

Choral Showcase

2018–2019 Season
536th Concert

Saturday 13 April 2019
Dalton Center Recital Hall
8:00 p.m.

COLLEGIATE SINGERS
UNIVERSITY CHORALE
Kimberly Dunn Adams, Conductor
Victoria Jackson and Austin McWilliams,
Graduate Assistant Conductors
Tina Gorter, Piano

CANTUS FEMINA
Dee Gauthier, Conductor
Christopher Gray, Piano

Zachary Wadsworth
b. 1983

COLLEGIATE SINGERS

“Retrovir” from *The Far West*

Turn back oh man
and see how where you’ve come from
looks from here: the light-filled leak of sunrise, drone
of morning’s clarity and fleeting sense
of firm direction, lunch with wine,
siesta and the afternoon you’re part of.
Here the sky is always blue
And white, the colors of the pills
that poison you while they extend your life,
inoculating you with time that draws you back with fingers
curved around the bowstring.
You’re not the target, you’re the arrow
and the dirty wind that hits your face on summer streets these
too-long evenings means you’re moving
faster than you know, a shrill
projectile through the neutral air
above a world war, headed for the flesh
of someone’s notion of croquet
at twilight on the lawn. The thickening
damp crowds out the light, as green
of grass and fountain separates
to blue and white.

Negar Afazel, Xun Xu, Harmony Kelly, Marlae Sloothaak, Violin
Carlos Lozano, Laura Parra Acosta, Viola
Jonathan Barnes, Andrew Gagliu, Cello
Colin Taber, Double Bass
Austin McWilliams, Conductor

Elliot Z. Levine

b. 1948

i thank You God

i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and love and wings and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

Austin McWilliams, Conductor

UNIVERSITY CHORALE

Latvian Folktale

arr. Mence

Kalējs kala debesīs

The Blacksmith forges in the sky,
Coal falls into the river Daugava.
A brooch is forged for the daughter of the Sun
With golden bubbles.

This piece describes the creation of the world as depicted in Latvian mythology: the God of Thunder forged the sky in a metal workshop. Mence's arrangement uses repeated consonants, quickly accented chord declamation, and dissonance to depict flying sparks and clanging metal. Winding melodies represent the dark Daugava river tempering the sparks.

Daniel Elder

b. 1986

“Lullaby” from *Three Nocturnes*

“Lullaby” is a simple song of reassurance, as a mother may sing to her child to stave off a fear of the darkness and solitude of night. The beauty of this text lies in its dual nature, as it also serves to comfort those who grieve over loss. The line “the day is done, and gone the sun” has its origins in the first line traditionally sung to “Taps,” the tune generally played on bugle for military funerals or to signal the end of the day. (Notes by Daniel Elder)

Traditional Spiritual

arr. Gibbs

Soon I Will Be Done (2015)

Detroit-based composer Stacey Gibbs is one of the most popular living spiritual arrangers; his works have been performed throughout the world and have been featured at numerous ACDA conventions, all-state concerts, and honor choirs programs. This arrangement of “Soon I Will Be Done” is the first known arrangement of a spiritual for double choir.

CANTUS FEMINA

Jocelyn Hagen

b. 1980

Moon Goddess

Enheduanna (born ca. 2300 B.C.) was a moon priestess, the daughter of King Sargon of Agade, who reigned over the world's first empire, extending from the Mediterranean to Persia. Sargon is the first important leader to emerge from the half-light of prehistory into the full light of a written record. His daughter, Enheduanna, is the first writer, male or female, in history whose name and work have been preserved. Her personal history survives in highly politicized poems, which in their cosmic vision and ethical outrage recall Isaiah. In her poems to the Sumerian goddess of love Inanna, she speaks to a deity who has descended to earth as an ally, as a friend to help her in her need. In the poems' sensuality surprising metaphors, and intimacy, they recall Sappho's poems to her ally Aphrodite.

Deanna Witkowski

Where Shadow Chases Light

This is my delight, thus to wait and watch at the wayside
where shadow chases light and the rain comes in the wake of the summer.

Messengers, with tidings from unknown skies,
greet me and speed along the road.

My heart is glad within, and the breath of the passing breeze is sweet.

From dawn till dusk I sit here before my door,
and I know that of a sudden the happy moment will arrive when I shall see.

In the meanwhile I smile and I sing all alone.
In the meanwhile the air is filling with the perfume of promise.

Poetry by Rabindranath Tagore from *Gitanjali* (1913)

David N. Childs

b. 1969

Where Your Bare Foot Walks

I want to be where your bare foot walks,
because maybe before you step you'll look at the ground.
I want that blessing.

I open and fill with love, and all other objects evaporate.
All the learning in books stays put on the shelf.

Poetry, the dear words and images of song, comes down over me like water.

I want to be where your bare foot walks,
because maybe before you step you'll look at the ground.

This is how I would die into the love I have for you:
As pieces of cloud dissolve in the sunlight.

Gwyneth Walker

b. 1947

Now I Become Myself

This choral setting of May Sarton's poem, "Now I Become Myself," aims to capture the process of growing into one's own self as a complete person. Thus, the opening eight measures present forceful chords in piano and chorus – the strength of knowing oneself. This section is an introductory statement.

The main portion of the song then begins with rapid accompaniment patterns and vocal effects (t k t k) to represent the scattered and scurrying persons, running through life, searching. The music slows with the words "Now to stand still, to be here, Feel my own weight and density!" The self-discovery process is unfolding.

The scurrying patterns return, this time yielding to a full growth into the glorious final statement "I, the pursued, who madly ran, Stand still, stand still, and stop the sun!" And the opening piano chords now return in triumph beneath the chorus. (Quote from Gwyneth Walker)

Don Macdonald***Fusion***

This piece was written to explore choral writing without the use of poetry. Abandoning poetry opens up many compositional doors for the choral composer since being unrestrained by text yields a greater ability to choose your own rhythm and form among other things. I chose to make up syllables that would fit each of the motifs in the piece. The bass ostinato throughout the piece is based on the rhythm of a taiko drum pattern I heard many years ago while the upper parts explore short motifs and contemporary harmonies. The uniting of these two ideas felt to me like a "fusion" of different musical styles, thus the title. (Quote from Don Macdonald)

Ola Gjeilo***Days of Beauty***

When day of beauty deck the earth or stormy night descend,
How well my spirit knows the path on which it ought to wend.
It seeks the consecrated spot beloved in childhood's years;
The space between is all forgot its sufferings and its tears.

Text by Emily Brontë

Negar Afazel, Xun Xu, Violin

Carlos Lozano, Viola

Jonathan Barnes, Cello

COLLEGIATE SINGERS

Kimberly Dunn Adams, Conductor

Tina Gorter, Piano

Victoria Jackson and Austin McWilliams, Graduate Assistant Conductors

Soprano

- Anastasia Chubb, Richland
Abigail Cowan, Mattawan
Alana Dyer, Battle Creek
①② Victoria Jackson, Kalamazoo
Alaina Johns, Rochester
* Julia Malone, Bakersfield CA
③ Amelia Marciniak, Stevensville
Alexa Murphy, Cary IL
Lindsay Nichols, Troy
Megan Oldham, Aurora IL
④⑤⑥ Jessica Parker, Roseville
Daniela F. Peña Cabreja, Santo Domingo,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Allie Rutkowski, Gaylord
Katie Short, Caledonia
Izabella Silver, Brighton
Aliza Treber, Saline
Jinh Jie Yang, Kalamazoo
Georgia Zelinsky, Clarkston

Alto

- ⑦ Nicole Ambs, Three Rivers
⑧ Camille Booth, Gaithersburg MD
⑨ Kitty Clark, Harper Woods
Rachel Forsleff, Flint
Dawn Glennie, Lawrence
Alexa Hoard, Stevensville
Caroline Homer, Fraser
Alexandra Leone, Clinton Township
Qiuxian Lu, Kalamazoo
Meredith Mason, Gaylord
Austin McWilliams, Poplar Bluff MO
Emily O'Grady, Park Ridge IL
Katherine Plier, Wausau WI (assisting)
⑩ Faith Quashie, Dix Hills NY
Lissa Weaver, Kalamazoo

Tenor

- Lane Alsup, Coloma
Jakob Knuth, Saint Joseph
Aaron McNabb, New Baltimore
Adam Peterson, South Haven
E Pham, Grand Rapids
Henry Poznanski, Kalamazoo
Nate Rigling, Mattawan
Marcell Pierre Whitfield, Sterling Heights
Travis Williams, Lansing

Bass

- Blake Barnes, Chelsea
Alexander Dykema, Muskegon
Caleb Heemstra, Ann Arbor
Matthew Lang, Kalamazoo
Colin Leahey, Kalamazoo
Caleb Lockard, Grandville
Austin Malarchick, Sidney MT
Thomas Melcher, Kalamazoo
Conner Melinn, Grand Rapids
Joey Michael, Kalamazoo
+ Braiden Roegner, Trenton
Sam Sisler, Crystal Lake IL
Dominic Ventimiglia, Brighton
Ashton Watkins, Caledonia
Brandon Woodcox, Traverse City
① Audrey Ekdahl Davidson Early Music Scholar
② Thomas C. Hardie Choral Conducting Scholar
③ Mae Arnold Thacker Scholar
④ Faye Ann Luscombe Voice Scholar
⑤ Joyce R. Zastrow Vocal Excellence
⑥ Joyce R. Zastrow Vocal Studies Scholar
⑦ Elsie M. Kohlenstein Watson Music Education
Scholar
⑧ Vocal Performance/Choral Education Scholar
⑨ Sam B. Ethel G. Adams Scholar
⑩ Elwyn "Doc" Carter Vocal Jazz Scholar
+ Member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music
fraternity for men
* Member of Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity
for women

UNIVERSITY CHORALE

Kimberly Dunn Adams, Conductor

Tina Gorter, Piano

**Victoria Jackson and Austin McWilliams,
Graduate Assistant Conductors**

Soprano

Hayley Girard, Coloma

- ♪ ①② Victoria Jackson, Kalamazoo
Shannon Kelley, South Haven
Margaret Mooney, Shelby Township
- ☆③ Katherine Persak, Jenison
Bri Rigozzi, South Haven
Melissa Rink, Davenport IA
Clara Stine, Sterling Heights

Alto

Elizabeth Bayer, Wayland

- ④ Caitlin Borke, Alpena (assisting)
Brooke Boyd, South Haven
- ⑤ Sarabeth Brown, Clarkston
Alexandra Galla, Traverse City (assisting)
- ♪ Austin McWilliams, Poplar Bluff MO
- ③ Jill Ohngren, Wixom
- * Hannah Strayhorn, Saint Joseph
Dana Sullivan, Oxford

Tenor

- ♪ Ryan Block, Canton OH (assisting)
- ③ Dewey Bolz, Saint Charles IL
- ③ Joey Gottschall, Three Rivers
Ben Longo, Brookfield IL
- ⑥ Matthew Randle, Three Rivers
- ③④ Nicholas Sienkiewicz, Washington
- ⑦ Clay Towery, Sparta
Joshua Swick Vreeland, Marshall

Bass

- ⑧ William Bailey, Clinton Township
JP Dizon, Skokie IL
Justin Hamann, South Lyon
Isaac James, Niles
Collin Lewis, Sparta
- ♪ Sam Macy, Hudsonville
Eli Snyder, Grand Rapids
Kevin Tran, Wyoming

- ♪ Section Leader
- ① Audrey Ekdahl Davidson Early Music Scholar
- ② Thomas C. Hardie Choral Conducting Scholar
- ③ Elsie M. Kohlenstein Watson Music Education Scholar
- ④ Evelyn Rosen Hart Music Education Scholar
- ⑤ President's AIMS/Graz Scholar
- ⑥ Vocal Performance/Choral Education Scholar
- ⑦ WMU Piano Scholar
- ⑧ Judith & Brendan Bailey Scholar

☆ Member of Kappa Kappa Psi honorary band fraternity

* Member of Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity for women

CANTUS FEMINA

Dee Gauthier, Conductor

Christopher Gray, Piano

Soprano I

Hannah Elandt, Livonia

Candace McMurray, Lindenwood IL

Bri Rigozzi, South Haven (assisting)

- ①② Abby Solomon, Macomb

Soprano II

Betsy D'Aquila, Traverse City

- ③ Helen Delphia, Livonia
Hailey Gould, Grandville
Hana Holmgren, Kalamazoo
Shannon Kelley, South Haven

Alto I

Hannah Devall, Paw Paw

- ④ Michensey Hamlin, Kalamazoo
Mia Holmgren, Kalamazoo
Sophie Laskaris, Grand Blanc
Hannah Lee, Kalamazoo
Brittyn Samora, Allendale
- * Hannah Strayhorn, St. Joseph (assisting)

Alto II

Brianna Attard, Novi

Breanna Bowen, Midland

Jaydenn Knepp, Clinton Township

- ⑤ Brooke Leinbaugh, Charlotte
Shanelle McGinnis, Grand Rapids

- ① Evelyn Rosen Hart Music Education Scholar
- ② Elsie M. Kohlenstein Watson Music Education Scholar

③ Sam B. & Ethel G. Adams Scholar

④ H. Glenn Henderson Scholar

⑤ Vocal Performance/Choral Education Scholar

* Member of Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity for women