

Through the Flames: Project Manifesto

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." — John 15:13

Throughout every age of history, there have been men, women, and children who have valued the love of Christ above every earthly possession—even life itself. Their witness was not born of a longing for death, but of a love so profound that fear could not overcome it. The Church remembers them as martyrs: not victims of history, but radiant witnesses to a hope stronger than suffering and a joy that transcends every earthly trial.

Through the Flames gives musical voice to that witness.

Through the lives of Joan of Arc, Maximilian Kolbe, Little Li, Perpetua, Blessed Miguel Pro, and Maria Goretti, the cycle journeys across centuries and continents, revealing the remarkable diversity of those who have answered Christ's call with heroic fidelity. Each story is unique, yet together they proclaim the same enduring truth: that love is stronger than fear, grace is stronger than violence, and life in Christ is stronger than death.

Written for the uncommon pairing of soprano and organ, *Through the Flames* embraces a dramatic musical language as varied as the lives it portrays. Moments of contemplation yield to scenes of anguish, courage, tenderness, sacrifice, and exultant hope. The organ—capable of whispering intimacy and thundering grandeur—stands beside the human voice as an equal partner in telling these timeless stories.

The cycle reaches its spiritual center in the words of Revelation:

"These are they who have come out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Premiering on the Solemnity of All Saints, *Through the Flames* is more than a remembrance of those who have gone before us. It is a celebration of the communion of saints—the great cloud of witnesses whose lives continue to illuminate the path of faith. Their stories remind us that holiness is not reserved for the extraordinary, but is born wherever ordinary people respond to God's grace with extraordinary love.

More than a song cycle, *Through the Flames* is an invitation: to reflect, to remember, and to glimpse the eternal glory promised to those who persevere in faith. As Saint Paul writes, *"The sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed."* (Romans 8:18)