THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
HONOR CHOIR CONCERT

FEBRUARY 9, 2024  |  3:30 PM
PLOUGH HALL
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     Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
from “Singet Dem Herrn ein neues Lied” BWV 225

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 Plate, 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  
Maringà, 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  
Russelville, 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
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.
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 UoM 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, UoM 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 20 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