



# School of **MUSIC**

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Alek N. Concepción Rivera  
Graduate Conducting Recital

University of Florida  
Chamber Singers

Monday, December 5, 2022

7:20 pm

MUB 101

# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CHAMBER SINGERS

Dr. Will Kesling, Director

Tané Dekrey, Accompanist

## Program

From *Sechs Lieder*, Op. 59  
No. 4 *Die Nachtigal*

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

From *All-Night Vigil*, Op. 37  
No 6. *Bogoróditse Devo*

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1910-1981)

*In stiller Nacht*

Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

From *Nocturnes*  
III. *Sure On This Shining Night*

Morten Lauridsen  
(b. 1943)

Tané Dekrey, piano

*My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord*

arr. Moses Hogan  
(1957-2003)

*\*If Music Be the Food of Love*

David C. Dickau  
(b. 1953)

*Alegres Pascuas*

arr. Rubén Colón Tarrats  
(b. 1940)

\* Performed with UF Women's Chorale in Spring Concert on Wednesday, March 23, 2022

A PERFORMANCE IN LIEU OF THESIS PRESENTED TO THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF MUSIC UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.

## Program Notes

**Die Nachtigall** is part of *Sech Lieder*, Op. 59 that was published in 1844. The German composer, conductor, pianist and organist, Felix Mendelssohn, set music to an excerpt of the poem *Ländlich* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. This four-voice strophic partsong starts off with a duet between the soprano and alto voices that charms the listener to reflect on the beloved old songs that the nightingale sings. This captivating duet is sung again by the tenor and bass voice part while soprano and alto emphasize that the nightingale was far away.

### Translation:

The nightingale was far away,  
But the spring has tempted her once again;  
She has not learned anything new,  
So sings old, beloved songs.

Translation by Dr. Michael P. Rosewall ©  
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**Bogoróditse Devo** from The *All-Night Vigil*, Op. 37 by Russian composer and pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff was published in 1915. The text of this vocal work is drawn from the liturgy of the Russian Orthodox Church. The first part of this prayer is taken from the Gospel of Luke 1:28 when the Archangel Gabriel greeted the Virgin *Theotokos*, “And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” The second part of the prayer is drawn from Luke 1:42 when Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, said “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” The four-part opening of this Ave Maria invites the listener to engage in meditation in veneration of the mother of God through the delicate piano dynamic and very gentle harmonies.

### Translation:

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,  
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with You.  
Blessed are You among women,  
And blessed is the Fruit of your womb,  
For You have borne the Savior of our souls.

## Program Notes (continued)

**In Stiller Nacht** is a rhythmic homophonic folksong composed by Johannes Brahms. Appears in the second volume of *Deutsche Volkslieder* WoO 34 for mixed a cappella choir dating 1864. The German composer of lieder, chamber music, and symphony, sets music to a poem by Jesuit poet Friedrich Spee. The text of this work appears to be secular but it is based on the poem *Trauer-Gesang von der Noth Christi am Oelberg in dem Garten* (*Mourning-Song of the Suffering of Christ on the Mount of Olives in the Garden*) published on 1635.

### Translation:

In silent night, at first watch  
A voice begins to lament.  
The night wind has sweetly and  
gently  
Carried the sound to me.  
With bitter pain and sorrow  
My heart is melted.  
With simple tears and flowers  
I have watered all of them.

The lovely moon will now set,  
For sorrow it doesn't want to shine,  
The stars stop their gleaming,  
They want to weep with me.  
No birdsong nor joyous sounds  
Can be heard in the air.  
Even the wild beasts grieve with me  
In rocks and ravines.

Translated by Richard Stokes

**Sure On This Shining Night** was premiered in 2005 at the American Choral Association National Convention. The text used by Morten Lauridsen for this choir and piano composition is included in Agee's first collection of poetry, *Permit Me Voyage*. *Sure On This Shining Night* becomes the third movement of the choral cycle *Nocturnes*. Lauridsen, in this choral work explores the vocal range and vocal ability of the singers in order to paint with music the wonders of the poem. An expressive piano solo sets the mood for this piece through the flexible rubato tempo and the incorporation of a motif that will eventually be sung by all voices at multiple times. The dramatic influence from musical theater, close pitches, change in tempo, the leaps of notes and the exaggeration of the "sh" sound will convey the sparks of a summer night.

**My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord** is a traditional spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan. New Orleans' gifted arranger, pianist, and conductor studied at New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the Juilliard School of Music, and Louisiana State University. During his life he published more than 70 works and was the editor of a collection of spirituals named the *Oxford Book of Spirituals*.

**If Music Be the Food of Love** was co-commissioned by the Minnesota Music Educators Association and the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. With music by David C. Dickau, this piece employs an expressive and romantic setting of the text by Henry Heveningahm. Towards the end, the voices engage in short canons that emphasizes phrases and creates a richer texture as preparation for an emotive ending.

**Alegres Pascuas** is an arrangement of a popular *villancico* from Puerto Rico by Ruben Colón Tarrats with music by Jaime Pericás. Colón Tarrats is a Puerto Rican composer and founder of the *Coral Municipal* and past conductor of the centenary band of the municipality of Ponce. The text of this work expresses how wonderful is to celebrate Christmas in the island and how proud we are to have been born in Borinquén.

**Translation:**

How wonderful are the holidays in  
my beautiful Borinquén,  
there's party and happiness  
everywhere; a tradition native to our  
home, fills our hearts with joy.  
Finally, Christmas has arrived, real  
festivities of our land.  
Festivities of all our longings, our  
sleeplessness, and our enthusiasm.  
Let's all sing with happiness, filled  
with joy, filled with love,  
Let's conserve like today, always  
present, our tradition.

With drums, güiro and maracas, my  
serenade cheerful is.  
As a farewell, I wish you all years of  
health and prosperity.  
I'm pleased to have been born in this  
nest, in this Eden,  
because these holidays I adore so  
much, are the enchantment of  
Borinquén.  
My Borinquén.

# University of Florida Chamber Singers

## **Sopranos:**

Alexis Ault  
Joelie Campana  
Gina DiGiovanni  
Laura Garzon  
Natalie Hamel  
Olivia Miller  
Shanna Thompson

## **Tenors:**

Alek N. Concepción Rivera  
John-Peter S. Ford  
Owen Fucile  
Gavin Gallagher  
Daemyung Hyun  
Carson Jones  
Michael Varilla

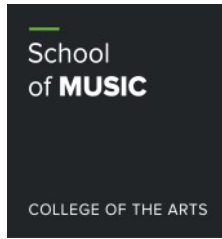
## **Altos:**

Arianna Alamo  
Arwen Dowers  
Codi Linafelter  
Zerrin Martin  
Camden O'Donnell  
Gabrielle Pagano  
Annakah Smolensky

## **Bass:**

Lafe Arens  
Axel Castro  
Matthias Dinkelbach  
David Eaton Jr.  
Samuel Garner  
Mitchell Johnson  
Carter Mays  
Dylan Tuccitto  
Shichu Xie





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Program 052 in the School of Music Events Series of the 2022-2023 academic year.

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