



love & light

With the start of the pandemic shutdown, people all over the world were suddenly forced to live apart. Like members of choirs everywhere, we innovated ways to sing together, remotely, “singing together” in front of computer screens in bedrooms, basements, and shared family space. But we all mourned the collective act of singing: Coming together to rehearse via Zoom and contributing individual recordings for digital concerts was no match for the transformative experience of standing side by side, breathing and singing together.

Then, as the shutdown dragged on, and as the political divide deepened, there were significant losses within the group...

Later, when our singers returned to us after the shutdown, they were different: they were a little taller, a little more mature, each carrying her own experience, her own story, of the time spent apart.

As we emerged from the darkest of times, we were drawn to sacred music, music that transcends darkness and difficulty — and perhaps even heals; music with glorious, sometimes rapturous lines and haunting sonorities. And when we were finally able to come together again, the experience of singing together and the sound of our collective voices seemed almost miraculous, especially when we worked on the music for *love & light*.

From *O Virtus Sapientie*, the wide-ranging, ecstatic chant celebrating wisdom from the 12th-century Abbess Hildegard of Bingen, to James MacMillan's gravity-defying *Os Mutorum*; from Sungji Hong's *Lux Aeterna* (eternal light) to Kenyon Duncan's *chorea lucis* (dance of light) – the latter two commissioned by iSing and brought to life here for the first time – each of the works on this recording attends to some feeling, some instinct, some idea, some value, that came to feel significant, even urgent, during our time apart.

Some of the tracks on this recording feature the pure, unaccompanied treble voices of iSing raised together in song. We're grateful to Cheryl Ann Fulton for contributing her expertise and translucent harp playing, and to soprano Estelí Gomez for adding her more mature, incredibly facile voice to the collective sound of iSing's rising artists, on works by Hildegard of Bingen, Sir James MacMillan, Kile Smith, Kenyon Duncan, and creators unknown.

Jannah Delp Somers



01. **Os Mutorum**
Sir James MacMillan

Os mutorum, lux cecorum,
pes claudarum porrige lapsis manum.
Firma vanum, et insanum corrige.
O Columba, spe Scotorum nos,
tuorum meritorum interventu,
beatorum fac consortes angelorum. Alleluia!

—
*Mouth of the dumb, light of the blind,
foot of the lame, stretch out a hand to the fallen.
Strengthen the unreliable and correct the mad.
O Columba, hope of Scots,
by the intervention of your kindness,
make us colleagues of the blessed angels. Alleluia!*



02. **Ubi Flumen Praesulis**
Gabriel Jackson

Ubi flumen praesulis instar intrat mare baculi, Macharius cepit habitare.
Deus, deus meus, ad te de luce vigilo, sitivit in te anima mea, quam
multipliciter, tibi caro mea! Sic in sancto apparui tibi, ut viderem tuam et
gloriam tuam.

Ubi flumen praesulis instar intrat mare baculi, Macharius cepit habitare.
Sic benedicam te in vita mea, et in nomine tuo, levabo manus meas.
Quia fuisti adiutor meus, et in velamento alarum tuarum exultabo,
adhaesit anima mea post te, me suscepit dextera tua.

Ubi flumen praesulis instar intrat mare baculi, Macharius cepit habitare.

—
*Where the river enters the sea like a bishop's staff, Machar made his dwelling.
O God, my god, early do I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee, and in so many
ways my flesh longs for thee! Thus in the holy place I have come before thee,
that I might see thy power and thy glory.*

*Where the river enters the sea like a bishop's staff, Machar made his dwelling.
Thus will I bless thee all my life, and in thy name lift up my hands to pray.
For thou hast been my helper, and in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice,
my soul cleaveth unto thee, thy right hand has upheld me.*

Where the river enters the sea like a bishop's staff, Machar made his dwelling.



03. **O Virtus Sapientie**
Hildegard of Bingen

O virtus Sapientie, que circuiens circuisti, comprehendendo omnia in una via que habet vitam, tres alas habens, quarum una in altum volat et altera de terra sudat et tertia undique volat. Laus tibi sit, sicut te decet, O Sapientia.

—
O strength of Wisdom who, circling, circled, enclosing all in one lifegiving path, three wings you have: one soars to the heights, one distills its essence upon the earth, and the third is everywhere. Praise to you, as is fitting, O Wisdom.

04. **Monstra Te Esse Matrem**
Kile Smith

Monstra te esse matrem, sumat
per te precem, qui pro nobis natus,
tulit esse tuus.

—
*Show thyself to be a mother: through thee
may he receive prayer, who, being born for us,
undertook to be thine own.*



05. **Lux Aeterna**
Sungji Hong

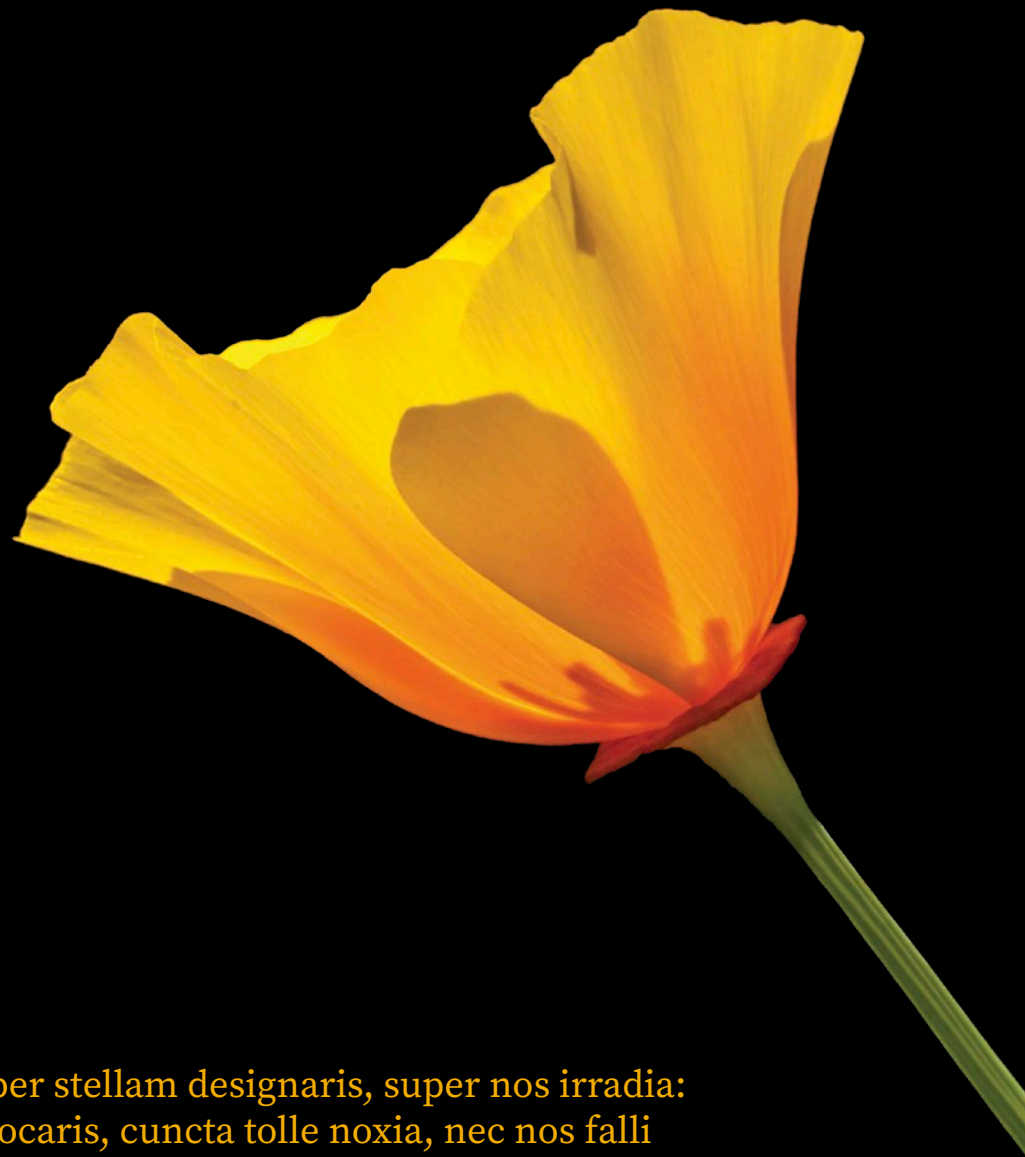
Lux aeterna luceat eis, domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es. Requiem aeternam dona eis,
domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

—
*Let perpetual light shine upon them,
O lord, with your saints forever,
for you are merciful. Grant them eternal rest,
O lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

06. **O Maria, Stella Maris**
Anonymous
Translation, Susan Hellauer

O Maria, stella maris, lux illustrans omnia, que per stellam designaris, super nos irradia:
sis in via previa, ne sequamur devia. Via vite devocaris, cuncta tolle noxia, nec nos falli
patiaris, ab hostis verutia. Salve virgo perpetua, salus nostre ianua.

—
*O Mary, star of the sea, all-illuminating light who, signified by a star, shines bright above us:
guide us on our way, lest we follow false paths. You are called the Way of Life: remove all harmful
things, lest we succumb to the lies of spear-armed Satan. Hail, ever virgin, gate to our salvation.*



07. Salve Virgo Virginum
Anonymous, 14th-century English
Translation, E.H. Sanders

Salve virgo virginum parens genitoris, salve lumen luminum, radius splendoris. Salve flos convallium stilla veri roris; nostra spes in te.

Salve virgo regia porta salutaris, veri viri nescia, quia deum paris. Ave quia deica prole fecundaris; nostra spes in te.

Ave nostre spei finis et salutis, ave per quam rei letantur cum tutis. Ave speciei decus et salutis; nostra spes in te.

—

Hail, virgin of virgins, mother of the Father, hail, light of lights, ray of brightness. Hail, lily of the valley, drop of the true dew; our hope is in thee.

Hail, royal virgin, portal of salvation, not knowing any real man; because it is god thou bringest into the world. Hail, because thou art made fruitful with the divine offspring; our hope is in thee.

Hail, goal of our hope and salvation; hail to thee, through whom the guilty and the saved rejoice together.

Hail, ornament of beauty and wholesomeness; our hope is in thee.

08. O Columba
Inchcolm Antiphoner, c.1340, Scotland.
Chant arr. for harp by Cheryl Ann Fulton
Instrumental

09. Ave Regina Caelorum / Andrew Smith

Ave, regina caelorum; ave, domina angelorum; salve, radix, salve, porta ex qua mundo lux est orta. Gaude, virgo gloriosa, super omnes speciosa; vale, o valde decora, et pro nobis Christum exora.

—

Hail, queen of heaven; hail, mistress of the angels; hail, root of Jesus, hail, the gate through which a light has risen over the earth. Rejoice, glorious virgin, lovely above all others; farewell, most beautiful lady, and pray for us to Christ.

10. Ave Maria / Andrew Smith

Ave Maria gratia plena, dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus tuæ Jesus. Sancta Maria, mater dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in mortis nostræ. Ave, Maria gratia plena, ora pro nobis. Amen.

—

Hail Mary, full of grace, the lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of god, pray for us sinners, now and in the hour of death. Hail, Mary full of grace, pray for us. Amen.

11. Regina Caeli / Andrew Smith

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia. Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia, resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia. Ora pro nobis deum, alleluia.

—

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia. For he whom you did merit to bear, alleluia, has risen, as he said, alleluia. Pray for us to god, alleluia.

12. **Psalm 113**
Kile Smith

Alleluia. Laudate pueri dominum: laudate nomen domini.

Sit nomen domini benedictum, ex hoc nunc et usque in saeculum.

Alleluia. Laudate pueri dominum: laudate nomen domini.

A solis ortu usque ad occasum, laudabile nomen domini. Excelsus super omnes gentes dominus, et super caelos gloria eius.

Alleluia. Laudate pueri dominum: laudate nomen domini.

Qui sicut dominus deus noster, qui in altis habitat, et humilia respicit in caelo et in terra?

Suscitans a terra inopem, et de stercore erigens pauperem: ut collocet eum cum principibus populi sui. Qui habitare facit sterilem in domo, matrem filiorum laetantem.

Alleluia. Laudate pueri dominum: laudate nomen domini.

—

Alleluia. Praise the lord, you his servants; praise the name of the lord.

Let the name of the lord be praised, both now and forevermore.

Alleluia. Praise the lord, you his servants; praise the name of the lord.

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the lord is to be praised.

The lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.

Alleluia. Praise the lord, you his servants; praise the name of the lord.

Who is like the lord our god, the one who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people. He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children.

Alleluia. Praise the lord, you his servants; praise the name of the lord.

13.

chorea lucis

Kenyon Duncan

Laurence Bashford, lyricist

O luce, cui eluces eo super undas? O voce, cui accersis
summis de montibus? Sola, aurora sidere pallescente,
caelum marisque quam salutem? Una, caerulea insula
cinerea a caligine celata, lumina delicant fabulae vernant.
Chorea in aecora revolvemus fissa, quis vera?
Arcana fulgentia. O vespere, vis clementissima, spes
nostrae serves ut animos adiciamus. Semper in tenebras
est nobis saltandum lux interna brevisque candida.

—
*Oh light, for whom do you shine out there across the
waves? Oh voice, to whom do you call from atop the highest
mountains? Alone, dawn with the dimming stars, how might
I greet the heavens and sea? As one, blue ashen isle cloaked
in mist, visions fall short yet myths flourish. Dance upon the
seascapes, around we go, refracted, which is true?
Dazzling secrets. Oh evening star, gentlest power, protect
our hope, that we might take heart. Always into the dark
we must leap, the light within small and brilliant.*



About iSing

Founded in 2013 by Jennah Delp Somers and Shane Troll, iSing Silicon Valley brings together more than 300 singers in Silicon Valley, offers them rigorous training, and guides them toward the highest level of artistry. Celebrated for the gorgeous vocal blend and joyous singing of its choruses, iSing has built a deeply committed musical community in the Bay Area and around the world.

iSing's awards include the Chorus America Dale Warland Singers Commission Award and the Grand Prize at the 8th International Robert Schumann Choral Competition. Dedicated to strengthening connection through collaboration and to the commissioning of new works for treble voices, iSing has also achieved recognition on the national and global stage through performances with world-class artists including Joyce DiDonato, Angel Blue, Barbara Bonney, Estelí Gomez, Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, Voces8, St. Lawrence String Quartet, Cheryl Ann Fulton, and members of the SF Symphony and One Found Sound.

iSing can be heard on *Here I Stand* (Innova Recordings, 2020); Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw's anthem to empowerment, *So Quietly* (Innova Recordings, 2021); Daniel Wohl's electro-acoustic ode to breath and air, *Drift* (New Amsterdam Records, 2022); and on this recording, *love & light*.



iSing Artists

Jennah Delp Somers,
Conductor

Ananya Vats Das * +
Anna Aganina * + ~ °
Anne Mazza
Ava Johnson
Celeste Maino * +
Charlotte Ibbotson-Brown * + ~
Chloe Bagi
Chloe Kummerer
Claire Comerford * + ~
Dana Abbo ^
Fiona Eliot * + ~
Giada Parigi * +
Izzy Zohar * +
Jing Peng * +
Julie Chung
Katherine Jackson
Kira Libby Robertson
Lia O'Donovan * +
Lily Lochhead * +
Madeleine Chen
Maggie Kloninger-Stever * + ~
Maia Tu
Malaya Redding Lapuz * + ~
Malia Lamb

Mary Courtney Templeton * + ~
Matt Keith * +
Mia Hamilton ^
Mikatrín Heynen * + °
Morgan Worry
Nadia Soberg * +
Naomi Wagner * +
Natalia Morrow
Natalie Fishman * + ~
Natalie Savastio
Nina Chandy
Paisley Annes ^
Reese Ford * + ~ °
Sadie Ibbotson-Brown * +
Sahana Stanger
Sandhya Krishnan
Sawyer Lai * + ~
Shea Donnelly
Skylar Burnett
Stephanie Lee
Sunaina Tadakamalla
Torii Kaleba * + ~
Victoria Chou * +
With special guest artists
Estelí Gomez and Cheryl Ann Fulton

Three works on the album
were recorded by
smaller ensembles:

* *Monstra Te Esse Matrem*
+ *Ubi Flumen Praesulis*
~ *Os Mutorum*

There were three soloists on
° *Salve Virgo Virginum*

Two singers performed on
^ *chorea lucis* only

About Estelí Gomez

Praised for her “clear, bright voice” (*New York Times*) and “artistry that belies her young years” (*Kansas City Metropolis*), Grammy Award-winning soprano Estelí Gomez has gained recognition as a stylish interpreter of early and contemporary repertoires. Estelí can be heard on the Seattle Symphony’s 2017 recording of Nielsen’s Symphony No.3, on the first track of Silkroad Ensemble’s Grammy-winning 2016 album *Sing Me Home*, and on Roomful of Teeth’s self-titled debut album, for which composer Caroline Shaw’s Partita was awarded the 2013 Pulitzer Prize. Estelí received her Bachelor of Arts with honors in music from Yale College, and Master of Music from McGill University, studying with Sanford Sylvan. In addition to maintaining a busy performance schedule, Estelí currently serves as assistant professor of voice at Lawrence University. She is a member of Beyond Artists, a coalition of artists who donate a percentage of their concert fees to organizations they care about.

About Cheryl Ann Fulton

A world-class artist and leading pioneer of historical harps, Cheryl Ann Fulton has enjoyed an international performing, recording, teaching, and scholarly research career since 1984. Recognized as a “genuine virtuosa of her instrument,” she performs on and teaches medieval, bray, Baroque (triple and single-action pedal), and contemporary “Celtic” lever harps. She earned BS (pedal harp), MM and DM (historical harp/musicology) degrees from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. A versatile recording artist, Cheryl can be heard on over 30 albums on major labels, as well as on film scores and video game soundtracks (Braid, Age of Empires) in a broad range of musical styles from Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, classical and contemporary, to Celtic, World and orchestral music. Cheryl has a private studio in the San Francisco Bay area and teaches online, through her own HarpSecrets.com. You can learn more about Cheryl and see her collection of 20 harps at cherylannfulton.com.

love & light Album Credits:

Dan Merceruio

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Leslie Ann Jones, Dann Thompson, Robert Gatley

Recording Engineers

Dan Merceruio

Editing

Daniel Shores

Mixing and Mastering

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Rob and Nita use their iconic California landscape and wildflower images to raise awareness, and inspire hope and action regarding land conservation, species extinction and climate change. Discover more of their beautiful images and wildflower project at **winterbadger.com** and **wildflowerbooks.com**.

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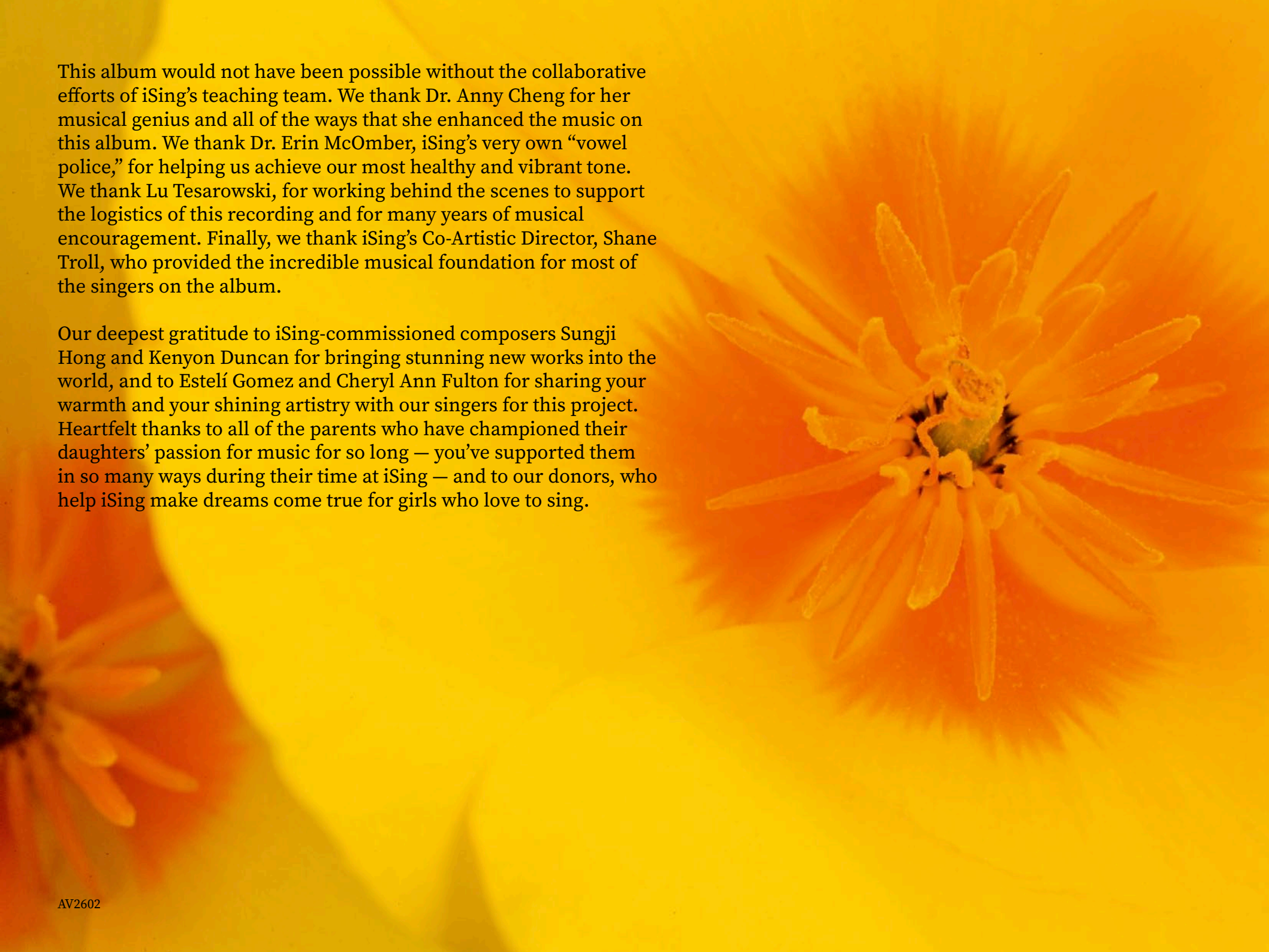
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This album would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of iSing’s teaching team. We thank Dr. Anny Cheng for her musical genius and all of the ways that she enhanced the music on this album. We thank Dr. Erin McOmer, iSing’s very own “vowel police,” for helping us achieve our most healthy and vibrant tone. We thank Lu Tesarowski, for working behind the scenes to support the logistics of this recording and for many years of musical encouragement. Finally, we thank iSing’s Co-Artistic Director, Shane Troll, who provided the incredible musical foundation for most of the singers on the album.

Our deepest gratitude to iSing-commissioned composers Sungji Hong and Kenyon Duncan for bringing stunning new works into the world, and to Estelí Gomez and Cheryl Ann Fulton for sharing your warmth and your shining artistry with our singers for this project. Heartfelt thanks to all of the parents who have championed their daughters’ passion for music for so long — you’ve supported them in so many ways during their time at iSing — and to our donors, who help iSing make dreams come true for girls who love to sing.