



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS HONOR CHOIR CONCERT

Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductor
Dr. Lori Hetzel, conductor

JANUARY 31 | 3:30 PM

SFPAC CONCERT HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Albert Nguyen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Debra Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

University Singers

Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductor
Karen Zeferino, assistant conductor
Amy Nguyen, collaborative pianist

Vier Quartette Op. 92, No. 4, Warum

Johannes Brahms
1833-1897

I should be glad

Susan LaBarr
b. 1981

Atlas and Heracles

Jordan D. Boyd
b. 1991

The 2025 University of Memphis Honor Choir

Dr. Lori Hetzel and Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductors
Liz Parsons, collaborative pianist
Not listed in performance order

Stars I Shall Find

Victor C. Johnson
b. 1978

Your Soul is Song

Jake Runestad
b. 1986

Hope Lingers On

arr. Andrea Ramsey
b. 1977

Give Us Hope

Jim Papoulis
b. 1961
arr. Francisco Nunez
b. 1965

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

University Singers

Vier Quartette Op. 92, No. 4, Warum

Johannes Brahms

1833-1897

poem, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

1749-1832

Warum doch erschallen
himmelwärts die Lieder?
Zögen gerne nieder Sterne, die
droben
Blinken und wallen, zögen sich
Lunas
Lieblich Umarmen, zögen die
warmen,
Wonnigen Tage, seliger Götter
Gern uns herab!

Why then do songs resound
heavenward?
They would gladly lure down the
stars, which
gleam and wander above; they
would entice Luna's
lovely embraces, and invoke the
warm,
blissful days of blessed gods -
gladly would they do this!

I should be glad

Susan LaBarr

b. 1981

poem, Sara Teasdale

1884-1933

I should be glad of loneliness
And hours that go on broken wings,
A thirsty body, a tired heart
And the unchanging ache of things,
If I could make a single song
As lovely and as full of light,
As hushed and brief as a falling star
On a winter night.

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

Atlas and Heracles

Jordan D. Boyd

b. 1991

Text by: Michaela Cobb

b. 2002

Atlas! Ah! Atlas!

Atlas! Atlas, set down the world! Let go control.

Atlas! Set down, let go!

Is this what you wanted when you stormed the heavens?

Atlas! Ah! Atlas!

And I know it keeps crushing you,

The penance you're paying, but let down the world rest your shoulders

Atlas! Ah! Atlas!

Heracles it wasn't your fault!

The madness was a curse, no they didn't deserve to die

No, they didn't deserve to die

but the fault is not yours, Heracles!

And I know it keep crushing you, the penance you're paying

But take a small break from the monsters you're slaying.

Atlas let down the world,

Oh, Heracles, the fault is not yours.

Honor Choir

Stars I Shall Find

Victor C. Johnson

b.1978

text by Sara Teasdale

1884-1933

There will be rest,

and sure stars shining over the rooftops crowned with snow

a reign of rest, serene forgetting,

the music of stillness

holy and low

I will make this world of my devising,

out of a dream in my lonely mind

I shall find the crystal of peace above me,

above me, starts I shall find.

Your Soul Is Song

Jake Runestad

b. 1986

text by Germán Aguilar

1979-2014

Sing!

When the seams burst,
and the traps ensnare,
and your body breaks,
and the light flees—

Sing then!

For then, your soul is song.

Hope Lingers On

arr. Andrea Ramsey

b. 1977

Text by Lissa Schneckenburger

b.1979

My mother, when love is gone.

My mother, when love is gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

My father, when peace is gone.

My father, when peace is gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

I will not hate and I will not fear, in our darkest hour, hope lingers here.

My sister, when equality's gone.

My sister, when equality's gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

My brother, with tolerance gone.

My brother, with tolerance gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

I will not hate and I will not fear, in our darkest hour, hope lingers here.

My love, when honor is gone.

My love, when honor is gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

My country, when justice is gone.

My country, when justice is gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

I will not and I will fear, in our darkest hour, hope lingers here.

I will not and I will fear, in our darkest hour, hope lingers here.

Give Us Hope

Jim Papoulis

b.1961

arr. Francisco Nunez

b.1965

Listen to the sound of my voice.
Can you feel the beat of my heart?
Listen to the questions I have.
Listen to me.

It's all very simple, to see what we need.
Give us hope, my voice is calling.
Can you see? Look in my eyes.
Can you feel? My hand is reaching.
Give us hope and we'll show you the way.

Listen to the sound of my voice.
Can you feel the beat of my heart?
Listen to the questions I have.
Listen to me.

We are the future; help us believe.
Give us hope; my voice is calling.
Can you see? Look in my eyes.
Can you feel? My hand is reaching.
Give us hope and we'll show you the way.

Take my hand, now look in my eyes.
Tell me what you see.
Give us hope; my voice is calling.
Can you see? Look in my eyes.
Can you feel? My hand is reaching.
Give us hope, and we'll show you the way.

Give us hope; my voice is calling
Can you see? Look in my eyes.
Can you feel? My hand is reaching.
Give us hope, and we'll show you the way
Show you the way
Show you the way
Show you the way.

THE 2025 UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS HONOR CHOIR

Participating Institutions

Breunka Kimbrough
Ridgeway Highschool

Dr. Jantsen Touchstone
DeSoto Central High School

Daniel Massey
White Station High School

Terrell Hall
Olive Branch High School

Matthew Bowsher
Brighton High School

Jordan Smith
The Soulsville Charter School

Holly Beck
Horn Lake High School

Amanda Sutfin
Pocahontas High School

Jeffrey Chipman
Arlington High School

Kinsey Healy
Houston High School

Jayda Hampton
East High School

Matthew Bowsher
Brighton High School

Jared Heldenbrand
University School of Jackson

Frances Miller
First Assembly Christian School

Stephen St. Clair
Covington High School

Dian Eddleman
Jackson Christian School

Matthew Hayner
Bartlett High School

Tate Hansen
Lakeland Preparatory School

Leah Thomas
Millington Central Middle High
School

University Singers

Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductor

Karen Zeferino, assistant conductor

Amy Nguyen, collaborative pianist

**denotes Section Leader

*denotes Assistant Section Leader

Soprano

Ella Cline	BM Music Therapy	Memphis, TN
Caroline Davis	BM Vocal Performance	Amarillo, TX
Amy Enlow	BM Music Industry	Memphis, TN
Madeline Hawkins	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Mya Hawkins	BS Health & Exercise	Horn Lake, MS
Edlyn Jarquin	BM Music Education	Nashville, TN
Kayla Jones	BM Recording Technology	Richmond, VA
Kylee Kee	BM Music Education	Bartlett, TN
Anne Landsgaard	BM Music Therapy	Olive Branch, MS
Serafina Ross	BA Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Ava Shatley	BM Music Business	Jonesboro, AR
*Emily Woelke	BM Music Therapy &	Memphis, TN
**Karen Zeferino	DMA Choral Conducting	Maringá, Paraná, Brazil

Alto

Sarah Enoch	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Mercy Hammond	BM Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Yasrah Haseeb	BA Commercial Music	Lahore, Pakistan
Heaven Hubbard	BS Sports & Leisure Management	Horn Lake, MS
Brio'Na Jackson	BM Vocal Performance	Southaven, MS
*Isabella Palmer	BM Music Education	Russellville, AR
**Lindsay Reeves	BM Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN
Stephanie Rolfe	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Katie Sann	BA Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Mae Sistrunk	BM Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Bella Grace Valente	BA Psychology	Nashville, TN
Rachel Young	BS Nursing	Memphis, TN
Hope Whitehead	BM Music Therapy & BA Commercial Music	Orlando, FL
Courtne Wilson	BS Nursing	Lawton, OK

****denotes Section Leader**

***denotes Assistant Section Leader**

Tenor

Alex Perez-Afanador	BM Vocal Performance	Plano, TX
Kane Bradley	DMA Choral Conducting	Russellville, AR
Ryan Cashion	BS Nursing	Coeur d'Alene, ID
Merritt Hanemann	BM Vocal Performance	Franklin, TN
Matthew Heatcock	BS Biology	Ypsilanti, MS
Cade Jett	BFA Music Theatre	Jackson, TN
Christian McAlister	BM Music Education	Majuro, Marshall Island
Reagan Nunley	BM Music Education	Chattanooga, TN
**Joseph Powell	DMA Choral Conducting	Mobile, AL
*Brody Melton	BM Music Education	Lakeland, TN
Terry Waler	DMA Choral Conducting	Tupelo, MS

Bass

Shawn Campbell	BA 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 Education & BM Composition	Cordova, TN
Neil Kelly	BM Recording Technology	Kalamazoo, MI
**Benjamin Nguyen	BM Music Education	Cordova, TN
Dylan Swinger	BA Commercial Music	Bartlett, TN
*Gregory Thomas	BLS Religious Studies	Memphis, TN
Jahmian Turner	BM Music Business	Greenville, MS
Anthony Valle	BM Vocal Performance	Miami, FL
Kalen Wilson	BM Music Education	Greenwood, MS
SirLatimore Wilson	BA Commercial Music & BM Jazz Performance	Memphis, TN

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 currently serves as the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music. He oversees the Choral Area, leads the MM and DMA Choral Conducting program, and conducts the University Singers.

Dr. Cathlina's Eastern heritage shapes his dedication to collaboration and excellence. His 2025 international engagements include an invitation to work with the Brazilian Choral Directors Association, serving as the Conducting Faculty for the 2025 XV FIMUS Festival in Brazil, and selection for ACDA's International Conductors Exchange Program to the Philippines. 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. Under his direction, the UofM University Singers have been invited to perform for national and state conferences. His former students successfully lead prominent choral programs. Driven by a passion for human connection, he finds great inspiration as an honor choir conductor. Recent engagements involve the International Mu Phi Convention Chorus, Mississippi All-State Treble Choir, Kentucky All-State SATB Choir, 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 60 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 2025, 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. Beyond the podium, Dr. Cathlina is an avid pickleball player. He, his husband Kyle, and their dog Coco proudly call Memphis, Tennessee, their home. www.franciscathlina.com.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Lori Hetzel is the Associate Director of Choral Activities, Associate Director of the School of Music, and professor of Choral Music Education at the University of Kentucky where she conducts the UK Women's Choir and the ever-popular a cappella group "Paws and Listen".

In addition to her conducting duties, Dr. Hetzel supervises student teachers and teaches undergraduate methods and choral conducting courses where she has pioneered a unique partnership program with area high schools allowing undergraduate students to begin classroom teaching early in their curriculum and gain true "hands on" experience. Hetzel is a contributing author to the new textbook *Conducting Women's Choirs: Strategies for Success*.

Among her many academic accomplishments, she was the recipient of the University of Kentucky "Great Teacher of the Year" award in 2000, a finalist for the Provost Awards for Outstanding Teaching in both 2009 and 2010, and the winner of the Robert K. Baar Choral Award in 2011 – "given to one choral director in the state who exhibits outstanding leadership in choral music and promotes music education in the state of Kentucky." Lori Hetzel received the Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Wisconsin/Green Bay, the Master of Music from the University of Missouri/Kansas City and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Michigan State University.

Outside of the university, Dr. Hetzel served as Artistic Director of the Lexington Singers Children's Choir and conducted the LSCC Chamber Choir for 20 years. The Lexington Singers Children's Choir was formed to provide specialized choral opportunities for the children of central Kentucky and now offers four select choirs in which children can participate. The group performs not only in the greater Lexington area but has also presented concerts with the Indianapolis Children's Choir - Kantorie, the Spivey Hall Children's Choir (Atlanta), the Central Illinois Children's Choir, and at the Kennedy Center as part of the "Our Lincoln" concert presented by the Kentucky Arts Council. They are often seen in collaboration with other area musical groups including the Lexington Singers, Lexington Philharmonic, UK Opera Theater and the UK Choirs.

BIOGRAPHIES

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.

UPCOMING CHORAL AREA EVENTS

**University Singers Performance
Idlewild Presbyterian Church
March 24, 2025
7:00 pm**

**Tigerchor + HS
SFPAC Plough Hall
April 6, 2025
7:00 pm**

**US Home Concert
SFPAC Plough Hall
April 8, 2025
7:00 pm**

**Mazi & Collegiate Choir
SFPAC Plough Hall
April 24, 2025
7:00 pm**

**Karen Zeferino, DMA GA recital with US
Harris Recital Hall
April 25, 2025
3:00 pm**

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Choral Area Faculty

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

Graduate Choral Conducting Studio

Kane Bradley - DMA Choral Conducting
Joseph Powell - DMA Choral Conducting
Terry Walker - DMA Choral Conducting
Karen Zeferino - DMA Choral Conducting

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 & School of Music Administration

Dr. Debra Burns - Dean
Dr. Albert Nguyen - Interim Director,
Director of Bands, and Chair of the Conducting Area
Jennifer Mueller - Business Officer
Kaleb Ritchie - Operations Manager
Mac Gittinger - Scheduling & Event Coordinator
Kim Marston - Administrative Associate to the Director

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