



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Choral Activities

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY CHORAL DIVISION

PRESENTS

GRADUATE CHORAL CONCERT

featuring

MSU SUMMER CHOIR

Kyia King, *conductor*
Rana Agaoglu, *conductor*
Tate Allen, *conductor*
Kurtina Maholmes, *conductor*
John Williams, *conductor*
David Sommer, *conductor*

Jennifer Davis, *collaborating accompanist*

Phillip Stockton, *Graduate Coordinator &
Associate Director of Choral Studies*

June 27, 2023
Music Building Recital Hall

CHORAL EXCELLENCE, HEALING, & COMMUNITY

statesings.com

msuchoir@msstate.edu

Program

SAN'BONANI NAMHLA KUDIBENE

arranged by Michael Barrett
Traditional South Africa

Kyia King, conductor
Jaylen Stowers, soloist
Dr. Robert Damm, djembe

San'bonani is a typical greeting in the Zulu culture. The song is a call and response as is traditional of South African music. Namhla Kudibene is a song about war. This song was used to motivate troops and to create a sense of power through words. The movement of the choir is an attempt to recreate authentic Zulu practices.

*Good morning/Hello all of you.
Are you well?
Today we are together like the lion and the tiger
We have to respond to the threat of war
We will react*

DER ABEND

music by Johannes Brahms
text by: Fr. Schiller

Rana Agaoglu, conductor

Schiller's "Der Abend" was written in the fall of 1795 and first appeared in print that winter. Schiller noted that it was "each einem Gemälde" (based on a painting). That may have been so, but there is no hint in the literature as to which painting to which he was referring. "Der Abend" is an evening poem as an example of the German romantic love of nature and its rhythms that engendered individual poems and even entire cycles devoted to the seasons and the changing times of day.

*Let it sink, radiant God the fields thirst for refreshing dew;
The people languish; the steeds are weary — let the chariot sink down!
Behold the one who beckons to you, sweetly smiling from the sea's crystalline wave!
Does your heart recognize her?
Faster fly the steeds; Tethys, the divine one, beckons.
The driver leaps quickly from the chariot into her arms.
Cupid seizes the reins; the steeds stand still and drink at the cooling stream.
Ascending in the sky with quiet steps comes the fragrant night; sweet love follows.
Rest and love! Phoebus, the loving one, rests.*

MY SPIRIT SANG ALL DAY

music by Gerald Finzi
text by: Robert Bridges

Tate Allen, conductor

My Spirit Sang All Day is the third song in Seven Poems of Robert Bridges (1937) finished after his marriage to Joyce Black, who would remain his constant source of inspiration and encouragement. Seven Poems was completed after their marriage, it appears My Spirit Sang All Day was composed while the couple was still courting. Finzi brilliantly captures the essence of the emotion in his setting of this exquisite text.

VERLEIH UNS FRIEDEN

music by Felix Mendelssohn
text by: Martin Luther

Kurtina Maholmes, conductor

In 1830 Franz Hauser, a Viennese singer and Bach enthusiast, sent a Lutheran Hymnal, the Lutherisches Liedbuchlein, to Mendelssohn, who was in Rome on his Grand Tour. This treasury of words and music inspired Mendelssohn to compose six chorale cantatas, two motets, and the present hymn-setting, which takes only Luther's text, the music being entirely Mendelssohn's own. He wrote to Hauser in 1831: "I intend to set the little song Verleih uns Frieden as a canon with cello and bass". In the event, the canonic opening was for divided cellos (two cello parts), its theme both recalling the second subject from the "Hebrides" overture of 1830 and anticipating the opening clarinet motif from another overture, Die Schone Melusine (1833).
~John Rutter

*Mercifully grant us peace, Lord God, during our life on earth.
There is indeed no other who could fight for us than you, our God, alone.*

O VOS OMNES

**Music by Pau Casals
Traditional Latin text**

John Williams, conductor

Pau Casals was known during his professional career as Pablo Casals. He was a Catalan cellist and conductor. He is generally regarded as the pre-eminent cellist of the first half of the 20th century, and one of the greatest cellists of all time. He made many recordings throughout his career, of solo, chamber, and orchestral music, also as conductor, but he is perhaps best remembered for the recordings of the Bach Cello Suites he made from 1936 to 1939. O vos omnes is a responsory, originally sung as part of Roman Catholic liturgies for Holy Week, and now often sung as a motet. The text is adapted from the Latin Vulgate translation of Lamentations. It was often set, especially in the sixteenth century, as part of the Tenebrae Responsories for Holy Saturday

O PRAISE THE LORD

**Music by Ulysses Kay
Traditional Psalm 117**

David Sommer, conductor

This quiet, a cappella part song, the third in a set of eight (published in 1910) by Stanford with words by the nineteenth century poetess Mary Coleridge is a wonderful expression of the tranquillity and beauty of the scene, as described in the words. Stanford distances the sopranos in this piece, treating them as a solo line accompanied by the lower parts. The shape of the melody represents the flight of the bird, and the haunting repeated use of the word “blue” illustrates the timelessness of the moment, and the blue suspended sky.

Chorus Members

SOPRANO

Callie Ellis
Kyia King
Kurtina Maholmes

ALTO

Rana Agaoglu
Jordan Durham

TENOR

Tate Allen
Danny Davis
Kindall Gammell
Desmond Henderson
Nathaniel Shelton
Jaylen Stowers

BASS

Foster Ross
Kaz Shumpert
David Sommer
Daniel Todd
John Williams

SPECIAL THANKS

*Mr. Danny Davis, voice faculty
nielle Gaudé – choral administrator*

*Mrs. Jennifer Davis, Starkville High
Ms. Callie Ellis, summer scholars*

Thank you all for joining us for the concert this evening. It has been a pleasure to work with these conducting students this summer. We hope you enjoy the show!



msu_statesings



State Sings: Mississippi State University Choral Activities