

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents

“The Work of Our Hands”

UCSA: University Chorus: Soprano/Alto Ensemble
UCTB: University Chorus: Tenor/Bass Ensemble
Treble Chamber Choir
University Chorus

Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director*

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Ricky Goodwyn, *graduate conductor*

Nicolas Gomez-Colon, *graduate conductor*

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

Linlin Uta, *collaborative pianist*

JMU Chamber Orchestra

Foster Beyers, *director*

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

8 pm

Concert Hall



There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Program

UCSA: University Chorus Soprano/Alto Ensemble

Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director*

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

Famine Song Traditional, VIDA, arr. Matthew Culloton

Someone to Watch Over Me George Gershwin (1898-1937)
Gillian Saunders, *undergraduate conducting intern*

Kaval Sviri (The Flute Plays) Trad. Bulgarian, arr. Petar Liondev

They May Tell You Andrea Ramsey (b. 1977)

UCTB: University Chorus Tenor/Bass Ensemble

W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Linlin Uta, *collaborative pianist*

There's a Meeting Here Tonight Bob Gibson, arr. Takach

When Dawn Shines Mishaal Surti
Ricky Goodwyn, *graduate conductor*

The Work of Our Hands Rob Deemer
Ian Zook, *horn*

Prairie Spring Isaac Lovdahl

TCC: Treble Chamber Choir

W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

And Miriam Sang (*Shiru L'Adonai*) Zebulon M. Highben

Only My Dreams Ron Kean
Nicolas Gomez-Colon, *graduate conductor*

I am Not Yours Nicolas Gomez-Colon
World Premiere Performance

Will the Circle Be Unbroken Trad. Appalachian, arr. Moore

15-Minute Intermission

Program - *continued*

Chamber Orchestra Foster Beyers, *director*

Petite Suite Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
I. *En bateau*
II. *Cortège*
III. *Menuet*
IV. *Ballet*

University Chorus and Chamber Orchestra Nicolas Gomez-Colon and Ricky Goodwyn, *graduate conductors*

Nimm mich, O Herr, in deine Hut Joseph Rheinberger (1839-1901)
Ricky Goodwyn, *graduate conductor*

Ave Verum Corpus W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Nicolas Gomez-Colon, *graduate conductor*

James Madison University Alma Mater James Riley

Chamber Orchestra Personnel

Foster Beyers, *conductor*
Daniel Esperante, *graduate assistant*

Violin

Sydney Ashworth
Gina Bretz
Sydney Brown
Rebekah Clouse
Anniah Craun
Morgan Maxwell
Christian Orrico
Evelyn Page
Ella Patterson*
Mandee Raimondo
Rojeana Rofougar
Zike Qi

Viola

Patrick
Shaughnessy
Franklin Villalta
Dreama Walden

Cello

Marlie Dela Cruz
Kamerin McCabe

Bass

Kataryna Hoagland
Jason Nguyen
Jolie Prasad

Flute

Vanessa Britton
Emma Lisson

Oboe

Jasper Dirks
Cady Litteral

Clarinet

Valerie Alvarado
Jona Benson

Bassoon

Michael Ross

Horn

Ethan Boswell
Anthony Burnett

Trumpet

Carter Linask
Katelyn Cozzens

Timpani

Shelby Shelton

Keyboard harp

Sarah Mason

**Concertmaster*

Program Notes

A favorite among all manner of choral ensembles, **Famine Song** depicts the plight of Sudanese basket weavers, and is expressive of the pain, hardship and hope of those who experienced the famine of the 1980's. In the midst of this terrible natural disaster, women began weaving baskets as a means of survival and financial self-sufficiency. Arranged by Matthew Culloton, this work stems from the musicological touring of the vocal quartet VIDA, who have toured and recorded several CDs of traditional folk songs from around the world.

Among the most famous of songs by the Gershwin brothers, **Someone to Watch Over Me** is a classic ballad from the score of George and Ira Gershwin's musical "*Oh, Kay!*," and has been recorded by everyone from Frank Sinatra to Willie Nelson. Originally written as an up-tempo number for the musical, Ira (the lyricist!) convinced his brother George (the composer!) that it worked better as a ballad! Featuring lush parallelisms and jazz close harmony, this arrangement is a favorite in our ensemble.

Kaval Sviri (Bulgarian: *Кавал свири*) ("The Flute Plays") is a traditional Bulgarian folk song. This popular version was arranged by Petar Liondev and first performed by Ensemble Trakia of the Bulgarian State Television Female Vocal Choir, on the album *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares, Vol. II* (album), released in 1988 on the Nonesuch label. Filled with close harmonies, often 6-9 voices, and filled with vocal techniques not usually associated with Western singing, this work has been a joyous experience for the UCSA to study and perform, again!

Kafal sviri, mamо, gore dole, mamо, pod seloto.

Ya shte ida, mamо, da go vida, mamо, da go chuya.

*Ako mi e nashencheto, shte go lyuba den do pladne, ako mi e yabandjiiche,
shte go lyuba dor do jivot.*

A kaval (flute) plays, mother, up there, down there, mother, below the village.

I am going to see it, mother, to see it and hear it.

If he is one of ours, I will love him from till dusk, if he is a stranger,
I'll love him all my life.

With poetry by then 17-year old Isabella Cook, Andrea Ramsey's "**They May Tell You**" delves into the comments and challenges women face, encouraging them to embrace their strengths. Cook shares that when audiences hear her words, she hopes they are inspired to view the women in their lives in a new light and that the societal messages of unworthiness foisted upon far too many young women will be transmuted and released.

American Gospel folk singing duo Joe & Eddie recorded and performed throughout the U.S. from the mid-1950s-1966. The professional Minnesota-based choral group Cantus found inspiration in this tent revival song, and created this arrangement to use as a concert opener.

When Dawn Shines is a heartfelt piece of remembrance that shares a message of hope and inspiration. The text by Canadian poet Justin Zadorsky and music by Canadian composer Mishaal Surti. "When the sun shines, my spirit will renew its gladness."

Composer Rob Deemer, Professor of Music at Fredonia School of Music in New York, wrote **The Work of Our Hands** in 2016 for the JMU Men's Chorus, in honor of then retiring professor of Music Education, Gary Ritcher. The text is drawn from Psalm 90. We are pleased to be joined by horn professor Ian Zook for tonight's performance.

Program Notes - *continued*

Isaac Lovdahl's 2023 work, **Prairie Spring** uses consonance, open chords, and a coherent form to portray the open fields of the American West. Gentle melodic writing and some repetition results in a work set to this beautiful text by American author, Willa Cather (1873-1947). The piano writing is masterful and artistic, providing an opportunity for satisfying collaboration. Impressionistic chords add to the atmosphere of the landscape.

In Exodus 15:21 Miriam and the women of Israel sing and dance following Israel's deliverance from Egypt through the Red Sea. **And Miriam Sang** is inspired by what such a celebration might have sounded like. The text translates to: "Sing to the Lord, for the Lord is highly exalted; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."

Ron Kean's **Only My Dreams** is an evocative setting of the William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) poem "He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven", written in 1889. "Tread softly because you tread on my dreams."

Graduate student Nicolas Gomez-Colon wrote **I Am Not Yours** for Treble Chamber Choir, specifically for this group of singers, and it suits us beautifully! The text is by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933). We are happy to present the World Premiere of this work tonight!

It is a tradition for Treble Chamber Choir to end of academic year with singing the Appalachian Folksong **Will the Circle Be Unbroken**. This arrangement makes use of the ensemble singing styles of the bluegrass trio and the gospel quartet.

Claude Debussy's (1862-1918) **Petite Suite**, originally for piano four-hands, is one of his most popular pieces. The suite was written between 1886 and 1889, just as the French composer was starting his professional career. Debussy's friend and conductor Henri Büsser transcribed the piece for chamber orchestra in 1907. The piece is in four parts, each movement capturing a different scene. The first two movements were inspired by poems of Debussy's favorite poet Verlain. The first, "En Bateau" (In A Boat), depicts a boat gliding upon the moonlit water with its long melody above rolling harmonies. The second movement, "Cortege" (Procession) depicts a fine lady who receives lustful glances by her attendants. Debussy's easygoing opening march-like theme captures a jovial mood for this procession. The third and fourth movements do not appear to have direct connections to Verlain's poetry but continue in a similar mood. The Menuet is dreamy and the Ballet lighthearted and upbeat. (*Note by Dana Zimbric*)

Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger (1839-1901) was an organist and composer from Liechtenstein, residing in Bavaria for most of his life. As court conductor in Munich, he was responsible for the music in the royal chapel. He is known for sacred music, works for organ and vocal works. His setting of the chorale **Nimm mich, o Herr, in deine Hut** was written in 1879. The text and translation is as follows:

*Nimm mich o Herr in deine Hut und tu mich nicht verlassen,
du bist mein allergrößtes Gut, o mög' ich es erfassen;
du bist mein Ehr, du bist mein Lohn, du wirst vor deinem Gnadenthron
in jenem andern Leben, mir meinen Anteil geben.*

*Take me into your care, O Lord and don't leave me,
you are my greatest asset, Oh, may I grasp it;
you are my honor, you are my reward, you will be before your throne of grace
in that other life, give me my share.*

Program Notes - *continued*

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) wrote *Ave Verum Corpus* in the final year of his life. This beautiful Latin motet is one of his most beloved pieces, epitomizing the Classical style of composition. The Latin text translates to:

*Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine
cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis prægustatum in mortis examine!*

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
from whose pierced side flowed water and blood:
Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet]
in the trial of death!*

We bring our concert to a close with the beloved James Madison University Alma Mater #2, composed by former Music Faculty member, James Riley. We wish you and all of our students a peaceful and safe summer and look forward to seeing you in the Forbes Center next year!

Biographies

2022 CVPA Outstanding Student Mentor, and 2016 JMU Woman of Distinction, Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy brings to JMU a rich and diverse career of international performance and teaching. As JMU Director of Choral Activities, Dr. van der Vat-Chromy directs *The Madison Singers*, the *JMU Chorale*, the *UCSA: University Chorus Soprano/Alto Ensemble*, and coordinates the *VMRC Generations Choir*, an intergenerational choral practicum here in Harrisonburg. A certified Kodály music educator, Dr. V. is a proud faculty member of Kodály Institutes at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX, and JMU. The 2012-2014 Interim Music Director for the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir, currently Dr. V. is the JMU Vocal Arts Summer Camp director and served for four years as Coordinator of the JMU Voice Area. An active adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor, Dr. V's research interests include the kinesthetic connections in conducting pedagogy, the integration of Kodály methodology into collegiate choral performance, and the sociological impact of choral cultures on student learning and the experience of flow. Recently dubbed by the renowned choral ensemble The King's Singers 'our collective fairy-godmother,' this semester Dr. van der Vat-Chromy was awarded the *2022 Shirley Hanson Roberts ('56) and Richard D. Roberts Endowment for Faculty Excellence*, a university-wide endowed award for excellence in student engagement, collaborative learning, growth, and self-discovery.

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes maintains an active career as a conductor, teacher, church musician, pianist, accompanist and singer. As choral conductor Bryce is currently Associate Professor of Choral Music at James Madison University where he conducts The University Chorus Tenor/Bass Ensemble and Treble Chamber Choir. In addition to his choral conducting responsibilities at JMU, Bryce teaches graduate choral literature, undergraduate conducting, and music education classes. He is an active adjudicator and clinician, recent and upcoming appearances include conducting honors choirs and workshops in Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Bryce is also the director the semi-professional choral ensemble Winchester Musica Viva. A New Jersey native, Dr. Hayes completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from The University of Minnesota. Prior to his time in Minnesota, Dr. Hayes received a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Temple University. His career began with a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Westminster Choir College following which he taught high school choir at Princeton Day School.

UCSA: University Chorus: Soprano/Alto Ensemble

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

Gillian Saunders *UCSA undergraduate conducting intern*

Talia Bushman, Natalie Gillum, Allie Ranton, *UCSA undergraduate managers*

Kaileigh Atkinson	Grace Hollowell	Morgan Roberts
Gabi Bieberich	Abigail Johnson	Anne Rosario
Marisa Blass	Summer Komol	Gillian Saunders
Abby Bryan	Caitlyn Laird	Lauren Schmidt
Anna Bryant	Bryn Lewellen	Natalia Settipani
Karis Buchanan	Madeleine Magnant	Ashley Shupe
Talia Bushman	Erin Malloy	Rachel Smalley
Alissah Carmack	Caitlyn Newlin	Erin Smith
Laura Cook	Madeleine Parr	Olivia Smith
Mary Kate Connor	Sydney Parow	Nicole Stanley
Jackie Copeland	Faith Walthall	Sofia Vergard
Mariah Eakin	Sarah Patunas	Jaya Whaley
Abby Evans	Charlotte Peter	Savannah Whitley
Jordan Frick	Sarah Pinkstaff	Natalie Wigginton
Ella Gallagher	Ava Quesenberry	Jenna Williams
Bella Gayton	Allie Ranton	Erin Wilson
Natalie Gillum	Isabelle Rhodes	Alexa Yudoff

UCTB: University Chorus: Tenor/Bass Ensemble

Linlin Uta, *collaborative pianist*

Ricky Goodwyn, *graduate conductor*

David Barredo	Roland Lamoureux	William Palestrant
Anthony Bassett	Kevin Landry	Daniel Parsons
Thayer Causer	Radhg Leahy	Titus Peltola
Garrison Cornwell	Roman Leonard	James Schader
Logan Ealley	Carter Linask	Ryan Secrist
Ricky Goodwyn	Andy Loung	Henry Taylor
Joshua Grimes	Shaun McGovern	Michael Tsougranis
Kenneth Halloway	Kieran Morales	Matt Underwood
Will Keppel	Lanie Misuko	Matthew Yeary
Jonas Kerlin		

TCC: Treble Chamber Choir

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

Sydney Ashworth	Nicole Murphy	Emalee Stepp
Bella Baptiste	Sydney Parow	Nancy Walker
Jackie Copeland	Madeline Parr	Jaya Whaley
Grace Hollowell	Allie Ranton	Savannah Whitley
Emma Jones	Isabelle Rhodes	Natalie Wigginton
Kendra Liverman	Abbey Spencer	

SP '24 JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY CHORAL AREA

Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy

Director of Choral Activities

Professor of Choirs, Conducting, and Choral Music Education

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes

Associate Director of Choral Activities

Associate Professor of Choirs, Choral Music Education

Dr. Nikos Myrogiannis-Koukos, *conductor*

Addison Walton, *DMA Choral Conducting Graduate Student*

Ricky Goodwyn, *MM Choral Conducting Student*

Nick Gomez-Colon, *MM Choral Conducting Student*

Nicole Dudley, *Choral Librarian*

JMU CHORAL COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

Amy Robertson, *The JMU Chorale*

Linlin Uta, *UCTB*

Elizabeth Williams, *The Madison Singers, TCC, and UCSA*

UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE MANAGERS/CONDUCTING INTERNS

Ashley Seminaro, Erica Taylor, *TMS*

Ciara Theisz, Kelly Donlan, Natalie Carter, *JMU Chorale*

Nick Gomez-Colon, *Treble Chamber Choir*

Gillian Saunders, *UCSA*

Ricky Goodwyn, *UCTB*

JMU CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

Nicole Dudley, *president*; Mara McBane, *vice-president*;

Helen Albiston, *secretary*; Drew Dodson, *treasurer*;

Sophie Osmani, *historian & public relations, poster design*

JMU VOICE AREA

Dr. Sonya Baker, *soprano, Voice Area Coordinator*

Dr. Carrie Stevens, *mezzo-soprano*

Dr. Jamison Walker, *tenor, Interim Director of Opera*

Dr. Nicole Jenkins, *soprano*

Professor Kevin McMillan, *baritone*

Professor David Newman, *baritone*

Professor Brenda Witmer, *soprano*

Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *Director of Choral Activities*

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes, *Associate Director of Choral Activities*