

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents

~The Sound of Us~

UCSA: University Chorus: Soprano/Alto Ensemble

UCTB: University Chorus: Tenor/Bass Ensemble

Treble Chamber Choir

University Chorus

Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director*

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Colin Cossi, *graduate conductor*

Addison Walton, *graduate conductor*

Abby Willson, *undergraduate conducting intern*

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

Linlin Uta, *collaborative pianist*

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

7:30 pm

Concert Hall



Program

UCSA: University Chorus Soprano/Alto Ensemble

Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director*
Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

- I Pharadisi* South African Hymn
arr. Brad Richmond
Addison Walton, *graduate conductor*
- Warrior Kim Baryluk
(b. 1959)
Abby Wilson, *undergraduate conducting intern*
- One Voice The Wailin' Jennys
Addison Walton, *graduate conductor*
- Shine Like Stars Pinkzebra

UCTB: University Chorus Tenor/Bass Ensemble

W. Bryce Hayes, *director*
Linlin Uta, *collaborative pianist*

- Baraka na Weve* Victor C. Johnson
(b. 1978)
Colin Cossi, *graduate conductor*
- Home on the Range Daniel E Kelley
(1843-1905)
- Jonah Rollo Dilworth
(b. 1970)
- Good Timber Susan LaBarr
(b. 1981)
Colin Cossi, *graduate conductor*
- There Has to Be a Song Andrea Ramsey
(b. 1977)

10-Minute Intermission

Program - *continued*

TCC: Treble Chamber Choir

W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

Si mes vers avaient des ailes

Reynaldo Hahn
(1874-1947)
arr. Tucker Biddlecombe

Jack's Valentine

Libby Larsen
(b. 1950)

Sigue

Ivette Herryman
(b. 1982)

Love is a Star

Rollo Dilworth
(b. 1970)

The Parting Glass

Trad.
arr. The Wailin' Jennys

University Choruses

Colin Cossi and Addison Walton, *graduate conductors*

I Shall Not Live in Vain

Colin Cossi
(b. 1994)

Colin Cossi, *graduate conductor*

I Sing Because I'm Happy

Charles H. Gabriel
(1856-1952)
arr. Kenneth Paden
adapted by Rollo Dilworth

Addison Walton, *graduate conductor*

Program Notes

IPharadisi is a traditional South African hymn celebrates life and the paradise that is to come with a text that translates to, “In paradise where all the dead are living, may we one day join them all there.” The initial melody is stated in unison and is carried in at least one voice throughout the entire piece. The harmonies become richer as voices are added and eventually blossoms in a full, four-voice texture as the procession to paradise culminates.

Kim Baryluk’s **Warrior** (1993) was written in response to the broad daylight murder of a woman by her stalker, a former health care worker against whom she had a restraining order. He shot her at a bus stop with a bunch of school children around. This was one of three murders of women (by their partners or ex-partners or former care givers) in the Winnipeg area in a space of about a month. Many individuals and groups sing this song on December 6th in remembrance of the women massacred in Montreal in 1989 and as a message of empowerment.

I was a shy and lonely child with the heavens in my eyes.
And as I walked along the lane I heard the echoes of her cries. I cannot fight,
I can not a warrior be. It’s not my nature nor my teaching. It is the womanhood in me.

I was a lost and angry youth, there were no tears in my eyes.
I saw no justice in my world, only the echoes of her cries. I cannot fight,
I can not a warrior be. It’s not my nature or my teaching. It is the womanhood in me.

I am an older woman now, and I will heed my own cries.
And I will a fierce warrior be ‘till not another woman dies. I can and will fight.
I can and will a warrior be. It is my nature, my duty. It is the sisterhood in me.

The Wailin’ Jennys are a Canadian music trio whose works are deeply influenced by bluegrass, Americana, and contemporary folk traditions. **One Voice**, written by Wailin’ Jenny’s member, Ruth Moody, is a simple musical expression that exemplifies the power of harmony, and the collective strength found in unity. This adaptation, arranged for treble chorus and accompanied by piano, employs three distinct vocal lines that converge into a singular, unified sound. As each voice is seamlessly blended into One, this piece is an emotional and stirring anthem about the transformative force of coming together and finding shared purpose. “...*This is the sound of all of us...*”

Pinkzebra is the pseudonym of a successful music producer and composer who has built an international brand as an industry leader in the world of music licensing, selling over 100,000 licenses for all forms of media. Pinkzebra is known for his uplifting and inspiring songs, upbeat background tracks, and sentimental music tracks. Millions of his fans discovered his music through its usage in viral YouTube videos, TV commercials, films, and TV shows. Also, as a top-selling choral music composer, Pinkzebra’s upbeat and positive songs, inspiring graduation songs, and beautiful winter songs have been performed by choirs around the world. **Shine like Stars** is celebratory offering that is bursting with positive energy and uplifting lyrics that are perfect for any choral occasion!

Listen up, take a chance. You can sing, you can dance. You can live like there’s no tomorrow.
Give it time and you’ll find there’s a rule, there’s a rhyme.
Move along and the rest will follow!
I want you to know, we shine like stars!

Program Notes - *continued*

Baraka Na Wewe sets a collection of blessings in the Swahili language with joyful, dancing rhythms!

Baraka na wewe	Blessings to you
Napenda furaha	We wish you joy
Napenda matumaini	We wish you hope
Napenda amani	We wish you peace
Napenda upendo	We wish you love

Home on the Range is sometimes referred to as the unofficial anthem of the American West. The lyrics were taken from the poem “My American Home” by Dr. Brewster M. Higley of Smith County, Kansas in 1871. The song has many cultural associations, including being used as a fight song at the University of Kansas and in Looney Toons cartoons.

Jonah is an original composition written in the style of an African-American spiritual. Similar to other Old Testament spirituals such as “Go Down, Moses”, “Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel”, and “Elijah Rock,” this composition is biographical in design. “Jonah” presents the concepts of freedom and deliverance as its principal themes.

Good Timber features a text by Douglas Malloch, the *Lumberman’s poet* who lived and worked at the turn of the century in Chicago, Illinois. Composer Susan LaBarr honors his complex life and artistic spirit: “Just as a tree grows stronger as it weathers storms, so can our experience of difficulty, grief, and loss make us more empathetic, understanding, and kind.”

There Has to Be a Song is a tradition piece for UCTB. The enduring words of this text, by minister Bob Benson (1930-1986) remind us that even in our darkest times, music can be there to guide us toward the light.

Composer Reynaldo Hahn was only thirteen years old when he set Victor Hugo’s poem ***Si mes vers avaient des ailes*** for voice and piano. Many of the hallmarks of Hahn’s compositional style are present in this art song—subtle piano accompaniment, intuitive text setting, unpredictable harmony, and a precious sense of sophistication and brevity. The text evokes a common sentiment in young people throughout the world – if only I were more brave, than maybe we would be in love.

Mes vers fuiraient, doux et frêles, Vers votre jardin si beau, Si mes vers avaient des ailes, Comme l’oiseau.	My verses would flee, sweet and frail, To your garden so fair, If my verses had wings, Like a bird.
Ils voleraient, étincelles, Vers votre foyer qui rit, Si mes vers avaient des ailes, Comme l’esprit.	They would fly, like sparks, To your smiling hearth, If my verses had wings, Like the mind.
Près de vous, purs et fidèles, Ils accourraient nuit et jour, Si mes vers avaient des ailes, Comme l’amour.	Pure and faithful, to your side They’d hasten night and day, If my verses had wings, Like love!

Program Notes - *continued*

Composer Libby Larsen writes of **Jack's Valentine**, "One might think of this piece as an "I wish I had said this instead" story. It is the brash inside echo of what so many of us stumble to put into words in the outside world. The "Jack" referred to in the title of this brief, no-holds-barred love song is American beat poet Jack Kerouac. Kerouac's style of poetry, sprung full-blown from post WWII early American languages, is hip, rhythmic, and directly to the point of its subject. Aldeen Humphreys' poem is a tribute to Jack Kerouac and a little packet of courage for shy lovers. Hey, you!

The text of *Sigue* derives from the poem of the same name, written by Cuban poet Nicolás Guillén (1902-1989). The poet asks the traveler not to mention him walking by the house of a certain woman who is "bad". The poet requests of the traveler that he continue walking and that he not stop, even if she calls him.

Camina, caminante, Sigue;	Walk traveler, continue walking;
Camina y no te pare, Sigue.	Walk and do not stop, continue walking.
Cuando pase po su casa	When you pass by her house
No le diga Que me bite	Do not tell her that you saw me,
Camina, caminante, Sigue.	Walk traveler, Continue walking.
No la mire si te llama, Sigue.	Do not look if she calls out for you.
Acuérdate que ella es mala, Sigue.	Remember that she is bad.

Love is a Star is a poem of hope and inspiration by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906). This gospel-style setting reminds us that hope can exist in the darkest hour, a testament lived by Dunbar as he escaped from slavery and became editor of the Dayton, Ohio newspaper, *Tattler*.

Singing **The Parting Glass** has become an annual traditional for TCC in our mid-semester Spring concerts. We were delighted to have the opportunity to sing this arrangement with its composers, The Wallin' Jennys, in 2023 in their Forbes Center Concert!

I Shall Not Live in Vain is a setting of the Emily Dickinson poem in a simple yet evocative round. The music seeks to bring the poem and its message to new voices eager to tell a story of hope: no matter how small, our actions that better the lives of others ensure that we "shall not live in vain."

Dr. Rollo Dilworth is an integral composer, author, and pedagogue in the contemporary choral landscape. He has a true gift for setting gospel and spiritual-inspired melodies and "**I Sing Because I'm Happy**" is no exception. Civilla D. Martin's traditional gospel hymn text "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" has been performed by many artists including Ethel Waters, Mahalia Jackson, and Whitney Houston. The infectious setting you will hear as our closer this evening was arranged by Kenneth Paden and recorded by the Georgia Mass Choir in 1992. Dilworth has adapted Paden's work with a keen eye and caring musical treatment of Civilla's original message, "I Sing Because I'm Happy."

JMU Ensemble Personnel

University Chorus: Soprano/Alto Ensemble

Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy, *director*

Elizabeth Williams *collaborative pianist*

Abby Wilson, *undergraduate manager/conductor*

Kaileigh Atkinson	Mia Lapointe	Natalia Settipani
Emily Barchard	Cambria Layton	Anna Shields
Alexandra Bartlett	Chloe Long	Abby Smith
Kara Blakley	Erin Malloy	N'Deye Sock
Abby Bryan	Samantha Martinez	Jessica Spindler
Anna Bryant	Kira Miller	Ainsley Taylor
Laura Cook	Lauren Motter	Annabel Thrush
Hailey Donithan	Gianna Ortiz	Libby Van Meter
Mariah Eakin	Taylor Pearce	Janalyn Vance
Maggie Goodman	Charlotte Peter	Gina Vaughan
Jamie Han	Lilija Pflanz	Abby Wilson
Sophie Jones	Lily Pinchbeck	Seven Zuschin
Cali Krause	Alexandra Reynolds	

University Chorus: Tenor/Bass Ensemble

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Linlin Uta, *collaborative pianist*

Thayer Causer	Jonas Kerlin	Daniel Parsons
Garrison Cornwell	Vannmartin Leang	Bruce Russell
Alex Dickerson	Roman Leonard	Will Sanfilippo
Joshua Grimes	Isaac Markow	Matt Underwood
Luke Harrell	Shaun McGovern	Brian V. Garmendia
Habib Kamara	Andrew Miller	Aidan Williamson
Will Keppel	Thomas Murphy	

TCC: Treble Chamber Choir

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes, *director*

Elizabeth Williams, *collaborative pianist*

Yasmine Akoum	Sophie Le	Kaytria Powers
Alison Brown	Emma Leudesdorff	Savannah Rixon
Jacqueline Copeland	Brooke Lindsay	Allie Ranton
Sarah Damon	Marin March	Sophia Sharlau
Hailey Donithan	Nico Murphy	Abby Smith
Rachel Griffith	Annea Phillips	Jaya Whaley

SP '25 JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY CHORAL AREA

Dr. Jo-Anne van der Vat-Chromy
Director of Choral Activities, Co-Coordinator of the Ensemble Area
Professor of Choirs, Conducting, and Choral Music Education

Dr. W. Bryce Hayes
Associate Director of Choral Activities
Professor of Choirs, Choral Music Education

Colin Cossi, *DMA Choral Conducting Graduate Student*
Addison Walton, *DMA Choral Conducting Graduate Student*
Ivan Godoy, *MM Choral Conducting Student*, Marlow Lewis, *Choral Librarian*

JMU CHORAL COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

Elizabeth Williams, *The Madison Singers, TCC, and UCSA*
Amy Robertson, *The JMU Chorale*
Linlin Uta, *UCTB*

UNDERGRADUATE ENSEMBLE MANAGERS

Mac Creswick, Alex Dickerson, Kelly Donlan,
Kevin Landry, Christina Santiago, *TMS*
Natalie Gillum, Allie Ranton, Emalee Stepp, *JMU Chorale*
Jackie Copeland, Allie Ranton, *Treble Chamber Choir*
Hailey Donithan, Lauren Motter, Natalia Settipani, *UCSA*
Brian Valladares Garmendia, *UCTB*

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