

Temple University Chorale

Dustin S. Cates, conductor

Temple University Voices

Elizabeth Cassidy Parker, conductor

Neshaminy High School Select Choir

Kristin Nichols, conductor

The Wilderness of You

Sunday, October 26, 2025 • 3:00 PM

Lew Klein Hall, Temple Performing Arts Center

1837 N. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19122

Temple University Chorale

Dustin S. Cates, conductor
Michael Sakell, graduate conductor
Joohee Kim, pianist

The Way of Trust

Andrea Ramsey

Sofiya Solomyanskaya, violin; Jace Cocola, cello

Hold Out Your Light

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

Christopher Pierre, Holden Finley, and Jack Ritter, soloists
Jaden Ruff, piano
Michael Sakell, conductor

Neshaminy High School Select Choir

Kristin Nichols, conductor
Jacob Tardiff, pianist

Stomp on the Fire

Andrea Ramsey

Somewhere

Leonard Bernstein
arr. Robert Edgerton

University Voices

Elizabeth Cassidy Parker, conductor
J. Matthew Lista, graduate conductor
Joohee Kim, pianist

Richer for Her

Andrea Ramsey

Jace Cocola, cello
J. Matthew Lista, conductor

Still I Rise

Rosephanye Powell

Julian Nguyễn, piano; Jacob Treat, drums

Combined Choirs

Dustin S. Cates and Elizabeth Cassidy Parker, co-conductors
Joohee Kim, pianist

The Wilderness of You

Andrea Ramsey

1. Blood
2. Breath
3. Biome
4. Brain
5. Being

Olga Zaiats, violin 1; Sofiya Solomyanskaya, violin 2
Arina Komarova, viola; Jace Cocola, cello
Jacob Treat, percussion 1; Tristan Bouyer, percussion 2

Brian Gaukel, projection design
Evelyn Swift Shuker, lighting design

This performance is made possible through generous support from the Temple University Elaine Brown Choral Fund, Rollo Dilworth, Chair, and a Vice Provost for the Arts Grant from the Temple University Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts, Vice Provost for the Arts, Robert Stroker.

Program Notes

The Way of Trust

Andrea Ramsey

Originally commissioned by the Turtle Creek Chorale (Dallas, TX) and artistic director Sean Baugh, as part of their larger “Peacemakers” project, *The Way of Trust*, explores themes of understanding, empathy, and finding common ground. With timely text by American poet and lyricist, Charles Anthony Silvestri, the work invites reflection on the things that divide us and what is required to move toward peace and reconciliation. Andrea Ramsey’s setting of the text is both dramatic and lyrical. Her intense and introspective approach challenges all of us to consider the impact of listening, compassion, and shared humanity. *The Way of Trust* serves as a call to, “rise above our nature and embrace the middle way.”

All around us in this broken, fragile world
Are broken fragile people, fumbling on their way.
Falling, unthinking,
Into well-worn pathways that cleave the world,
Dividing the familiar and the fey.
But the sword that divides cuts self as well as others.
Sisters and brothers cling to yesterday.
We must see the world with eyes unclouded.
Look toward tomorrow and seek the middle way.
Seek the way of trust, the way of hope unbounded,
The way of true affection must be our path today;
The way is hard, commands a higher calling,
To rise above our nature and seek the middle way.

Hold Out Your Light

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1962) is among the most celebrated contemporary arrangers of African American spirituals. Gibbs is widely recognized for preserving the authenticity of the spiritual while infusing it with rhythmic vitality and accessible vocal part writing. In *Hold Out Your Light*, he reimagines the traditional spiritual *This Little Light of Mine*, drawing inspiration from Matthew 5:14-16, which calls believers to “let your light shine before others.” This arrangement invites performers to embody the spiritual’s message to be vessels of hope and beacons of courage.

Hold out your light, ye heav'n bound soldier,
let your light shine aroun' the world.
Oh, brother won' you hold out your light, shine on brother,
let your light shine aroun' the world.
Oh, sister won' you hold out your light, shine on sister,
let you light shine aroun' the world.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let your light shine aroun' the world!

Stomp on the Fire

Andrea Ramsey

Stomp on the Fire, composed by Andrea Ramsey, was composed as an entirely human work. Using only sounds and body percussion, it is astounding to see how much emotion and thought evolves out of a choral piece without using any words. The piece, relevant to all, is a journey through human injustice and makes us feel the mourning, struggling and the strength of unity.

Somewhere

Leonard Bernstein
arr. Robert Edgerton

Somewhere, from the genius minds of Leonard Bernstein (music) and Stephen Sondheim (lyrics), arranged for choir by Robert Edgerton is a poignant moment in *West Side Story*. After a violent clash of hate and prejudiceness, this tender and powerful composition reminds us that love is present even in the most hateful environments. A firm promise for the future evolves through the dissonance of the music and is confirmed through the repetition of the lyrics, "somehow, somewhere."

While both *Stomp on the Fire* and *Somewhere* are musically powerful and moving in different ways, the message of hope, peace, love and unity connects them to each other and humanity.

Richer for Her

Andrea Ramsey

Drawing on the theme overcoming adversity through grace and determination, *Richer for Her* explores scenarios where women possess the self-determination and fervor to rise above societal naysayers. From an introspective beginning, to a more outward facing finale, Andrea Ramsey skillfully sets the poetry of Charlotte Tall Mountain to her compositional prose. Ramsey's use of Charlotte Tall Mountain's poem, *For the Love of the World*, furthers the narrative of and need for promoting marginalized peoples. Tall Mountain, a member of the Iroquois Nation, was known for her empowering and spiritual poetry. Often highlighting inequities and issues of social justice in her work, *For the Love of the World* is no different. Tall Mountain conceptualizes the experience of womanhood through natural world imagery and a spiritual pallet of prose. Combining this inspirational text with her own

compositional skill, Ramsey creates a sonic feast that builds with the intensity of the poetry. Scored for SSA voices, cello, and piano, *Richer for Her* begins with subtle intimacy of a personally lived experience and builds with harmonic intensity to the acknowledgement of one's worth. Working in tandem with the voices, both the cello and piano personify the text through motivic and melodic development. The "her" we hear throughout can be any singular woman or woman-identifying individual or collective. A certain shared lived experience surrounds this piece, and the partnership between Tall Mountain's prose paired with Ramsey's prowess truly drives at the heart of this thesis—overcoming all odds and adversities, the world is richer for her.

J. Matthew Lista

For the love of a tree
She went out on a limb

For the love of the sea
She rocked the boat

For the love of the earth
She dug deeper

For the love of the stars
She let her light shine

For the love of spirit
She nurtured her soul

For the love of the Goddess
She drew down the moon

For the love of a good time
She sowed seeds of happiness

For the love of family
She reconciled differences

For the love of her enemies
She suspended judgement

For the love of community
She mended fences

For the love of herself
She acknowledged her worth

And the world was richer for her.

Inspired by Maya Angelou's poem of the same name, *Still I Rise* is an anthem that uplifts women's resilience, self-affirmation, and power in the midst of struggle. Commissioned by Vox Femina (Los Angeles, CA) and artistic director, Iris S. Levine, *Still I Rise* premiered in 2005 at the American Choral Directors National Conference. Composer Dr. Rosephanye Powell is one of America's foremost voices of choral music, represented in multiple publishers' catalogues, such as Gentry Publications, Oxford University Press, Alliance Music, and Hal Leonard. Professor of Voice at Auburn University, Dr. Powell is a classically trained vocalist and scholar whose research focuses on the preservation and presentation of the African American spiritual and gospel music. Dr. Powell has received numerous awards, most recently the prestigious 2025 Raymond Brock Memorial Commission. In November, Dr. Powell will conduct *Still I Rise* at Lincoln Center.

Though I have been wounded;
aching heart, full of pain.
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, still I rise
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, 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 birds' 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.
I'm reaching for the skies
Higher and higher, yes
Still I rise.
Yes, it's all within my reach;
I'm reaching for the skies
Yes, still I rise
Still I rise

The Wilderness of You

Music by Andrea Ramsey
Text by Jarod K. Anderson

When I was gifted a copy of Jarod K. Anderson's *Field Guide to the Haunted Forest* at Christmas in 2023, I inhaled the book in one sitting. The world he presented was interconnected, natural, and imposingly rich in its awe and wonder. I loved the dramatic shifts in perspective and decided to reach out. Though he was busy with the release of *Something In the Woods Loves You*, he collaborated enthusiastically, helping

me stitch together ideas from the breadth of his existing poems to fulfill the lyrical aspect of this work.

At times, being a creative feels futile. Absorbing the world's troubles and wanting to affect change—but with what? Basket-loads of empathy? Groups of people singing? My small voice in my narrow niche? It seems saccharine or naive: the idea of affecting change with any artistic pursuit. However, if imagination drives creation, then why would it be unreasonable to believe the creation of a more compassionate world would begin with our ability to imagine one? It's emboldening to realize the power we hold: small spheres of our imagining leading to action and larger spheres of change. *The Wilderness of You* was composed to illumine human connection and commonalities—not just to bring us to a place of overlap among our collective Venn diagrams, but to stir wonder for our shared traits at this elemental level and help us dwell a bit in aspects of life that unite us.

Our bodies hold us. The systems within them are worthy of awe and confounding in their intricacies. We live in these bodies, yet we also are these bodies. These bodies carry us through illness, alert us to danger, and can also vex us with pains and surprises. Life can take tolls on our physical attributes. Some of us are missing different aspects of our bodies or born with certain challenges. *The Wilderness of You* centers on those components of our bodies most common and present among all our varied iterations.

When the anxieties of this world coil around me, I return to my breath. I come home to myself. Meditation and mindfulness have become new friends to me. *The Wilderness of You* aspires to be a musical means of bringing us home to our bodies. Media and content creators may gain revenue by appealing to anger, tribalism, and entrenchment. Our well-being and relationships may bear the costs of this engagement. It is a weary-making cycle of rage, exhaustion, and distrust; yet I believe most of us aspire to a nobler humanity than this. Most of us prefer rapport to antagonism. Most of us are peacemakers. Most of us care for others. May we gather—all of us—on a derelict bridge somewhere out beyond our differences to honor the connections and community we share in their most elemental forms: blood, breath, biome, brain, and being. May we find shared delight in the wonders our bodies hold. May we hold ourselves in awe as wonderful creations worthy of dignity and decency. This is my hope (naive or not) for *The Wilderness of You*.

-Andrea Ramsey

1. Blood

Unimaginably long ago,
Unimaginably far from here,
Propelled by a silent explosion,
A lump of iron in the heart of a red super-giant journeyed to Earth
Was forged into a sword. Forged into a hammer. Forged into a ring.
Our blood is red because of iron: 2,000 gallons a day,
Gushing through the chambers of each pumping heart;
This giant star.
Flowing crimson in the veins of every sleeping child,
This silent explosion.
Our blood is mostly water,
The water is just visiting.
It was a thunderstorm a week ago.
It will be an ocean soon enough.
Most of your cells come and go like morning dew.
Water. Earth. Air. Fire.
Look at what you are.
Look at how you live.
You are not born to this place.
You are born of this place.

2. Breath

Fifteen times a minute, with or without thought,
Your breath. The curve of your ribs.
You converse with forests and seas, vast and green.
Each nourishing breath a sacred vow,
Intimate as "I love you."
Your breath. The curve of your ribs.
In the stream,
A ribcage cathedral braids hymns from
water and light.
Your breath. The curve of your ribs.
Fifteen times a minute.
Your breath.

3. Biome

There is a garden in your belly. A warm orchard of perpetual bounty.
Half the cells in our bodies belong to other species.
Deep in our center, a singular truth—
Even alone we are communities
Thriving in the dark to the rhythm of our heart.
Generations blooming.
How many generations have you hosted?
What do they name the wilderness of you?

4. Brain

A machine that makes reality.
Now.
Here.
Encased in the living stone of your skull:
The seat of your consciousness.
Water and memory.
Flesh and electricity.
Natural as a leaf.
Schematics bloom within.
Thoughts, like ivy, creep and rise.
Your skull is where facts flower into meaning.

5. Being

When in doubt,
Come home to you.
To now.
Become an acolyte
Of what's within reach.
Of forgiveness.
Of the palm of your hand.
Of feeling each breath.
There will always be problems too big for you.
An unknown future.
A tragic world.
Just be you.
You're the world too.
Refocus.
Come home.

The Wilderness of You Commission Consortium

Commissioned jointly by:

Temple University, Dr. Dustin Cates and Dr. Elizabeth Parker, conductors
National Concerts, Matthew Workman

Other Consortium Members:

Baylor University, Dr. Kristina MacMullen

Bridgewater State University, Dr. Bradford Morin Dumont

Linfield University, Dr. Julie Cross

University of Oregon University Singers, Dr. Melissa Brunkan, conductor

Cantate Carlisle, Michelle DiBona Trefren

The E.O. Smith High School Choirs, Amanda Hanzlik, Director

Lake Nona High School, Justin Chase and Aaron Kass

Rider University Chorale, Professor Tom Shelton

University of Michigan, Dr. Eugene Rogers

UMKC Choirs, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Dr. Charles Robinson and Dr. Jennifer Sengin

Temple University Chorale

Dustin S. Cates, conductor

Michael Sakell, graduate conductor

Abigail LaVecchia, pianist

TENOR

Thomas Abruzzo
Nick Demkowicz
Rodshmier Eddy
Holden Finley
Logan Ford
Steven Grace
Samaad Gullede
Wilmar Lewis
Cole McIntosh
Nicholas Nandlal-Smith
Jaiden-Samuel Noblezada
Tom Pederson
Callaghan Petrosky
Jack Ritter
Jaden Ruff
Constantin Seliverstovff
Tanner Sheridan
David Stowers
Jonathan Walters
Josiah Williams

BASS

Perrin Brown
Eli Fussa
William Gutierrez
Forest Hamel
Sean Harrington
Will Kollie
Dakota Landis
Michael McCall
Bo Melnyk
Chaniel Nunez
Christopher Pierre
John Tang
Elijah Thomas
Torin Tracey
Benjamin Weiner-Goldsmith
Charles Whiteman

Neshaminy High School Select Choir

Kristin Nichols, conductor

Jacob Tardiff, pianist

SOPRANO

Liora Gutman
Gracelyn Heckman
McKenzie Johnston
Abby Kindness
Samantha Orleski
Sophia Pale
Savannah Ruiz-Hinson

ALTO

Laila Boccella
Kamryn Breault
Quinn Dickinson
Courtney Neiman
Alaina Rigney
Jaime Sanna
Katherine Selger

TENOR

Lucy Bogansky
Liam Johnson
Abhinu Nair
Nicoli Royandoyan
Benjamin Zambelli

BASS

James Bunde
Brandon Buoscio
Hayden Carter
Joshua Carter
Johnny Gonzalez
Jeremy Gripp
Memphis Hanson
Jack Kidd
Brandon Price
David Schaller
Asher Senior
Ethan Vasquez
Max Von Euw

University Voices

Elizabeth Cassidy Parker, conductor

J. Matthew Lista, graduate conductor

Joohee Kim, pianist

SOPRANO

Ameia Bess

Rachelle Cadet

Emily Corsino

Kaela Felton

Jasmine Ferguson

Illiana Hedman-Wilkes

Jennifer Heim

Ramaya Hunter

Graziella Imperato

Cyanie Jones - Wims

Celin Lim

Laila Little

Sara Lochmann

Addison Melton

Karla Mondriguez-Dubocq

Josie Monroe

Indra Muñoz

Aisha Nemoto

Grace Ricci

Edie Rittle

Shannon Stover

Madeleine Tomo

Natalie Vollmer

ALTO

Sophia Alvarez

Juana Angelo

Ajax Apelt

Maile Booth

Dylan Brod

Amirah DeVose

Sofia Ghani

Kazoani Gonmiah

Giulia Guidobaldi

Cloud Mensah

Summerlyn Morris

Alexandra Paris

Clarissa Ramirez

Alexis Shandor

Angela Valdeviezo

Boyer College of Music and Dance

Temple University Choirs

Concert Choir

Graduate Conductors Chorus

Recital Chorus

Singing Owls

University Chorale

University Singers

University Voices

Department of Vocal Arts

Choral Activities Area

Kendra Balmer, Adjunct Professor, Conducting

Dustin Cates, Assistant Professor, Choral Music Education

Leslie Cochran, Coordinator, Department of Vocal Arts

Rollo Dilworth, Chair, Vocal Arts; Elaine Brown Chair of Choral Music

Mitos Andaya Hart, Associate Director, Choral Activities

Elizabeth Cassidy Parker, Professor, Music Education

The Temple University Choirs have enjoyed a rich tradition of excellence under the batons of some of Philadelphia's most prominent conductors. The seven ensembles comprise nearly 200 students each year, and have enjoyed regional and national acclaim for their performances both individually and collectively. Between the 1940s and 1980s the combined choirs performed annually with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and since 2002 have collaborated annually with the Temple University Symphony Orchestra at the Kimmel Cultural Campus.

Temple Choirs strive for excellence, artistry, and individual growth. They embrace both standard choral works and contemporary music from all around the world. In 1967, under the preparation of Robert Page and the baton of Eugene Ormandy, the choirs performed Carl Orff's *Catulli Carmina* with The Philadelphia Orchestra, a performance that tied with Leonard Bernstein's Mahler's Symphony No. 8 for that year's Grammy Award for Best Classical Choral Performance (Other Than Opera).

Auditions for Temple Choirs

All choirs are open to Temple students of all majors by audition. For audition information, contact Leslie Cochran at leslie.cochran@temple.edu.

Boyer College of Music and Dance

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer's recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than forty-five recordings, garnering five GRAMMY nominations.

boyer.temple.edu

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-the-art 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

arts.temple.edu

Temple University

Temple University's history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn't long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for “The Temple College.” His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple's more than 30,000 students continue to follow the university's official motto—*Perseverantia Vincit*, or “Perseverance Conquers”—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

temple.edu

Temple University 2025-2026 Season

Upcoming Events

Master's Recital: Medgina Maitre, harp

Monday, October 27 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Dance Studies Colloquium: Uttara Asha Coorlawala (Bard College)

"Alternative Dance Modernisms: The Case of La Meri"

Tuesday, October 28 at 5:00 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Chapel

Early Music Ensemble

Tuesday, October 28 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Jazz on Broad Master Class: Carmen Bradford, voice

Wednesday, October 29 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Master's Recital: Jacob Flaschen, trumpet

Wednesday, October 29 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Jazz on Broad Guest Artist: Carmen Bradford, voice

Wednesday, October 29 at 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Rite of Swing Jazz Café: Antoine Drye Group

Thursday, October 30 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Master Class: Jack Swanson, tenor

Friday, October 31 at 2:00 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Master's Recital: Irina Rostomashvili, violin

Sunday, November 2 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Temple University 2025-2026 Season

Upcoming Events

Temple University Percussion Ensemble

Phillip O'Banion, director

Monday, November 3 at 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

Cybersounds

Tuesday, November 4 at 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

CPCA Arts Interdisciplinary Research (AIR): Edward Latham

Wednesday, November 5 at 5:00 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Chapel

Rite of Swing Jazz Café: Liz Radigonda Group

Thursday, November 6 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Master's Recital: Zeming (Ben) Bian, tenor

Thursday, November 6 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Fall Student Dance Concert

Friday, November 7 at 7:30 PM

Saturday, November 8 at 7:30 PM

Conwell Dance Theater

Master's Recital: Rei Lim, percussion

Saturday, November 8 at 5:30 PM

Klein Recital Hall

Master's Recital: Mason McDonald, percussion

Saturday, November 8 at 7:30 PM

Klein Recital Hall

Doctoral Chamber Recital: Yuan Tian, violin

Sunday, November 9 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

conTemplum presents Insomnia Sounds

Monday, November 10 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Temple University 2025-2026 Season

Upcoming Events

Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble

Tuesday, November 11 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Jazz on Broad Master Class: Adam Birnbaum, piano

Wednesday, November 12 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Studio Recital: Flute Students of Mimi Stillman

Wednesday, November 12 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Studio Recital: Saxophone Students of Matthew Levy

Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Jazz on Broad Guest Artist: Adam Birnbaum, piano

Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Rite of Swing Jazz Café: Dylan Band Quintet

Thursday, November 13 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Temple University Wind Symphony

“Invention and Enigma”

Patricia Cornett, conductor

Kalia Page, graduate student conductor

BOZZA Children’s Overture

HIGDON Mysterium

BACH arr. GOLDMAN Fantasia in G Major

MASLANKA A Child’s Garden of Dreams

Thursday, November 13 at 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

Cantate High School Choral Festival

Friday, November 14

Temple Performing Arts Center

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change without notice.

For further information or to confirm events, please call 215.204.7609

or visit boyer.temple.edu