

Conductor's Comment

Paul Wiens

2/21/24

Hope

How can it be in our nature to make war when with wholesomeness and sweetness we braid kernels from despair.

--Todd Boss, from *Cello Songs*

Despair is the shadow of hope.

--David Teachout

Boss presents our human enigma—that we hope (braid kernels) even while experiencing despair. Teachout's cryptic line suggests that where there is hope, its shadow is attached.

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words- and never stops at all.

--Emily Dickenson

I like Dickenson's line because it projects a whimsical image, references singing, and suggests that hope "never stops at all."

I hope that you have overcome all the health issues you have recently faced.

I hope that you are strong enough to meet the challenges of our repertoire.

I hope that our rehearsals will all be extremely productive.

I hope that we will soon get past note-learning and increasingly spend more time working with the nuances of making music.

I hope that you always find joy in singing with Chamber Singers.