



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MEMPHIS**®

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music

**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA +  
CHOIRS**

*PRESENT:*

MASTERWORKS  
**CONCERT**

---

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2026 | 7 PM

---

**SFPAC** SCHEIDT FAMILY  
PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTER  
**PLOUGH HALL**

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music  
Jacob Allen, Interim Director  
College of Communication and Fine Arts  
Deb Burns, Dean

# PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS  
**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Egmont Overture, Op. 84**

*Fabian Schneider, conductor*

**Ludwig van Beethoven**  
**(1770-1827)**

UNIVERSITY  
**SINGERS**

---

**The Long Day Closes**

*Joseph Powell, conductor*

**Sir Arthur Sullivan**  
**(1842-1900)**

*Text by Henry F. Chorley*

**Indodana**

*Joseph Powell, conductor*

**Traditional isiXhosa**  
*arr. Michael Barrett and Ralf Schmidt*

**in your company**

*Commissioned for the UofM University Singers' 2026 Southern ACDA Performance*

**Patrick Vu**  
**(b. 1998)**

*Text by Audrey Burchfield*

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS  
**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA + CHORUS**

---

**Geistliches Lied**

*Daniel Brier, conductor*

**Johannes Brahms**  
**(1833-1897)**

**Magnificat, RV 610**

- I. Magnificat
- II. Et Exultavit
- III. Et Misericordia
- IV. Fecit Potentiam
- V. Deposuit
- VI. Etsurientes
- VII. Sucepit Israel
- VIII. Sicut Locutus
- IX. Gloria

*April Mendiola, soprano*  
*Sarah Enoch, alto*  
*Joseph Powell, tenor*  
*Anthony Valle, bass*

**Antonio Vivaldi**  
**(1678-1741)**

*Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductor*

# TEXT + TRANSLATION

## The Long Day Closes

No star is o'er the lake,  
Its pale watch keeping,  
The moon is half awake,  
Through grey mist creeping,

The last red leaves fall round  
The porch of roses,  
The clock hath ceased to sound,  
The long day closes.

Sit by the silent hearth  
In calm endeavour,  
To count the sounds of mirth,  
Now dumb forever.

**Sir Arthur Sullivan**  
(1842-1900)

*Text by Henry F. Chorley*

Heed not how hope believes  
And fate disposes:  
Shadow is round the eaves,  
The long day closes.

The lighted windows dim  
Are fading slowly.  
The fire that was so trim  
Now quivers lowly.

Go to the dreamless bed  
Where grief reposes;  
Thy book of toil is read,  
The long day closes.

## Indodana

Ngob'umthatile umtwana wakho,  
uhlale nathi  
Indodana ka nkulunkulu  
bayi'bethelela  
Baba Jehova

**Traditional isiXhosa**

*arr. Michael Barrett and Ralf Schmidt*

The Lord has taken his son who  
lived amongst us.  
The son of the Lord God was  
crucified.  
Father Jehovah

# TEXT + TRANSLATION

**in your company**

**Patrick Vu  
(b. 1998)**

*text by Audrey Burchfield  
(b. 1998))*

I see you, Here with me, I see you Here,  
With weary eyes Like a child fighting  
sleep. Find your rest. Oh, Come, lay on  
my shoulder, Come, lay your burdens  
down. The world will go on without us,  
Time will pass, But for a moment, just  
for a moment, Stay with me.

The world has left me breathless and  
bruised, But in your company, I find my  
peace. So stay with me, a moment  
longer, Please stay with me, a moment  
longer, Just a moment longer, And  
another after that, Until all that's left are  
moments Spent, no longer alone.

**Geistliches Lied**

**Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)**

*Daniel Brier, conductor*

Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren  
mit Trauren,  
sei stille!  
Wie Gott es fügt,  
so sei vergnügt  
mein Wille.

Let nothing afflict you  
with grief;  
be calm!  
As God ordains,  
so may my will  
be content.

der gibt auch dir  
das Deine.  
Was willst du heute sorgen  
auf morgen?  
Der Eine  
steht allem für,

Why worry today  
about tomorrow?  
The One  
is in charge,  
who gives also to you  
what is yours.

Sei nur in allem Handel  
ohn Wandel,  
steh feste!  
Was Gott beschleußt,  
das ist und heißt  
das Beste. Amen.

In all your doings  
be steadfast;  
stand firm!  
What God decrees  
is, and is acknowledged,  
the best. Amen.

# TEXT + TRANSLATION

**Magnificat, RV 610**

**Antonio Vivaldi  
(1678-1741)**

*Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductor*

I. Magnificat, anima mea, Dominum  
My soul doth magnify the Lord.

II. Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo, salutari meo.  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:  
Because he hath regarded the humility of his handmaid:

ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.  
for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius,  
Because he that is mighty hath done great things to me: and holy is his name.

III. Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.  
And his mercy is from generation unto generations, to them that fear him.

IV. Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,  
He hath shewed might in his arm:

dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.  
he hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

V. Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles;  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble.

VI. Esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

VII. Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus misericordiæ suæ,  
He hath received Israel his servant, being mindful of his mercy.

VIII. Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.  
As he spoke to our fathers: to Abraham and to his seed for ever.

IX. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

# PERSONNEL

## UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ROSTER

### VIOLIN 1

Cecelia Erbe, concertmaster  
Sebastian Gaviria Lopez  
Lukas Santa Clara  
Yinuo Yang  
John Jesuyemi  
Gabby Gregory  
Sarah Enoch  
Alanna North

### VIOLA

Dario Oliveira Santos, principal  
Mario Henrique Risotto Batista  
Andrew McGuire  
Rex Brown  
Raven Collins  
Jonathan Bagoyado

### CELLO

Miriam Henderson, principal  
Matthew Greiner  
Asamoah Oppong  
Ruby Thurman  
Julian Severs  
Ina O'Ryan  
Elijah Yancey

### BASS

Gesiye Okoya, principal  
Ebony Gipson  
Egypt Burton  
Jonathan Hodges

### FLUTE

Nicole Rodriguez-Diaz, principal  
Catie Balsamo  
Samuel Jessuyemi

### VIOLIN 2

Ana Sofia Ramirez, principal  
Lina Lumumba  
Jessical Flores  
Hailey Smith  
Khalid Lopez  
Autumn Colley

### OBOE

Jesus Salazar, principal  
Simon Dickerson

### CLARINET

Evgenii Mikheev, principal  
Joseph Burgos  
Shihao (Hugh) Zhu

### BASSOON

Lora Yopp, principal  
Mollie Coates  
Caiden Ross

### FRENCH HORN

Brittany Cooper-D'Orsay, principal  
Nick Cacolyris  
Kelsey Pegues  
Rhys Roberts  
Samara Salisbury

### TRUMPET

Christian Chiasson, principal  
Tyler Scott  
Benjamin Vanderbijl

### TROMBONE

Dylan Mashburn, principal  
Evan Green

### BASS TROMBONE

Caleb Elrod

### TUBA

Ryan Winans

### TIMPANI

Colton Renfrow

# PERSONNEL

## UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS CHOIRS ROSTER

### COLLEGIATE CHOIR

#### SOPRANO

Grace Applebaum  
Charlie Carpenter  
Jada Hines  
Ana María Nieves Concepción  
Orion Overstreet  
Nakia Wallace  
Kyla Ware  
Josephine Wright

#### TENOR

Gabriel Hill  
Daniel Hughes  
David Johnson  
Jaden Potter

#### MAZI

Tessa Allen  
Charlotte Carpenter  
Lauren Charves  
Ana María Nieves Concepción  
Abigail Connell  
Amy Cook  
Lynette Davis  
Amy Enlow  
Lori Glasgow  
Mya Hawkins  
Lydiamay Hermerding  
Jada Hines  
Cymelia Johnson

#### ALTO

Aryn Fuller  
Cicely Heard  
Jasmine Knox  
Sarah Pratcher  
Favour Turner

#### BASS

Troy Halbrooks  
Hezekiah Howze  
Greg Lance  
Ben Oliver  
Braiden Tucker-Strickland

Cymelia Johnson  
Kaja Kelson  
Jasmine Knox  
Bella Kulinski  
Hailey Morano  
Raegan McNutt  
Orion Overstreet  
Amanda Randolph  
Aaliyah Ross  
Hope Tillman  
Favour Turner  
Kyla Ware  
Hope Whitehead

# PERSONNEL

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

## CHOIRS ROSTER

### TIGERCHOR

Colman Agranov  
Marcus Austin  
Calvin Barnes  
Luke Brandon  
Noah Canny  
Ryan Cashon  
Ethan Davis  
Zae'len Davis  
Gabriel Hill  
Hezekiah Howze  
Daniel Hughes  
Cade Jett  
David Johnson  
Liam Komulainen  
Micah Loftis  
John Martinez  
West McElhany  
Luis Alejandro Perez-Afanador

Jaden Potter  
Januel De la Rosa  
Derrick Dotson  
Luke Freeman  
Bryce Goodson  
Merritt Hanemann  
Matthew Heathcock  
Ernesto Hernandez Canales  
Recco Sargent  
Simon Schoenberger  
LA Smith  
Dylan Swinger  
Gregory Thomas  
Huffy Tucker-Strickland  
Jahmian Turner  
Scarlett Wahlquist  
Pedro Watson  
Timothy Webster  
Kalen Wilson

# PERSONNEL

## UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS CHOIRS ROSTER

### UNIVERSITY SINGERS

*\*\*denotes section leader*

*\*denotes assistant section leader*

#### SOPRANO

Lauren Charves  
Serafina Cid Ross  
Lynette Davis  
\*Amy Enlow  
Kayla Jones  
Annie McGinly  
Raegan McNutt  
\*\*April Mendiola  
Ava Shatley  
Hope Tillman  
Hannah Warta

#### ALTO

Alexa Bustillo  
\*\*Sarah Enoch  
Cassie Gonzalez  
Mya Hawkins  
Cymalia Johnson  
Elis Jones  
Kaja Kelson  
Hailey Morano  
Amanda Randolph  
Katie Sann  
\*Rachel Young

#### TENOR

Calvin Barnes  
Luke Brandon  
Noah Canny  
Derrick Dotson  
Bryce Goodson  
Ryan Cashon  
Cade Jett  
Joshua Johnson  
\*Joseph Powell  
Recco Sargeant  
\*\*Terry Walker

#### BASS

Ethan Davis  
Merritt Hanemann  
Matthew Heathcock  
Hezekiah Howze  
Liam Komulainen  
West McElhany  
\*Alex Perez-Afanador  
Jeffrey Peters  
Dylan Swinger  
Gregory Thomas  
Liam Tubbs  
Anthony Valle  
\*\*Kalen Wilson

# FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Daniel Brier enjoys a dynamic career spanning symphony, opera, ballet, and live film performances. Since 2019, he has served as Music Director of Opera Wilmington. In 2025, he joined the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at the University of Memphis as Director of Orchestral Studies, where he conducts the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra and leads the graduate orchestral conducting program. In the 2025-26 season, he also returned to the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra both as a guest conductor and the orchestra's primary cover conductor for the masterworks series.

He has conducted orchestras including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Lexington Philharmonic, Monterey Symphony, St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic, and Toledo Symphony, among others. In recent seasons, he has collaborated with artists such as Bobby McFerrin, Pablo Sáinz Villegas, Rachel Barton Pine, and Jennifer Frautschi. As an opera conductor, he has led new productions of Don Giovanni, Tosca, La Traviata, Die Zauberflöte, La Bohème, and Le nozze di Figaro.

In 2022, he concluded an eight-season tenure with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, where he served as Resident Conductor and Interim Music Director. During his tenure, he conducted a wide variety of concerts, including annual appearances on the subscription masterworks, chamber orchestra, pops, family, education, and summer park series. Under his leadership, the orchestra diversified its programming, expanded community partnerships, launched innovative concert series, and inspired young audiences through imaginative educational programming.

For over twenty years, he has maintained an active teaching schedule, serving on the faculties of the University of Michigan String Preparatory Academy, Hope College, Andrews University, Biola Conservatory, and others. He has served as Music Director of Youth Music Monterey and has conducted the young musicians of the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra and the Orion Chamber Music Society.

Earlier in his career, he served as the founding Music Director of the Spectrum Orchestra and as Cover Conductor of the Lexington Philharmonic. His artistry has earned recognition including a prize at the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic International Conducting Masterclass and Competition, as well as an invitation to study with John Nelson at the Orchestre de chambre de Paris.

A graduate of the University of Michigan's acclaimed conducting program, Mr. Brier holds degrees in orchestral and choral conducting, studying with Kenneth Kiesler and Dr. Jerry Blackstone. He contributed as an assistant to the GRAMMY®-nominated recording of Darius Milhaud's *L'Orestie d'Eschyle* (Naxos) and has participated in masterclasses with Giancarlo Guerrero, Hugh Wolff, Jorma Panula, Alexander Polishchuk, Victor Yampolsky, Carl Topilow, and Ragnar Bohlin.

# 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](http://www.franciscathlina.com)

## GRADUATE 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 earned high regard for her contributions to the development of public school choral programs. 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 Historical Performance 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.

Fabian Schneider, D.M.A. is a Swiss conductor active in the United States and Europe. He regularly serves as cover conductor for the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Opera Memphis, and Ballet Memphis, preparing full concert programs and standing ready to step onto the podium as needed. His recent cover engagements have included major symphonic repertoire, pops programs, ballet productions, and opera. Fabian has served as guest conductor with Sinfonietta Memphis, an ensemble specializing in historically informed performance practice. His engagement with HIP has deepened his sensitivity to articulation, texture, and stylistic nuance across the orchestral repertoire.

He currently serves as Assistant Conductor for the University of Memphis Symphony and Opera programs, where he has conducted works including Verdi's Overture to La Forza del Destino, Florence Price's Dances in the Canebrakes, Louise Farrenc's Overture No. 1, and Gabriela Lena Frank's Elegia Andina. In opera, he has led productions of Wolf-Ferrari's Il Segreto di Susanna and Menotti's The Medium, and has served as assistant conductor for La Bohème, Don Giovanni, The Rake's Progress, and others.

Before relocating to the United States in 2022, Fabian studied conducting at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, earning a Master of Arts in Conducting with a cognate in early music. He previously served as First Lieutenant and Band Director in the Swiss Military Bands, where he began his professional career as both conductor and trumpeter.

He is currently completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in orchestral conducting at the University of Memphis.

## GRADUATE CONDUCTING STUDIO BIOGRAPHIES

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 Mississippi and Louisiana, 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 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.

## COLLABORATIVE PIANIST BIOGRAPHY

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.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks to:

## **Orchestral Area Faculty**

Daniel Brier, Director of Orchestral Activities

## **Choral Area Faculty**

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

Dr. Emily Frizzell - Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education

## **Graduate Conducting Studio**

April Mendiola - DMA Choral Conducting

Joseph Powell - DMA Choral Conducting

Fabian Schneider, DMA Orchestral 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

## **SPRING 2026**

### **Mazi & Collegiate Choir Concert**

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Harris Hall

7:00 PM