

### About Astoria Choir

The Astoria Choir has been providing world-class choral music experiences to singers and audiences in Astoria, Queens, since 2010. The non-profit organization's one hundred volunteer singers come together to rehearse each week and perform music from classical masterworks to world premieres and commissions. Each season the Choir features collaborations with professional vocalists and instrumental ensembles, and offers three to four concerts per year. Auditions for new members are held in September and January. Inquire: [info@astoriachoir.org](mailto:info@astoriachoir.org).



### About Karen Siegel

Composer and writer Karen Siegel creates innovative, engaging, and meaningful choral and vocal works. Her works are frequently performed by the New York City-based ensemble C4: the Choral Composer/Conductor Collective, which she co-founded in 2005. Karen's choral works are featured on albums by The Crossing (coming Fall 2024), Harmonium Choral Society, the Choir of Trinity College Melbourne, Tonality, and C4. Her works are published by See-A-Dot Music Publishing, by Chestnutoak Press, in *The Justice Choir Songbook* (Justice Choir, 2017) and in *The Singing Book, Fourth Edition* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2024). [karensiegel.com](http://karensiegel.com) | [@scoresbysiegel](https://twitter.com/scoresbysiegel)



## Lessons of Stone

June 7, 2024  
6–8 pm

Performed by The Astoria Choir  
Karen Siegel, composer  
Adam Eggleston, artistic director  
Christopher Bradshaw, asst. director

*Lessons of Stone* is a choral sound installation in four movements, with music and text by Karen Siegel. It is inspired by the life and artwork of Isamu Noguchi, and was created as a site-specific composition for The Noguchi Museum. It was commissioned in 2020 by The Astoria Choir, directed by artistic director Adam Eggleston, in celebration of the Choir's 10th anniversary.

The music consists of phrases repeated aleatorically, or involving an element of chance, since each singer decides independently when to sing their part. The result is a flowing texture that is slightly different with each performance.

The movement "Fleeting" is about the elasticity of time as experienced by Noguchi when he formed his massive granite sculptures. "Falling" reflects on Noguchi's experience during World War II—Noguchi voluntarily entered a concentration camp in solidarity with his fellow Japanese Americans. "Lasting" expresses Noguchi's affinity for stone as his medium. And "Floating" is a wordless meditation on the quality of light in the second floor galleries.

Please feel free to wander the museum as you wish, pausing to listen to as much or as little of the music as you desire. The four movements will each be repeated in the same space multiple times, with breaks for the performers to change locations. You may choose to listen to the different sections of music bleed into each other in the spaces in between the performances.

*About the  
Performers*



## **I. Fleeting**

A year lasts a moment  
A moment lasts a year

## **II. Floating**

(no text; changing vowel sounds)

## **III. Falling**

Falling from light  
Falling from strength  
Falling from truth  
Backwards into darkness

## **IV. Lasting**

When we are gone  
They will still be brilliant,  
They will still be calm.

When we are gone  
They will still have purpose,  
They will still have depth.

When we are gone  
They will still be living.  
They will still be here.

—Karen Siegel