



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY<sup>TM</sup>  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC  
Choral Activities

MSU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

# WHAT IF...

*Phillip Stockton, conductor*  
*Rachel Wood, collaborative pianist*

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March 23  
8:00 pm  
Temple Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg, MS

# MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC



# Mississippi State University

Mississippi State University is a comprehensive, doctoral degree-granting institution with a nationally and internationally diverse student body. Join the Bulldog family and prepare for a meaningful career alongside 23,000+ other students from all over the U.S. and 80+ countries. To individuals, it offers a wide range of opportunities and challenges for learning and growth; to the world of knowledge, vigorous and expanding contributions in research, discovery and application; and to people in every region of Mississippi, a variety of expert services. MSU is big enough to find your place, but small enough to feel like home.

## Department of Music

The Department of Music at Mississippi State University currently has about 150 students enrolled. We also have a number of additional students in the various ensembles we offer including 185 students in the Choral Program and almost 400 students in the Famous Maroon Band. In the Fall of 2022, the Music Department at MSU opened a new state-of-the-art music facility. The 37,000-square-foot facility at 124 Hardy Road includes classrooms, a choral rehearsal hall, faculty offices, sound-proof practice rooms, recording studio, lecture/recital hall, student lounge and administrative suite.

Mississippi State University is an All-Steinway School which makes MSU one of a handful of music departments in the world to earn such an acclaimed distinction. The Department of Music offers three undergraduate degrees in music: the Bachelor of Arts in Music (B.A.), the Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.), and the Bachelor of Music in Performance (B.M.) coming in the Fall of 2023. The department also offers the Master of Music Education (M.M.E) through a program primarily completed over 3 summers. The Department of Music is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).



# SUMMER GRADUATE PROGRAM

- Earn your MME in three summers
- Choral, Instrumental & Elementary Tracks
- Courses taught by experienced faculty with classroom experience

At Mississippi State, music education is a priority. As you consider your options for graduate study, consider the Master of Music Education program at MSU.



**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

**For More  
information:**

<http://music.msstate.edu>  
[gpackwood@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:gpackwood@colled.msstate.edu)

# Mississippi Music Educators Association Conference Program

When We Sing

Rosephayne Powell (b. 1962)

*Samuel Reed, percussionist*  
*Griffin Bowers, percussionist*

When we sing, we are one. Ev'ry body, come let's sing.  
Oh, let's sing. Oh, yes, we are one.  
When we sing we're breathing together,  
living life in harmony.  
Ev'ry heartbeat pulsing together when we sing.  
When we sing we're one mind and body,  
joining heartbeats through our song.  
Ev'ry breath we take is together. We are one.  
Through our songs we live, we love,  
we breathe as one community in harmony.  
In times of war, our songs bring peace.  
They ease our troubled minds.  
Inhaling, exhaling, we're breathing together.  
We're being, we're feeling, we're sharing  
while singing together.  
We sing for joy, peace, life, "la, la, la, la, la, la."  
That's why we sing. So, let us always sing our songs!



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## I. Kenneth Chamberlain

### *Officers, why do you have your guns out?*

Encapsulating the sense of gloom that arises upon the news of the death of another unarmed black man, the chorus rises from the funereal piano ostinato singing Kenneth Chamberlain's last words interpolated with the medieval tune, L'homme armé doibt on doubter - "The armed man must be feared." After the final iteration of the 66-year old's dying breath, the chorus repeats one important word: "why?"

## II. Trayvon Martin

### *What are you following me for?*

This movement uses the classical form of the fugue not only to portray Trayvon Martin's last moments trying to escape death, but also to sonically capture the daily paranoia of the black experience while driving on roads, walking on sidewalks, and congregating at various social gatherings. Quotes of L'homme armé in the piano underneath the imitative counterpoint in the voices lead to a climactic yell of surprise at the movement's end.

## III. Amadou Diallo

### *Jaylen Stowers, soloist*

### *Mom, I'm going to college.*

In New York, February of 1999, four police officers fired 41 shots at Amadou Diallo, a 23 year old immigrant from Guinea. The undulating pattern in the piano simultaneously yields a sense of calm with its simple harmonic underpinning and unease with its odd 5/4 meter.

## IV. Michael Brown

### *I don't have a gun! Stop shooting!*

Of the seven movements, this one contains the most anger. Through the use of agitated rhythms and multiple harmonic exclamations on the word "stop", the target of the rage is media portrayal of black men on the news, in comedies, and in dramas. Even in the aftermath of such tragedies, the rhetoric and images used to describe the deceased was markedly appalling across all media. This was the case, especially, for Michael Brown.

## V. Oscar Grant

### *You shot me. You shot me!*

Oscar Grant III's exclamations of surprise and incredulity were caught on several cellphone recordings in the BART station in which he was murdered. The movement honoring his life is a sonic representation of this epidemic. Aleatoric spoken exclamations of the last words crescendo alongside the humming of L'homme armé in the style of the Negro spiritual. Underneath the cacophony, the pulsing C of the piano persist unflinchingly like a heart monitor until the end.



## VI. John Crawford

*It's not real.*

Although they were referring to the BB gun he was carrying in the Walmart where he was killed, John Crawford's last words escape the lips of thousands of African-Americans. Thus, the movement's beginning is the soundtrack to my mental utopia. Saccharine sweet and soaring, the voices are joined by the piano "heart monitor" like reality interrupting a reverie.

## VII. Eric Garner

*I can't breathe!*

The decision of a Richmond County grand jury to not indict the officer responsible for Eric Garner's death was the impetus for this entire work, and it is only fitting that his last words end the piece. After using a mournful Byzantine texture for the first half of the movement, I tried to capture the panicked death thralls of asphyxiation in the music.

## Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?

Kyle Pederson (b. 1971)

What if instead of more violence  
We let our weapons fall silent?  
No more revenge or retribution  
No more war or persecution.  
It could be beautiful.  
What if instead of our judgment  
We soften our hearts that have hardened?  
Instead of certainty and pride  
We love and sacrifice.  
It could be beautiful.  
Can we see the other as our brother?  
Can we sing the darkness to light?  
Sounding chords of compassion and grace  
Set the swords of judgment aside  
Let mercy's eyes  
See the other human face.



# Mississippi State University OPUS



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**Tenor 1**

George Adams  
 Lawson Ashurst  
 Kendall Austin  
 Caige Baum  
 SJ Brocato  
 Christian Carver  
 Isaiah Conerly  
 Nathan Dowling  
 Elijah Edwards  
 André Ferguson  
 Jalen Johnson  
 Eliot Jones  
 Jonathan Lindamood  
 Ty Lofton  
 William McCurry  
 Matthew Parker  
 Gabriel Stanford  
 Jackson Valdez  
 Tommy West

Mississippi  
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 Georgia  
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 Mississippi

**Tenor 2**

Daniel Adejumbo  
 Shane Aguayo  
 Patrick Bradley  
 Brandarius Brown  
 Darryl Brundidge  
 Reese Dunne  
 Zach Dykema  
 Kindall Gammill  
 Jacob Glenn  
 Riley Hardy  
 Will Hardy  
 Desmond Henderson  
 Graham Hughes  
 Ian Jones  
 Jacob King  
 Ethan Maness  
 Nick McGowan  
 Layne Pilcher  
 Cooper Robertson  
 Nathan Shelton  
 Caleb Shirley  
 Bradley Stafford  
 Conner Stingley  
 Jaylen Stowers  
 Jakob Vernon  
 Slaten Vowels

Nigeria  
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 Tennessee  
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 Mississippi  
 Alabama  
 Mississippi  
 Mississippi  
 South Carolina  
 Mississippi  
 Missouri

**Bass 1**

Hudson Akin  
 Caleb Beard  
 Jaden Cleveland  
 Hazel Crossler  
 Willian da Silva  
 Connor Davis  
 Bodie Dodson  
 Christopher Dutton  
 Justin Howard  
 Jaymar Jackson  
 Brian Mayfield  
 Tavion McCorvey  
 Bryce McLane  
 Adonijah Mpinga  
 Jaden Perkins  
 Blaine Rossell-Smith  
 Aidan Taylor  
 Antonio Theus  
 Dontavius Webb  
 Colin Zazzara

Kentucky  
 Alabama  
 Mississippi  
 Mississippi  
 Brazil  
 Mississippi  
 Tennessee  
 Alabama  
 Alabama  
 Mississippi  
 Mississippi  
 Alabama  
 Tennessee  
 Texas  
 Mississippi  
 El Salvador  
 Mississippi  
 Mississippi  
 Mississippi  
 Tennessee

**Bass 2**

Paul Beaty  
 Griffin Bowers  
 Antryll Campbell  
 Dylon Chisholm  
 John Cranford  
 Austin Gothard  
 Josh Hamann  
 Jackson Kiser  
 Joey Mullins  
 Quinton Prater  
 Chase Pullum  
 Samuel Reed  
 Christian Robinson  
 RJ Rutherford  
 Kaz Shumpert  
 Max Smaglick  
 Jarreau Weaver  
 Jacob Wright

Texas  
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## ***Dr. Gary Packwood - Conductor***

Recognized as an inspirational and motivational conductor, pedagogue, and lecturer, Gary Packwood has appeared throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Now in his 31st year of teaching, Dr. Packwood has conducted all-state and honor choirs in 35 states. During the 2021-2022 academic year, Dr. Packwood is scheduled to conduct the Texas Music Educators Association TB All-State Choir; Wisconsin Music Educators Association SATB Middle – Level All-State Choir; American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Northwestern Regional TB Choir; and the ACDA Midwestern Regional SATB Choir. He will also serve a residency with the School of Music at Wichita State University, adjudicate the Florida Vocal Association's Central State Music Performance Assessment, as well as future conducting engagements with Pacific International Choral Festival (Oregon), Crystal Children's Choir (California), and the Kentucky All-State Choir. Dr. Packwood is currently professor of music, program administrator and director of choral studies at Mississippi State University where he teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting, conducts the Mississippi

State University State Singers and OPUS, and serves as the coordinator of graduate music studies. Dr. Packwood has held similar appointments at the University of Montevallo, Louisiana State University, and was a public-school teacher for 10 years at the elementary and high school levels in South Florida. Dr. Packwood made his Carnegie Hall debut on Easter Sunday in 2012 conducting the Mississippi State University Singers and the New England Chamber Orchestra. He returned in 2019 and is scheduled to appear again during the 2022 Memorial Day weekend. The MSU Singers has quickly garnered a stellar reputation, as evident through invitational performances at The White House for the Holidays Open House, three successful European tours, Louisiana ACDA State Conference, Southern Region ACDA Conference, and the Mississippi Music Educators Association/MS-ACDA State Conferences on three separate occasions.

A lifetime member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Dr. Packwood is past president of the Southern Region of ACDA (2017-2019) and serves on the national board for the National Collegiate Choral Organization. He was the president-elect of the Alabama Choral Directors Association, and Repertoire & Standards Chair for Multicultural Music Perspectives for ACDA Southern Region. A member of the National Association of Music Educators: Music Educators National Conference Dr. Packwood served as Vice-President of the Higher Education Division for the Alabama Music Educators Association (AMEA), and is also a member of the Texas Choral Directors Association and the National Association for Teachers of Singing. In 2017 Santa Barbara Music Publishing began the Gary Packwood Choral Series, which features compositions that specialize in music for developing and advanced young voices. He also has additional music publications through [musicspoke.com](http://musicspoke.com). Dr. Packwood has published articles in the Choral Journal, Teaching Music, the 2nd Edition of the AmeriGrove Dictionary, and a book chapter in GIA's Publication of Conducting Men's Choirs. He is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Pi Kappa Lambda. He has given two separate interviews discussing his life and choral music for Mississippi Public Broadcasting Station and has been awarded the Outstanding Music Alumnus from the Department of Music at Southeastern Louisiana University, 2008 Outstanding Faculty from the Dean of College of Fine Arts at the University of Montevallo, and the 2015 Lucinda Rose Teaching Award from the Dean of the College of Education at Mississippi State University. Dr. Packwood earned the Bachelor of Music Education degree from Southeastern Louisiana University, the Master of Arts degree from Florida Atlantic University, and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting and literature from Louisiana State University.



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### ***Dr. Phillip Stockton - Conductor***

Dr. Phillip Stockton, Assistant Clinical Professor of Music and Associate Director of Choral Studies at Mississippi State University, received the Bachelor of Music Education from Auburn University, Master of Music Education from Florida State University, and Ph.D in Music Education from the University of Mississippi. Before arriving at Mississippi State, Dr. Stockton was Associate Professor of Music Education and Director of Choral Activities at Mississippi University for Women. He also taught at Mandarin High School in Jacksonville, Florida where his choirs consistently received superior ratings at regional and state performance assessment. Dr. Stockton has conducted middle school, high school, large church, small church, and community choirs throughout his tenure. He remains an active clinician and judge for choirs throughout Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida. He is an active member of American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and is currently the R&R for Student Activities for the Mississippi ACDA. He has research published

in the *Journal of Historical Research in Music Education* and the *Choral Journal*. His research focuses on the historical adolescent voice change, best practices pedagogy for treble choirs, as well as best practices for the choral classroom. Dr. Stockton is married to his lovely wife Amy and have a son Lee and a daughter Molly.



### ***Rachel Wood - Collaborative Pianist***

Rachel Delk Wood, collaborative pianist and choral conductor, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Piano and Voice from Mississippi University for Women in 2008. Since graduation, Mrs. Wood has been the collaborative pianist for Mississippi University for Women's Choral Ensembles and applied voice majors, collaborative pianist and Assistant Director for Columbus Girl Choir, as well as teaching private piano and voice to many students across the state. She is also currently the Director of Music at First United Methodist in West Point, Mississippi and a collaborative pianist for Mississippi State University's Choral Activities. Rachel is married to her husband Jay, and they have a daughter Helen.



# Mississippi State University Choirs

## *Schola Cantorum*

This is the largest ensemble at Mississippi State and focuses on choral literature dedicated to soprano and alto voices. This popular group performs with the Famous Maroon Band each fall semester as a part of the halftime entertainment. In 2013 Schola Cantorum performed with the Alabama Symphony composer Yotam Haber's "A More Convenient Season," a piece written for the 50th Anniversary of the 16th Street bombing. In 2022, Schola Cantorum performed the *Suffrage Cantata* by Andrea Ramsey, a five-movement work written for treble voices to capture the struggle for suffrage among women. The ensemble also performs large major works with orchestra and presents two major concerts per semester.

## *Cantaré*

Mississippi State's Cantaré is a select ensemble of 32 singers drawn from the University student body, and performs a wide variety of music for SATB chamber choir ranging from early music to contemporary compositions. Founded in the Fall of 2019 by Dr. Phillip Stockton, the choir maintains a busy schedule that includes Fall and Christmas Concerts as well as a Fall Tour to statewide high school and community college choral programs. Also, Cantare participated in a Choral Residency and performed at the University of Louisiana, Monroe with the ULM Choirs and Dr. Andre Thomas, guest conductor. In 2022, Cantaré performed Schubert's *Mass No. 2 in G* and this year, performed Mozart's *Mass in C (Coronation Mass)* both with the Starkville Symphony Orchestra.

## *OPUS*

One of the most popular ensembles on the Mississippi State campus, OPUS offers opportunities for a brotherhood of singing and performance through the University community and beyond. Ranging from 65 – 90 members, the students in this ensemble represent nearly every college and dozens of majors on campus. The ensemble performs four major concerts per year and has appeared at the Mississippi Music Educators Association & the Mississippi American Choral Directors Association state conference. In 2023, OPUS performed *Seven Last Words of the Unarmed* by Joel Thompson, a seven-movement work written for tenor-bass voices that quotes the last words of seven unarmed African American men.



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# Mississippi State University Choirs

## *State Singers*

Although the name has changed (Madrigal Singers), the continued pursuit of excellence is still the primary goal for this ensemble. The State Singers is the premiere choral-vocal ensemble at Mississippi State and membership is granted through a competitive audition process. The State Singers study and perform complex repertoire from all stylistic genres, accompanied and a cappella, including compositions by Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, J.A.C. Redford, Badings, Schutz, and many others. In addition to performing and touring, the daily curriculum challenges singers to hone their personal musicianship skills, apply and synthesize musical facts and concepts presented in other course work, and develop a professional work ethic. Comprised of approximately 53 singers, State Singers perform full-length concerts, both on and off campus, numerous collaborative projects, and for a variety of University functions. The ensemble has performed at state and regional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association for Music Educators. Other important performances include international tours of Spain, France, Austria, The Czech Republic, and in 2016 the choir performed at The White House. In 2022, State Singers premiered “Intimations of Immortality” by composer and conductor Michael Trotta, with text taken from “Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood” by William Wordsworth. This piece, dedicated to the new Department of Music Building, is now available on Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube.

#STATE  
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# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™ DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

## Choral Activities

### Acknowledgments

Dr. Mark Keenum, *President*

Dr. David Shaw, *Provost*

Dr. Teresa Jayroe, *Dean of College of Education*

Dr. Daniel Stevens, *Department Chair*

Danielle Gaudé, *Administrative Assistant*

Dr. Jeanette Fontaine, *Coordinator of Voice*

Dr. Roza Tulyaganova, *Voice Faculty*

Dr. Garrett Torbert, *Voice Faculty*

Cori Reece, *Voice Faculty*

Peter Infanger, *Voice Faculty*

Danny Davis, *Voice Faculty*

Sara Horan, *Voice Faculty*

Adonijah Mpinga, *Student Assistant*

### Upcoming Events

March 31, 2023 - Cantaré & TrebullDawgs Concert

April 14, 2023 - Choral Spring Concert

April 21, 2023 - Auditions

September 10-11, 2024 - Choral Colloquium

This year we celebrate the 12th annual MSU Choral Colloquium! Previous years included world renowned conductors and educators such as Andrea Ramsey, Tom Shelton, Kenneth Fulton, Earlene Rentz, Susan Brumfield, Denise Eaton, Deanna Joseph, Randall Stroope, David Brunner, Sandra Snow, Patricia Corbin, Julie Yu, Eph Ehly, Jeffrey Murdock, Vincent Oakes and others.

Seniors can register for a mini voice lesson with our faculty - just send us an email at [msuchoir.msstate.edu](mailto:msuchoir.msstate.edu).

We are now accepting choral performances from high school and middle school choirs. Contact us if you'd like to perform on our Sunday evening concert.

Scan the QR code to register!



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# CHORAL/VOCAL AUDITION DATES

- *November 10, 2023*
- *February 17, 2024*
- *March 8, 2024*
- *April 26, 2024*

Distance, Virtual, & Private Auditions  
are available - [msuchoir@msstate.edu](mailto:msuchoir@msstate.edu)  
Register at [statesings.com](http://statesings.com)