



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Choral Activities

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY CHORAL ACTIVITIES



featuring

OPUS

TrebullDawgs

CANTARÉ

SCHOLA CANTORUM

STATE SINGERS

Dr. Nicholas Cummins, *conductor*

Dr. Phillip Stockton, *conductor*

Rachel Wood, *collaborative pianist*

Adonijah Mpinga, *conductor*

Sara Prator, *student conductor*

Natalia Gonzalez, *student conductor*

Kendall Austin, *student conductor*

December 3, 2024

First Baptist Church, Starkville

CHORAL EXCELLENCE, HEALING, & COMMUNITY

statesings.com

msuchoir@msstate.edu

PROGRAM

COMBINED CHOIRS

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

Arr. Paul Wohlgemuth
13th Century Plainchant

Bodie Dodson, baritone

OPUS

THE FIRST NOEL

arr. Dan Forrest
English Carol

Originally published in *Gilbert and Sandys Carols* (1833), the melody is unusual among English folk melodies in that it consists of one musical phrase repeated twice, followed by a refrain which is a variation on that phrase. The word "Noel" is the French term for Christmas and was frequently used as a synonym for Christmas throughout the medieval era.

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

Arr. John Englert
Medieval Christmas Antiphon

Sara Prator, student conductor

The *O Antiphons* are Magnificat antiphons used at Vespers on the last seven days of Advent in Western Christian traditions. They likely date to sixth-century Italy, when Boethius refers to the text in *The Consolation of Philosophy*. They subsequently became one of the key musical features of the days leading up to Christmas. The texts are best known in the English-speaking world in their paraphrased form in the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". Each text, in the original Latin, begins with the vocative particle "O". Each antiphon is a title of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. In the Roman rite, the O Antiphons are sung or recited for the Magnificat at Vespers from 17 December to 23 December.

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
Who mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God Appears.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.
O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine Advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight.*

A LA NANITA NANA

Arr. Ken Berg
Traditional Spanish Carol

Kirklyn Johnson & Bryce Taneri, tenors
Dr. Amy Catron, cello

The composer of the song for voice and piano *La nana, balada al Niño Jesús* was José Ramón Gomis, born in 1856 in Novelda, Alicante, Spain; the lyrics were written by Juan Francisco Muñoz y Pabón. The score was published in 1904. Ken Berg, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, has written and arranged choral music for more than 40 years and also founded the Birmingham Boys Choir.

*Come, let's sing a little lullaby, Come, let's sing a little,
My Jesus is sleepy. Blessed be, blessed be.
Come, let's sing a little lullaby, Come, let's sing a little,
My Jesus is sleepy. Blessed be, blessed be.
Little spring that runs clear & sonorous, Nightingale that in the forest,
Weeps as it sings, Hush, while the cradle rocks.
Come, let's sing a little lullaby, Come, let's sing a little lullaby.*

Angels We Have Heard on High

TrebulDawgs

UNDERNEATH THE TREE

Kelly Clarkson/ arr. Luke Yanosy

Zion-Nahzir Scott, mezzo-soprano

Underneath the Tree by Kelly Clarkson is a vibrant and spirited modern Christmas classic. Featuring upbeat rhythms and retro-inspired melodies, it captures the joy and warmth of the holiday season. The lyrics celebrate love and togetherness, making it a festive favorite and a perfect addition to any holiday performance.

THE PRAYER

Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion/arr. Adonijah Mpinga

Natalia Gonzalez and Darryl Brundidge, soloists

The Prayer, made famous by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli, is a timeless and heartfelt duet that has become a modern classic. Blending English and Italian lyrics, the song is a poignant plea for guidance, hope, and peace. Its soaring melodies and rich harmonies create an emotional and uplifting experience, making it a powerful centerpiece for any performance.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CANTARÉ

O NATA LUX

Thomas Tallis
Traditional Latin

*O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Mercifully deem worthy and accept the praises and prayers of your supplicants.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost ones,
Grant us to be made members of your holy body.*

LO, HOW A ROSE E'RE BLOOMING

arr. Mårten Jansson
Traditional German Carol

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, from tend stems hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung;
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
Isiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin mother kind;
To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Savior, when half spent was the night.
O flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.*

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Music by Ralph Blane
arr. Molly Ijames

O Come, All Ye Faithful

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Garrett Torbert, coordinator of voice
Mr. Peter Infanger, voice faculty
Dr. Daniel Stevens, Music Dept Chair
Dr. Tom Jenkins, Director of Music FBC, Starkville
First Baptist Church, Starkville

Dr. Roza Tulyaganova, voice faculty
Danielle Gaudé – choral administrator
Dr. Sophie Wang, collaborative piano faculty
Anne Catherine Ragsdale, collaborative piano faculty
First United Methodist Church - West Point
Music Department Faculty & Staff

Dr. Jeanette Fontaine, applied music coordinator
Ms. Cori Reece, voice faculty
First United Methodist Church - Starkville
Andy Smith, First Baptist Tech
Mississippi State University Choral Council
Dr. Terry Jayroe, College of Education Dean

SCHOLA CANTORUM

THIS LITTLE BABE *from a Ceremony of Carols*

Benjamin Britten
Words by Robert Southwell

Natalia Gonzalez, student conductor

*This little babe so few days old, is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake, though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmed wise the gates of hell he will surprise.
With tears he fights and wins the field, His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are banish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns Cold and Need, and feeble flesh his warrior's steed.
His camp is pitched in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, hay stalks his stakes; of shepherd he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound, the angels trumps alarum sound.
My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; stick to the tents that he hath pight.
Within his crib is surest ward; this little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly Boy.*

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Music & words by John Rutter

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

Music by Dan Forrest
Words by Howard Thurman

CHILDREN, GO WHERE I SEND THEE

Traditional Spiritual
Arr. by Kevin Phillip Johnson

Taylor Moore, soloist & Janiya Rutherford, rapper
Kyle Austin, Griffin Bowers, & Dylan Hall, djembe

Joy to the World!

STATE SINGERS

NOEL

Music by Todd Smith
Arr. Brad Holmes

Adonijah Mpinga, Jacob Glenn, Ethan Maness, & Bodie Dodson, soloists
Kyle Austin, Griffin Bowers, & Dylan Hall, djembe

Kituba (Creole-Central African Dialect) song about the coming of the Christ child. Accompanied by Djembe and Cowbell, this Congolese carol is an invitation to the joys and love of Christmas. Opening soloists invite you to join the chorus and celebrate...Noel!

*Noel! Noel! Jesus has come to live with us.
If you want to know the Child, you have to come kneel!*

THE VERY BEST TIME OF YEAR

Words & Music by John Rutter

MARY HAD A BABY

Words & Music by William Dawson

Kendall Austin, student conductor
Emma Woodward, soloist

CHRISTMAS SONG

Sarah Beth Heard, soloist

Arr. Ward Swingle

COMBINED CHOIRS

SILENT NIGHT

Arr. Edwin Fissinger
German Christmas Carol

UPCOMING CHORAL-VOCAL EVENTS

Visit www.statesings.com for more details

2025

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| February 20 | Black History Concert <i>featuring</i> Germantown High School & State Singers First Baptist Church - Starkville, MS |
| March 23 | <i>Gloria- John Rutter</i> Starkville Symphony Orchestra & State Singers First Baptist Church - Starkville, MS |
| April 3 | Spring Concert <i>featuring</i> Cantaré Music Building Lecture Hall |
| April 11 | <i>Lux featuring</i> Schola Cantorum, OPUS & State Singers First Baptist Church - Starkville, MS |
| April 22 & 24 | <i>Operatic Fusion-</i> State Opera Production Music Building Recital Hall |

For Tickets use this QR code below



PERSONNEL

OPUS

****Daniel Adejombo**
Nathaniel Aycock
Aiden Ayers
Hudson Bland
Chad Bryant
Deveunte Byrd

Anthony Chandler
Ellis Jackson
****Jaymar Jackson II**
Kirklyn Johnson
Erastus Lum
Bradley McCoy

Bryce McLane
Alexander Mosher
Austin Powell
Max Smaglick
Conner Stingley
Declan Storey

Richard Sullivan
Bryce Taneri
An'Tonio Theus
Dylan Thompson
Brodie Wesson
Jordan Young

Trebulldawgs

Avery Addison
Darryl Brundidge
Maddie Chapman
Bodie Dodson
Natalia Gonzalez

Will Mellen
Adonijah Mpinga
RJ Rutherford
Zion-Nahzir Scott

Ella Sharp
Mia Sharp
Caleb Studdie
Josh Tarver

Artiyuna Timmons
Ben Traffanstedt
Kacey Tucker
Emma Woodward

Cantaré

John Allison
Katherine Alonzo
Kyle Austin
Aiden Ayers
Griffin Bowers
Chad Bryant
Addison Coleman

Angel Dupre
****Kindal Gammill**
Annika Jerge
Kirklyn Johnson
Asia Kelley
****Taylor Moore**

Alexander Mosher
Micah Mudder
Mary Parish
Eva Claire Pettet
Lacie Pittsley
Austin Powell

Paulina Roman Medina
Amelia Summy
Dylan Thompson
Ben Traffanstedt
Riley Washburn
Sommer Williams

Schola Cantorum

Heaven Alvarado
Gabriella Arbesfeld
Andrea Bailey
Savannah Bishop
Audrey Bolin
Claire Anne Boudreaux
La'Miyiah Bounds
Mia Brooks
Kylie Bush
Sarah Elizabeth Chandlee
Kathryn Coghlan
Makenna Cooper
Lacey Crosslin
Jillian Dowdy

Angel Dupre
Kylie Evangelista
Ema Cait Freeman
Tebit Gang
Claire Hatfield
Sarah Beth Heard
Destiny Hill
Abigail Hoeniges
Naomi Hutchins
Angelina Jackson
Kate Jasper
Annika Jerge
Ava Grace Johnston
Kennedie Jordan

Sophia Grace Lindsey
Mary Anne Locke
Megan Marie
Allie McCoy
Sara McCracken
Lola McElhaney
****Taylor Moore**
Bella Oliff
Eva Claire Pettet
Lacie Pittsley
Sammi Platts
Hayden Claire Powers
Sarah Randolph

Trinity Roach
Cecily Rolfe
Malorie Ross
Janiya Rutherford
Brianna Smith
Sarah Sullivan
Amelia Summy
Brianna Teer
Artiyuna Timmons
Za'Kiya Tynes
Bekah Vaughn
Jamison Veasey
Jasmine Williams

State Singers

Kendall Austin
Madeline Chapman
Hannah Daniels
Bodie Dodson
Christopher Dutton
Jacob Glenn
Natalia Gonzalez
Emma Haines
Josh Hamann
Kaitlyn Hardy
Audrey Harper

Sarah Beth Heard
Justin Howard
Graham Hughes
Emily Jennings
Ian Jones
Alex Lewellyn
Jonathan Lindamood
Ethan Maness
Seth Matlock
Aniyah Mckissic
Meredith Molen

Adonijah Mpinga
****Matthew Parker**
William da Silva
Sara Prator
Emma Ray
Madalyn Ross
Ross Rutherford
Rianna Saucedo
Zion-Nahzir Scott
Max Smaglick

Brooke Smith
Amelia Spreen
****Bradley Stafford**
Jaylen Stowers
Caleb Studdie
****Anna-Katherine Thompson**
Jakob Vernon
Veronica Washington
Sydney Williams
Emma Woodward

**** December 2024 Graduate**

Festival of Carols

Angels we have heard on high

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? *[Refrain]*
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *[Refrain]*

Hark! the herald angels sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Refrain:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. *[Refrain]*

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. *[Refrain]*

O come, all ye faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
Refrain:
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!
2. God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created; *[Refrain]*
3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *[Refrain]*

Joy to the world

1. Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry Heart prepare him room,
And Heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns,
Let men their Songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.



hail
state



with praise our voices ring!

We  
Sing True 

