Religion and Ecology*.

Music is uniquely able to facilitate the deepest opening to and most complex interrelationship of the domains of human intelligence. In the ***Emergent Universe Oratorio***, music intensively embodies and reflects the profound yet understandable scientific content presented in poetic narrative. It powerfully evokes a deep resonance with and response to the new cosmologies that shape our behavior and determine our future.

The ***Emergent Universe Oratorio***, like its primary inspiration, tells the Great New Scientific Story in such a way that it evokes a profound 'spiritual' response in those so inclined, and yet is not a barrier to those deeply motivated by the scientific narrative of our vast evolving Universe. We believe that reverence for the 'sacred' need not conflict with rigorous scientific process and knowledge; on the contrary—for many, the stupendous recent discoveries of quantum physics and deep space-time are a pathway to an ecstatic appreciation of, sense of connectedness with, and respectful responsibility for Earth, all peoples, and all of life. We hope that the ***Emergent Universe Oratorio*** would take its place in the mainstream of our transforming cultural landscape, to help both bring about and reflect the newly emerging 'reinvention of the human species' (Berry) as humanity confronts and embraces the greatest challenge in its history.

Performance date: Friday, June 30th, 2017, Cleveland, Ohio

For more information: www.samguarnaccia.com