

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY CHORAL DIVISION

Christmas Concert

CANTARÉ formerly CHAMBER SINGERS OPUS formerly MEN OF STATE SCHOLA CANTORUM STATE SINGERS

Gary Packwood and Phillip Stockton, conductors

Christy Lee, collaborating accompanist Sophie Wang, special guest accompanist Jessica Haislip, oboe

Desmond Henderson, *student collaborating accompanist* Lauren Barr, *student collaborating accompanist*

Gabriel Aranki, *student conductor*, Schola Cantorum Alex Davis, *student conductor*, Chamber Singers Evan Garris, *student conductor*, Men of State Kailyn Naquin, *student conductor*, State Singers

special performances by student-lead ensembles

SOUNDS FROM STATE TREBULLDAWGS

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 7:00 PM at First Baptist Church Starkville

CHORAL EXCELLENCE, HEALING, & COMMUNITY

statesings.com

msuchoir@msstate.edu

Program

TREBULLDAWGS

Jingle Bells (Three Jazzy Bell Carols) Carol of the Bells

CHAMBER SINGERS

SHEPHERD'S PIPE CAROL

arranged by Jay Rouse music by M. Leontovich arranged by Peter J. Wilhousky

music & text by John Rutter

Alex Davis, student conductor

The 'Shepherd's Pipe Carol' was originally composed for a carol concert at Clare College, Cambridge during the 1960's. The sentiment of the carol celebrates the piping of a shepherd boy journeying to see the baby Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem. The composer has suggested that the inspiration for this work may have come from his experience of having sung in Gian Carlo Menotti's Christmas opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. The Hyperion CD liner notes (CDA67425) quote the composer: 'I think the piping heard as Amahl heads for Bethlehem with the Wise Men may have stuck in my mind.' This carol is probably the most recognizable of all of Rutter's original carol compositions.

Going through the hills on a night all starry On the way to Bethlehem Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping On the way to Bethlehem

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King Is come to bring us peace on earth And He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily On the way to Bethlehem Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely On the way to Bethlehem?

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for the joy that Christ the newborn King Is come to bring peace on earth And He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely On the way to Bethlehem; But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies When I get to Bethlehem."

Angels in the sky came down from on high Hovered over the manger where the babe was lying Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary Sleeping now at Bethlehem

music by Javier Busto

Javier Busto was born in the music rich Basque region of Spain in 1949. Busto was trained as a medical doctor but taught himself music and composition. Busto's compositions are performed throughout the world and are revered for their delicate use of the text. *Ave Maria* is set for SATB voices and implores lyrical lines and subtle rhythmic vitality to create a musical masterpiece of this profound text to the honor the Virgin Mary.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

PAT-A-PAN

AVE MARIA

Traditional French Burgundian Carol

arr. David Conte

David Conte is revered for his complex choral compositions and arrangements. Conte often uses rhythm to create energy in his music. *Pat-a-Pan* is no exception. This piece uses open fifth intervals to create the sound of the drums, while the melody is lyrically sung as a contrast to the sounding of the drums.

Willie, bring your little drum; Robin, bring your flute and come; And be merry while you play, Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan Come be merry while you play, on this joyful Christmas day! When the men of olden days to the King of Kings gave praise, On the fife and drum did play, Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan Come be merry while you play, on this joyful Christmas day! God and man today become more in tune than fife and drum, So be merry while you play, Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan Come be merry while you play, on this joyful Christmas day!

ALLELUIA, FOR THIS DAY

music by Christopher Harris text: Devondra F. Banks

Alleluia, for this Day sets the text by Devondra F. Banks through lush harmony and lyrical vocal lines. The piece explores the anticipation of the coming Christ from the view of Mary and Joseph as well as the ultimate implications that the Christ is coming for all of mankind. The fragility of a newborn child's shoulders is foreshadowed to what will eventually be the shoulders that bear the burden for all. The final lyric is simply *Alleluia!* The highest praise is given to the child that is born this day.

Bleak and cold was the night that chilled, Ignited and warm were the souls filled with expectancy for the Love to come. Love to which hearts succumb. Fragile shoulders will burdens bear, Small hands will hold the world's despair Tiny feet will print our journey's way, Alleluia for this day!

BRIGHTEST AND BEST

arranged by Shawn Kirchner text by: Reginald Heber

Cody Gressett, mandolin & Eli Denson, bass

Brightest and Best is based on the American hymn tune STAR IN THE EAST with text by Reginald Heber. This strophic song describes the manger scene of Christ's birth. As an homage to the Appalachian roots of the hymn tune, Kirchner writes a banjo inspired accompaniment that gives homage to Appalachian music. This music is heavily inspired by the music of American slaves by the mere use of the banjo as well as rhythmic emphasis on beats 2 and 4 instead of 1 and 3 often found in European music. The piece concludes with the hope that today is born our "infant Redeemer."

Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger, lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.
Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining, low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker, and Monarch, and Savior and all.
Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion, odours of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean, myrth from the forest and gold from the mine?

MEN OF STATE

LAUS TRINITATI

music by Faith Morgan text by Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

Evan Garris, conductor Gabriel Aranki & Griffin Bowers, percussionists

Hildegard von Bingen has always intrigued me – how she taps into the mysterious qualities of God and leaves her readers marveling. This chant speaks of the Trinity and of God as the source of creativity and life in all of creation. Though hidden to human minds, we can see aspects of god's nature in creation and in our own creativity – and this work explores the idea of being made in the image of a creative God. This setting attempts to capture majestic wonder, effervescent life, and enchanting mystery. ~Faith Morgan

Praise to the trinity – the sound and life and creativity of all within their life, the praise of the angelic host and wondrous, brilliant splendor hid, unknown to human minds, it is, and life within all things. Stars I Shall Find is about the hope one has in that which is desired, yet not immediately attainable. The author of this beautiful text suffered from depression and tragically ended her life far before her time. She saw the stars as beacons of hope and inspiration. The spirit of this piece celebrates those hopes and dreams, which inspire and motivate. The musical language is romantic. ~David Dickau

> There will be rest, and sure stars shining Over the roof-tops crowned with snow, A reign of rest, serene forgetting, The music of stillness holy and low. *I will make this world of my devising* Out of a dream in my lonely mind. I shall find the crystal of peace, - above me Stars I shall find.

GO WHERE I SEND THEE

Gospel Spiritual arranged by Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

Go Where I Send Thee is a gospel arrangement of a spiritual from the African American Folk tradition which we first became familiar with through the work of Cynthia Wilson Felder in Texas. From the many variants of the text, we have developed an extended version which allowed us to maximize the use of Gospel-style modulation and to give our singers significant one-line reminders of some of the biblical stories on which the African American musical tradition is based. Some of the scriptural references are quite evident; others are somewhat cloaked.

~ Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

Children go where I send thee! How shall I send thee? I'm gonna send thee one by one, one for the little bitty baby born in Bethlehem. I'm gonna send thee two by two, two for Paul and Silas, I'm gonna send thee six by six, six for the days when the world was fixed, Five for the bread they did divide, four for the Gospel writers, three for the Hebrew children, Two for Paul and Silas, one for the little bitty baby born in Bethlehem. I'm gonna send thee twelve by twelve, twelve for the twelve disciples, 'leven of 'em singin' in heaven, Ten for the ten commandments, nine for the angel choirs divine,

Eight for the eight the flood couldn't take, seven for the day God laid down his head,

six by six, six for the days when the world was fixed,

Five for the bread they did divide, four for the Gospel writers, three for the Hebrew children, Two for Paul and Silas, one for the little bitty baby born in Bethlehem.

SOUNDS FROM STATE VENI, VENI EMANUEL

tune: Anonymous arranged by Adonijah Mapalo & Quinton Prater

The text for the hymn Veni, Veni Emmanuel first appears in the eighteenth century in the "Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum" (Cologne 1710). It is based on the much older "O" Antiphons which have their origins in the ninth century. This arrangement is by two freshmen music education majors.

> O come, O come, Emmanuel, Ransom the captive Israel, Who in this exile is mourning - Deprived of the Son of God. Rejoice! Rejoice! The Emmanuel - Shall be born for thee, O Israel. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, Save Thy people from Satan's tyranny, From the danger of Hell, And break the power of the abyss. Rejoice! Rejoice! The Emmanuel - Shall be born for thee, O Israel.

SCHOLA CANTORUM

I WONDER AS I WANDER

Jessica Haislip, oboe

I Wonder as I Wander is an Appalachian folk song that ponders the sacrifice that was made by Christ. The simple melody, in the minor mode, paints an aural image of mankind not fully understanding this act of selfless love. The arrangement by Robison opens with a unison "oo" that harkens to the sound of wind travelling through the trees and valleys of the Appalachian Mountains. This strophic song concludes as simply as it began with a wondering accompaniment in the piano. The singer and listener are left to ponder such a love as this.

> I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor on'ry people like you and like I, I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,

arr. by Jannaya Robison

With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all. But high in God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages It then did recall. Save us all!

> If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, A star in the sky or a bird on the wing, Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing, He surely could have it 'cause He was the King.

HODIE

music by Joan Szymko text: Traditional Vespers Antiphon

The opening unison chant is first contrasted by vigorous rhythmic sections, then developed with masterful weaving of the vocal line. This piece creates energy throughout the piece with a final declaration of *Gloria!* ~Szymko

Today Christ is born; Today the Savior has appeared; Today the Angels sing, The Archangels rejoice, Today the righteous rejoice, saying, Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

WHAT STRANGERS ARE THESE

Traditional Scottish folk song arr. Dan Forrest

music & text by Leonard Raybon

arr. Mervyn Warren

Jessica Haislip, oboe& Eli Denson, guitar Gabriel Aranki, student conductor

This simple and contemplative text of an old Scottish folk song is an homage to the birth of Christ. The text describes the arrival of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem in order to be counted in the census. The song then shifts to the worship of the Christ child in response to the many events that occurred before and after his birth including the angels and the shepherds appearance. Forrest creates a beautiful carol that is reflective of the season.

What strangers are these that wander through the town? Hush, 'tis Joseph and weary Mary.
And what does he seek so hopeless and in vain? He is seeking shelter for Mary.
For she is the blest and chosen of the Lord Who will bear to us a goodly King.
And who is this King owhom ye proudly sing? Know ye not the Christ, Jesus the Savior?

What wee child is this that in a manger lies? Hush, 'tis Jesus Christ, Son of Mary. Say what fair maid is this whose joy is mixed with awe? O 'tis Mary, mother of Jesus. O these are the shepherds and these the magi Him

CAROL OF THE CLOTH

This new carol by Raybon that seamlessly weaves original music and text with the beloved Polish carol "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly." The carol is enhanced with a countermelody played by the flute. The beautiful simplicity of the piece personifies the scene of the nativity.

Jessica Haislip, oboe

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Kameron Hinton, soloist

Keelon Fisher, drums & Eli Denson, bass

A gospel setting of the traditional Christmas carol "Joy to the World" was made famous by Whitney Houston in the motion picture *The Preacher's Wife*. This rousing setting will certainly be a great start to the holiday season!

MSU STATE SINGERS

THE HOLDING CAROL

arr. by Craig Hella Johnson words by Michael Dennis Browne & Craig Hella Johnson Briana Taylor & Jackson Valdez, soloists

Originally composed for a Christmas program, this is a 'carol' that can be sung in all seasons. I asked Michael Dennis Browne if he could create a text with a simple message that could be sung both to children and adults. I wanted to create a carol that could inspire the singer and the listener to remember the light they carry, the joy happiness that is at the core of their original being, no matter how deeply buried, beaten down or forgotten. May all beings be happy and know their intrinsic value. ~ Craig Hella Johnson

All the days feel like winter filled with shadows and gray-Eyes are heavy, spirits drifting, seems it's always that way. For a young child deep within you, I long to sing from my heart-'bout a light that I can see shines in you, and shines in me. Yes, you are like a starry sky, yes, all the leaves of every tree,-Yes, you are all the sweetest songs heard in the heart. Dream, let us always, always dream, dream how the world can ever be, Dream every blessing we receive deep within this joy. Here we are, breathing peace in this holy place, every longing we have known, Mercy and grace, This is the healing gently flowing in us. Only joy, only joy here we are. Yes, you are like a starry sky, yes, you have always been. Yes, all the names of every flower, petals floating free. Holding us, holding us, love is always holding us, Free from fear in the blessing of resting in you. We are Yours, Yours only, here we belong in this dark, In this light world – You have made. *Only this, how we are together – silent, silent, only this.* Heaven that we know; heaven that we feel; -Only love all about us now, only love that lives within, Love rivering in us, love walking with us still' This world love has made where we are.

DING DONG MERRILY

arranged by Michael Murphy text by George Radcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

Kailyn Naquin, conductor Sophie Wang, primo Christy Lee, secondo

This carol is reputed to be French, dating back to the sixteenth century, with text originally in Latin. The original composer is unknown.

The fool hath said in his heart, "There is no God."

Corrupt are they and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy, there is none that doeth good, no, not one. There were they in great fear, where no fear was! Oh, that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion!

When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad. Amen.

SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT

music by Morten Lauridsen

Kevin Johnson & Sara Stephens

text by James Agee

The first three *Nocturnes – Sa Nuit d'Été* (R.M. Rilke), *Soneto de la Noche* (Pablo Neruda) and *Sure On This Shining Night –* may be performed either separately or as a cycle (in that order and including the *Epilogue*). The *Epilogue: Voici le soir*, premiered by the Los Angeles master Chorale at Walt Disney Concert Hall conducted by Grant Geshon with the composer at the piano, is only to be performed if the entire cycle is done, following *Sure On This Shining Night*.

Sure on this shining night - Of starmade shadows round, Kindness must watch for me - This side the ground. The late year lies down the north. - All is healed, all is health. High summer holds the earth. - Hearts all whole. Sure on this shining night - I weep for wonder Wandering far alone - Of shadows on the stars.

WE ARE CHRISTMAS

Nyla Thomas, soloist

Kevin Johnson, D.M.A., associate professor of music at Spelman College, is a renowned musician, composer and active clinician. As a professional composer, Dr. Johnson has been commissioned to compose several works, including *A Choice to Change the World* and *We Are Christmas*. *We Are Christmas* was premiered in 2020 for the 94th Annual Christmas Concert with Spelman and Moorhouse Colleges.

~ https://www.spelman.edu/academics/majors-and-programs/music/ensembles/glee-club/members/director

In a stable in Bethlehem a baby was born, born of a virgin, God's only Son. Angel Gabriel told them, to have joy, have no fear, for this baby, our Savior, he could dry every tear. Mary magnified the Lord in her soul and she cried, for the baby she would near held all power and might. Born for all people to be free and redeemed, and he lives today within us though we don't always see.

We are Christmas, We are Go's hands to care for one another in these war-torn lands.

We are Christmas, the love that we share will carry one another 'til we understand.

So this Christmas please remember what the true meaning is, remember Gabriel and Mary and the Savior who lives. Remember we are Christ among us and we live for his cause to fulfill his purpose daily as we bring joy to all.

We are comfort for the hurting mending each broken heart. - are friendly to the lonesome and unite those far apart.

We're his hands who touched the sick and they're instantly whole. - We are water for the thirsty and speak to every soul.

He lives in me – Jesus lives in me. Mary don't you weep – Martha don't you moan – because He lives in you.

SPECIAL THANKS

First Baptist Church Starkville

Dr. Tom Jenkins, Minister of Music - FBCS

Danielle Gaude – Choral Administrator

Dr. Christy Lee, collaborative piano faculty

PERSONAL - MSU STATE SINGERS

SOPRANO 1 Lauren Boozer, Anna Lee Briana Taylor +Nyla Thomas +Veronica Washington SOPRANO 2 Lauren Barr Carly Ferrell Kailyn Naguin Audrey Robertson +Sydney Williams Amy Lee ALTO 1 Maddie Bender Anna Bullock Audrey Harper Kimberly Martin Aliyah Necaise Sarah Joy Smith Shelby Vaughn

CHAMBER SINGERS

Hudson Akin Kendall Austin Dehn Basham Keveon Beavers Landry Bennett Haley Bondurant Candice Bruce Mackenzie Burchfield Antryll Campbell Aireal Conley Mamie Cupit Alex Davis +Denotes members of Sounds from State

MEN OF STATE

Hudson Akin Gabriel Aranki Lawson Ashurst Kendall Austin Nathaniel Aycock Trelon Barrett Caleb Beard Antonio Benavides Thomas Bowen Griffin Bowers Patrick Bradley SJ Brocato Brandarius Brown Pevton Brown Darryl Brundidge Noah Burton Antryll Campbell Dale Carr Christian Carver Frankie Chisholm

Dr. Jeanette Fontaine, coordinator of voice Mr. Danny Davis, voice faculty Mrs. Sara Horan, voice faculty Mr. Peter Infanger, voice faculty

ALTO 2

+Tanisha Brown Trekiya Brown Katie Bush Jordan Cole +Kyana Conway Reagan Docherty Asia Ellis Eleanor Garrard Taylor Hardy Evan Maxwell TENOR 1 Andre Ferguson Colton Hall +Jackson Valdez Jackson Wilson Jonathan Lindamood Lawson Ashurst Ty Lofton **TENOR 2** Reese Dunne +Darrvl Brundidge Evan Garris

Eli Denson Bodie Dodson Emma Duncan Aubrey English +Jacob Glenn +Natalia Gonzalez Cody Gressett Justin Howard Brio'Na Jackson Brooke Johnson Eliot Jones Amy Kwas

Landon Coe Malik Collins Isaiah Conerly John Cranford Hazel Crossler Connor Davis Jonathan Dodson Christopher Dutton Zach Dykema Elijah Edwards Jacob Glenn Josh Hamann Joshua Hamilton Steven Hardy William Hardy Justin Howard Graham Hughes Jaymar Jackson Montari Johnson Corbin Jones

Dr. Garrett Torbert, voice faculty Dr. Roza Tulyaganova, voice faculty Dr. Christopher Withrow, voice faculty

Desmond Henderson Graham Hughes Jacob King Caleb Shirley Jaylen Stowers Joseph Zazzara BASS 1 Paul Beaty Trevor Blood Jennings Duncan +Adonijah Mapalo Benjamin Somervell Blaine Smith-Rossell Willian Pereira BASS 2 Joe Broome Jaden Cleveland Austin Gothard Ross McCleod Joey Mullins +Quinton Prater +Ross "RJ" Rutherford Jarreau Weaver

Tavion McCorvey Matthew Parker Layne Pilcher Andrea Turnbow Joao Vilar da Silva Alex White Rachel Wisdom Emma Woodward Jacob Wright Colin Zazzara

Ian Jones Joshua Jones Grant Kelly Jacob King Jackson Kiser Jonathan Lindamood Tahric Lofton Ethan Maness Brian Mayfield Nicholas McGowan Keimauri McKenzie Bryce McLane William McCurry Jim Meals Adonijah Mpinga, Maxwell Oswalt Matthew Parker Grant Peterson Austin Polk Quinton Prater

Chase Pullum Ethan Ray Michael Reed Samuel Reed Cooper Robertson Andrew Shelton Caleb Shirley Kazarian Shumpert SCHOLA CANTORUM Trinity Adzobu Mary Alexander Gabriella Arbesfeld Jesse Baird Sarah Baudin Kendall Bjornseth Karley Blackwelder Savannah Blades Anna Booth Margaret Ellen Boyd Christa Brewster **Britney Briggs** Brandi Brown Isabella Brown Natalie Brown Chandlyr Brown-Reed Rebekah Carruth Jasmine Chaney Abigael Childs Chapell Chumley Trinity Anne-Marie Cohran-Leggett Alexandrea Coleman Rachel Coleman Joscelvn Collins Mary Catherine Collins Amanda Conroy Deanna Cotts Shelby Cox **Emily Crane** Anna Cranford Emily Crunk Elizabeth Cull Hannah Daniels Yasmine Davis Ivory Dorsey Lori Easterling

Joel Smith Bradley Stafford Aidan Taylor Theus, Antonio Jackson Valdez Slaten Vowels Matthew Watkins Jarreau Weaver Susanna Gaddis Tebit Gang Karah Grady Mattie Graham Abigayle Green Taylor Haney Raven Hayes Elizabeth Hilderbra

Elizabeth Hilderbrand Kameron Hinton Rachel Hosp Sarah Hovanec Dani Janus Chloe Jenkins Tiffani Jernigan Kristy Jones Kyneesha Joseph Kimberly Kaiser Mabry Keyes Regan Kincaid Samantha Land Bronwen Maddox Laurel Matthews Lorie McEachern Madison Meek Christian Millwood Mari Claire Milstead Taylor Moore Theresa Murray Annie Ng Zoe Nunn Adrianna O'Bryant **Emmie Perkins** Kayley Phillips Meyona Poe Sara Prator Jasmine SeRena Raden Dontavius Webb Caleb Wells Thomas West Tayvon Williams Daniel Witherell William Wright Nicholas Youngstead +Colin Zazzara

Myesha Randolph Sarah Randolph Elexxus Richardson Christina Rochette Kylie Russell-Evangelista Mary Sanders Rianna Saucedo Marie Schemitsch Shelby Schlicker Zion-Nahzir Scott Jessaca Shepherd Brianna Smith Makayla Smith Sophia Sowers Elizabeth Spangler Madison Spivey Lane Spradling Kylee Steward Caera Taylor Anna Thompson Maria Timberlake Katherine Trinque Searra Turner Za'Kiva Tvnes Emma Van Epps Rebekah Vaughn Caitlyn Watts Emma Waycaster Yasmine Weatherspoon Kalen White Alexus Wiggins Sommer Williams Amy Windham Anne-Hale Winter Marissa Faith Yarber

2022 PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

*Please confirm all performance 24 hours prior to the given start date via the statesings.com website, <u>msuchoir@msstate.edu</u> email, or by calling 662-325-3490. Performances are at First Baptist Church Starkville, unless otherwise listed.

<u>February</u>

15	Reflect & Rejoice: A Celebration of Black History through Music – 7:00 pm
	State Singers
19	Mass No. 2, in G Major, D 167 by Franz Schubert – 7:30 pm
	Cantaré (MSU's Chamber Singers) & Starkville Symphony Orchestra performs
April	
1	Spring Choral Concert with all ensembles – 7:00 pm

8 Suffrage Cantata by Andrea Ramsey performed by Schola Cantorum – 7:00 pm