



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music

# UofM Chamber Choir

presents

## ***The Radio Hour***

March 30, 2023  
7:30 PM

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music  
Harris Concert Hall

**Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music**  
Kevin Sanders, Director

**College of Communication and Fine Arts**  
Ryan Fisher, Interim Dean

# PROGRAM

## Chamber Choir

Ryan Fisher, conductor  
Kane Bradley, graduate assistant  
Patrick Polsin, stage director

The Radio Hour: A Choral Opera in One Act

Jake Heggie  
text by Gene Scheer

### PART 1

A Really Bad Day

### PART 2

Through the Door

### PART 3

A New Day

# PERFORMERS

## Nora Choir

Ky Palmer, Nora

### Soprano

Emily Woelke  
Rachel Young

### Tenor

Kane Bradley  
Andrew Heady

### Alto

Ia White  
Morgan Williams

### Bass

Shawn Campbell  
Garrett Heady

## Radio Choir

### Soprano

Amanda Bolaños  
Caroline Davis  
Karoline Larsen  
Sarah McGinnis  
Lindsay Reeves

### Tenor

Sam Johnson  
Nick Kroboth-Larsen  
Brody Melton  
Timothy Webster

### Alto

Sarah Froncek  
Cait Mocan  
Caroline Phillips-Burk  
Stephanie Rolfe  
Bella Grace Valente  
Evann Velasquez

### Bass

Merritt Hanemann  
Micah Loftis  
Benjamin Nguyen  
Alex Perez-Afanador  
SirLatimore Wilson

## Orchestra

### Flute

Elise Blatchford

### Violin

Marcin Arendt

### Clarinet

Robyn Jones

### Cello

Kaleb Brown

### Alto Saxophone

Amanda Roesch

### Double Bass

Kaleb Ritchie

### Percussion

Bill Shaltis

### Piano

Lisa Machen

# PROGRAM NOTES

We've all experienced "one of those days." When everything in the world seems to be set against you, ready to mock and make life more difficult. If only a magic door would open and transport you to a different place. After all, Alice fell into Wonderland, Dorothy barreled to Oz, and Wendy flew with Peter Pan to Neverland. But what about Nora? A lonely, hard-working, middle-aged woman no longer in the playground of childhood fantasy. Is there still a magic door for her?

Welcome to *The Radio Hour*, where sound track and sound waves are going on inside, around, and through us all the time: It's up to us to decide what to tune in and what to turn off. But first, along with Nora, played by a silent actress, we have to discover that the connection begins within. The Nora choir, which also becomes objects in Nora's apartment, acts as her inner voice, while the Radio choir acts as the sounds she chooses to hear as well as the sounds she "channels."

This concept allows us to explore a wonderful variety of textures, colors and sounds: traffic noise, swing tunes, radio ads, a quasi-rap song, big band, a touch of 12-tone music, and finally a full, celebratory flowering of grand choral singing. This is an immensely challenging world to enter, but always, the magic of the choir, of connection, of community through singing, takes us to the hopeful place on the other side of a door marked "possibility."

# BIOGRAPHIES

Composer **JAKE HEGGIE** is best known for the operas *Dead Man Walking*, *Moby-Dick*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Three Decembers*, *Two Remain* and *If I Were You*. He is currently at work on his 10th full-length opera, *Intelligence*, with Jawole Zollar and Gene Scheer, as well as new works for violinist Joshua Bell, New Century Chamber Orchestra, the Miró Quartet, and *Music of Remembrance*. The operas and his nearly 300 art songs have been performed extensively on five continents, championed by some of the world's most beloved artists. With a libretto by the late Terrence McNally, *Dead Man Walking* has become "the most celebrated American opera of the 21st century" (*Chicago Tribune*). It has received nearly 80 international productions since its San Francisco Opera premiere in 2000. The Metropolitan Opera has announced productions of *Dead Man Walking* and *Moby-Dick* for upcoming seasons. Recent premieres have included *Lake Tahoe: Symphonic Reflections* and *Fantasy Suite 1803*. In 2021, Heggie and mezzo Jamie Barton premiered the new song cycle *What I Miss the Most...* featuring new texts by Joyce DiDonato, Patti LuPone, Sister Helen Prejean, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Kathleen Kelly. Jamie Barton is also featured on *Unexpected Shadows*, a recording of Heggie's songs released by Pentatone (2022 Grammy nominee). *Songs for Murdered Sisters*, a cycle to poetry by Margaret Atwood for baritone Joshua Hopkins, was commissioned by Houston Grand Opera and premiered in a film by director James Niebuhr (2022 Canadian Juno Award nominee). *Intonations: Songs from the Violins of Hope* (texts by Gene Scheer), was composed for mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke and violinist Daniel Hope to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz (Pentatone). "Arguably the world's most popular 21st-century opera and art song composer" (*The Wall Street Journal*). Jake Heggie lives in San Francisco with his husband, Curt Branom. [www.jakeheggie.com](http://www.jakeheggie.com)

# BIOGRAPHIES

Librettist **GENE SCHEER**'s work is noted for its scope and versatility. With the composer Jake Heggie, he has collaborated on many projects, including the critically acclaimed 2010 Dallas Opera world premiere, *Moby-Dick*, starring Ben Heppner as Captain Ahab; *Three Decembers* (Houston Grand Opera), which starred Frederica von Stade; and the lyric drama *To Hell and Back* (Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra), which featured Patti LuPone. Other works by Scheer and Heggie include *Camille Claudel: Into the fire*, a song cycle premiered by Joyce di Donato and the Alexander String Quartet. Mr. Scheer worked as librettist with Tobias Picker on *An American Tragedy*, which premiered at the Metropolitan Opera in 2005 and on *Therese Raquin* which was produced by the Dallas Opera in 2001. Other collaborations include the lyrics for Wynton Marsalis's *It Never Goes Away*, featured in Mr. Marsalis's work *Congo Square*. With the composer Steven Stacky, Mr. Scheer wrote the oratorio *August 4, 1964*, for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. The work was nominated for a Grammy in 2012 for best classical composition. In 2015, Mr. Scheer collaborated with Joby Talbot on the opera *Everest*, based on the doomed 1996 Everest expedition. With Jennifer Higdon, Mr. Scheer wrote an operatic adaptation of *Cold Mountain*, which premiered in the summer of 2015 at the Santa Fe Opera. This work won the International Opera award, presented in London, for the best World premiere in 2015. Recently, along with Ms. Higdon, Mr. Scheer was nominated for a Grammy for his work on *Cold Mountain* for best classical composition. In December of 2016 Mr. Scheer and Jake Heggie premiered an operatic adaptation of *It's a Wonderful Life* for the Houston Grand Opera. Also a composer in his own right, Mr. Scheer has written a number of songs for singers such as Renée Fleming, Sylvia McNair, Stephanie Blythe, Jennifer Larmore, Denyce Graves, and Nathan Gunn. The distinguished documentary filmmaker, Ken Burns, prominently featured Mr. Scheer's song "American Anthem" (as sung by Norah Jones) in his Emmy Award-winning World War II documentary for PBS entitled *The War*.

# BIOGRAPHIES

**Dr. RYAN FISHER**, Interim Dean and Professor of Music Education, most recently served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College. He joined the School of Music in 2013 as division head/ coordinator of the music education program. Dr. Fisher is an active choral conductor and researcher. Choirs under his direction have been featured at the Arkansas Music Educators Association conference, Tennessee Music Education Association conference, and American Choral Directors Association Southern Division Conference. His research interests involve the male voice change, assessment in music education, and self-efficacy. His writings have been published in various journals including Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education, Journal of Research in Music Education, International Journal of Music Education, and Update: Applications of Research in Music Education.

He currently serves as President of the Tennessee Music Education Association. He previously served as President-Elect of the Arkansas Music Educators Association, Vice President of the Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association and held positions on the National Association for Music Education-Choral Council, the Tennessee-American Choral Directors Association state board, and the Update: Applications of Research in Music Education editorial committee.

He earned a BME from Lee University, a MM in choral conducting and a PhD in music education from the University of North Texas. In 2016, he was recognized as Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by the Lee University School of Music.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**PATRICK POLSIN** (Stage Director) is a second year MFA candidate with an emphasis in Directing. He is incredibly grateful to Dr. Fisher for this opportunity and for the whole ensemble for their willingness to go along with his ideas. Next year he will continue his foray into lyric theatre and direct *Into the Woods* for the Department of Theatre & Dance. Previous credits at the U of M include *Aloha*, *Say the Pretty Girls* (Director), *Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche* (Director), and *A Bright Room Called Day* (Assistant Director). As always, my deepest love to Tracey for your support.

**ZYUNIA PALMER** is a senior BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Performance. As a graduating senior she would like to thank Patrick Polsin, and Dean Ryan Fisher for this wonderful experience! She would also like to thank her friends and family for their unconditional love and support!