

Neighbors

MATT HAIMOVITZ

STEPHANIE ARADO

MATTHEW MEHAFFEY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CHAMBER SINGERS

UCCELLO



NEIGHBORS

Matt Haimovitz, cello

Stephanie Arado, violin

Matthew Mehaffey, conductor

**University of Minnesota Chamber
Singers**

Uccello, cello ensemble

NEIGHBORS

Ernest Bloch's *Prayer* from
Suite of Jewish Life

1 Neighbors: A Prayer 4. 41

Arranged by **Luna Pearl Woolf**
with text by **David Van Taylor**,
based on the words of **Minneapolis
activists**

Stephanie Arado, violin

Matt Haimovitz, cello

Matthew Mehaffey, conductor

University of Minnesota

Chamber Singers, SATB chorus

Julius Klengel

2 Hymnus, Op. 57 5. 02
for 12 cellos

Matt Haimovitz, cello

Uccello, cello ensemble (Lydia
Nau, Dahlia Hendrickson, Dante
Carlson, Franklin Watkins, Jacques
Gregoire, Sage Gonzalez, Evan
Montzka, Ella Tomko, Xinchun Sun,
Jiekun Feng, Maria Penrice)

David C. Dickau with text by
Euan Tait

3 I Am Spirit

5.11

Stephanie Arado, violin

Matt Haimovitz, cello

Matthew Mehaffey, conductor

**University of Minnesota Chamber
Singers, SATB chorus**

Total playing time:

14.54



University of Minnesota Chamber Singers

Soprano

Femi Abodunrin
Abby Carter

Margaret Gottlieb

Coeleen Gruen

Erynn Hertzfeldt

Ruby Hicks

Sara Hokanson

Joeun Kim

Alexa Noyes

Trinity Williams

Sam Thompson

Graham Wilson

Bass

Johann Albrecht

John Bendt

Brandon Berger

Logan Claassen-
Wilson

Connor Engels

Danny

O’Gallagher

Henry Shafer

Nathan Smith

Coen Vogel

Tony Zuchora-
Walske

Alto

Abbi Anderson

Paolo Debuque

Skyler Gustavson

Gabby Haake

Niveen Wahba

Tenor

Jacob Berna

Jack Buettner

Logan Combs

Jake Deibert

Jared Gibson

Michael Phelan



Our *Neighbors* EP begins with Ernst Bloch's *Prayer*. Bloch originally composed his *Prayer* for cello and piano in 1924 as part of a three movement suite of pieces, *From Jewish Life*. However, for this arrangement now called *Neighbors: A Prayer* the violin line joins the cello in solidarity, the choir replaces the wordless piano, transforming the accompaniment into the harmonious incantation of a congregation.

About the new arrangement, Luna Pearl Woolf and David Van Taylor write, "As the title suggests, Bloch's *Prayer* evokes a fervent, needful plea. In this arrangement Woolf

and Van Taylor weave the words of Minneapolis anti-ICE resistors into a test of urgent supplication—not to some higher power, but to the community itself. The choir modulates from questioning and despair to resolve.”

Weeks after the occupation of Minneapolis by ICE, my colleague and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Matthew Mehaffey, contacted Stephanie Arado and me about a newly composed piece *I Am Spirit* by former Minnesota resident David C. Dickau. David writes, “I am writing about a piece I have just completed that speaks to the times in which we find ourselves. I was inspired to send this to you after the ICE shootings in Minneapolis and Portland...

This piece is scored for violin, cello, soprano solo, and SATB chorus. I am sending this on the chance that you may wish to program it given what has been happening in the world.” With a text by Euan Tait, a

jazzy groove is established in the plucked cello and improvisatory violin lines, as the choir sings the spirit of the Minneapolis resistance.

In between the two choral works, a choir of 12 cellists comes together for Julius Klengel's wordless *Hymnus*. Klengel (1859-1933) was the principal cellist of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, a teacher of legendary cellists Emmanuel Feuermann, Gregor Piatigorsky, and other notables, and a prolific composer. I am joined for this solemn and richly orchestrated hymn from 1920 by my students at the School of Music at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.



As I reflect on the last months, living in Minneapolis, I am struck by the power of community to overcome extreme adversity. Who could have imagined that in the land of the free, our own government would shoot her own people in cold blood in the name of a crackdown on illegal immigrants? Our neighbors, Alex Pretti and Renée Good, were murdered while exercising their Constitutional right to free speech and the right to protest in peace.

Our neighbors could have cowered in intimidation and fear. Instead the community rose together in resistance. In the dead of winter, thousands filled the streets, bridges, parks and monuments in protest. I walked past parents quietly standing guard at preschools and elementary schools. ICE Out and other banners popped up in most home windows. Local businesses, restaurants, and coffee shops forbid ICE on their premises, protecting the lives of

many in our immigrant community. As a new Twin Cities resident, I am proud and inspired to be here. The awesome display of bravery gives me courage and hope for the future of our American experiment.

We offer the three tracks on this EP – Bloch/Woolf/Van Taylor's *Neighbors: A Prayer*, Julius Klengel's *Hymnus*, and Dickau/Tait's *I Am Spirit* – in gratitude to the people of Minneapolis and Saint Paul for shining light on what it means to stand up for love of all, embracing our shared human dignity.

Neighbors, you have shown the world that "no one will save us, but us."

Matt Haimovitz

Minneapolis, MN

May 9, 2026

TEXTS

Neighbors: A Prayer

Neighbors,
Neighbors,
The time is now.

Neighbors,
Neighbors,
What now?
What now?
What can we do?

For those they'd take
What can we do?
For those they slay
What will we do?

Neighbors,
What now?
Neighbors.

Save them
Save us
Save them
Save us
Who will save them?
Who will save?

Save us
Save them

Save us

Save them

Who will save us?

Who will save?

Show up

Show up

Just show up!

Neighbors,

Neighbors,

The time is now

No time to be safe

The time is now

Time

To be brave

To be brave

Be brave

Be brave

Be brave

Show up

Now

No one will save us but us

David Van Taylor, based on the words
of Minneapolis activists

I Am Spirit

I am spirit, its crackle when love awakens it.

I am spirit, nerve ends lit up with the ferocity of your dignity.

I am spirit, fizzing when love infuses it.

My heart is pierced, with suffering:

Child, I do not forget you!

Child, I do not reject you!

Child, I do not hate you!

Who told us so?

I met you on the edge of chance; your glance bled

Your suffering, your name,

More than the margin of my forgetting city,

But living, remembered, the center of me.

I am spirit, whose love awakens,

Whose love infuses the center of me.

Euan Tait

Acknowledgements

PRODUCTION TEAM

Recording producer

David Frost

Sound engineers

Esther Lageson & Brian Losch

Editing

Jennifer Nulsen

Assistant Engineer

Adam Voreis

ARTWORK

Cover Photo

Matt Haimovitz

Session Photos

Jeffrienne Young

Booklet & cover design

Marjolein Coenrady (PENTATONE)

Coordination

Ana Milovanović (PENTATONE)

Neighbors was recorded on May 5th,
2026 at the Ted Mann Concert Hall at
the School of Music at the University of
Minnesota in Minneapolis.

**Neighbors: A prayer © 2026 by Oxingale
Music/Luna Pearl Woolf**

**I Am Spirit © 2026 by E.C. Schirmer/
David C. Dickau**

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Managing Director

Sean Hickey

Label Director

Silvia Pietrosanti

A&R

Alice Lombardo

Product Management

Ana Milovanović

Press

Allie Summers

Distribution

Camilla Vickerage

Audio

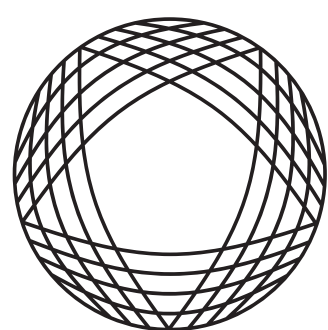
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