

The University of Memphis Choral Sampler Concert

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

7:00 PM

SFPAC Plough Hall

PROGRAM

Collegiate Choir

Terry Walker, conductor

Diego Parra, collaborative pianist

Requiem.....Eliza Gilkyson
Arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

Praise His Holy Name..... Keith Hampton (b. 1957)

Mazi

Joseph Powell, conductor

Grace Gasperich, collaborative pianist

Dixit from Vesperae pro festo sanctissimae Innocentium..... Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806)
Soloists TBA

Still I Rise.....Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)
Soloists: Bella Kulinski, Jasmine Knox, Lynette Davis

Tigerchor

Dr. Emily Frizzell, conductor

April Mendiola, assistant conductor

Amy Nguyen, collaborative pianist

Tuba.....Traditional Xitsonga
arr. Michael Barrett (b. 1983)

Soloists: Ryan Cashon, Derrick Dotson

Percussion: Joseph Powell

Bring Me Little Water Silvy.....attr. to Huddie Ledbetter
arr. Adam Podd (b. 1986)

Soloists: Bryce Goodson, Recco Sargent

Percussion: Derrick Dotson

University Singers

Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductor

Joseph Powell, assistant conductor

Amy Nguyen, collaborative pianist

Keep Yo' Lamps.....African American Spiritual
adapt. Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

Miracles.....J.D. Frizzell (b. 1983)
Text: Elizabeth B. Rooney

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

Collegiate Choir

Requiem.....Eliza Gilkyson
Arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

Mother Mary, full of grace, awaken. All our homes are gone, our loved ones taken
Taken by the sea

Mother Mary, calm our fears, have mercy. Drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy
Hear our mournful plea

Our world has been shaken, we wander our homelands forsaken.

In the dark night of the soul bring some comfort to us all,
O Mother Mary come and carry us in your embrace that our sorrow may be faced

Mary fill the glass to overflowing. Illuminate the path where we are going
Have mercy on us all

In fun'ral fires burning each flame to your myst'ry returning
In the dark night of the soul your shattered dreamers, make them whole

O mother Mary find us where we've fallen out of grace, Lead us to a higher place.

O Mother Mary come and carry us in your embrace, let us see your gentle face.

Praise His Holy Name..... Keith Hampton (b. 1957)

Sing 'till the power of the Lord come down.
Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy Name!

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

Jesus, Jesus, how I love thee!
Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?
No there's a cross for everyone and there's a cross for me.

Holy Jesus, Praise His Name, Oh! Hallelujah! Praise His Holy Name!

Mazi

Dixit from Vesperae pro festo sanctissimae Innocentium..... Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806)

*Dixit Dominus Domino meo: sede a dextris meis
Donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum pedum tuorum.*

Virgam virtutis tuae emittet Dominus ex Sion
Dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.
Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae in splendoribus sanctorum
Ex utero, ante luciferum, genui te.
Juravit Dominus et non poenitebit eum
Tu es sacerdos in aeternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech.
Dominus a dextris tuis: confregit in die irae suae reges.
Judicabit in nationibus, implebit ruinas: conquassabit capita in terra multorum.
De torrente in via bibet: propterea exaltabit caput.
Gloria Patri et filio et spiritui sancti
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper
Et in saecula saeculorum, Amen.

The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool
 The Lord shall send the rod of thy power out of Sion: be thou ruler, even in the midst among thine
 enemies.
 In the day of thy power shall the people offer thee free-will offerings with an holy worship: the dew of thy
 birth is of the womb of the morning.
 The Lord sware, and will not repent: Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech
 The Lord upon thy right hand: shall wound even kings in the day of his wrath.
 He shall judge among the heathen; he shall &ll the places with the dead bodies: and smite in sunder the
 heads over divers countries.
 He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up his head.
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
 World without end, Amen.

Still I Rise.....Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

Though I have been wounded, aching heart full of pain. Still I rise, yes, still I rise.
 Just like a budding rose, my bloom is nourished by rain.
 Haven't time to wonder why, though fearful I strive.
 My prayer and faith uphold me 'til my courage arrives.

Still I rise as an eagle, soaring above every fear.
 With each day I succeed, I grow strong and believe
 That it's all within my reach; I'm reaching for the skies,
 Bolstered by courage, yes, still I rise.
 Yes, it's all within my reach; I'm reaching for the skies,
 Yes, still I rise.

Gentle as a woman; tender sweet are my sighs.
 Strength is in my tears and healing rains in my cries.
 Plunging depths of anguish, I determine to strive.
 My prayer and faith uphold me 'til my courage arrives.

Though you see me slump with heartache;
 Heart so heavy that it breaks.
 Be not deceived I fly on bird's wings,
 rising sun, its healing rays.
 Look at me, you see a woman;
 Gentle as a butterfly.

But don't you think, not for one moment,
that I'm not strong because I cry

Tigerchor

Tuba.....Traditional Xitsonga
arr. Michael Barrett (b. 1983)

Tuba emurini tuba
Look at the dove on that tree!

University Singers

Keep Yo' Lamps.....African American Spiritual
adapt. Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

Keep yo' lamps burnin'
The time is drawin' nigh.
Don' you git weary. No!
The time is drawin' nigh.

Miracles.....J.D. Frizzell (b. 1983)
Text: Elizabeth B. Rooney

I hold within my hand infinities I cannot comprehend, Worlds within wonderworlds.
Again, a clover leaf, a bit of bark, a bug minute and unidentifiable.
I touch them reverently.
And wonder how God made it all.
Our world, our universe, so huge, so small.

PERSONNEL

Collegiate Choir

**denotes Section Leader*

Soprano

Grace Applebaum	BM Rec. Technology	Memphis, TN
Charlie Carpenter	Undecided	Memphis, TN
Abby Connell	BS Elementary Education	Memphis, TN
Jada Hines	BS Biology	Memphis, TN
*Edlyn Jarquin	BM Music Education	Nashville, TN
Ana María Nieves Concepción	Undecided	Memphis, TN
Orion Overstreet	Undecided	Memphis, TN
Nakia Wallace	BA Theatre Design & Technology	Memphis, TN
Kyla Ware	BM Vocal Performance	Opelika, Alabama
Josephine Wright	BM Vocal Performance	Nashville, TN
Erin Fuller	BA Recording Technology	Memphis, TN

Alto

Mercy Hammond	BM Choral Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Kylee Kee	BM Choral Music Education	Bartlett, TN
Alison Lytle	BA Psychology	Memphis, TN
Cicely Heard	BS Health Studies	Memphis, TN
Ashlyn Hinton	BM Instrumental Music Education	Jonesboro, LA
Jasmine Knox	BA Music Therapy	New Albany, MS
Stephanie Rolfe	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Ashley Sotelo	Undecided	Memphis, TN
Favour Turner	BA Music Therapy	Chicago, IL
Tashylia Young	BS Biology	Memphis, TN

Tenor

Marcus Austin	BM Commercial Music Performance	Winter Haven, FL
Ernesto Hernandez	BM Recording Technology	Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Gabriel Hill	BA Visual Art	Memphis, TN
Daniel Hughes	Undecided	Memphis, TN
Christian McAlister	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
*Brody Melton	BM Choral Music Education	Lakeland, TN

Bass

Cody Baxter	BM Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
*Garrett Heady	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Hezekiah Howze	Undecided	Memphis, TN
Ben Oliver	BM Commercial Music	Charleston, MO
Januel DelaRosa	BM Instrumental Music Education	New Orleans, LA
John Martinez	Business Management	Melbourne, FL
Jaden Potter	BA Recording Technology	Memphis, TN
Braiden Tucker-Strickland	Undecided	Memphis, TN

Mazi

Arianna Adams	BS Nursing	Memphis, TN
Charlotte Carpenter	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Lauren Charves	BS Biology	Richland, WA
Abigail Connell	BEd Elementary Education	Memphis, TN
Lynette Davis	BM Choral Music Education & Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN
Abigail England	BS Exercise Science	Arlington, TN
Amy Enlow	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Lori Glasgow	BM Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Mya Hawkins	BS Exercise Science	Horn Lake, MS
Jada Hines	BS Biology	Memphis, TN
Ashlyn Hinton	BM Music Education	Jonesboro, LA
Cymalia Johnson	BA Psychology	Memphis, TN
Kaja Kelson	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Jasmine Knox	BM Music Therapy	New Albany, MS
Bella Kulinski	BM Commercial Music	Milwaukee, WI
Annie McGinly	BM Choral Music Education	New Orleans, LA
Raegan McNutt	BA Hospitality Management	Collierville, TN
Meaghan Moore	BA Music Business	Memphis, TN
Ana María Nieves Concepción	BM Music Therapy	Savannah, GA
Amanda Randolph	BM Choral Music Education	Cookeville, TN
Ava Shatley	BA Music Business	Jonesboro, AR
Hope Tillman	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Favour Turner	BM Music Therapy	Memphis, TN
Kyla Ware	BM Vocal Performance	Jacksonville, FL
Ia White	BM Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN
Hope Whitehead	BA Commercial Music & BM Music Therapy	Orlando, FL

Tigerchor

Tenor I

Marcus Austin	BM Commercial Music Performance	Winter Haven, FL
Calvin Barnes	BA Communication	Cordova, TN
Derrick Dotson	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Bryce Goodson	BM Choral Music Education	Bartlett, TN
Daniel Hughes	Undecided	Memphis, TN
Cade Jett	BFA Musical Theater	Jackson, TN
Joshua Johnson	BM Commercial Music Performance	Memphis, TN
Pedro Watson	BM Music Therapy	Memphis, TN

Tenor II

Luke Brandon	BS Computer Science	Memphis, TN
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Noah Canny	BA Recording Technology	Memphis, TN
Merritt Hanemann	BM Choral Music Education	Chapel Hill, TN
Matthew Heathcock	BA History	Arlington, TN
Hezekiah Howze	BFA Design & Tech Production	Memphis, TN
David Johnson	BM Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN
Luis Alejandro Perez-Afanador	BM Vocal Performance	Plano, Texas
Korecco Sargent	BFA Musical Theatre	Magnolia, Arkansas
Simon Schoenberger	BM Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Timothy Webster	BM Composition	Matamoras, PA

Bass I

Colman Agranov	BM Recording Technology	Memphis, TN
Ryan Cashon	BSN Nursing Major	Olive Branch, MS
Ethan Davis	BM Choral Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Ernesto Hernández	BM Recording Technology	Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Fuller Krag	Undecided	Memphis, TN
Kalen Wilson	BM Choral Music Education	Greenwood, MS

Bass II

Luke Freeman	BS Computer Science & Mathematical Sciences	Bartlett, TN
Liam Komulainen	BA Academic Focus Arts	Bartlett, TN
Jaden Potter	BA General Education	Lakeland, TN
Braiden Tucker-Strickland	BA General Music	Memphis, TN
Dylan Swinger	BM Music Business	Memphis, TN
West McElhany	BM Choral Music Education	Kansas City, MO

University Singers

***denotes Section Leader*

**denotes Assistant Section Leader*

Soprano

Lauren Charves	BS Biology	Memphis, TN
Serafina Cid Ross	BM Commercial Music Performance	Memphis, TN
Caroline Davis	BM Vocal Performance	Amarillo, TX
Lynette Davis	BM Choral Music Education & Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN
Amy Enlow	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Edlyn Jarquin	BM Choral Music Education	Nashville, TN
Kayla Jones	BM Recording Technology	Richmond, VA
Kylee Kee	BM Choral Music Education	Bartlett, TN
Annie McGinly	BM Choral Music Education	New Orleans, LA
Raegan McNutt	BA Hospitality Industry	Collierville, TN
**April Mendiola	DMA Choral Conducting	Alhambra, CA
Ava Shatley	BM Music Business	Jonesboro, AR
Hope Tillman	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Hannah Warta	BM Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN

*Emily Woelke	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
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Alto

Alexa Bustillo	BM Music Therapy	Memphis, TN
*Sarah Enoch	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Cassie Gonzalez	BM Music Therapy	Walls, MS
Mercy Hammond	BM Choral Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Mya Hawkins	BS Health & Exercise Science	Horn Lake, MS
Brio'Na Jackson	BM Vocal Performance	Southaven, MS
Cymalia Johnson	BS Psychology	Memphis, TN
Elis Jones	DMA Composition	Lux, FL
Kaja Kelson	BM Choral Music Education	Horn Lake, MS
Hailey Morano	BM Music Business	Southaven, MS
**Isabella Palmer	BM Choral Music Education & Violin Performance	Russellville, AR
Amanda Randolph	BM Choral Music Education	Cookeville, TN
Stephanie Rolfe	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Katie Sann	BM Commercial Music Performance	Memphis, TN
Rachel Young	BS Nursing	Memphis, TN

Tenor

Calvin Barnes	BA Communication, Music Minor	Cordova, TN
Luke Brandon	BS Computer Science	Memphis, TN
Noah Canny	BA Recording Technology	Memphis, TN
Derrick Dotson	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Bryce Goodson	BM Choral Music Education	Bartlett, TN
Ryan Cashon	BS Nursing	Coeur d'Alene, ID
Yasrah Haseeb	BM Commercial Voice Performance	Lahore, Pakistan
Cade Jett	BFA Musical Theater	Jackson, MS
Joshua Johnson	BM Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Christian McAlister	BM Choral Music Education	Majuro, Marshall Island
*Brody Melton	BM Choral Music Education	Lakeland, TN
**Joseph Powell	DMA Choral Conducting	Mobile, AL
Recco Sargeant	BFA Musical Theater	Magnolia, AR
Terry Walker	DMA Choral Conducting	Tupelo, MS

Bass

Ethan Davis	BM Choral Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Merritt Hanemann	BM Vocal Performance	Franklin, TN
Matthew Heathcock	BS Biology	Ypsilanti, MS
Garrett Heady	BM Choral Music Education & Music Theory/Comp	Cordova, TN
Hezekiah Howze	Undecided	Memphis, TN
Liam Komulainen	BA Academic Focus-Arts	Bartlett, TN
West McElhany	BM Choral Music Education	Kansas City, MO
**Benjamin Nguyen	BM Choral Music Education	Cordova, TN
Alex Perez-Afanador	BM Vocal Performance	Plano, TX
Jeffrey Peters	BA History	Memphis, TN
Dylan Swinger	BM Music Business	Bartlett, TN

Gregory Thomas
Liam Tubbs
Jahmian Turner
Anthony Valle
Kalen Wilson

BA Liberal Arts Religious Studies
BM Recording Technology
BM Music Business
BM Vocal Performance
BM Choral Music Education

Memphis, TN
Jackson, TN
Memphis, TN
Miami, FL
Greenwood, MS

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Francis Cathlina, D.M.A. (he/him) is a Vietnamese-American conductor and educator, renowned for his innovative approach to choral music. His concerts invite audiences into a world where choral artistry becomes a powerful storytelling medium.

Dr. Cathlina is currently the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Memphis, where he received the 2025 *Dean's Award for Creative Achievement*. He oversees the Choral Area, leads the MM/DMA Choral Conducting program, and conducts the University Singers.

A two-time GRAMMY-nominated educator, Dr. Cathlina draws deeply from his Eastern heritage. His work reflects a commitment to excellence and collaboration. In 2025, he will serve on the conducting faculty for Brazil's XV FIMUS Festival and work in the Philippines as part of ACDA's International Conductors Exchange Program. Early recognition came from the Texas Choral Directors Association (TCDA), which named him a "Young Director of Distinction."

Cathlina's teaching philosophy centers on developing masterful technicians, expressive communicators, and thoughtful citizens. Under his direction, the UofM University Singers have been invited to perform for national conferences. His students lead prominent programs—as university DCAs and symphony chorus directors. Recent/upcoming engagements include All-State and honor choirs nationwide, the International Mu Phi Convention Chorus, and a Carnegie Hall debut. Of all these, conducting honor choirs remains his most cherished creative work.

An authority on vocal pedagogy, Dr. Cathlina's research focuses on choral tone and conducting gesture. He has presented over 71 sessions worldwide. He is published in international journals. In 2025, he served as the Headliner for the Ohio and Alabama choral conferences. In 2023, he co-led Conducting Masterclasses in Greece with the University of Macedonia (Thessaloniki) and Ionian University (Corfu).

Dr. Cathlina earned a DMA in conducting with a vocal pedagogy cognate from the University of North Texas, an MM from Michigan State University, and a BME from Baylor University. Before his doctorate, he taught in Texas public schools. Beyond the podium, Dr. Cathlina is a UDRIPPIN-sponsored pickleball athlete/coach. He, his husband Kyle, and their dog Coco call Memphis, Tennessee, their home.

In concert, Cathlina wears an *áo dài*, traditional Vietnamese formalwear. As one of the few Vietnamese conductors in the field, he proudly dons it as a tribute to his heritage. www.franciscathlina.com

Dr. Emily Frizzell, conductor and mezzo-soprano, is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of Memphis and Director of the Memphis Youth Chorale. At UofM, Dr. Frizzell teaches undergraduate and graduate music education courses, supervises music residents, and directs Tigerchor Tenor/Bass Choir. Additionally, she serves as the faculty sponsor for UofM [blu] a cappella and the UofM student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Dr. Frizzell is an active presenter, adjudicator, clinician and researcher, with writings published in PLOS One and GIA Publications.

Before her time at UofM, Dr. Frizzell worked as Director of Choirs at White Station Middle School for seven years. Before White Station, she was the Assistant Director of Choirs at Southaven High School and

Southaven Middle School. She served as WTVMEA Junior High Choral Festival Co-Chair from 2013-2016. She also served as the Memphis City Schools Teacher Field Test Group and Development Team member, which developed the pilot portfolio evaluation method for Tennessee music teachers in 2012. Dr. Frizzell was also a Peer Evaluator of this portfolio evaluation method and a curriculum writer for Shelby County Schools. In 2013, she was awarded the Outstanding Young Music Educator award by the Tennessee Music Education Association. Her choir, the WSMS Chorale, was selected to perform at the 2013 NAFME conference in Nashville, TN and the 2014 TMEA conference in Memphis, TN. Additionally, she served on the Tennessee Department of Education Music Standards Writing Team in 2016.

Dr. Frizzell is an active member of the West Tennessee Vocal Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, the American Choral Directors Association, the Society for Music Teacher Education, and the A Cappella Education Association. She earned a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Memphis and a Master's in Music Education and a Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. She lives in Lakeland, Tennessee, with her husband, JD, their children, Henry and Elliott, Estlin, and their dog, Ari.

GRADUATE CHORAL CONDUCTING STUDIO BIOGRAPHIES

April Mendiola is a Mexican-American soprano and music educator from Southern California. Prior to moving to Memphis, she was a public school educator for nine years, teaching choral music at the high school and elementary school levels. She has received high regard for her contributions to public school choral program building and development. April earned a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from California State University, Long Beach, and a Bachelor of Arts in Choral Music Education from California State University, Fullerton. She also earned a K-12 Single-Subject Teaching Credential in Music from CSU Fullerton. An active soprano and choral artist, she performed in Southern California venues including the Pantages and Greek Theaters, Hollywood Bowl, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. She has performed as a chorus member with artists and composers including Andrea Bocelli, Andy Williams, M83, John Williams, A.R. Rahman, and Eric Whitacre. April is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting with a Cognate in Vocal Pedagogy at the University of Memphis. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of Music Ministry at St. Louis Catholic Church in Memphis, TN. She lives in Memphis with her two wonderful rescue dogs, Carl and Stella Maris.

Originally from Mobile, AL, **Joseph Powell** is a conductor and tenor from Memphis, TN. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in Choral Conducting from The University of Southern Mississippi. Currently, he is pursuing his DMA in Choral Conducting with a Vocal Pedagogy cognate from the University of Memphis and serves as conductor of Mazi, the artistic director of Memphis ChoralArts and interim director of the Memphis Symphony Chorus.. From 2014 to 2024, he was Director of Choirs at White Station High School in Memphis, TN. Powell is a 2022 recipient of the Country Music Association's "Music Teachers of Excellence" award, and has twice been a nominee for Memphis-Shelby County Schools Teacher of the Year. In addition to his teaching career, Powell is an active performer, appearing with Opera Memphis and the Memphis Symphony Chorus. Powell is also the handbell choir director and a staff singer at Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis.

Terry Walker is pursuing a DMA in Choral Conducting at the University of Memphis. He earned a bachelor's degree in music education and master's degree in Choral Conducting, both from the University of Southern Mississippi. He serves as the conductor of the University of Memphis Collegiate Choir. Additionally, he has conducted Mazi and has been the assistant conductor of the University Singers. Previously, he taught for twelve years in Mississippi. He served as the Director of Choral Activities at Long Beach High School in Long Beach, MS, and assistant director at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg, MS. Career accomplishments include an acclaimed tour of Italy, State Convention performances in MS and LA, Masterwork performances, and over 150 performance invitations across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Mr. Walker attended master classes by renowned artists such as the New York Voices, Mack Wilberg, Jerry Blackstone, Andre Thomas, and Arvo Pärt. He served as Chancel Choir Director at Highland Heights Presbyterian Church in Cordova, TN from 2023-2025. An active member of ACDA and NAFMe, Mr. Walker has served as MSMEA District VIII chair. Mr. Walker has also served as Male Voices Repertoire and Resources 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 children, Terry III, and Adelaide.

CHORAL AREA COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS 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. She also studied with Betty Mallard at the University of Texas at Austin.

Grace Gasperich is a collaborative pianist who recently moved to Memphis from South Dakota. After graduating with her master's, she decided to seek adventure and opportunity in the south. Over the past decade, Grace has had the privilege to perform with ensembles as well as in over twenty musical productions. Her dream of pursuing music has led her here, and she is wholeheartedly grateful to have been asked to collaborate with Mazi.

Diego Parra, a native of Dallas Texas, began playing the piano at the age of 8. He continued private piano study for four years and then studied at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Recently, Diego graduated from the University of Memphis with a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance. While in school, he was a member of the Honors College and performed with various ensembles. As a winner of the 2021 University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music Concerto Competition, he performed a movement of Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Symphony Orchestra. He currently serves as the Music Director at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Memphis, TN.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks to:

Choral Area Faculty

Dr. Francis Cathlina - Director of Choral Activities, Assistant Professor of Music

Dr. Emily Frizzell - Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education

Graduate Choral Conducting Studio

April Mendiola - DMA Choral Conducting

Joseph Powell - DMA Choral Conducting

Terry Walker - DMA Choral Conducting

Vocal Arts Faculty

Matthew Burns - Assistant Professor of Voice

Josaphat Contreras - Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice

Dr. Megan Grey - Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice

Dr. Stephen Karr - Opera Music Director

Benjamin Smith - Opera Stage Director

Mary Wilson - Professor of Voice

College & School of Music Administration

Dr. Debra Burns – Dean

Dr. Jacob Allen – Interim Director

Dr. Albert Nguyen - Director of Bands & Conducting Area Chair

Corinthian Scott - Marketing & Communications Officer

Brianne Miller - Business Officer

Kaleb Ritchie - Operations Manager

Caleb Pepperman - Scheduling & Event Coordinator

Kim Marston - Administrative Associate to the Director

Finally, THANK YOU to all the former Music Educators, parents, family, and friends who have invested in these musicians' lives.

SAVE THE DATE—UPCOMING CHORAL AREA EVENTS

Fall 2025

Choral Invitational

Wednesday, October 15, 2025
SFPAC Plough Hall
7:00 PM

University Singers' Home Concert with Germantown HS (Mississippi)

Tuesday, November 4, 2025
SFPAC Plough Hall
7:00 PM

Tigerchor Concert

Thursday, November 13, 2025
Harris Hall
7:00 PM

Mazi & Collegiate Choir Concert

Thursday, November 20, 2025
Harris Hall
7:00 PM

University Singers' Recital with Joseph Powell (Assistant Conductor)

Monday, November 24, 2025
Harris Hall
1:45 PM

Spring 2026

UofM Honor Choir featuring the UofM University Singers

Friday, January 30, 2026
SFPAC Plough Hall
7:00 PM

University Singers' Southern ACDA Preview Concert: *5 Love Languages*

featuring Cordova HS
Friday, February 27, 2026
SFPAC Plough Hall
7:00 PM

University Singers Southern ACDA Performance

Thursday, March 5, 2026
Location TBD
11:15 AM

Tigerchor Concert

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
SFPAC Plough Hall
7:00 PM

University Singers' Masterworks Concert with UofM Symphony Orchestra

Monday, April 20, 2026
SFPAC Plough Hall
7:00 PM

Mazi & Collegiate Choir Concert

Thursday, April 23, 2026
Harris Hall
7:00 PM