



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

UNIVERSITY SINGERS PRESENTS

ASIMOV'S **THREE LAWS OF ROBOTICS**

FRANCIS CATHLINA, D.M.A., CONDUCTOR
AMY NGUYEN, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

▶ **Tennessee Music Education Association Home Concert**

Tuesday, April 2 | 7:30 PM | Scheidt Family Performing Arts Center | Memphis, TN

▶ **St. Louis Concert Series**

Monday, April 8 | 7 PM | St. Louis Catholic Church | Memphis, TN

▶ **Nashville Performance**

Tuesday, April 9 | Nashville, TN

▶ **Tennessee Music Education Association**

Wednesday, April 10 | 6:30 PM | Gaylord Opryland Convention Center - Tennessee DE | Nashville, TN



THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS RUDI E. SCHEIDT SCHOOL OF MUSIC **UNIVERSITY SINGERS**

The Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music **University Singers** is the flagship SATB ensemble in the choral area and is led by Dr. Francis Cathlina, director of choral activities. Composed primarily of undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Music, the ensemble welcomes singers from all majors who share a passion for choral music.

The University Singers presents diverse repertoire through conceptual programming. Their performances provoke thought. With an unwavering commitment to musical excellence, the musicians immerse the audience in extra-musical practices that create a memorable concert experience.

The UofM University Singers maintains a robust performance schedule that empowers its members to grow as choral artists and individuals. Recent performances include an invitation to perform at the 2024 Tennessee Music Educators Association conference, a 2023 international tour to Greece, and tours throughout the United States. Invitation into this ensemble is earned through an audition.

The **Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music** is culturally diverse and musically rich, with an inclusive program purposely designed to inspire, train and launch sustainable careers for musicians, scholars and industry professionals of tomorrow.

The Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music provides a distinctive educational experience that brings together personalized music instruction and the advantages of being part of a world-class university. Our school boasts a comprehensive curriculum led by renowned faculty, state-of-the-art facilities and cutting-edge technology to foster an environment where musicians excel in their musical field.

PROGRAM CONCEPTION

Dear Audience,

Welcome to the UofM University Singers' performance of Asimov's "Three Laws of Robotics." This program draws inspiration from three sources: the visionary mind of Isaac Asimov, artificial intelligence and Vienna Teng's *Hymn of Acxiom*.

Isaac Asimov (1920-1992) was an influential figure in science fiction. Considered one of the "big three" sci-fi authors, he created the laws of robotics in the 1940s:

- A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
- A robot must obey the orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
- A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws.

Though robots of this degree of complexity do not yet exist, Asimov's laws govern science fiction and are a topic of active research in robotics and artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence (AI) further inspires this program. Launched in 2022, ChatGPT has integrated rapidly into our society. This powerful AI synthesizes vast amounts of data to provide information, while learning about the complexities of human interaction. To further demonstrate AI's power, all spoken narrative in this program was created by ChatGPT.

The program's final inspiration surrounds *Hymn of Acxiom*, a piece by Vienna Teng, a Taiwanese-American singer-songwriter. Intentionally placed at the heart of the program, the piece offers perspectives on data mining and surveillance. Teng's exploratory harmonies create a soundscape that captures the essence of her Orwellian lyrics.

A special thank you to my husband, Kyle Cathlina, whose avid reading and curiosity introduced me to Isaac Asimov's rich world of science fiction. This program would not have been possible without you.



Francis Cathlina, D.M.A.
Director of Choral Activities



PROGRAM

1ST LAW

A ROBOT MAY NOT INJURE A HUMAN BEING OR, THROUGH INACTION,
ALLOW A HUMAN BEING TO COME TO HARM.

My Song in the Night

trad. American Folk Hymn
Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

The Battle of Jericho

trad. Spiritual
arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

Evann Velasquez, descant

2ND LAW

A ROBOT MUST OBEY THE ORDERS GIVEN TO IT BY HUMAN BEINGS
EXCEPT WHERE SUCH ORDERS WOULD CONFLICT WITH THE 1ST LAW.

Hymn of Axiom

Vienna Teng (b. 1978)
arr. Robin Salkeld

**Alles was odem hat from
Singet dem Herrn, BWV 225**

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

3RD LAW

A ROBOT MUST PROTECT ITS OWN EXISTENCE AS LONG AS SUCH
PROTECTION DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH THE 1ST OR 2ND LAWS.

Sicut Cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

O Sleeper, Awake!

Patrick Vu (b. 1998)

Mid-South Regional Premiere at the 2024 TMEA Conference



TEXTS + TRANSLATIONS

My Song in the Night

ELAINE HAGENBERG (B. 1979)
TRAD. AMERICAN FOLK HYMN

Oh Jesus My Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night.

Oh why should I wander, a stranger from thee,
Or cry in the desert, Thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

The Battle of Jericho

ARR. MOSES HOGAN (1957-2003)
TRAD. SPIRITUAL

Joshua fit de battle of Jericho, and the walls come
tumbalin' down.
Talk about your kings of Gideon, talk about your
men of Saul,
But none like good old Joshua at the battle of
Jericho.

Joshua fit de battle of Jericho, and the walls come
tumbalin' down.
Right up to the walls of Jericho, he marched with
spear in hand.
"Go blow that ram horn!" Joshua cried. 'Cause the
battle am in my hand.
Then the lamb, ram, sheep horn began to blow and
the trumpet begins to sound.
Joshua commanded the children to shout and the
walls come a 'tumbalin down.

“

CHOIR IS A SAFE HAVEN.

No other environment allows
people of all ages, races,
socioeconomic statuses, abilities,
religions, political stances, and
personalities to come together in
pursuit of one
COMMON GOAL
with the
VULNERABILITY and
OPENNESS that choir not
only encourages, but demands.

- EMILY WOELKE,
MUSIC EDUCATION - CHORAL

”

TEXTS + TRANSLATIONS

Hymn of Acxiom

VIENNA TENG (B. 1978)
ARR. ROBIN SALKELD

Somebody hears you. You know that. You know that.
Somebody hears you. You know that inside.
Someone is learning the colors of all your moods, to
say just the right thing and show that you're understood.
Here you're known.

Leave your life open. You don't have, you don't have to
Leave your life open. You don't have to hide.
Someone is gathering every crumb you drop, these
mindless decisions and moments you long forgot.
Keep them all.

Let our formulas find your soul.
We'll divine your artesian source in your mind,
Marshal feed and force our machines will
To design you a perfect love—
Or better still a perfect lust.
O how glorious, glorious: a brand new need is born.

Now we possess you. You'll own that. you'll own that.
Now we possess you. You'll own that in time.
Now we will build you an endlessly upward world,
reach in your pocket embrace you for all you're worth.

Is that wrong?
Isn't this what you want?
Amen.

Alles was odem hat from Singet dem Herrn, BWV 225

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

Alles, was Odem hat, lobe den Herrn, Halleluja!
Let all that has breath praise the Lord, Hallelujah!

“

Choir, to me, is a
SANCTUARY
where I can **BE MYSELF**
and no one will judge me.
It's a space where external
WORRIES FADE,
allowing me to
EXPRESS MYSELF
freely through song and
FIND SOLACE
in the shared harmony.

- KAYLA JONES,
RECORDING TECHNOLOGY

”

TEXTS + TRANSLATIONS

Sicut Cervus

**GIOVANNI PIERLUIGI DA PALESTRINA
(1525-1594)**

Sicut Cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum.
Ita desiderat, anima mea ad te deus.

*As the deer yearns for the springs of water.
So longs my soul for you, God.*

O Sleeper, Awake!

PATRICK VU (B. 1998)

O Sleeper Awake!

Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead.

Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image.

Rise up, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you;

Together, we can not be separated.



UNIVERSITY SINGERS MEMBERS

SOPRANO

Caroline Davis
Edlyn Jarquin
Fantasia Jones
Kayla Jones
Kylee Kee
AC Landsgaard
Angelee Pham
Ava Shatley
Emily Woelke*
Rachel Young
Karen Zeferino**

BM, Performance, Vocal
BM, Music Education
BA, Graphic Design
BM, Recording Technology
BM, Music Education
BM, Music Therapy
BA, General Studies
BM, Music Business
BM, Music Education, Choral
BS, Nursing
D.M.A., Conducting, Choral

Amarillo, TX
Nashville, TN
Olive Branch, MS
Richmond, VA
Bartlett, TN
Olive Branch, MS
Memphis, TN
Jonesboro, AR
Memphis, TN
North Plate, NE
Maringá, Paraná, Brazil

ALTO

Sarah Enoch
Nohelia Gomez*
Mercy Hammond
Heaven Hubbard
Isabella Palmer**
Lindsay Reeves
Stephanie Rolfe
Katie Sann
Mae Sistrunk
Bella Grace Valente
Evann Velasquez

BM, Music Education
BM, Performance, Piano
BM, Music Education, Choral
BS, Sports and Leisure Management
BM, Music Education, Choral
BM, Performance, Vocal
BM, Music Education, Choral
BM, Commercial Music, Voice
BM, Commercial Music
BA, Psychology
BM, Jazz and Commercial Performance

Memphis, TN
El Tigre, Venezuela
Olive Branch, MS
Horn Lake, MS
Russellville, AR
Memphis, TN
Memphis, TN
Memphis, TN
Memphis, TN
Nashville, TN
Fayetteville, AR



TENOR

Kane Bradley*	D.M.A., Conducting, Choral	Russellville, AR
Derrick Dotson	BM, Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Merritt Hanemann	BM, Performance, Vocal	Franklin, TN
Christian Johnson	BM, Music Therapy	Memphis, TN
Christian McAlister	BM, Music Education	Majuro, Marshall Islands
Brody Melton	BM, Music Education	Lakeland, TN
Spencer Newberry	BM, Music Education	Cordova, TN
Brandon Sewell	BM, Music Education	Memphis, TN
Evan Torres	BM, Performance, Vocal	Atoka, TN
Terry Walker**	D.M.A., Choral Conducting	Tupelo, MS
Timothy Webster	BM, Music Composition	Olive Branch, MS

BASS

Alex Perez-Afanador	BM, Performance, Vocal	Plano, TX
Shawn Campbell**	BM, Commercial Music	Little Rock, AR
Ethan Davis	BM, Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Samari Gowdy	BM, Music Education	Itta Bena, MS
Garrett Heady	BM, Music Ed./Music Theory + Comp.	Cordova, TN
Neil Kelly	BM, Recording Technology	Kalamazoo, MI
Benjamin Nguyen*	BM, Music Education, Choral	Cordova, TN
Nate Perkins	BM, Music Education	Memphis, TN
Dylan Swinger	BM, Commercial Music	Bartlett, TN
Griffin Taylor	BM, Jazz Studies	Memphis, TN
Gregory Thomas	BA, Liberal Arts/Religious Studies	Memphis, TN
SirLatimore Wilson	BM, Comm. Music/Jazz Performance	Memphis, TN

**denotes Section Leader

*denotes Assistant Section Leader

CONDUCTOR



Francis Cathlina, D.M.A.
CONDUCTOR

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 currently 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, Carnegie Hall, 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 2023, he co-led two Conducting Masterclasses in Greece with the University of 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 dog Coco proudly call Memphis, Tennessee, their home. www.franciscathlina.com

In this program, Dr. Cathlina wears an áo dài, traditional Vietnamese formalwear. This áo dài was meticulously sewn and hand-painted in Vietnam. As one of the few Vietnamese conductors in the field, Dr. Cathlina proudly dons it as a tribute to his heritage.



PIANIST



Amy Nguyen
COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

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. She also studied with Betty Mallard at the University of Texas at Austin.



Choir is an incredibly
IMPORTANT part of my life.

Singing in a choir is the
BEST THERAPY

I could ever ask for.

—BELLA GRACE VALENTE,
PSYCHOLOGY

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Terry Walker D.M.A. CHORAL CONDUCTING STUDENT AND ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Terry Walker is a first year doctoral student in Choral Conducting at the University of Memphis. He spent most of his twelve years teaching in the state of Mississippi as choral director at Long Beach High School in Long Beach, MS.

Under his direction, the LBCC performed at both Mississippi and Louisiana state Choral Conventions, and executed a tour of Italy in 2017. Choirs and ensembles under his direction have perennially earned superior ratings at District and State adjudications.

Mr. Walker earned both his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education in 2009 and his Master's Degree in Choral Conducting in 2011 from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). During his time there he was a member of Spirit of Southern, the USM Concert Choir and the Southern Chorale under the direction of Dr. Gregory Fuller and Dr. John Flanery.

He has had the pleasure of attending master classes and workshops given by renowned artists such as the New York Voices, Mack Wilberg, Jerry Blackstone, Andre Thomas, and Arvo Pärt. His mentors include Philip Copeland, Gregory Fuller, John Flanery, Jeffrey Murdock, and Nancy Robertson.

As an adjudicator, he has served as a judge at MS Jr. High choral festivals and the MS Gulf Coast Baptist choral festival. He has been selected as a clinician for the 2023 District VI Louisiana Honor Choir. Most recently, Mr. Walker was chosen to present at the MS ACDA/ MENC Choral Convention in the spring of 2024. He currently serves as Music Director at Highland Heights Presbyterian Church in Cordova, TN.

An active member of ACDA and NAFMe, he has served as MS District VIII choral chair. Mr. Walker has also served as Male Voices Repertoire and Resources, President, and is currently Past-President of the Mississippi chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. He lives in Southaven MS with his wife Angelique and their two children Terry III (Tripp), and Adelaide.

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Choir is a group of **PEOPLE** deciding to be completely vulnerable **TOGETHER**. That will **ALWAYS** be **IMPORTANT**.

—TERRY WALKER,
D.M.A. CHORAL CONDUCTING

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

The **2021-2022** and **2022-2023 University Singers**, whose hard work established our culture of excellence and vulnerable artistry. We stand on your shoulders.

CHORAL AREA

Dr. Emily Frizzell, Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education +
Conductor of Tigerchor - Tenors / Bass Choir
Dr. Ryan Fisher, Professor of Music Education

Kane Bradley, D.M.A. Choral Conducting student
Terry Walker, D.M.A. Choral Conducting student
Karen Zeferino, D.M.A. Choral Conducting Student

VOCAL ARTS FACULTY

Matthew Burns, Assistant Professor of Voice
Dr. Stephen Karr, Opera Music Director
Dr. Carlos Santelli, Assistant Professor of Voice
Benjamin Smith, Opera Stage Director
Dr. Paulina Villareal, Assistant Professor of Voice
Mary Wilson, Associate Professor of Voice

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND FINE ARTS + RUDI E. SCHEIDT SCHOOL OF MUSIC ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Ryan Fisher, Interim Dean, College of Communication and Fine Arts
Dr. Kevin Sanders, Director, Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Dr. Albert Nguyen, Director of Bands and Area Coordinator of Conducting
Kristen Russell, Marketing + Communications Officer
Jennifer Mueller, Business Officer
Kaleb Ritchie, Operations Manager
Mac Gittinger, Scheduling + Event Coordinator
Kim Marston, Administrative Associate to the Director

Dr. Scott Elsholz and the St. Louis Catholic Church
for being the Choral Area's primary sponsor for this TMEA program

Finally, **THANK YOU** to all of the former Music Educators
who have invested in these musicians' lives.

“

THERE ARE FEW THINGS BETTER FOR ONE'S MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH THAN SINGING WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

Yes, choir involves the challenge of vocal technique and musical **ARTISTRY**, but really it's about **COMMUNITY**.

When taken seriously, singing in a choir fosters a **BOND** among its members and with its audience that satisfies a basic need for human **CONNECTION**. I believe a choir like University Singers seeks this bond by striving to perfect the science and art of choral singing. In this sense, we employ something **SOPHISTICATED AND NOVEL**

to celebrate that which is primal and ordinary. We can use that which is **NATURAL** to call to mind that which is supernatural. And besides that, it's a lot of **FUN**.

-TIM WEBSTER, MUSIC COMPOSITION

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS®

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music



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