

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents

~Dixit Dominus~

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*

Colin Cossi, *graduate conductor*

Addison Walton, *graduate conductor*

Abby Wilson, *undergraduate conducting intern*

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

Linlin Uta, *collaborative pianist*

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

7:30 pm

Concert Hall



Program

UCSA: University Chorus Soprano/Alto Ensemble

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

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

Let Music Surround You

As taught by David Connor

How Do I Love Thee?

David Schwoebel

(b. 1957)

Poetry: Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Someone to Watch Over Me

George Gershwin

(1898 – 1937)

Abby Wilson, *undergraduate conducting intern*

Over My Head, I Hear Music

Traditional Spiritual

UCTB: University Chorus Tenor/Bass Ensemble

W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Linlin Uta, *collaborative pianist*

Rain Music

Laura Farnell

The Storm

Dan Davison

Homeward bound

C. V. Stanford

(1852 – 1924)

Professor David Newman, *baritone*

Star of the County Down

Irish Folk Song, arr. Dave Perry

Program - *continued*

TCC: Treble Chamber Choir
W. Bryce Hayes, *director*
Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

~Unbroken Circle~

truth Andrea Ramsey

Breakable Jenni Brandon

Turn Around Harry Belafonte
arr. Clausen

Letter to My 13 Year Old Self Laufey
arr. TCC

Will the Circle Be Unbroken Appalachian
arr. J. David Moore

~Short Pause~

The Combined University Choruses and
JMU Chamber Orchestra
Colin Cossi and Addison Walton, *graduate conductors*

Dixit Dominus Baldassare Galuppi
(1706 – 1785)
I. *Allegro, e con spirit*
II. *Largo, allegro*
III. *Largo sostenuto, allegro*

Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones,
personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

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of this production is strictly prohibited
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Program Notes

Let Music Surround You is a modal canon that expresses the beautiful sentiment of friendships made and shared in music-making.

Let music surround you. Let it warm your heart.
Those who sing in harmony, never grown apart.

Virginia composer and accompanist extraordinaire David Schwoebel has set Elizabeth Barrett Browning's well-known poem "**How Do I Love Thee?**" in a touching and inspiring manner. Dedicated to "women seeking musical growth and artistry; may your song resonate in ever widening circles," the harmonic density exhibited throughout this work is reminiscent of the simplicity and complexity of true love throughout and even beyond life itself.

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach,
when feeling out of sight for the ends of being and ideal grace.

I love thee to the level of every day's most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right. I love thee purely, as they turn from
praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use in my old griefs, and with my
childhood's faith.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose with my lost saints.

I love thee with the breath, smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

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.

Arranged by Michael Braz, the spiritual, **Over My Head, I Hear Music**, has a unique place in Dr. V.'s heart. During her time in The Netherlands, Dr. V. and her Dutch Treble Choir, "Het Davidkoor," had the honor of singing this work at a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Invited veterans included remaining members of a Canadian paratroopers brigade who had been instrumental in liberating Dutch cities on the western coast. When the paratroopers heard the opening line of the text for the first time, "Over my head," they audibly wept from the audience; an unforgettable moment. The UCSA sings this song in their memory tonight.

Over my head, there is music in the air. There must be a God somewhere.
Why don't you think about it? Everybody! There must be a God somewhere.

Program Notes - continued

Rain Music is a piece composed by Laura Farnell, using the text from a poem with the same title by African American poet Joseph Cotter Jr. (1895-1919). Cotter used many themes from nature and music in his poetry. This poem in particular was written to portray the earth as a drum, and the rain was the silver drumsticks that beat upon in, spurring the new life of spring to start. Farnell uses the text, complex rhythms, varying dynamics, and percussion to mimic the chaos of a rainstorm, offset with sections of calm, representing the spring that follows.

Composer Dan Davison writes, “**The Storm** was inspired by the popular television show, “*Deadliest Catch*,” a reality show that chronicles the lives of crab fishermen. When Alaska fishery workers venture into the Bering Sea, they do so knowing that they take a risk. The approach of a storm can be very subtle, and in that light, the intensity of this music grows very gradually, reaching its full force as the storm also reaches its full intensity.”

Homeward bound is the fourth movement of *Songs of the Sea*, a six-movement work for baritone, lower-voiced chorus, and orchestra by British composer CV Stanford (1852-1924). The text is written by Sir Henry Newbolt (1862-1938) from the collection, *The Island Race*. We are thrilled to be joined by Voice Professor David Newman for this performance.

The setting of the Irish ballad “**Star of the County Down**” takes place near Banbridge, County Down in Northern Ireland. It is sung from the perspective of a young man who, on seeing Rosie McCann, refers to her as the “Star of the County Down” and dreams of marrying her. The piece makes reference to a few geographical points in Ireland: Bantry Bay, an opening to the Atlantic Ocean on the southwest coast of Ireland; Derry Quay: a stone platform for loading and unloading ships, located on the River Foyle in the town of Londonderry in Northern Ireland; Bann: the longest river (80 miles) in Northern Ireland.

Treble Chamber Choir’s program is entitled, “Unbroken Circles.” In this set we explore the phases of life and the circle of change that occurs throughout our growing up.

Andrea Ramsey’s **truth** a setting of text by Gardenia Bruce, was commissioned by the 2014 Women’s Choir Commission Consortium of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). “My mother told me I was beautiful. And I believed her then. Why shouldn’t I?”

Composer Jenni Brandon writes, “The poetry ‘**Breakable**’ by Annabelle Moseley tells a powerful story that strength and beauty can be in found in all things, and in all of us. As soon as I read it I knew it was the perfect text for this commission that would be written for women’s choir. I wanted a poem that would speak to the women who sang this work, reminding them of their strength and ability to persevere, no matter where life takes them. We may travel far, we may

Program Notes - continued

experience many events in our lives that shape us and change us, but that we all have the strength to carry forward; that we are beautiful and unique.”

Composed in 1958, **Turn Around** has been covered by many artists, including The Kingston Trio, Sonny & Cher, Diana Ross, Rosemary Clooney, and Kenny Loggins. Harry Belafonte made the song most popular with his 1959 recording. The arrangement performed tonight is by noted choral composer and conductor, René Clausen. He writes in the forward of the song, "especially for my wife Frankie and our daughters Katie and Rachel... and for mothers and daughters everywhere."

Letter To My 13 Year Old Self is a recent song by Icelandic singer-songwriter, Laufey, released on her 2023 album, *Bewitched*. The song poignantly speaks of journey of growing up, and giving advice to one's younger self. TCC developed the arrangement together in class and we're excited to premiere it 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.

Dixit Dominus, a setting of Psalm 110, is a work about victory over darkness. It is one of the more than 20 extant choral works written by the predominantly opera focused Baldassare Galuppi for the girls at the Conservatory of the *Ospedale degli Incurabili* in Venice, one of four orphanages that also had developed and maintained substantial and acclaimed music conservatories thought to be among the most outstanding in Europe. Native Venitian Galuppi wrote several shorter works such as the *Dixit* for the “nightingales” (as he referred to them) at the *Incurabili*. One of Galuppi's few choral works that does not contain extended solo movements, the opening instrumental material of *Dixit Dominus*, in light *opera buffa* style, recurs in each of the three movements to give the work the form and spirit of a large rondo. It is our pleasure to welcome the JMU Chamber Orchestra to the stage for this collaborative project!

1. The Lord said to my Lord; Sit at my right hand,
Until I place your enemies as a footstool for your feet.
2. The scepter of your power the Lord will send forth from Zion:
Rule in the midst of your enemies.
3. The power to rule is with you on the day of your strength,
in the splendor of the holy ones:
4. The Lord has sworn an oath and will not repent of it:
You are a priest forever, after Melchizedek.
5. The Lord at your right hand destroys kings on the day of his wrath.
6. He shall judge among the heathen;
he shall pile up ruins and scatter skulls on many lands.
7. He shall drink of the torrent in his way; therefore he shall lift up his head.

JMU Ensemble Personnel

JMU Chamber Orchestra

Dr. Kira Omelchenko, *director*

*denotes principal/co-principal player

Violin 1	Violin 2	Viola	Cello
Zike Qi*	Erin Choi*	Charlotte Walton*	Sydney Pascual*
Zoe Lovelace	Mandee Raimondo	Sunny Robertello*	Bass
Anna Alderson	David Sandstrum	Dreama Walden	Nicholas Greer-Young*
Gina Bretz	Rojeanna Rofougar	Caroline Nelson	Jolie Prasad
		Erin Williams	Jason Nguyen

University Chorus: Soprano/Alto Ensemble

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

Elizabeth Williams *collaborative pianist*

Abby Wilson, *undergraduate manager/conducting intern*

Kaileigh Atkinson	Mia Lapointe	Alexandra Reynolds
Emily Barchard	Cambria Layton	Natalia Settipani
Alexandra Bartlett	Chloe Long	Anna Shields
Kara Blakley	Erin Malloy	Abby Smith
Abby Bryan	Samantha Martinez	N'Deye Sock
Anna Bryant	Lauren Motter	Jessica Spindler
Kaylin Carsey	Gianna Ortiz	Ainsley Taylor
Laura Cook	Taylor Pearce	Annabel Thrush
Hailey Donithan	Charlotte Peter	Libby Van Meter
Mariah Eakin	Lilija Pflanz	Gina Vaughan
Maggie Goodman	Lily Pinchbeck	Abby Wilson
Jamie Han	Savannah Rixon	Seven Zuschin
Sophie Jones		

University Chorus: Tenor/Bass Ensemble

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Linlin Uta, *collaborative pianist*

Thayer Causer	Jonas Kerlin	Daniel Parsons
Garrison Cornwell	Vannmartin Leang	Bruce Russell
Alex Dickerson	Roman Leonard	Will Sanfilippo
Joshua Grimes	Isaac Markow	Matt Underwood
Luke Harrell	Shaun McGovern	Brian V. Garmendia
Habib Kamara	Andrew Miller	Aidan Williamson
Will Koppel	Thomas Murphy	

TCC: Treble Chamber Choir

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Elizabeth Williams *collaborative pianist*

Yasmine Akoum	Sophie Le	Kaytria Powers
Alison Brown	Emma Leudesdorff	Savannah Rixon
Jacqueline Copeland	Brooke Lindsay	Allie Ranton
Sarah Damon	Marin March	Sophia Sharlau
Hailey Donithan	Nico Murphy	Abby Smith
Rachel Griffith	Annea Phillips	Jaya Whaley

SP '25 JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY CHORAL AREA

Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy

Director of Choral Activities, Co-Coordinator of the Ensemble Area

Professor of Choirs, Conducting, and Choral Music Education

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes
Associate Director of Choral Activities
Professor of Choirs, Choral Music Education

Colin Cossi, *DMA Choral Conducting Graduate Student*
Addison Walton, *DMA Choral Conducting Graduate Student*
Ivan Godoy, *MM Choral Conducting Student*, Marlow Lewis, *Choral Librarian*

JMU CHORAL COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

Elizabeth Williams, *The Madison Singers, TCC*, and *UCSA*
Amy Robertson, *The JMU Choral*
Linlin Uta, *UCTB*

UNDERGRADUATE ENSEMBLE MANAGERS

Mac Creswick, Alex Dickerson, Kelly Donlan,
Kevin Landry, Christina Santiago, *TMS*
Natalie Gillum, Allie Ranton, Emalee Stepp, *JMU Choral*
Jackie Copeland, Allie Ranton, *Treble Chamber Choir*
Hailey Donithan, Lauren Motter, Natalia Settipani, *UCSA*
Brian Valladares Garmendia, *UCTB*

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Professor Brenda Witmer, *soprano*
Professor Sam Johnson, *tenor*
Dr. Jamison Walker, *tenor*
Professor Shannon Kiser, *baritone*
Professor David Newman, *baritone*
Professor Joshua Borths, *Director of Opera Theatre*
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