



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS HONOR CHOIR CONCERT

FEBRUARY 9, 2024 | 3:30 PM

PLOUGH HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Kevin Sanders, Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Ryan Fisher, Interim Dean

PROGRAM

University Singers

Francis Cathlina, conductor
Terry Walker, assistant conductor
Amy Nguyen, collaborative pianist

My Heart Be Brave
Marques L.A. Garrett
(b. 1984)

Alles, was Odem hat, lobe den Herrn
from "Singet Dem Herrn ein neues Lied" BWV 225
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

O Sleeper, Awake!
Patrick Vu
(b. 1998)

The 2024 University of Memphis Honor Choir

Erin Plisco and Francis Cathlina, conductors
Amy Nguyen, collaborative pianist

Not listed in performance order

In Meeting We Are Blessed
Troy D. Robertson
(b. 1978)
text by Gatsnahos

Kin
Timothy C. Takach
(b. 1978)
text by Michael Dennis Browne

The Lake Isle of Innisfree
Eleanor Daley
(b. 1955)
text by W.B. Yates
(1865-1939)

Witness
Victor C. Johnson
(b. 1978)
Trad. Spiritual

2024 UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS HONOR CHOIR PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Houston High School

Kinsey Healy, director

Germantown High School

Tim Wise, director

Ridgeway High School

Rosalyn Lake, director

Bartlett High School

Matthew Hayner, director

Southwind High School

Dre Pinson, director

The Soulsville Charter School

Jordan Smith, director

White Station High School

Joseph Powell and Daniel Massey, directors

Arlington High School

Jeffrey Chipman, director

Pocahontas High School

Amanda Sutfin, director

Millington Central High School

Leah Thomas, director

Brighton High School

Matthew Bowsher, director

University School of Jackson

Jared Heldenbrand, director

Covington High School

Stephen St. Clair, director

East High School

Jayda Hampton, director

PERFORMERS

University Singers

**denotes Section Leader

*denotes Assistant Section Leader

Soprano

Caroline Davis

BM Vocal Performance
Amarillo, TX

Edlyn Jarquin

BM Choral Music Education
Nashville, Tennessee

Fantasia Jones

BA Graphic Design
Olive Branch, MS

Kylee Kee

BM Choral Music Education
Bartlett, Tennessee

Rachel Young

BS Nursing
North Platte, Nebraska

Anne Catherine Landsgaard

BM Music Therapy
Olive Branch, Mississippi

Angelee Pham

BA General Studies
Memphis, Tennessee

Kayla Jones

BM Recording Technology
Richmond, Virginia

Ava Shatley

BM Music Business
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Emily Woelke*

BM Choral Music Education
Memphis, Tennessee

Karen Zeferino**

DMA Choral Conducting
Maringá, Paraná, Brazil

Alto

Sarah Enoch

BM Instrumental Music Education
Memphis, Tennessee

Nohelia Gomez*

BM Piano Performance
El Tigre, Venezuela

Mercy Hammond

BM Choral Music Education
Olive Branch, MS

Isabella Palmer**

BM Choral Music Education
Russellville, Arkansas

Katie Sann

BM Commercial Music-Voice
Memphis, Tennessee

Lindsay Reeves

BM Vocal Performance
Memphis, Tennessee

Heaven Hubbard

BS Sport and Leisure Management
Horn Lake, Mississippi

Bibiana Roblero

BM Choral Music Education
Memphis, Tennessee

Stephanie Rolfe

BM Choral Music Education
Memphis, Tennessee

Mae Sistrunk

BM Commercial Music-Voice
Memphis, Tennessee

Bella Grace Valente

BA Psychology
Nashville, Tennessee

Evann Velasquez

BM Jazz and Commercial Performance
Fayetteville, Arkansas

PERFORMERS

Tenor

Kane Bradley*

DMA Choral Conducting
Russellville, Arkansas

Christian Johnson

BM Music Therapy
Memphis, Tennessee

Evan Torres

BM Choral Music Performance
Atoka, Tennessee

Timothy Webster

BM Music Composition
Olive Branch, Mississippi

Derrick Dotson

BM Commercial Music
Memphis, Tennessee

Merritt Hanemann

BM Vocal Performance
Franklin, Tennessee

Christian McAlister

BM Choral Music Education
Majuro, Marshall Islands

Brody Melton

BM Choral Music Education
Lakeland, Tennessee

Spencer Newberry

BM Choral Music Education
Cordova, Tennessee

Brandon Sewell

BM Choral Music Education
Memphis, Tennessee

Terry Walker**

DMA Choral Conducting
Tupelo, MS

Bass

Shawn Campbell**

BM Commercial Music Performance
Little Rock, Arkansas

Ethan Davis

BM Choral Music Education
Olive Branch, Mississippi

Alex Perez-Afanador

BM Vocal Performance
Plano, TX

Nate Perkins

BM Choral Music Education
Memphis, Tennessee

Dylan Swinger

BM Commercial Music
Bartlett, Tennessee

Samari Gowdy

BM Choral Music Education
Itta Bena, Mississippi

Garrett Heady

Choral Music Education/
BM Music Theory and Composition
Cordova, Tennessee

Neil Kelly

BM Recording Technology
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Benjamin Nguyen*

BM Choral Music Education
Cordova, Tennessee

Griffin Taylor

BM Jazz Studies
Memphis, Tennessee

Gregory Thomas

BA Liberal Arts/Religious Studies
Memphis, Tennessee

SirLatimore Wilson

BM Commercial Music/Jazz Performance
Memphis, Tennessee

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Erin Plisco is the Associate Director of Choral Studies at Missouri State University, where she helps lead a comprehensive choral program of over 300 singers, conducts multiple choirs, and teaches undergraduate and graduate choral conducting and literature. She is a frequent guest clinician and presenter across the United States and abroad, and enjoys working with choirs of all ages. She also continues to maintain a career as a professional ensemble soprano, performing with choirs across the United States. Plisco currently serves as the SSAA Repertoire & Resource Chair for both the Southwestern division and the Missouri chapter of the American Choral Director's Association. Upcoming engagements include presentations at the American Choral Director's Association National Conference and the Oxford Conducting Institute International Conducting Studies Conference.

Plisco holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the University of Arizona, where she studied conducting with Bruce Chamberlain and voice with Elizabeth Futral. She studied at Trinity College, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) for the Master of Music in Choral Studies, where she was a recipient of the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship and studied with Grammy-nominated conductor Stephen Layton. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Choral Music Education and Vocal Performance with a minor in Leadership Studies from Christopher Newport University.

Plisco has conducted choirs of all ages, most notably serving as the Director of Choral Studies at Pinecrest High School (Southern Pines, N.C.). Under her direction, the choirs received numerous awards at national festivals and competitions, performed by invitation at the NCMEA State Conference, and her chamber choir was the winner of The American Prize for high school choral ensemble performance in 2013. She also contracted and hosted Grammy award-winning composer Eric Whitacre for a residency at the school.

Recent positions have included directing ensembles at the University of Arizona and East Carolina University, and serving as assistant director for the Tucson Symphony Orchestra Chorus and True Concord Voices & Orchestra (a professional ensemble based in Arizona). Plisco also recently served as visiting conducting faculty for the three-summer Masters of Music in choral conducting program at Simpson College. She is a past recipient of the Colleen Kirk Award, given by the ACDA Southern Division in recognition of her outstanding achievements as a young conductor, and has spent three summers as a choral fellow with the Yale School of Music-Norfolk Chamber Music Festival in Connecticut, under the direction of Simon Carrington.

BIOGRAPHIES

Francis Cathlina, D.M.A. (he/him) is a distinguished Vietnamese-American conductor and educator, known for his innovative programming that seamlessly weaves choral music with narrative. His transformative concert experiences invite audiences into a world where choral artistry becomes a powerful storytelling medium.

A two-time GRAMMY-nominated educator, Dr. Cathlina serves as the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music. He provides visionary leadership for the Choral Area, oversees the Doctoral and Master's Choral Conducting program, and conducts the University Singers (flagship SATB choir) and Mazi (SSAA choir).

As a first-generation musician, Dr. Cathlina's Eastern heritage profoundly shapes his teaching. His dedication to collaboration and rigor has earned international recognition, including joining the Conducting Faculty for the 2024 XV FIMUS Festival in Brazil and being named a 2024 Conducting Fellow to Israel for ACDA's International Conductors Exchange Program. The UofM University Singers, under his direction, have been selected to perform at the 2024 Tennessee Music Educators Association Conference. Early in his career, the Texas Choral Directors Association (TCDA) designated him the "Young Director of Distinction."

Dr. Cathlina's teaching philosophy centers on developing masterful technicians, creative communicators, and responsible citizens. His former students successfully lead programs at diverse institutions—universities, public schools, prominent churches, and community choirs. Driven by a passion for human connection, he finds great inspiration as an honor choir conductor. Upcoming and recent engagements involve the International Mu Phi Convention Chorus, Mississippi All-State Treble Choir, UofM Symphony Orchestra, and honor choirs nationwide.

A recognized authority in vocal pedagogy, Dr. Cathlina's research focuses on choral tone and conducting gesture. He has published articles in international journals and has presented over 51 interest sessions across the globe. In 2020, he presented at the International Mu Phi Convention in Macedonia (Thessaloniki) and Ionian University (Corfu). In 2024, he is set to be the Choral Headliner for the Alabama Music Educators Association Conference.

Dr. Cathlina holds a D.M.A. in conducting with a vocal pedagogy cognate from the University of North Texas, an M.M. from Michigan State University, and a B.M.E. from Baylor University. Before his doctorate, he taught in Texas public schools. He is grateful for the support of his husband, family, and friends, who embrace his unique blend of Vietnamese culture and Western upbringing. Dr. Cathlina, his husband Kyle, and their fur baby, Coco, proudly call Memphis, Tennessee, their home. www.franciscathlina.com

BIOGRAPHIES

Amy Nguyen currently serves as the collaborative artist for the University of Memphis Choral Arts Department. She regularly performs with students, faculty, and guest artists at the University of Memphis. She works throughout the Mid-South, performing at area high schools, colleges, and churches. Nguyen has performed throughout the country, including performances with the Independence Symphony, the Kansas City Symphony, and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. She has played for the West TN Youth Chorus and the Collegiate School of Memphis.

Nguyen started her piano studies at the age of five. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors from Graceland University where she studied with Charles Schmidt. Under the tutelage of Richard Smith, she earned a Master of Music Degree from Central Missouri State University.

FACULTY AND STAFF

We'd like to thank the following people in their contributions toward this concert:

Choral Area

Francis Cathlina - Director of Choral Activities &
Conductor of University Singers and Mazi (SSAA choir)

Emily Frizzell - Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education &
Conductor of Tigerchor (TTBB choir)

Kane Bradley - DMA Choral Conducting student
Terry Walker - DMA Choral Conducting student
Karen Zeferino - DMA Choral Conducting Student

Vocal Area

Faculty: Matthew Burns, Stephen Karr, Randy Rushing, Carlos Santelli
Benjamin Smith, Paulina Villareal, and Mary Wilson

CCFA Administration

Ryan Fisher - Interim Dean
Jenna Thompson - Interim Associate Dean

School of Music Administration

Kevin Sanders - Director
Robyn Jones - Associate Director for Student Services & Administration
Will Plenk - Associate Director for Academic Programs
Josef Hanson - Assistant Director of Graduate Studies
Ashley Woods - Undergraduate Advising Analyst
Kara Blackwood Keen - Graduate Program Manager & Academic Advisor
George Palton - Recruitment & Enrollment Officer
Jennifer Mueller - Business Officer
Kristen Russell - Marketing & Communications Officer
Kaleb Ritchie - Operations Manager
Nathaniel Greene - Facilities Manager
Mac Gittinger - Scheduling & Event Coordinator
TBA - Media + Technology Coordinator
Danny Honnold - Piano Technical Services Manager
Kim Marston - Administrative Associate to the Director

Program created by: Terry Walker