



AN EVENING OF CHOIRS

7:30 P.M. • THURSDAY

APRIL 18 • 2024

LEY THEATRE

W
WAYNE
STATE COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

DR. MATTHEW ARMSTRONG,
CONDUCTOR

**SHELLY ARMSTRONG &
CHRISTOPHER WOERDEMANN,**
PIANISTS

**EMMETT WHITE,
CHRISTOPHER WOERDEMANN,
HANNAH ESSINK, & COLLIN PRICE,**
STUDENT CONDUCTORS

**CON
BEAUTY**

Program

Thank you for taking the time to join us for the final Evening of Choirs of the 2023-2024 year. Our theme this evening, "On Beauty," is inspired by the Michelangelo text featured in one of our selections. Just as spring is a time of renewal and heightened appreciation of beauty in nature, it is a time that we can celebrate the culmination of a year of hard work and the beautiful relationships formed through music. Music does not all sound the same as it can express many emotions from the depths of despair to the heights of ecstasy. Tonight, we explore many beautiful moods of music: Beauty of Whimsy, Inner Beauty, Eternal Beauty, and Beautiful Masterpieces. Thanks again for your kind attendance and gracious support. We hope that you enjoy the concert!

BEAUTY OF WHIMSY

FORTIS & LYRICA

The Glory of Love Billy Hill (1899-1940)/Arr. Jay Althouse

FORTIS

Viva Tutti..... anonymous 18th century

*Live long all the pretty women,
The lovely women, like roses, who have no cruelty.
Hail always – live long!
Those women yearning by the shore. They who have not cruelty.*

Clancy Lowered the Boom Johnny Lange (1905-2006) and Hy Heath (1890-1965)/Arr. Harry Wilson

INNER BEAUTY

LYRICA

Hope is the thing with feathers..... Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927) with text by Emily Dickenson (1830-1886)

A Bird came down the walk Emma Lou Diemer with text by Emily Dickenson

Beautiful..... Linda Perry (b. 1965)/Arr. Mac Huff

BEAUTIFUL MASTERPIECES

CONCERT CHOIR

Deo dicamus gratias..... Gottfried August Homilius (1714-1785)
Let us give thanks to God!

I will not leave you comfortless..... William Byrd (1540-1623)

Lay A Garland..... Robert Pearsall (1795-1856)

On Beauty..... Kurt Knecht (b. 1971) with text by Michelangelo di Ludovico Buonarroti Simoni (1475-1564)

ETERNAL BEAUTY

CONCERT CHOIR

Non nobis domine Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)
Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy name give the glory.

John the Revelator Traditional Gospel/Arr. Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory

CHORAL UNION

The King of Love Traditional Irish melody with text by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)
Arr. Paul J. Christiansen (1914-1997)

CONCERT CHOIR

The Lord Bless You and Keep You..... John Rutter (b. 1945)

Program Notes

BEAUTY OF WHIMSY AND LOVE

“The Glory of Love” is a big band era selection which has been recorded by many artists including Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald, Jimmy Durante and The Andrews Sisters. Benny Goodman’s recording was a number one pop hit in 1936. The interplay between the treble and bass voices in Jay Althouse’s arrangement captures the whimsy of this set as it feels like a flirtatious dialogue.

“Viva Tutti” is an anonymous 18th century a cappella piece sung in Italian. The title translates, “long live everyone!” Essentially, it is a tongue-and-cheek selection that seemingly raises a glass to the beautiful and charming ladies. Additionally, it tells them not to be cruel!

“Clancy Lowered the Boom” was written in 1947 and became well-known after it was performed on Jack Benny’s radio program. The song follows the stereotypical adventures of the Irish-American character, Clancy, who “lowers the boom” on anyone who “gives him guff.” It has been recorded by such artists as The Andrews Sisters, The Ames Brothers, Bing Crosby and Petula Clark.

INNER BEAUTY

“Hope is a thing with feathers” and **“A Bird came down the walk”** are selected from the multi-movement work “Hope is the Thing” by Emma Lou Diemer with text by Emily Dickenson. Trained at Yale and Eastman School of Music, Diemer is a notable composer of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. She became professor emerita at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1991. The poems provide, on their surface, familiar natural and domestic images of bees, birds, and balls of yarn. Diemer’s musical treatment exposes a central theme of hopes and fears centered on the passage of time. Her artful writing for piano, changing meters, musical leaps and *Sprechstimme* (German: speech-voice) make the pieces unique and fun to perform.

Linda Perry’s **“Beautiful”** was recorded as a pop and R&B ballad by Christina Aguilera in 2002 and garnered many awards. It discusses inner beauty while addressing self-esteem and insecurity by calling for determination to shut out negativity with a spirit of self-empowerment.

ETERNAL BEAUTY

“Non nobis domine” is a Latin motet by contemporary composer Rosephanye Powell. Powell’s works are published by numerous companies and have been recorded by such esteemed ensembles as Cantus and Chanticleer. She holds a D.M. in vocal performance from Florida State University and currently serves as Professor of Voice at Auburn University. The text of “Non nobis domine” is Psalm 115:1, “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy name give the glory.”

“John the Revelator” is a gospel selection written in a blues style that tells the biblical story of the book of revelation. It was first sung by Blind Willie Johnson, a gospel blues singer, guitarist, and evangelist who thrived in the first part of the twentieth century. The author names himself as simply “John” in the text, but his precise identity remains a point of academic debate. He describes a series of prophetic visions, including figures such as the Seven-Headed Dragon, the Serpent, and the Beast, which culminate in the Second Coming of Jesus. This choral arrangement by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory has a vibrant piano part, space for improvisatory vocals, and interesting rhythmic complexity which is both demanding and exciting for the choir.

BEAUTIFUL MASTERPIECES

“Deo dicamus gratias” is a late baroque Latin motet by Gottfried August Homilius which translates, “Let us give thanks to God.” Homilius was a German composer in the generation following J.S. Bach and worked as a cantor and organist. “Deo dicamus gratias” is for a cappella choir in six parts, featuring florid lines and sequence in a polyphonic style. Elements of baroque performance practice such as articulated space between notes help to capture the essence of the piece.

“I will not leave you comfortless” is an anthem by William Byrd, one of the most celebrated composers of the English Renaissance. Byrd was a protégé and friend of another prominent English composer, Thomas Tallis. The pair was granted a monopoly for printing and publishing music by Elizabeth I in 1575. Byrd was a devout lifelong Roman Catholic who composed both Latin motets and English anthems, but his loyalty to the government was never questioned. “I will not leave you comfortless” is written in five parts and features points of imitation with nearly seamless polyphony.

“Lay A Garland” is a madrigal by Robert Pearsall, an English composer from the Romantic era noted for reviving Renaissance-era styles. “Lay A Garland” is Pearsall’s best-known work and has become a staple of the choral repertoire. It is written for SSAATTBB voices and specifically intended to be in the style of William Byrd as phrases are loosely imitative and vocal parts participate in voice exchange as voice parts cross each other in melodic ascent and descent and have the same basic range. Set to music by Pearsall in 1840, the text is from a popular English poem from the play *The Maid’s Tragedy*.

The text of **“On Beauty”** is an excerpt from “On Beauty” by Michelangelo di Ludovico Buonarroti Simoni, an influential sculptor, architect, painter, and poet in the Italian High Renaissance. This 2004 choral setting of the text is by Midwestern composer and former Nebraskan, Kurt Knecht. The homophonic writing with carefully placed dissonances reflects the popularity of Eric Whitacre in the early 2000s. It is the only piece in Knecht’s oeuvre which uses this compositional style. The poem captures the wonder that we hope our departing students carry with them as they move on from their Wayne State experience to new endeavors. “So love and heavenly fire and counsel wise. The noble heart finds most in starlike eyes.”

All choirs come together to sing **“The King of Love.”** It is a setting of an Irish melody arranged by Paul J. Christiansen, founder of the famed Concordia Choir in Moorehead, MN. It is hymn-like in nature, but divides in more than four parts and allows for singing in more extended ranges, particularly in the bass section.

The singing of John Rutter’s setting of **“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”** is a decades-long tradition at Wayne State College. We take this opportunity to recognize the choir members departing for graduation, internships, and student teaching as we sing this piece. They have left an indelible mark on the choirs. It won’t be the same without them, but we know that because we knew them, we have been changed for good. We thank them for sharing their unique and special gifts, musical and otherwise, with the choirs as we bid them farewell and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Fortis

Cole Athey
Grayson Bales
Braeden Boyte
Jesse Brewer
Trey Bukaske
Victor Carranza Juarez

Alexis Casillas
Gabriel Collins
Jack Dolan
Ian Finley
Alycia Gage
Riley Gausman

Ryan Gradoville
Noah Grady
Seth Gustad
Mario Hernandez
Katie Hrnchir
Andrew Hunhoff

Simon Javorsky
Austin Krumme
Justice Lahm
Ayden Lierman
Mason Miller
Noah Miller

Caito Solorio
Gavin Olinger
Cohan Pietz
Tresten Schwarz
Emmett White
Owen Wilkinson

Lyrica

Destiny Bacon
Kaitlyn Bengtson
Marlena Curtiss
Morgan Czajkowski
Macie Ebmeier
Alycia Gage

Claire Harper
Victoria Harrington
Abigail Hasemann
Katie Hrnchir
Hannah Kleinschmit
Lauren McWhirter

Kaitlin Meiergerd
Emma Misfeldt
Karsyn Monk
Josephine Mrsny
Rachael Nuernberger
Emily Osborn

Chaley Parks
Makenna Pierce
Emily Ramirez
Maria Rosener
Emma Ruterbories
Caslynn Schmidt

Reese Soukup
Kendra Spulak
Caroline Stock

Concert Choir

Dakota Allen
Elizabeth Aschoff
Benjamin Bartholow
Tyler Baue
McCaslinn Brand
Martina Braunsroth
Josephine Brezenski
Trey Bukaske
Jayden Carper
Alexis Casillas

Kia Clark
Gabriel Collins
Abby Cooper
Rose Dieter
Hannah Essink
Alycia Gage
Riley Gausman
Eve Gilmore
Noah Grady
Dalton Hazel

Logan Hellerich
Andrew Hunhoff
Simon Javorsky
Claire Jensen
Haley Johnson
Kora Keslin
Rebecca Kment
Ayden Lierman
Katrina Lombard
Bre Matzen

Nathania Mercelina
Kaitlyn Michaelson
Noah Ryan Miller
Taylor O'Dell
Erick Owen
Collin Price
Sabrina Rife
Emma Ruterbories
Tresten Schwarz
Karley Schieffer

Chase Van Briesen
Isaac Voboril
Emmett White
Ethan Wibben
Emily Wilford
Christopher Woerdemann

UPCOMING EVENTS

For an expanded list of events, visit www.wsc.edu/cultural-events

4/22 BRASS & PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES*
7:30 p.m. | Ramsey Theatre

4/23 CHAMBER CHOIR* | 7:30 p.m. | Ley Theatre

4/24 MARIACHI NEGRO Y ORO | 7:30 p.m. | Fine Arts Patio

4/25 HONORS RECITAL* | 1 p.m. | Ley Theatre

4/25 JAZZ & STRING ENSEMBLES*
7:30 p.m. | Ramsey Theatre

*Livestream: www.wsc.edu/watch-live

ABOUT WAYNE STATE COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

The WSC Department of Music boasts more than 90 students majoring or minoring in music. The students come from across the state of Nebraska and throughout the greater Siouland region, and programs are open to participants from across campus and the surrounding communities. The Music Department features a variety of performing ensembles including four bands and four choirs, as well as numerous chamber ensembles. Including faculty and guest artist concerts, the WSC Music Department presents an average of 75 performances annually, most of which are free to the public, making Wayne the Cultural Center of Northeast Nebraska.

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