CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS Boyer College of Music and Dance

Graduate Conductors Chorus Alexander Nguyễn, conductor

Recital Chorus
Vinroy D. Brown, Jr., conductor

Monday, February 26, 2024 • 7:30PM Rock Hall Auditorium 1715 N. Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19122



Graduate Conductors Chorus

Alexander Nguyễn, conductor Kim Barroso, pianist

Sanama (World Premiere)

Sepehr Pirasteh (b. 1993)

Tatiyanna Hayward and Nālani Matthias, soloists

Mille Regretz Josquin Des Prez (c.1450-1521)

Dos Cuerpos Julio Morales (b. 1987)

My Heart Be Brave Marques L.A. Garrett (b. 1984)

Ave Maria, WAB 6 Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Selig sind die Toten Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)

Ride in the Chariot Spiritual

Arranged by Brandon Waddles (b. 1988)

Roberto Guevara, tenor Chloe Lucente and Roslyn Rich, soprano descant

We are grateful to Professor Emeritus and former Director or Choral Activities Alan Harler, in whose name the Alan Harler Endowed Choral Fund supported the commissioning of the Pirasteh piece on tonight's program.

Recital Chorus

Vinroy D. Brown, Jr., conductor Andrew Samlal, pianist

The Word Was God	Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)
Sure on this Shining Night	Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
Wake Up, My Spirit	Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)
Jamaican Folk Song Suite Train a Blow Cookie, Cookie Ha One Cousin	Jamaican Folk Songs Arranged by Marjorie Whylie (b. 1944)
Si, ch'io vorrei morire	Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)
Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Clap Praise	Diane White-Clayton (b. 1964) Tatiyanna Hayward, alto Zachary Alvarado, speaker
Soon Ah Will Be Done	Spiritual

Arranged by William Dawson (1899-1990)

Graduate Conductors Chorus

Alexander Nguyễn, conductor

Sanama Sepehr Pirasteh

The composer writes:

Sanama embarks on a sonic exploration of love, traversing the emotional landscape between longing, passionate fervor, and selfless devotion. It draws inspiration from Iranian traditional music, borrowing melodic elements from the *Dastagah* Shoor and Dashti. These structures mirror the intensity of the emotions portrayed, conjuring feelings of both yearning and ardent adoration.

At the heart of the piece lies the poetry of Rumi, a renowned Persian poet known for his exquisite use of unique rhythmic structures. The piece captures the essence of Rumi's verses by incorporating their original rhythmic patterns, playfully weaving them with moments of syncopation. This interplay creates a dynamic energy that reflects the poem's passionate language.

Beyond musical context, the piece emphasizes the power of love itself. It paints a vivid portrait of an individual consumed by love, willing to surrender their life in the name of devotion. This dedication may hint at either a divine or forbidden love, adding a layer of mystery and intrigue to the sonic journey.

As an Iranian composer, I felt compelled to share this precious heritage with those dear to me, and this piece represents a heartfelt offering inspired by my cultural roots.

-Sepehr Pirasteh

دل من دل من دل من بر تو رخ تو رخ تو رخ بافر تو صنما صنما اگر جان طلبی بدهم بدهم به جان و سر تو کف تو کف تو کف رحمت تو لب تو لب تو لب شکر تو دم تو دم جو دم جان وش تو می تو می تو می چون زر تو

در تو در تو در بخشش تو

گل تو گل تو گل احمر تو

My heart, my heart, my heart for you You face, your face, your glorious face!

My idol (my dear/love), my idol, if you want [my] life, I'll give, I'll give my head and life to you.

The least, the least of your mercy Your lips, your lips, your sweet lips.

Your breath, your breath, your vitalizing breath. Your wine, your wine, your golden wine.

Your door, your door to forgiveness, Your flower, your flower, your red flower.

Mille Regretz

Josquin Des Prez

Mille Regretz is a French chanson often attributed to Josquin Des Prez (though his authorship has been disputed). Josquin's composition employs 4-part writing in the Phrygian mode to represent the longing and suffering at the loss of love. In addition to the modality, it could also be said that Josquin breaks rules of Renaissance ficta (non-diatonic accidentals) to reinforce the unsettled mood of loss. This idea is then compounded by a final cadence that has no feeling of closure.

Josquin was a Franco-Flemish composer of the High Renaissance. His style developed that of his predecessors Du Fay and Ockeghem. Unlike his contemporaries, his vocal compositions did not feature long melismatic lines. Instead, he preferred his music to reinforce the text with many of the syllables featuring just one or two notes. *Mille Regretz* is an example of a Parisian chanson (a French chanson that is written predominantly homophonic, with 4-part texture with equal rhythm and text stress).

Mille regretz de vous abandonner Et d'eslonger vostre fache amoureuse, Jay si grand dueil et paine douloureuse, Quon me verra brief mes jours definer. A thousand regrets at deserting you and leaving behind your loving face, I feel so much sadness and such painful distress, that it seems to me my days will soon dwindle away

Dos Cuerpos

Julio Morales

Dos Cuerpos is an an unaccompanied piece composed by Julio Morales. It has been featured in the Coratl México collection, which documented prominent Mexican choral music. The piece is written in the contemporary choral style with homophonic writing and major-seventh chords. Morales

uses lush chordal writing underneath a soaring soprano melody to bring Octavio Paz's (1914-1998) romantic text to life.

Julio Morales is an arranger and composer of Mexican choral music. As a conductor he has made waves through his ensemble Vox Populi Project, an internationally admired ensemble that cultivates traditional Mexican rhythms through the lens of a cappella Latin Pop. As a composer, he has served as the Composer-In-Residence for VocalEssence in Minneapolis and Chicago. His arrangements of traditional music from Veracruz and original compositions are performed around the world and admired for their gorgeous melodies and rhythmic energy.

Dos cuerpos frente a frente son a veces dos olas y la noche es océano.

Dos cuerpos frente a frente son a veces dos piedras y la noche desierto.

Dos cuerpos frente a frente son a veces raíces en la noche enlazadas.

Dos cuerpos frente a frente son a veces navajas y la noche relámpago.

Dos cuerpos frente a frente son dos astros que caen en un cielo vacío. Two bodies face to face Are at times two waves And the night is an ocean.

Two bodies face to face Are sometimes two stones And the night a desert.

Two bodies face to face Are at times two roots Intertwined in the night.

Two bodies face to face Are sometimes two stilettos And night lightening sparks.

Two bodies face to face Are two stars who are falling In a naked sky.

My Heart Be Brave

Marques L.A. Garrett

My Heart Be Brave is a choral part song by Marques Garrett. The piece was written for Dr. Anthony Trecek-King and Seraphic Fire. The text is by American poet James Weldon Johnson. The theme is similar to that of Johnson's other famous poem Lift Every Voice and Sing, and speaks of the continuous fight for social equality. Garrett writes this about the text: "In the midst of discrimination, our heart—the core of our being—must lead us into rightful change. And as we continue doing right, the principles of honesty, love, and justice will give us the power to strive for what is due all of humanity."

Dr. Marques Garrett is an American composer and Associate Professor of Choral Studies at the University of North Texas. He is a highly sought after choral artist, with invitations to guest

conduct honor choirs and professional ensembles around the country. As a composer, he has been commissioned by groups such as Westminster Choir College and the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia. Dr. Garrett is also a leading expert on non-idiomatic choral music of Black American composers.

Sonnet

My heart be brave, and do not falter so,
Nor utter more that deep, despairing wail.
Thy way is very dark and drear I know,
But do not let thy strength and courage fail;
For certain as the raven-winged night
Is followed by the bright and blushing morn,
Thy coming morrow will be clear and bright;
'Tis darkest when the night is furthest worn.
Look up, and out, beyond, surrounding clouds,
And do not in thine own gross darkness grope,
Rise up, and casting off thy hind'ring shrouds,
Cling thou to this, and ever inspiring hope:

Tho' thick the battle and tho' fierce the fight,
There is a power making for the right.

- James Weldon Johnson

Ave Maria, WAB 6 Anton Bruckner

Ave Maria (WAB 6) is Bruckner's second of three motet settings of the same text. In this version, Bruckner writes for seven-part unaccompanied chorus. This setting comes from his Linz period of 1861. This work represents his compositional style of blending Renaissance chant-like lines with the Romantic era harmonic language and shifts. This setting features block-chord orchestration with antiphonal structures between upper and lower voices as well as dramatic dynamic contrasts.

Anton Bruckner was an Austrian Romantic organist and composer, most remembered for his orchestral symphonies and sacred choral works. He found much of his inspiration in reverence and respect for his musical predecessors of the Renaissance and Classical eras.. His identity as a devout Catholic guided much of his largely sacred output, including this setting of the *Ave Maria*.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum; benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus [Christus].
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,

nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus [Christ].

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Selig sind die Toten Heinrich Schütz

Selig sind die Toten is a German motet by Heinrich Schütz from his collection of funeral music, Geistliche Chormusik (1648). The text comes from The Book of Revelations, 14:13 in the Lutheran Bible. The polyphonic texture used in this piece models pieces in the late Renaissance with shorter points of imitation with repetition. Though the motet opens very calmly, Schütz creates contrasting textures with great homophonic affirmation to represent the words of the Spirit. We also see text painting in the music to show the great work that is accomplished on Earth with the "und ihre Werke folgen ihnen nach," section.

Heinrich Schütz is a composer of the Baroque period with strong influences from the Renaissance Venetian School of composition. A student of Giovanni Gabrieli, Schütz is remembered today as Germany's most prolific composer before Bach. He is credited with bringing the Italian style to Germany and continuing its evolution from the Renaissance into the early Baroque. His largely sacred output has ties to his experience as a German Lutheran.

Selig sind die Toten, die in dem Herren sterben, von nun an. Ja der Geist spricht: Sie ruhen von ihrer Arbeit und ihre Werke folgen ihnen nach. Blessed are the dead, that die in the Lord from now on.
Yea, the Spirit speaks: they rest from their labors and their works follow them.

Ride in the Chariot

Spiritual Arranged by Brandon Waddles

Ride in the Chariot is an arrangement by Brandon Waddles of a traditional African American spiritual. The text originates in the Old Testament story of prophet Elijah as he rode in a chariot of fire to heaven (2 Kings 2:11). It is both a statement of joy and a plea for mercy with the coming of the Revelation. Waddles's arrangement infuses gospel and jazz chord structure into the traditional spiritual genre. He writes with clear references and homages to 20th century spiritual arrangers Hall Johnson, William Dawson, Moses Hogan, and Roland Carter.

Brandon Waddles is an American composer from Detroit. His choral compositions and arrangements have been published and performed by choral ensembles around the world, including the University of Michigan Glee Clubs, Oakwood Aeolians, Brigham Young University Singers and the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir. He holds music degrees from Morehouse College, Westminster Choir College, and Florida State University.

Ride up in the chariot soon-a in the mornin' And I hope I join the band

O Lord, have mercy on me And I hope I join the band

Walk and talk with Jesus soon-a in the mornin' And I hope I join the band

Chatter with the angels soon-a in the mornin' And I hope I join the band

- Traditional Spiritual

Notes by Alexander Nguyễn

Recital Chorus

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The Word Was God Rosephanye Powell

The Word Was God is an unaccompanied motet by Rosephanye Powell. Its text comes from the first chapter of John. Powell introduces the first musical theme through the upper voices, who sing in unison, and then it is imitated in the lower voices, who respond in harmony. The opening unison represents the "nothingness" of creation. When it is further developed in the lower voices it remains homophonic, but its harmony reflects the duality of God and Christ. Throughout the piece, the initial theme develops, and more are added, each of them syncopated and reflective of the text. According to the composer, the piece is a musical text painting of the creation.

This has become a frequently performed piece of this prolific composer, who is the most published Black female composer in the world. Rosephanye Powell is a versatile composer, musicologist and pedagogue who has presented, performed, conducted, and had her music performed throughout the world. A graduate of Alabama State University, Westminster Choir College, and The Florida State University, she is currently Chair and Professor of Voice at Auburn University.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Sure on this Shining Night

Samuel Barber

Sure on this Shining Night is among Samuel Barber's most known works. It was first composed as an art song for solo voice as part of his 1938 song cycle Four Songs. The text is taken from James Agee's poem Descriptions of Elysium which comes from the 1934 collection Permit Me Voyage. It is through- composed and neo-Romantic in style. The composer sets the solo art song several years later. In this original choral version, he keeps the original tune in the soprano voices and adds complimentary lines in the lower voices. The text speaks to the beauty of nature at night and is an ode to the wonder of the stars and night sky. This contemplative piece rests in a warm B-flat major with text being paramount, evidenced by the changing of meter to best align with the text.

Samuel Barber was a 20th century American composer, educator, singer, and pianist. He was a native of West Chester, Pennsylvania, and born to a musical family. His output is diverse, and

includes works not only for chorus, but for solo voice and instruments. He was the recipient of two Pulitzer Prizes for his significant contribution to music of the 20th century.

Sure on this shining night Of star made shadows round, Kindness must watch for me This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north. All is healed, all is health. High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder Wandering far alone Of shadows on the stars.

Wake Up, My Spirit

Adolphus Hailstork

Wake Up, My Spirit is a work for mixed chorus and piano by Adolphus Hailstork. A choral art song, its text is taken from the fifty-seventh Psalm. The text speaks to renewal, joy and praise. Listeners will hear many meter changes, syncopated rhythms, moving tonalities, and a broad range of vocal singing from the choir – all distinctive hallmarks of Hailstork's compositional style.

Adolphus Hailstork is an American composer and educator. Born in Rochester, New York, he currently resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He studied composition with several teachers, most notably Nadia Boulanger. His compositional output includes over 100 works, which span the full spectrum of ensemble makeup and instrumentation. As an educator, he is retired as Professor of Music and Composer-In-Residence at Old Dominion University.

Wake up, my spirit! I, myself, will waken the dawn.

Exalt Yourself above the heavens, O God, And Your glory over all the earth.

I will sing praise to You above the nations, Awake, lute and harp, I will sing melody. Marjorie Whylie's Jamaican Folk Song Suite is a set of three traditional songs that in the words of the composer are "full of social commentary, censure, and recrimination in a vehicle of humor." The first in the set, Train a Blow, talks about people you see in the neighborhood as you catch the train. Cookie, Cookie, the second in the set, is a humorous "lament" about the playful nature of stealing food from a loved one's plate. The third and final song, Ha One Cousin, speaks to a family member who plays pranks on his parents. The set is performed in Jamaican patois, the native language of the island. It is an English-based Creole language with West African influences.

Marjorie Whylie is a Jamaican instrumentalist, composer, arranger, musicologist, and educator. She is most known for her tenure as the Musical Director of the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, which performed many of her original and arranged music for choreographed works both domestically and abroad.

I. Train a Blow

Train a blow, yuh nuh hear de min' i'lef yuh

Mas Tom a run, Mis Mary da come. What a way de gyal foot dry!

Poor Madda Jane da try catch de train, but her fowl da look fe fly.

Lok how de woman a hide her litle bwov inna ed ker'sene pan.

Tap, yuh tink yuh smart, no, ma.

Yuh nuh wan' pay fe yuh son.

Port Antoni,

Frankfield, Ewarton

Gyal an' bwoy,

young lady, gentleman

The train whistle is blowing. don't you hear the make sure ti doesn't leave you

Master Tom si running, Miss Mary has come. How skinny her feet are!

Poor Mother Jane Is trying to catch the train, but her chicken is trying to fly away.

Se how the woman is hiding her little boy in the kerosene pan.

Stop, you think you're smart, don't you, ma'm. You don't want to pay for your son.

Port Antonio, Frankfield, Ewarton

Girl and boy,

young lady, gentleman

II. Cookie, Cookie

Cookie, Cookie, Cookie,

yuh nuh se nobody pas yah? didn't you see anybody pas by here?

No, me friend.

Nuh tel me so.

No, my friend.

Don't tell me so.

One o' me dumplin' gawn.

One of my dumplings is gone.

Half 'o me sorel gawn.

Half of my sorel is gone.

Big junk o' corn pork gawn. A big chunk of corned pork is gone.

III. Ha One Cousin

Ha one cousin
uppa Seafort Town.

Cheer, bwoys, cheer.

I have a cousin
up in Seaforth Town.
Cheer, boys, cheer.

Tek im' aunty coat, He took his aunty's coat, trow trough de window. He took his aunty's coat, threw it through the window.

Gyal, awhe yuh cal am? Girl, what did you call him?

Cal ma Funduwah. Cal him Funduwah.

Put yuh foot ni deh.

han,' head, body

Put your foot in there.

Hand, head, body

Si, ch'io vorrei morire

Claudio Monteverdi

Si, ch'io vorrei morire is a madrigal by renaissance composer Claudio Monteverdi. It comes from his Fourth Book of Madrigals for Five Voices and is a song of immense passion. The narrator of the text wants to die from passion in the arms of his beloved. The cries of "Ahi" throughout the piece are plaintive in nature, and they create tension between the voices that is an extension of the tension between love and pain in the text. These suspensions figuratively "strangle" the music like a person being held in their lover's arms.

Italian composer Claudio Monteverdi is regarded as one of the most consequential composers of all time. A composer of both secular and sacred music, and a pioneer in the development of opera, he is considered a crucial transitional figure between the Renaissance and Baroque periods of musical development. While he worked extensively in the tradition of earlier Renaissance polyphony, he also undertook great developments in form and melody, and began to employ basso continuo techniques, notable of the Baroque.

Sì, ch'io vorrei morire, ora ch'io bacio, amore, la bella bocca del mio amato core.

Ahi, car' e dolce lingua, datemi tanto umore, che di dolcezza in questo sen' m'estingua!

Ahi, vita mia, a questo bianco seno, deh, stringetemi fin ch'io venga meno! Ahi, bocca! Ahi, baci! Ahi, lingua! Torn' a dire:

Sì, ch'io vorei morire!

Yes, I would like to die, now that I'm kissing, sweetheart, the luscious lips of my darling beloved.

Ah! dear, dainty tongue, give me so much of your liquid that I die of delight on your breast!

Ah, my love, to this white breast ah, crush me until I faint! Ah mouth! Ah kisses! Ah tongue! I say again:

Yes, I would like to die!

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich

Felix Mendelssohn

One of Mendelssohn's smaller sacred choral works, *Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich* is a hymn setting of a Lutheran text. The call for peace begins with an extended piano introduction. Musical ideas are introduced in the lowest ranges of the piano before extending the range. The vocal theme is presented three times: first in the lowest voices, then in countermelody with the alto voice, and finally, in four-part homophony with a tune original to Mendelssohn. There is a complete orchestration of this work for strings and woodwinds, with cellos and basses driving the piece.

Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, widely known as Felix Mendelssohn, was a German composer, pianist, organist, and conductor of the early Romantic period. Mendelssohn's compositions amount to hundreds and include symphonies, concertos, piano music, organ music and chamber music. A traveler throughout Europe, his musical influences were vast and his writing style diverse.

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich, Herr Gott! zu unsern Zeiten Es ist doch ja kein ander nicht, Der für uns könnte streiten, Denn du unser Gott alleine. Graciously grant us peace Lord God, in our time; there is no one else who could fight for us except you ,our God, alone.

Clap Praise Diane White-Clayton

An original composition by Diane L. White-Clayton, Clap Praise is an energetic piece for piano, solo, speaker and chorus. The text comes from verses of Psalm 47 and features the choir clapping at throughout of the piece, sometimes all together and in segments. The soloist leads the choir in a

call and response that is further expanded upon and supported by the piano, which is featured prominently in the piece.

Diane L. White-Clayton is a multi-genre composer, conductor and performer. A Washington D.C. native, her earliest musical experiences came from her formative years in the Black church. Currently, Dr. White-Clayton serves on the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles as a Lecturer of Ethnomusicology. She is also the Artistic Director of the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers and Founder and CEO of BYTHAX, which serves as her primary publishing outlet, and the BYTHAX Ensemble, a professional vocal group.

Clap Your hands, O ye people Shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

For the Lord most high is to be feared, A great King over all the earth. He subdued the peoples under us and nations under our feet.

God has gone up with a shout. The Lord ascends with the sound of a trumpet. God ascends amidsts shouts of joy.

Shout unto God with a voice of triumph. Shout unto God with loud songs of joy! Sing praises to our King!

God regins over the nations, God sits on His holy throne. He is the King of all the earth, Sing praises with a psalm.

Everybody! Shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

Soon Ah Will Be Done

Spiritual Arranged by William Dawson

Soon Ah Will Be Done is a traditional spiritual arranged by William L. Dawson. Its text speaks to both the hope of the afterlife and of reconciliation. It is composed in a mostly strophic manner with variations from the first to the succeeding choruses, and each verse anticipating the reunion of a loved one. The final verse speaks to the ultimate reconciliation, that with God.

William Dawson was an American composer, choir director, professor, and musicologist. His early music career was spent as a trombonist with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. He is most known for his work as choral director of the Tuskegee Institute, which became the outlet for most of his spiritual arrangements. In addition, Dawson composed original choral and solo art songs, symphonies and other instrumental works.

Soon ah will be don' A-wid de troubles ob de worl', Goin' home t'live wid God.

I wan' t'meet my mother, I'm goin' t'live wid God.

No more weepin' an' a-wailin', I'm goin' t'live wid God.

I wan' t'meet my Jesus, I'm goin' t'live wid God. In de mornin' Lord! God, I'm goin' t'live wid God.

Notes by Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.

Graduate Conductors Chorus

Alexander Nguyễn, conductor Kim Barroso, pianist

SOPRANO

Angela Bui Kayla Elliott Chloe Lucente Nālani Matthias Roslyn Rich

<u>ALTO</u>

Elizabeth Beavers Alison Crosley Carmelina Favacchia Tatiyanna Hayward Sadie Roser

TENOR

Zachary Alvarado Shawn Anderson Ben Bian Roberto Guevara Blake Levinson Julian Nguyễn

BASS

Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.
Benjamin Chen
Sergio Paul
Gabriel Eduardo Planas-Borgstrom
Kylar Sprenger

Recital Chorus

Vinroy D. Brown, Jr., conductor Andrew Samlal, pianist

SOPRANO

Angela Bui Paulina Cevallos Kayla Elliott Victoria Smith

ALTO

Elizabeth Beavers
Gabi Bernstein
Nadia Bodnari
Tayler Butenschoen
Tatiyanna Hayward
Astrid Le
Angelina Soedjartanto
Angela Thornton

TENOR

Roberto Guevara Julian Nguyễn Mateo Perez Presmanes Brandon Scribner

BASS

Anthony Aguilar Zachary Alvarado Thomas McLoughlin Alexander Nguyễn Kylar Sprenger