



Robert Paterson, photo by Daniel Dottavio. Available in high resolution at [www.christinajensenpr.com](http://www.christinajensenpr.com).

**Composer Robert Paterson's  
"Do not stand at my grave and weep"  
from *Eternal Reflections***

**performed by Vocalis Chamber Choir**

**Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 8pm**

Baker Memorial United Methodist Church  
345 Main Street | East Aurora, NY

Tickets: \$15; \$10 student; free under 12 at the door.

For more information, visit [www.vocalischamberchoir.org](http://www.vocalischamberchoir.org)  
or call 716.652.0500

**Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 4pm**

Blessed Trinity Church  
317 Leroy Avenue | Buffalo, NY

Tickets: \$15; \$10 student; free under 12 at the door.

For more information, visit [www.vocalischamberchoir.org](http://www.vocalischamberchoir.org)  
or call 716.833.0301

**Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 7pm**

Burchfield-Penny Art Center  
1300 Elmwood Avenue | Buffalo, NY

Tickets: \$10 at the door.

For more information, visit [www.burchfieldpenney.org](http://www.burchfieldpenney.org)  
or call 716.878.6011

**Robert Paterson: [www.robpaterson.com](http://www.robpaterson.com) | Vocalis Chamber Choir: [www.vocalischamberchoir.org](http://www.vocalischamberchoir.org)  
Watch YouTube video of "Do not stand at my grave and weep" [here](#)**

**Buffalo, NY** – Composer and Buffalo native **Robert Paterson's** "Do not stand at my grave and weep" from *Eternal Reflections* will be performed by the **Vocalis Chamber Choir** in and around Buffalo, New York for three days in March. On Saturday, March 10 at 8pm, the choir will perform at Baker Memorial United Methodist Church (345 Main Street | East Aurora). On Sunday, March 18 at 4pm, they will perform at Blessed Trinity Church (317 Leroy Avenue | Buffalo), and on Thursday, March 22 at 7pm, they will perform at the Burchfield-Penny Art Center (1300 Elmwood Avenue | Buffalo). Entitled *Spotlight WNY-Choral Compositions from Buffalo and Beyond*, these concerts will pay tribute to great choral works from the area. "Do not stand at my grave and weep" is the 2010 winner of the Cincinnati Camerata's Annual Composition Contest.

*Eternal Reflections* consists of settings of the poems *A Song on the End of the World* by Czeslaw Milosz, *Life's Tragedy* by Paul Laurence Dunbar and *Do not stand at my grave and weep* by Mary E. Frye, the latter being performed for these concerts. Mary E. Frye was a housewife and florist who became best known as the author of this poem. According to an article in the *London Times*, "Frye had never written any poetry before 1932, when she and her husband had a young German Jewish girl, Margaret Schwarzkopf, staying with them. According to Frye, their guest had been concerned about her mother, who was ill in Germany, but she had been warned not to return home because of increasing anti-Semitic unrest. When her mother died, the heartbroken young woman told Frye that she never had the chance to 'stand by my mother's grave and shed a tear.'" Although many versions of this uncopyrighted poem exist, the version used in this setting is the one Frye claimed as definitive before she died.

**About Robert Paterson:** Composer Robert Paterson's richly colorful, wildly eclectic and intensely rhythmic music is influenced by visual art, nature, machines, and more, and is inspired by everything from the changing seasons, crashing waves, and Dali's melting clocks to the life of New York Mets Baseball catcher Mike Piazza. From 2009-2012, he is the Music Alive composer-in-residence with the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, sponsored by Meet The Composer and the League of American Orchestras. The residency will culminate in a commission for a major new work for orchestra and chorus. Other recent honors include winning the Cincinnati Camerata Composition Competition, the Copland Award, Louisville Orchestra Composition Competition, Brian Israel Prize, two ASCAP Young Composer Awards, and grants from Meet The Composer, the American Music Center, the American Composers Forum and ASCAP, as well as fellowships to Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, the Aspen Music Festival, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts.

Born in 1970, Paterson was raised in Buffalo, New York, the son of a sculptor and a painter. Percussion was his first love, and an enduring one. Paterson pioneered the development of a six-mallet marimba technique presenting the world's first all six-mallet marimba recital at the Eastman School of Music in 1993. He discovered a passion for composition early in life as well, writing his first piece at age thirteen.

Recent and upcoming performances of Paterson's work include the European premiere and sixteen additional performances of *Dancing Games* by the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire (France); the premiere of a new work for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jaime Laredo; two new choral works for the Chamber Choir of Europe; an orchestral opera in two acts with writer and librettist David Cote, based on the award-winning British novel *A Child Possessed* by R.C. Hutchinson; Wind Quintet by the Philharmonia Quintet (Poland); *Eternal Reflections*, commissioned for the San Francisco-based Volti choir; *Embracing the Wind* by the Aureole Trio and New York Harp Trio; the Louisville Orchestra world premiere of *Electric Lines*, winner of the orchestra's new music competition, and a work previously selected for the Minnesota Orchestra and American Composers Orchestra New Music Readings; *Enlightened City*, commissioned for the 100th anniversary of the IHS Orchestra; and the world premiere of *Crimson Earth* by the University of Connecticut Wind Ensemble.

Ensembles that have performed Paterson's music include the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, New York New Music Ensemble, Da Capo Chamber Players, California EAR Unit, Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble, Ensemble Aleph (Paris), Naiades Ensemble (London), Ensemble Nouvelles Consonances (Belgium), the Kairos String Quartet, the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the MANCA Festival presented by the Centre National de Création Musicale (CIRM) and the June in Buffalo new music festival. Paterson appears on recordings for Mode Records, Centaur Records, Capstone, and RiAx. In 2011, *The Book of Goddesses*, which won Paterson the Composer of the Year Award from the Classical Recording Foundation, and *Star Crossing* were released by American Modern Records, the label of American Modern Ensemble.

Paterson has received degrees from Eastman (BM), Indiana University (MM), and Cornell University (DMA). He resides in New York City with his wife, Victoria, a violinist, and their young son Dylan.

**About Vocalis Chamber Choir:** Founded in September of 2002 by its director, James Burritt, the Vocalis Chamber Choir is a select ensemble of dedicated professionals based in Western New York. Vocalis is committed to performing great a cappella music of all eras, and to cultivating an awareness of the art of choral singing. Consisting of 18 voices, the choir strives to inspire, educate, and enlighten our audiences through an intimate and moving concert experience. Currently in its tenth season, Vocalis has established itself as one of the finest ensembles in Western New York.

The membership of the choir consists of music educators, church musicians, and other talented professionals from Buffalo, and beyond. The choir rehearses weekly, and presents eight to ten concerts a year. Vocalis' first CD, *New Day*, was highly praised by the Buffalo News, and has been regularly heard on WNEB-FM, Buffalo. Vocalis performs regularly throughout Western New York, and has traveled to Toronto, Pittsburgh, and most recently completed a four-concert tour of Rochester, Albany and New York City. The choir has collaborated with the choirs of St. Paul's Cathedral, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, the Amherst Symphony Orchestra, the Buffalo Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, and Shakespeare in Delaware Park. In 2009, the choir was invited to perform and present at the ECMEA Winter Conference in Buffalo. Vocalis' CD, *Journey In Song*, was released in the Fall of 2009.

In 2010-2011, Vocalis continued its diverse programming, presenting great choral masterpieces set against great works of art, a celebration of the requiem mass, the music of eastern Europe, and contemporary excitement with James MacMillan's Cantos Sagrados. The group's Christmas tradition continued to flourish at the Karpeles Museum in Buffalo, with a concert broadcast on WNEB-FM, and the release of its live CD *Wondrous Gift*. Vocalis finished the year with a performance of the Vivaldi *Gloria* at the Music Niagara Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

In 2011-2012, Vocalis celebrates its 10th Anniversary Season. The season begins with *Centuries in Song*, a program of concert favorites from our first nine years. December continues a Vocalis tradition, as the choir returns to the glorious acoustic of the Karpeles Manuscript Museum in Buffalo to sing in the season. In March, *Spotlight WNY*, brings to light fantastic compositions from WNY's thriving artistic community. Vocalis ends its 10th Anniversary Season with a program entitled, *Triumph and Majesty*, featuring Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass, and Handel's Coronation Anthem Zadok the Priest. Also, in celebration of the occasion, the choir is proud to present the world premiere of its newly commissioned work by composer Andrew Smith. The choir will be joined by Buffalo's own Camerata di Sant' Antonio, and soloists.

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