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# TO THE HANDS

### November 24, 2024

St. Joseph Parish Cockeysville, MD





### **Martha Banghart**

Artistic Director

**Greg Arment** 

Assistant Director

**Julie Culotta** 

Artistic Director

**Stacey Scarff** 

Assistant Director

Dr. Roy Belfield, Jr.

Collaborative Pianist

## Keep up with the latest DCC happenings!

www.DeerCreekChorale.org www.facebook.com/DeekCreekChorale Instagram @deercreekchorale Twitter @deercreeksings







Programs made possible in part by grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, Harford County Cultural Arts Board and Citizens of Baltimore County.



## Chestnut Grove Presbyterian Church Sunday Service 10am www.chestnutgrovechurch.net



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Good afternoon friends,

What a fabulous venue in which to launch the 18th season of the Deer Creek Chorale organization! We are so grateful to St. Joseph Parish for welcoming us to their beautiful sanctuary.

The theme of today's concert *To the Hands* focuses on the connections we make through life's journey. The purpose of our dual mission of choral artistry and community service is to intertwine carefully chosen music and community partners of diverse backgrounds with the energies of our intergenerational choir members. Together, we can build meaningful connections that enrich lives.

Choral Artistry - a hallmark of our organization is the connections we make with choral composers. Today's concert features a commissioned piece, HANDS, written for our adult and youth choirs by world renown composer Z. Randall Stroope. The piece tells the story of a woman, Helen May Martin, who demonstrated the true connection between touch, feel, sense and know.

Community Service – our 2024-2025 partner is Project C.U.R.E., the world's largest distributor of donated medical supplies, equipment and service to doctors and nurses serving the sick in more than 135 countries. Our choir members are supplying



KITS FOR KIDS – backpacks that contain first aid and personal hygiene items that can be scarce in family homes in under-resourced communities.

As President of the Board of Directors of the Deer Creek Choirs, I want to express our gratitude for your support and encouragement in using choral music as a tool to bridge gaps between people, social groups, and cultures.

Best wishes for a lovely holiday season and we hope to see you in 2025 cheering us on!

Sincerely,

## **PROGRAM**

Walk with me, my brother. Walk with me, my sister,
Journey with me as we seek our destiny.

Talk with me, my brother. Talk with me, my sister,
Lend me your wisdom and your eyes that I might see.

No matter what the problem, I will try to understand.

We can make it through, hand in hand.

Sing with me, my brother. Sing with me, my sister.

Let's get together and make a melody.

Shout with me, my brother. Shout with me, my sister.

Let's celebrate what it means to be free.

Work with me, my brother. Work with me, my sister.

Labor with me as we strive for unity.

Dance with me, my brother. Dance with me, my sister.

Come step with me as we move in harmony.

Hand in hand, we can make it through, hand in hand.

DEER CREEK CHORALE -

Sing with me, Oh, shout and dance with me. Hand in hand.

to the hands that praise...

O Clap Your Hands...... R. Vaughn Williams(1920)

O, clap your hands, all ye people, shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the Lord most high is terrible. He is a great King over all the earth. God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises. Sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth, Sing ye praises, everyone that hath understanding.

God reigneth over the heathen, God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness. Sing praises unto our King. Sing praises.

### to the hands that guide...

Precious Lord...... Thomas Dorsey arr. Sevier (1938)

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand.

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.

Take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

When my way, grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,

When my life is almost gone,

At the river, Lord, I stand, guide my feet and hold my hand

Take my hand, Lord, and lead me home.

to the hands that welcome...

Soloists: Ryan Wilson and Gretchen Young

We open our minds, thanks to God We open our hearts, thanks to God We reach out our hands, thanks to God

Hands are knockin'

Brother, will you let them in?

Sister, will you let them in?

#### COMBINED CHOIRS -

Hands (2024 commission for Deer Creek Chorale) . . . Z. Randall Stroope

Touch, Feel, Sense, Know

Under the decree of fate's circumstance

I look without seeing and hear without listening.

But my senses three in synchronized dance

Follow a new cadence of knowing and becoming.

My hands in celestial-like tapestry,

Weave rhythms' language in brilliant synergy.

Touching, feeling, sensing, and grasping the mystery

Of each finger in unrestrained poetry.

With your hand on mine, notes vibrated inner space

At first in disguise, then a language of touch was born –

An eternal symphony spoken in divine whispers, divine wisdom.

This harp of broken strings is now radiance transformed!

Touch, Feel Sense, Know

Hands embrace and hands that help and hands that reach and

Hands that change and hands that hold and hands create and

Hands that love and hands that teach and hands that pray and

Hands unite and hands that comfort hands console and hands surrender

Hands include and hands that serve and celebrate!

	DEER CREEK YOUTH CHOIR   COMBINED CHOI	RS
	to the hands that dance	
TaDaKiTa	Deana	Esmail (2021)

TāReKiTa is a vibrant, joyful piece in a rāga (Indian classical melodic framework) called Jog. The text syllables are onomatopoeic vocalizations of the sounds produced by Indian instruments. The "mudra" hand gestures are a way to engage more deeply with the Indian classical dance tradition called Bharatanatyam.

I look around me as I grow; I'd like to tell you all I know.

I see life, with all its energy; the city streets, the rush of time.

This is my world; it's where I like to be.

So much to see; so much to find.

I sometimes sit and wait a while; I see the sun, It makes me smile.

Can you see it? Can you see it too?

I feel life with all its energy; The joy of waking every day. This is my world; It's where I like to be. So much to do; so much to say.

I sometimes sit and feel the sun; Its warmth is there for everyone. Can you feel it? Can you feel it too?

My world's a silent one, but it's enough for me.

I hear you through your hands; the movement sets me free.

But it could be a special thing to hear your voice, to hear you sing.

Can you hear me? Can you hear me too?

I look around me as I grow; I'd like to tell you all I know.

to the hands that include...

Crowded Table......... Hemby, McKenna & Carlile arr. Ramsey (2019)

Soloists: Grace Dauses & Caroline Mahon

Violin: Julia FitzGerald; Drums: Nick Fanto; Guitar: John MacCubbin

You can hold my hand when you need to let go
I can be your mountain when you're feeling valley-low
I can be your streetlight showing you the way home
You can hold my hand when you need to let go

I want a house with a crowded table, and a place by the fire for everyone Let us take on the world while we're young and able And bring us back together when the day is done

If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seed Plant a little happiness; let the roots run deep. If it's love that we give, then it's love that we reap. If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seed.

The door is always open – your picture's on my wall. Everyone's a little broken, and everyone belongs.

### - FIVE MINUTE STRETCH -

Piano Solo by Dr. Roy Belfield

#### DEER CREEK YOUTH CHOIR | JUBILATE CHOIR -

to the hands that love...

Soloists: Savannah Thompson, Liza Bennett, Luna Hrybyk

Swahili text translation: I stand tall with love and with hope. Children are closer to the earth.

to the hands that teach...

Galop from Solfege Suite ...... Ken Berg (2007)

#### DEER CREEK YOUTH CHOIR | VIVACE CHOIR —

to the hands that acclaim...

O clap your hands, all ye nations: shout unto God with the voice of joy. For the Lord is high, terrible: a great king over all the earth.

He hath subdued the people under us; and the nations under our feet.

He hath chosen for us his inheritance, the beauty of Jacob which he hath loved.

God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

to the hands that accept...

**Does the World Say?....** Kyle Pederson (2022)

Soloists: Callum Patterson & Caroline Giacobbe

Violin: Julia FitzGerald

Does the world say that you don't look the right way? Does the world say that you're just not enough?

Does the world say that this isn't the right spot?

When it wants you there but not here, and tells you all the things you are not.

I've been there, too. It's hard to shut my ears to the noise. I don't stand a chance if it's me in this world all alone. The chatter is deafening, too overwhelming, hard to find my way home. So take my hand...don't let go.

Does the world say that you don't think the right things? Does the world say that you're not worth the time?

Does the world laugh when you fall, when you cry? Does it turn the other way every time you walk by?

I'm growing, learning, loving, becoming.

So take my hand...don't let go.

elyn Hagen (2017)
gen

DEER CREEK CHORALE -

to the hands that celebrate...

Clap Yo' Hands (Oh, Kay) . . . . . . . . . . George and Ira Gershwin (1926)

Clap yo' hands, Clap yo' hands, Halleluyah! Everybody sing.
Everybody clap yo' hand! Slap-a yo' thigh! Halleluyah! Halleluyah!
Everybody come along and join the jubilee!
Clap yo' hand! Slap-a yo' thigh! Don't you lose time.
Come along, it's shake yo' shoes time now for you and me!
On the sands of time you are only a pebble.
Remember trouble must be treated just like a rebel.
Send him to the debble!
Clap-a yo' hand! Slap-a yo' thigh!
Halleluyah! Yeah!

### to the hands that help...

## **Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel** . . . . . Traditional/arr. Stacey Gibbs(2010)

Oh, Lody, if I could, You know I surely would,

Stan' on de rock where Moses stood.

Refrain: Didn' my Lord deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel? Didn' my Lord deliver Daniel, then why not a-ev'ry man?

He delivered Daniel from the lion's den, Jonah from the belly of the whale An' the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace, then why not a-ev'ry man?

I set my foot on de gospel ship an' de ship begin to sail.

An' it landed me down on Caanan's shore and I'm nevuh comin' back anymo'. Yes,

The wind blows east an' the wind blows wes'

It blows like the judgemen' day an' ev'ry poor sinnuh that nevuh did pray Will be glad to pray that day. Oh! Why not ev'ry man?

#### DEER CREEK CHORALE AND AUDIENCE -

to the hands that pray...

With Heart and Hand......John Rutter(2010)

For all the blessings you have granted us, Lord, Give us thankful hearts, we pray,

For life and health and happiness And for the gift of each new day; For all our families and loved ones, The friends we meet along our way, We thank you, Lord, they are your gifts, Lord, we praise you, Lord, we bless you,

In your service let us all your love repay.

Look all around you, behold a world forever new.

Every valley, hill and mountain is calling to you.

For all the wonders of creation, A world whose marvels we behold.

Where winter turns to spring again, The changing scenes of life unfold.

But there is One who never changes through all eternity the same. Be with us, Lord, for ever more, Alleluia, Lord we praise your Holy Name.

#### Audience

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices. Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way, With countless gifts of love And still is ours today. Amen.

COMBINED CHOIRS

to the hands that bless...

An Irish Blessing...... Ryan James Brandau (2020)

May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, May the rain fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His Hand. Amen.

to the hands that hold...

He's Got the Whole World..... arr. Keith Hampton (2000)

He's got the whole world in His Hand, He's got the whole world in His Hand, He's got the whole world in His Hand, He's got the whole world in-a His Hand.

He's got the woods and the water in His Hand,

He's got the woods and the water in His Hand,

He's got the sun and the moon right in His Hand, He's got the whole world in His Hand.

He's got the birds and the bees right in His Hand,

He's got the birds and the bees right in His Hand,

He's got the beasts of the field right in His Hand, the whole world in His Hand.

He's got you and me right in His Hand, He's got you and me right in His Hand

He's got ev'rybody in his hand, He's got the whole world in-a His Hand. He's got the whole world in-a His Hand.

# PROGRAM NOTE ON COMMISSIONED PIECE

#### THE STORY BEHIND THE WORK...

Helen May Martin, born December 18, 1893, was an American pianist. Helen Keller called Martin, "the most accomplished deaf and blind person in the world." Blind and deaf from childhood, it became immediately apparent that Martin would not be defined by her lack of sight and hearing. At an early age, she began leaning against the piano as her cousins took lessons so that she could feel the vibrations. She later said, "Music is a vibrational expression of the soul in harmony with God." Martin's mother taught her music by touching Helen's palms and playing while her daughter's hands were under her hands to indicate the feel and sound of notes. She was taught the different note values by touching beans - a whole note was represented by four beans, a half note by two beans, and a quarter note by one bean. Helen listened to live radio broadcasts while holding an empty metal can in her hands to capture the vibrations. She later attended music conservatories in Wichita and Cincinnati, her mother interpreting the spoken instruction into hand signs in Helen's palms. She began giving public concerts in 1922 and toured and performed in cities across the United States for over 20 years. Helen collected sheet music in braille and other "raised" print systems, and memorized hundreds of classical compositions.

#### WRITING OF "HANDS"...

Finding a serious text about hands, face, or other very specific part of the body, and then "connecting" that to a real-life human experience or drama posed a two-fold challenge. After researching hundreds of ideas and texts, and with little acceptable results, I decided to convey the remarkable story of Helen May Martin through my own poetic lenses (though I am generally skeptical of composers freely assuming the mantle of a poet). I also felt it important to focus on Helen's incessant courage and desire to

dominate every hurdle - demonstrated by the composition's unwielding rhythmic piano and vocal lines. The words "touch, feel, sense, and know" - like rotating planets around Helen's life - were the key to her joy and life's work.

#### **ABOUT THE COMPOSER...**

Z. Randall Stroope is an American composer and conductor. His composition teachers were Normand Lockwood and Cecil Effinger, both students of Nadia Boulanger, the famous French teacher (and student of Gabriel Fauré). Randall is the artistic director of two international summer music festivals, is an honorary board member of the National Association of Italian Choral Directors and has conducted in 25 countries. He has directed over 40 times at Carnegie Hall and is a frequent conductor at other prestigious concert venues. Randall has 195 published works, and his music can be heard on Spotify, YouTube and other platforms, including his website (www.zrstroope.com).



## DEER CREEK CHORALE

## Martha Banghart, Director Greg Arment, Assistant Director

#### **SOPRANO**

Janet Ayres
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Patty Ballinger
Marcia Boccia
Colleen Case<sup>1</sup>
Laurel Falkner
Kris Foster
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Kathy Browning<sup>3</sup>
Jamie Burgess
Stephanie Davis
Muffy Deeley
Meccy Gast
Donna Gotsch
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Jeffrey Roemer<sup>1</sup> Steve Scheinberg<sup>1</sup> Michael Semancik Adam Zukowski

1 – Chamber Choir member 2 – Ebb and Flow member 3 – Chamber Choir and Ebb and Flow member 4 - Banghart Scholar

## DEER CREEK YOUTH CHOIR

Julie Culotta, Artistic Director Stacey Scarff, Assistant Director

	JUBILATE	
Uwakmfon Archibong	Julianna Garlen	Zara Maddula
Liza Bennett	Otto Hoene	Caroline Mahon
Caterina Amasia	Luna Hrybyk	Elliana Verma
Richard Fields	Layton Long	Savannah Thompson
	VIVACE	
Nesiah Anoh	Caroline Giacobbe	Liam Patterson
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Amalia Bettini	Ethan Jennings-Jones	Addie Schwaninger
Isabella Brietenback	Evelyn Macdonald	Elsa Schwaninger
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Gregory Garlen	Callum Patterson	
	INTERNS -	
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Programs made possible in part by grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, the Harford County Cultural Arts Board and the Citizens of Baltimore County.

## ABOUT DEER CREEK CHORALE



Founded in 2007, the Deer Creek Chorale, a 501c3 tax-exempt arts organization, provides artistic and community service opportunities for the amateur musician. The Chorale is a multi-generational choir with over 80 non-auditioned singers from Maryland's Baltimore and Harford counties and Southern Pennsylvania. A varied and challenging repertoire encourages vocal technique, musicianship and expression. Under the umbrella of the Chorale are the Youth Choirs (Jubilate and Vivace) and a select Chamber Choir and ladies ensemble, Ebb and Flow. The Chorale seeks to develop the potential of singers at all levels of experience.



Contributions list compiled from donations (monetary) received November 1, 2023-October 31, 2024.

#### **CORPORATE SPONSORS**

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## The Mary Jean and Oliver Travers Foundation

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#### JACKIE MCCOSH MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA FUND



A founding member of the Deer Creek Chorale, Jackie was a beloved wife, teacher, and friend. After being paralyzed from a car accident in 2009, the DCC community supported her by raising \$40,000 to purchase a wheelchair accessible van. She continued to be a dedicated DCC chorister until her eternal rest in 2010.

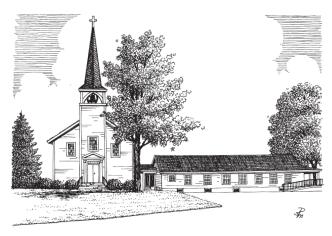
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# Coming in 2025

### With One Voice Choral Festival

Saturday, March 8th, 3pm Goucher College, Towson

## Collaborative Concert with Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, March 9th, 3pm Bel Air High School, Bel Air

## Let All the World Sing

Saturday, May 10th, 4pm Goucher College, Towson

## ARTISTIC STAFF

Martha S. Banghart, DCC Artistic Director, provides the force and

vision guiding the Deer Creek Chorale since its inception in 2007. A career Maryland music educator, Ms. Banghart has dedicated her energies toward developing the Deer Creek Chorale into a compassionate, talented, inter-generational choir dedicated to enriching the greater Baltimore community with meaningful experiences in the choral

arts. Ms. Banghart is committed to exposing her choristers to a myriad of guest clinicians and has led the choir in the study and performance of many major works. Her choirs have performed internationally in the United Kingdom, China, Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany and Italy. Another trademark of the Deer Creek Chorale is its commitment to community service. Each year the organization collaborates with another nonprofit either locally or globally. Commissioning new works is another important aspect of Ms. Banghart's work. Many of these commissions have been through a Chorus America consortium or sponsored by individual donors. Ms. Banghart is passionate about the benefits of singing at any age both physically and spiritually. Singing is a lifelong activity and one that educates and inspires. The creation of the youth choir in 2016 was one of Ms. Banghart's goals. As a result, the combined programs presently serve ages 6 through 86 with many opportunities for the groups to work together and learn from each other.

Ms. Banghart is an active member of the National Association for Music Education, American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America. She made her directorial debut at Carnegie Hall in 2018. Her awards include Teacher of the Year, Humanitarian Award, Teacher of Excellence in Maryland, and a Director of Note. She continues to study voice and vocal pedagogy and maintains a private voice and classical guitar studio. She has served as a national consultant, adjudicator, guest conductor, soloist,

and clinician. She and her husband maintain three homes and, whether in Canada, Maryland, or Sanibel, Florida; Ms. Banghart is active in the music scene.

Greg Arment, DCC Assistant Director has been active as an educator, church musician, and accompanist in various parts of Maryland since 2005. A Jarrettsville native and graduate of North Harford High School, his first professional musical activity was as the organist at St. Paul and Norrisville United Methodist Churches while he was in high school. He received his

Bachelor of Music degree from Susquehanna University and his Master of Music degree from Anderson University, both in Music Education. Greg taught elementary and middle school music in Wicomico and Baltimore counties for nine years before moving into a Teacher Coach position. While in Wicomico County, he played in pit orchestras and served as the rehearsal accompanist for the Community Players of Salisbury. He is also the Director of Music and Organist at Orems United Methodist Church in Middle River. He lives in Parkville with his wife, Melissa, and daughters, Lena and Eliza.

Julie Culotta, DCYC Artistic Director, founded the Deer Creek Youth Choir in 2016. A Maryland native, Ms. Culotta's love for community youth choir began as a young singer with the Frederick Children's Chorus and continued through her work with the All Children's Chorus of Annapolis from 2006-2014. She received her bachelors in Music Education from

the University of Maryland - College Park and her Masters of Music in Choral Conducting from Georgia State University. She currently serves as the Director of Youth Music Ministry at St. Joseph Parish in Cockeysville, Maryland. She previously taught choral music at North Harford Middle School in Harford County. Ms. Culotta resides in Lutherville, Maryland with her husband Dave and their children, Adelyn, Cooper, Camden and Grace.

Stacey Scarff, DCYC Assistant Director, is currently the music director at

Highland Presbyterian Church in Street, MD. She spent
17 years teaching chorus for Harford County Public
Schools before deciding to resign in order to spend
more time with her family. She is a former student
of Martha Banghart and was one of the original
members of the Deer Creek Chorale. Stacey is very
excited to have the opportunity to work with young

singers again and is looking forward to making more beautiful music!

Roy L. Belfield, Jr., Accompanist, a native of Petersburg, Virginia,

University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Morehouse College in Atlanta, two Master's degrees in music education and organ performance from Florida State University in Tallahassee, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from

began his undergraduate studies in music at Dillard

the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. He has done additional studies in vocal pedagogy and choral conducting at the University of Alabama, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Southern California.

As an educator, Dr. Belfield taught students from pre-school to college for twenty-three years. As a church musician, he has served six denominations throughout the country. As an accompanist, Belfield has collaborated with numerous choirs, vocalists, and instrumentalists. As composer and arranger, Dr. Belfield has written works for chorus, voice and piano, and organ. Colla Voce, Hal Leonard Corporation, MorningStar Music, GIA Publications, and Wayne Leupold Editions published his choral and organ works. The American Organist and the Choral Journal have published Dr. Belfield's scholarly articles. Dr. Belfield is currently Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choirs and Orchestra at Goucher College in Maryland. He also serves as accompanist for the Frederick Chorale.





# A SACRED SPACE TRANSFORMED

## THE STORY OF THE ST. JOSEPH RENOVATION

By Laura Koby - Chair, St. Joseph Liturgy Committee

Step inside the newly renovated St. Joseph Church in Cockeysville and you instantly sense the transformation. The meticulously conceived of and designed sanctuary pairs timeless elements and modern touches, creating a stunning environment for worship and music. The centerpiece is the newly installed Peragallo pipe organ, a marvel of craftsmanship and rich, resonant sound that is already turning heads. This remarkable combination makes St. Joseph a must-visit for the faithful and music enthusiasts alike.

Led by local architectural firm CAM Construction, the \$7 million renovation honors St. Joseph's history while making the space more inviting and functional. The 12,000 square foot sanctuary features a raised ceiling, enhanced lighting,



improved seating, and a more accessible layout. Sightlines to the altar were enhanced by opening the transepts, adding nearly 100 seats. Carefully chosen liturgical furnishings complete the aesthetic. A newly erected interior dome is adorned with icons of the four evangelists, hand painted by iconographer Dionysios Bouloubassis. The sanctuary design features subtle nods to St. Joseph's Irish founders, incorporating locally quarried Cockeysville stone and Celtic cross motifs throughout. In recognition of their outstanding work on the St. Joseph project, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Baltimore awarded CAM Construction Project of the Year for the state of Maryland at their Excellence in Construction Awards on October 10, a fitting culmination to the highly successful effort.

# Check out the latest from Tracy Banghart



"An exhilarating thriller." School Library Journal

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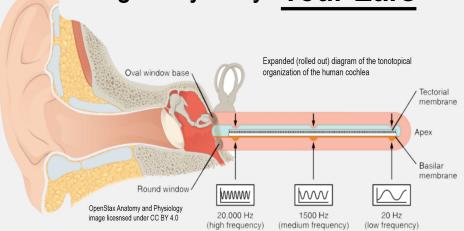




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