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Chorale*

Spring Concert

LUX: The Dawn From On High

Plus other new and inspirational works
by Dan Forrest

Tina Johns Heidrich
Music Director & Conductor

March 10, 2024

Our 23rd Season!

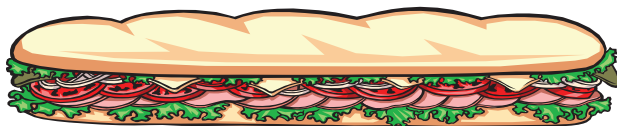
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Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

Connecticut Master Chorale Holiday Brass

Connecticut Master Chorale Orchestra

2024-2025 Concert Season

Our 24th Season!

Holiday Prelude Concert

The program features a glorious array of holiday music. Our diverse collection includes music for Winter, Advent and Hanukkah, festive, joyous carols, big band, spirituals, gospel and more! A special segment will be "Christmas in South America", with selections from Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela.

Sunday, November 24, 2024 - 3:00 pm

Spring Concert

Illuminare by Elaine Hagenberg

Released in 2022, *Illuminare* is an "illuminating" new work that is exquisitely gorgeous and gloriously uplifting. It is the first major composition by this composer, whose music has been described as "soars with eloquence and ingenuity".

plus another major work

Date – To be announced

Both concerts at

First Congregational Church of Danbury

For tickets and information, call 203-740-9533

www.cmchorale.org

About the Connecticut Master Chorale

The Connecticut Master Chorale, founded and directed by Tina Johns Heidrich in 1999, is a premiere ensemble of professional caliber vocalists in Western Connecticut. As we continue into our third decade, we are especially grateful for the enthusiastic audiences who have contributed to our success, and we look forward to continuing our tradition of bringing dynamic and exciting music to the area.

As we look back at our achievements, we have had many special experiences in addition to our regularly scheduled concerts each year.

One of our most exciting honors was being invited to perform at the **White House** in December 2002. We were selected through a recorded audition and sang in the Grand Foyer for thousands of White House guests, including workers for Air-Force One and Marine-One, the Marine Corps, the Secret Service, and their families. We are extremely proud to have been granted this distinction!

We were invited to sing in the U.S. premiere of Karl Jenkins' ***Stabat Mater*** at **Lincoln Center** in New York City in January 2009. Meeting the composer, hearing his comments, and singing the piece in his presence added insight and inspiration to our performance in March 2009 in Connecticut.

On Easter Sunday 2002, we performed by invitation at **Carnegie Hall**, singing John Rutter's ***Magnificat*** under his direction. We returned to Carnegie Hall in January 2003 to sing Mozart's ***Coronation Mass***, and again in November 2005, when Rutter conducted us in a performance of his ***Mass of the Children***.

Another accomplishment was winning the annual McDonald's Gospelfest Competition for three consecutive years. In June 2004, we performed as a Regional Representative in Gospelfest 2004 at **Madison Square Garden**. Our 2001 Gospelfest performance was televised on ABC in July 2001.

We have also sung as invited guests at West Point Military Academy, and with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra. Our concert recordings have been featured on WMNR Fine Arts Radio, and WJMJ in Hartford.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our performance, and we thank you for your support. We are especially grateful to the First Congregational Church of Danbury, our advertisers, our contributing members, our audience, and to the many individuals who help support us. For more information about the Chorale, please call 203-775-2602 or visit www.cmchorale.org.

Connecticut Master Chorale

Memorable Moments

- Founded in 1999
- White House Christmas performance
- Guests of West Point Military Academy
- Carnegie Hall with John Rutter
1st time: 2002 Rutter's "Magnificat"
- Carnegie Hall with Terre Johnson
2nd time: 2003 Mozart's "Coronation Mass"
- Carnegie Hall with John Rutter
3rd time: 2005 Rutter's "Mass of the Children"
- Lincoln Center – U.S. Premiere of Karl Jenkins' "Stabat Mater"
- Madison Square Garden performance
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner
1st time: 2001
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner
2nd time: 2002
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner
3rd time: 2003
- ABC7 TV appearance
- Guests of Nutmeg Opera Company
Puccini's "La Traviata"
- Guests of Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra
"Viva Verdi" concert

About Our Director



Tina Johns Heidrich is the Founder and Music Director of the Connecticut Master Chorale. A dynamic leader with her own distinct vision and style, she consistently produces memorable performances filled with sensitivity, emotion and passion, engaging both singers and audience. Her unique approach of “work hard but have fun” and her immense energy ensure an exciting and educational experience for her singers, while eliciting their very highest performance quality.

Ms. Heidrich has led the Chorale to artistic acclaim and recognition - including the great honor of being invited to sing at the White House in December 2002. The Chorale sang by invitation in January 2009 at Lincoln Center in the U.S. premiere of Karl Jenkins’ “Stabat Mater”. The Chorale has also performed at Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall (three times), West Point Military Academy, and with the Ridgefield Symphony as their guest chorus – all by invitation. They won the annual McDonald’s Gospelfest Competition for three consecutive years and appeared on ABC TV.

Born and raised in Danbury, Ms. Heidrich earned her Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Vocal Music Education from Western Connecticut State University.

With an extensive background and over 45 years of experience in choral and orchestral conducting, she has directed numerous school, church, and community choirs and orchestras, as well as musical theatre. She has directed choruses on tour in Eastern Europe, Canada, and Washington, DC, and on ABC’s “Good Morning America”, and has served as Guest Conductor for several groups, including the Danbury Music Centre’s annual “Messiah” performance, and Guest Clinician for the Western Connecticut State University Chamber Choir Festival.

From 1990 to October 2017, Ms. Heidrich was the Director of Music of the First Congregational Church of Bethel, where she served as organist and directed the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs.

“As the Chorale continues into our third decade, I remain as excited as I was when the group began. We have performed over 500 unique pieces by over 400 composers in many venues, and worked with today’s leading composers. And what pleases me most both personally and professionally, is the music we create, the outstanding sound of the group, the satisfaction after each performance, and the enthusiasm and loyalty of our audiences.”

Connecticut Master Chorale
on the web

www.cmchorale.org



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About Our Accompanist

Joseph J. Jacovino, Jr. graduated from the Hartt College of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance and from the Manhattan School of Music with a Master's Degree in Music Education. He retired in 2014 as the Music Director at Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, where he directed the concert band, jazz band, guitar ensemble, handbell choir, piano keyboard class, and taught music theory for 35 years.



Since 2000, Mr. Jacovino has been the organist/cantor/choir director at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown, where he has conducted numerous concerts involving the St. Rose Festival Chorus and Orchestra. In 2005 the choir traveled to Italy performing concerts in Rome, Florence, and at the Vatican.

In addition to his twenty-three seasons as the Connecticut Master Chorale's extraordinarily talented accompanist, he is currently the accompanist for the choirs at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School, and the staff pianist for the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. This is also his 16th season as the Music Director of the Waterbury Chorale. He also directs the Heritage Singers, at Heritage Village in Southbury.

As a composer, Mr. Jacovino has written several sacred choral pieces and masses, including "Christmas at the Palace" (a tribute to the Waterbury Palace Theater), "Enshrined in the Grace of God", dedicated to Waterbury's Shrine of St. Anne, and "Something Beautiful for God", based upon a prayer by Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Mr. Jacovino has been an active piano soloist, having appeared with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, Naugatuck Valley Community College Orchestra, the Connecticut Master Chorale and Orchestra, and the St. Rose Festival Chorus and Orchestra. He has appeared in recital on numerous occasions as a classical organist and pianist. Joe currently lives in Middlebury with his wife Roberta, and son Jay. His daughter Sara is a professional trombonist/pianist/composer/arranger, living in New York City.

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on another fine season!***

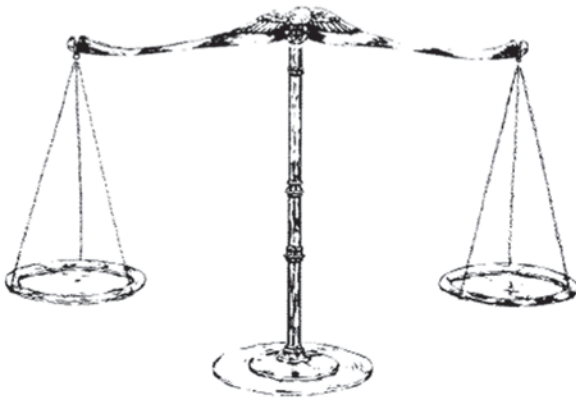


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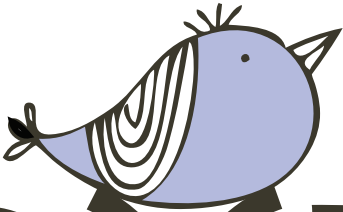
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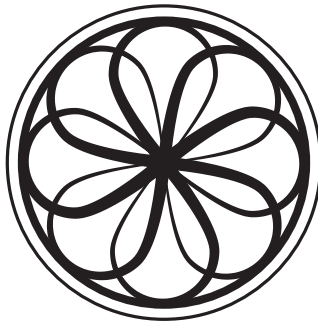
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*Connecticut Master Chorale*  
*2024 Spring Concert*

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

Connecticut Master Chorale Orchestra

**Works by Dan Forrest**

The Music of Living

i thank You God for most this amazing day

Light Beyond Shadow

Hallelu Yah: I. Psalm 148

Hallelu Yah: II. Psalm 147

Hallelu Yah: III. Psalm 150

*15-minute intermission*

**LUX: The Dawn From On High**

I. Illuminare

Tim Smith, Kirstan Summers - soloists

II. Lux in Tenebris

III. The Sun Never Says

IV. Gloria in Excelsis

V. Creator of the Stars of Night

*Audio or video recording of any kind is prohibited.*

# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

## **SOPRANO**

Karrie Beaulieu  
Debbie Benham  
Ginnie Carey  
Sheila Corr  
Emily Flower  
Donna Frezza  
Lisa Golymbieski  
Sheila Hodges  
Rebecca Lewis  
Michele McDonald  
Christine Michel  
Diane Peterson  
Sara Puccio  
Kristen Schretzenmayer  
Peg Sheehan  
May Steinberg  
Michael Taylor  
Carol Wheeler

## **TENOR**

Robert Boncoddio  
Robert Bria  
Steve Gardner  
David Jurman  
David Nicholson  
Brad Peterson  
Tim Smith  
Daria Verelley  
Rev. Gregory Wismar  
Tom Wolff

## **ALTO**

Gale Barna  
Angela Caes  
Sandy Chadwick  
Anita Corbeil  
Teresa DeCarlo  
Heidi Flower  
Suzanne Giffen  
Bobbi Lyon  
Janet Nazzaro  
Nancy Northrop  
Kate Peterson  
Julie Pope  
Nancy Raymond  
Jenna Richards  
Kirstan Summers  
Jana Tvedt  
Kate Vengrove

## **BASS**

James P. Alworth III  
Chris Blake  
Mike Carbonneau  
Dana Demand  
Rich Drygas  
Eric Hudson  
Paul Giammatteo  
Joseph Jacovino, Jr.  
David Morey  
Steve Peterson  
Gary Sander

# *Connecticut Master Chorale Orchestra*

## **Violin I**

Cyrus Stevens

Concertmaster

Jorhendi Esquivel

Erin Gardiner

## **Violin II**

Lisa Homann

Dana Takaki

Gavin Fallow

## **Viola**

Amy Jones

Deborah Stowell

## **Cello**

Gjorgj Kroqi

Silvio Interlandi

## **Bass**

John Mobilio

## **Flute**

Jennifer Berman

## **Oboe**

Oliver Homann

## **Clarinet**

James Forgey

## **Bassoon**

Jackie Joyner-Sifford

Luke Ashworth

## **French Horn**

Emily Boyer

## **Percussion**

Robert Nolte

## **Timpani**

Peter Coutsouridis

## **Piano**

Joseph Jacovino, Jr.

**Personnel Manager, Walter Gibson**



## *Program Notes by Ginnie Carey*

Dan Forrest (b.1978). Growing up in rural New York State, the young Dan Forrest was fortunate to have excellent music teachers who nurtured his piano talent to the point that he played the Grieg Piano Concerto with the local symphony when he was a sophomore in high school. He holds both an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in piano performance as well as a doctorate in composition. Today his compositions are performed in leading venues around the world, but he was only 27 when his work *Arise, Shine* was first performed in Carnegie Hall. His music spans a wide spectrum of genres and levels of difficulty, ranging from extended major works for chorus and orchestra and significant concert choral repertoire to accessible pieces for church and community choirs, as well as instrumental compositions ranging from works for wind ensemble to solo sonatas. He has been described as having "an undoubted gift for writing beautiful music that is truly magical", and is often admired for the texts, both the popular and the more obscure, he chooses for his compositions. When he is not creating expressive, emotional and inspiring music, this remarkable composer can be found spending time with his wife and three children, maintaining his extensive landscape gardens, participating in his church community, or playing Irish Traditional Music on the concertina.

Dr. Forrest was in his early thirties when Tina Heidrich first heard his music and introduced it to the Chorale. We were amazed by the maturity and beauty of his compositions and the creativity of his arrangements and continue to be awed by his increasingly vast collection of outstanding choral music. Our faithful audiences will remember his remarkable *Requiem for the Living* in 2015, *Jubilate Deo* in 2018, and *In Paradisum, Te Deum* and *Psalm of Ascension* in 2019. Our recent Holiday Prelude Concerts have also included his unique arrangements of traditional carols.

***The Music of Living*** was commissioned by the Cypress Woods High School Varsity Mixed Choir for performance at the 2011 Texas Music Educators Association Convention. Dr. Forrest remembers them as "a fine choir ... who sent me the text they had found in a book – a rare moment of a provided text singing to me". His exuberant setting perfectly enhances the joy and optimism found in the anonymous poem.

*i thank You God for most this amazing day* is not a typographical error, but an inspiring modernist free form poem written by the inimitable e.e.cummings, (1913 – 1962). The well-known, avant-garde poet from Massachusetts, also a novelist, playwright, and painter, was both deeply religious and unconventional in life, as well as in capitalization and syntax. This work was a commission from the Atlanta Master Chorale and Dr. Eric Nelson, their Artistic Director and Conductor, but Dr. Forrest was slightly reluctant to set this text because he felt there were already good settings in existence. He went on vacation and was riding his bicycle on a bridge over a marsh on a beautiful day when an egret rose out of the marsh and flew above it. At that moment Dr. Forrest relates that he immediately thought “i thank You God for most this amazing day”, and was inspired by the marsh and the soaring egret to compose this amazing work. It premiered in Atlanta in October 2018 to great acclaim.

*Light Beyond Shadow* was composed during the pandemic and inspired by a poem from the British author Paul Wigmore (1925 – 2014), a prolific poet who wrote lyrics for an opera as well as over 100 hymns. Dr. Forrest’s exquisite setting enhances the themes of longing for light to break through darkness, and the celebration of light, joy, love, peace, and hope which are universal and timeless.

### ***Hallelu Yah!: Three Psalms of Praise***

I. Psalm 148, II. Psalm 147, III. Psalm 150

Notes from Dan Forrest:

My inspiration for these settings came from seeing the common word “hallelujah” transliterated more clearly “hallelu Yah”, i.e. “praise YHWH”; these two words are an imperative (praise!) and the object of that praise (Yah, or Yahweh, the reverential Hebrew name of God). This opened up possibilities for both communicated meanings and speech accents.

I was also inspired to add percussion to the choir and piano, partly from reading in I Chronicles that Asaph, the ancient Hebrew worship leader and author of many Psalms, played the cymbals, and partly because Psalm 150 lists as much or more percussion than any other instrument family.

The last five Psalms all begin and end with “Hallelu Yah,” and thus my settings of these three do the same.

The first movement sets portions of Psalm 148 about creation voicing God’s praise, and weaves quotes of a related hymn tune throughout. Movement 2 turns its focus to people raising their voices alongside nature (from Psalm 147) and hints at the Psalmist’s harp in its accompaniment. The third and final movement sets Psalm 150 as a dance in compound meter, with its well-known list of instruments joining in praise along with “everything that has breath”.

***LUX, the Dawn From On High***, a five-movement musical essay on the various facets of light, is the third major work from master composer Dan Forrest. Lux is the Latin word for light, and this evocation of shimmering light, unconditional love, deep peace, and heavenly bliss is classical composition at its best. Visually the composer was inspired by the light in Reims Cathedral in France and at Poul nabrone dolmen in the Burren, County Clare, Ireland. On a thematic and spiritual level, he was inspired by the profound texts which range from ancient liturgical chant and biblical scripture to contemporary poetry. His music stirs the heart and touches the spirit like the ethereal light of dawn. Dan Forrest writes that the title is meant to invoke the dual meaning of the text of the first movement, where the light of dawn gradually ascends into the sky, yet the Light of the world descends from the sky. The movements trace a symmetrical journey through time – from ancient prophecy, to today (“even after all this time”), and then back again; or from another perspective, from a day’s dawn, through the sun’s high point in the sky, and then to the setting of the sun on the horizon at the end of day.

***I. Illuminare*** offers the promise of future light, and the hope of dawn. It begins with Luke 1:78-79, which ends with “Light from on high, come illuminate us” and continues with an *Antiphon for Epiphany* from the 14<sup>th</sup> century “You appeared as Light from light ... Alleluia”.

***II. Lux in Tenebris*** is more assertive and uses contrasting meters and keys to underscore its texts about light shining in the darkness. “A light will shine on us today...” comes from a 10<sup>th</sup> century *Introit for Christmas Dawn*, and “The light shines in darkness...” is taken from John 1:5.

**III. *The Sun Never Says*** is American and Sufi Muslim poet Daniel Ladinsky's (b. 1948) extraordinary rendering of a poem by the great Persian mystic Hafiz (1325 – 1390) who was both a court poet and a teacher at a religious college. Mr. Ladinsky writes that his work with Hafiz "is an attempt to do the impossible: to render Light into words and to make the Luminous Resonance of God tangible to our senses". This poem was published in his popular 1999 book "The Gift". Dr. Forrest views this as "today" or "noon" in the journey of this work, and sees the sun as a metaphor for unconditional love that "lights the whole sky".

**IV. *Gloria in Excelsis*** continues Dr. Forrest's "light in the sky" motif with a joyous and soaring jazz-influenced setting of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace" from the Nativity story as told in Luke 2:14.

**V. *Creator of the Stars of Night*** originally comes from a 7<sup>th</sup> century chant, *Conditor Alme Siderum*, which was rewritten to fit the meters of classical Latin by Pope Urban VIII in 1632 and retitled *Creator Alme Siderum*. The first translation into English was made by the Anglican Priest John Mason Neale (1818 – 1866). This ancient evening hymn closes the day with the setting sun and provides a final unity between the multiple facets of light.

## **I. Illuminare**

Per viscera misericordiae  
Dei nostri  
in quibus visitavit  
nos oriens ex alto  
illuminare his qui in tenebris  
et in umbra mortis sedent  
ad dirigendos pedes nostros  
in viam pacis.  
Lux ex alto,  
veni nos illuminare.

*By the mercy of our God  
the dawn from on high  
will break upon us,  
to give light to those*

*who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet  
into the way of peace.  
Light from on high,  
come illumine us.  
(based on Luke 1:78-79)*

*Lux de luce apparuisti Christe,  
cui Magi munera offerunt,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*You appeared as Light from light,  
O Christ, to whom  
the Magi offered gifts,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
(Antiphon for Epiphany, 14th c.)*

## II. Lux in Tenebris

Lux fulgebit hodie super nos,  
quia natus est nobis Dominus.

*A light will shine on us today,  
for the Lord is born unto us.  
(Introit for Christmas Dawn, 10th c.)*

Lux in tenebris lucet  
et tenebrae eam non superaverunt.

*The light shines in darkness;  
and the darkness has not overcome it.  
(John 1:5)*

## III. The Sun Never Says

Even  
After  
All this time  
The sun never says to the earth,

"You owe  
Me."

Look  
What happens  
With a love like that,  
It lights the  
Whole  
Sky.

*(Daniel Ladinsky, from "The Gift",  
©1999, used by permission)*



## IV. Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
et in terra pax.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth, peace. (from Luke 2:14)*

## V. Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting Light,  
O Christ, Thou Savior of us all,  
now hear Thy servants  
when they call.

*Creator alme siderum  
aeterna lux credentium  
Christe redemptor omnium  
exaudi voces supplicum.*

O Blest Creator of the light,  
Who made the day with  
radiance bright,  
and o'er the newborn  
world did call  
the light from darkness first of all.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
laud, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally. Amen.  
*(7th c. chant, various translations)*



*Dan Forrest works from past concerts*

**Christmas Joy!** (Fall 2018)

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** (Fall 2016)

**Festival First Nowell** (Fall 2016)

**In Paradisum** (Spring 2019)

**In the Bleak Midwinter** (Fall 2023)

**It Is Good to Give Thanks** (Fall 2017)

**Joy to the World** (Fall 2022)

**Jubilate Deo** (Spring 2018)

**O Little Town of Bethlehem** (Fall 2018)

**Psalm of Ascension** (Spring 2019)

**Requiem for the Living** (Spring 2015)

**Ring Out, Ye Bells!** (Fall 2023)

**See Amid the Winter's Snow** (Fall 2017)

**Te Deum** (Spring 2019)

**The Hand That First Held Mary's Child** (Fall 2016)

**There Is Faint Music** (Fall 2015)

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We are delighted to have our concert today in this beautiful sanctuary! Our most gracious thanks to Reverend Pat Kriss, Pastor, Music Director Jim Moriarty, Church Administrator Rachel Gonzalez, Caretaker Ramon Howell, the staff, and the entire Congregation.

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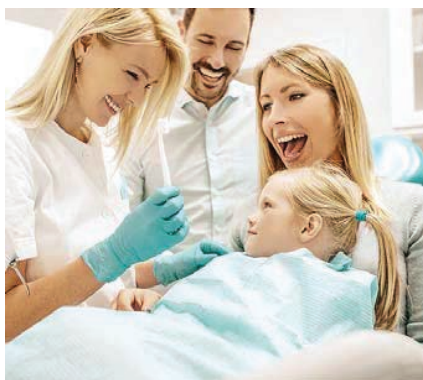
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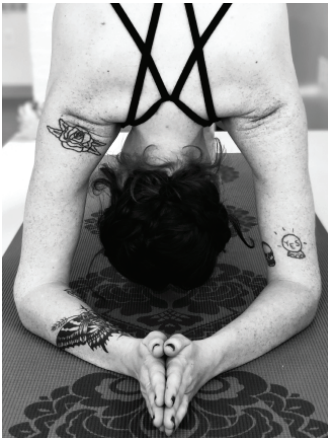
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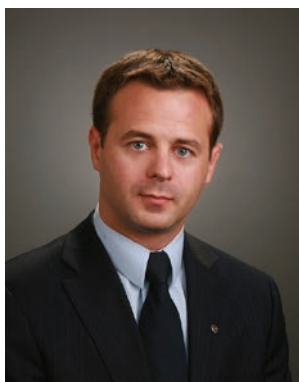
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