



THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL

Georgia State University Singers
Emory University Concert Choir
and
The UGA Hodgson Singers

Deanna Joseph, Jonathan Easter, Dan Bara, *conductors*

March 27, 2025, 7:00 pm

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

The Program

The University of Georgia Hodgson Singers

Dr. Dan Bara, *conductor*

I. Praise and Adoration

Gaudete Omnes

Translation from Latin:

Rejoice all and be glad, for behold the longed-for one comes.

Enter into his presence with exultation. Know that he is our hope. Alleluia!

Jan Sweelinck
(1562-1621)

Plaudite, Psallite

Translation from Latin:

Clap your hands, sing praises, rejoice in God, all the earth.

Let all nations bless the Lord, joining in his praises.

For the Lord has had mercy on us,

and has led captivity captive, wonderful and glorious for all ages. Hallelujah!

Kestutis Daugirdas
(b. 1985)

II. Folks Songs of Love and Loss

Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye (Ireland)

arr. Alice Parker
(1925-2023)

When going on the road to sweet Athy
A stick in me hand and a drop in me eye
A doleful damsel I heard cry,
Johnny I hardly knew ye.
With your drums and guns and drums and guns
The enemy nearly slew ye
Oh darling dear, Ye look so queer
Johnny I hardly knew ye.

Where are your eyes that look so mild
When my poor heart you first beguiled
Why did ye skedaddle from me and the child
Oh Johnny, I hardly knew ye.

Where are your legs with which ye run
When first you learned to carry a gun
Indeed your dancing days are done
Oh Johnny, I hardly knew ye.
I'm happy for to see ye home
All from the island of Sulloon
So low in flesh, so high in bone
Oh Johnny I hardly knew ye.

Hela Rotan (Indonesian Folk Song)

arr. Ken Steven
(b. 1993)

Indodana (South Africa)

arr. Michael Barret and
Ralf Schmitt

Translation of isiXhosa:

The Lord has taken his son who lived amongst us
The son of the Lord God was crucified.
Hololo Father Jehova!

III. Faith & Hope

Unclouded Day

Josiah Alwood, arr. Shawn Kirchner

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
O they tell me of a home far away;
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise;
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

Refrain:

O the land of cloudless day,
O the land of an unclouded day.
O they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise,
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,
O they tell me of that land far away,
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom
Sheds its fragrance thro' the uncloudy day. *Refrain*

O they tell me of a King in His beauty there,
And they tell me that mine eyes shall behold
Where He sits on the throne that is whiter than snow,
In the city that is made of gold. *Refrain*

O they tell me that He smiles on His children there,
And His smile drives their sorrows all away;
And they tell me that no tears ever come again,
In that lovely land of unclouded day. *Refrain*

The Emory University Concert Choir

Jonathan Easter, *conductor*

Matthew Brower, *pianist*

The Music of Living

Dan Forrest
(b. 1978)

I Sowed the Seeds of Love

Gustav Holst
(1874-1934)

A Grass-Green Pillow

Joshua Shank
(b. 1980)

O Love

Elaine Hagenberg
(b. 1979)

Twa Tanbou

Sydney Guillaume
(b. 1982)

Walk Together, Children

Moses Hogan
(1957-2003)

The Georgia State University Singers

Dr. Deanna Joseph, *conductor*

Justin Maxey, *pianist*

“... things unknown but longed for still...”

Music of Longing and Hope

...for reassurance and renewal

Hail Gladdening Light

Charles Wood
(1866-1926)

...for love and companionship

Vidi speciosam

Rafaella Aleotti
(1575-1620)

...for liberty and equality

The Caged Bird Sings for Freedom

Joel Thompson
(b. 1988)

Maya Angelou, text

Jack Lloyd, *clarinet*

Dayela Lima, *mezzo soprano*

...for forgiveness and resolution

Agnus Dei

Ernesto Herrera
(b. 1988)

...for rest and spiritual homecoming

Soon I Will Be Done

arr. Stacey V. Gibbs
(b. 1962)

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Hail, Gladdening Light

Music: Charles Wood

Hail! gladdening Light, of His pure glory poured
Who is th'immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
Holiest of Holies--Jesus Christ our Lord!

Now we are come to the Sun's hour of rest;
The lights of evening round us shine;
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine!

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
With undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own. Amen.

Vidi Speciosam

Music: Rafaella Aleotti

Text adapted by Aleotti from *The Song of Solomon:3*

*Vidi speciosam sicut columbam ascendentem desuper rivos aquarum
Cuius inaeestimabilis odor erat nimis in vestimentis eius.
Et sicut dies verni, flores rosarum circumdabant eam, et lilia convallium.*

I saw the fair one rising like a dove above the streams of water
whose priceless fragrance clung to her garments.
And as on a spring day, she was surrounded by roses and lily-of-the-valley.

The Caged Bird Sings for Freedom

Text by Maya Angelou

“Caged Bird” from *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing*”

A free bird leaps on the back of the wind and floats downstream till the current ends and dips his wing in the orange sun rays and dares to claim the sky

But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage can seldom see through his bars of rage; his wings are clipped and his feet are tied so he opens his throat to sing. The caged bird sings with a fearful trill of things unknown but longed for still and his tune is heard on the distant hill for the caged bird sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn and he names the sky his own. But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream; his wings are clipped and his feet are tied so he opens his throat to sing.

Agnus Dei

Music: Ernesto Herrera

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Grant us peace.

Soon I Will Be Done

Soon I will be done-a wit' de troubles of de worl', goin' home to live wit' my God.

No more weeping and a-wailing, I'm goin' to live with God.

I want to meet my mothuh, I want to meet my fathuh, I'm goin' to live with God.

Combined Choirs

Jonathan Easter, *conductor*

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus
(1949-2014)

THE ARTISTS

The Georgia State University Singers

Soprano 1

Astrid Adams
Laila Atkins
Kiley Carpenter
Sudha Gururaj
Kai Kvamme
Liana Perlman
Tamera Tabb
Madison Tiegreen
Audrey Williams

Soprano 2

Carah Charles
Emma Johnson
Audrey Jung
Megan Littlepage
Carolyn Mielke
Kylie Pauls
Alessandra Harms Roberson
Rebecca Simantov

Alto 1

Madison Chambers
Isabella Chaney
Kelly Grba
Ja'Bree Johnson
Adia Nejedly
Anne Sedlacek
Atasha Widemond

Alto 2

Kiana Castellano
Christine Choi
Jothea Elisa
Abigail Forester
Rachel Hilliard
Rae Laury
Dayela Lima
Morgan McCray
Leaija Stevenson

Tenor 1

TyRese A. Floyd
Shaun Gibbons
Trey House
Micah Mondt
Tyler Stevenson

Tenor 2

Allen Brooks
Owen Davis
Trevor Kytola
Nathan Schreer
Matt Vu
James Wooten

Bass 1

Christian Aycock
Jeremiah Brown
Maxwell Clements
Myles Green
Ryan Griffin
Ben Longo
Anthony Menardi
Jonathan Neal
Caleb Nelson
David Rambo Serrano

Bass 2

Ka'Von Anderson
David Champion
Sunoo Kim
Jason Lee
Cullen Miller
Michael Mobley
Benjamin Varner

Dr. Deanna Joseph is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at the Georgia State University School of Music where she conducts the University Singers and leads the master's program in choral conducting. A recent review of her work states, "[t]he choir sings with great musicality, excellent intonation, clear diction, and a healthy and beautiful pallet of tone colors..." (*The Choral Scholar*).

Dr. Joseph's teaching and scholarship has been recognized with several awards, including the Georgia State University College of the Arts Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award in 2021, and in 2019, the Georgia State University Alumni Distinguished Professor Award, a university-wide award given to "a model of the teacher-scholar ideal.". In 2015, she was selected from over 800 faculty members to receive the College of Arts and Sciences' Outstanding Teacher Award.

Under Dr. Joseph's direction, the Georgia State University Singers have been invited to perform at the national conference of the American Choral Directors Association twice, in 2021 and in 2025 and have also performed at numerous ACDA region and state music conferences. In April of 2023, the Georgia State University Singers performed two concerts at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul, Turkey. In May of 2017, the University Singers under won first place in the renowned *Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition* while on a concert tour of Austria and Bavaria. In May of 2013, the University Singers competed in *La Florilège Vocal de Tours* where the choir placed second overall in the mixed choir category and Dr. Joseph was honored with the *Prix du chef de choer* (conducting prize).

During Dr. Joseph's tenure, the Georgia State University Choirs have been hired to sing two productions of David Bintley's *Carmina Burana* with the Atlanta Ballet: in 2013 (North American premiere performances) and 2017 as well as several collaborations with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Opera, the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, and Andrea Bocelli.

The choir's three professional recordings, *Evening Hymn*, *Heavenly Display: Songs Inspired by Shaker Tunes*, and *Requiem* (Gothic Records), are distributed internationally by Naxos. The *American Record Guide* review states "There are no runts in the repertoire litter...[and] [t]he Georgia State choir of 40 is very good at all of it: radiant as dusk approaches, but hushed and sensitive to the coming darkness as shadows deepen and fall." The disks have been featured several times on National Public Radio's program, *With Heart and Voice*.

Dr. Joseph is an active guest conductor and headline clinician and has conducted all-state and honor choirs in more than twenty-five states. She is a frequent conductor of choral-orchestral repertoire and has led performances of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation* and *Lord Nelson Mass*, Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, Schubert's *Mass in A-flat* and Bruckner's *Mass in D Minor*.

Dr. Joseph's research in 19th-century choral-orchestral performance-practice has led to invited presentations on the topic at several division conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and at the national convention for the National Collegiate Choral Organization. In October of 2012, she was selected as one of 25 presenters from ten countries to speak at the Lund Choral Festival in Sweden.

Prior to her appointment at Georgia State University, Dr. Joseph served on the faculties at Smith College, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Dr. Joseph holds conducting degrees from the Eastman School of Music, where she was awarded the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize. She is the founder and artistic director of the Atlanta Summer Conducting Institute (ASCI), a weeklong, summer conducting master class that draws conductors from across the country.

The internationally award-winning **Georgia State University Singers** is the School of Music's premier vocal ensemble. Selected by competitive audition, the choir represents the diverse population of Georgia State University. In April of 2023, the choir performed at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul, Turkey. In May of 2017, the University Singers won first place in the renowned Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition during a tour of Austria and Germany. The choir's three professional recordings, *Evening Hymn*, *Heavenly Display: Songs Inspired by Shaker Tunes*, and *Requiem* (Gothic Records), are distributed internationally by Naxos and have been featured on National Public Radio's, *With Heart and Voice*. The ensemble regularly appears at professional music conferences and enjoys frequent collaborations with the Atlanta Ballet, the Atlanta Opera, the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

Justin Maxey holds an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance from Mercer University, a Master of Music in Organ Performance and Literature from The Eastman School of Music, and a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance with minors in voice and piano from Shorter College. Justin's has played organ at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, St. Alban's, Ely Cathedral, Christ Church (Dublin, Ireland), St. Paul's (London), Spivey Hall, The Cathedral of St. Philip, Peachtree Road UMC, and the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. He recorded a nationally released CD with the Shorter College Chorale entitled "Beautiful River". Justin won first place and hymn-playing awards

in several competitions and was a finalist at the 2019 Longwood Gardens Organ Competition. Justin has over 18 years of experience serving churches. In addition to his position at All Saints, he is music director and pianist for Vespers at Lenbrook, music director and pianist for the Atlanta Opera, and collaborative artist for choirs at Georgia State University. He often consults on organ-building projects and performs dedicatory concerts and solo recitals.

The Emory University Concert Choir

Soprano 1

Jordan Averett
Greta Franke
Tori Mooney
Alexa Schwartz

Alto 1

Kaley Frye
Ally Mandell
Dhwani Venkatarangan

Tenor 1

Julian Agudelo
Braden James
Jaiden Suddee

Bass 1

Austin Beale
Will Eaglesham
Neeraj Palnitkar
Trey Peterson

Soprano 2

Grace Chen
Aidan Kane
Ashwini Narayanan
Sejal Patel
Rachel Warhaftig

Alto 2

Isabella Colindres
Aine Devins
Francis Marquez
Ava Sandstrom

Tenor 2

Edward Cao
Varun Karry
Alex Moss

Bass 2

Deven Allen
Aidan Conley
Wonjae Lee
Carson Tomlinson

The Concert Choir is Emory's select chamber choir. Singers come from across the country and round the world. All are students at the University with a wide variety of academic majors. The choir sings sacred and secular repertoire from the Middle Ages to the present, from chant to new commissions. The choir has sung at both the southern and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, an honor reserved for the nation's finest choral ensembles. It has toured internationally and has sung at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the Vatican in Rome, and the Alhambra in Seville.

Under the direction of Dr. Eric Nelson, the Emory Choirs represent long-standing traditions in the Emory community, with performances including the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, solo concerts including a variety of choral repertoire, masterworks with the symphony orchestra, and joint concerts with Emory's a cappella groups. Jon Easter is serving as interim director of Choral Studies while Dr. Eric Nelson is on medical leave.

Jon Easter is celebrated for his moving expressivity and musical artistry across multiple instruments and as a conductor. He performs regularly with Emory's Concert Choir and Atlanta Master Chorale, serving as both accompanist and assistant conductor. His expertise has also been showcased in performances with the Atlanta Master Chorale at ACDA and AGO conventions at regional and national levels. Throughout his career, Easter has held significant positions as organist and choir director at Saint Paul's by the Sea Episcopal in Jacksonville, FL, Roswell Presbyterian Church in Roswell, GA, and Saint Mark United Methodist Church in Atlanta, GA. His collaborations with renowned singers, including multiple recitals with Jamie Barton—featuring a recording of Lee Hoiby's *Bon Appétit!* and participation in the Metropolitan Opera virtual Gala—further highlight his distinguished career. Easter holds an undergraduate degree in organ performance from Shorter College, where he studied with Peter Dewitt. He earned double master's degrees in choral conducting and organ performance from Emory University under Eric Nelson and Timothy Albrecht. He also pursued additional conducting studies with Donald Nally and Martha Shaw and organ studies with Bill Evans and Alan Morrison.

Matthew Brower is a pianist, coach, and educator whose expertise spans a variety of genres, from classical piano, chamber music, opera, and art song to musical theatre and jazz. He is an Artist Affiliate in Piano at Emory University and a member of 6-WIRE, a violin-erhu-piano trio that combines classical chamber music with styles from around the world. Matthew has appeared in many prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Kimmel Center, and the Shanghai Oriental Art Center. As a vocal coach and choral accompanist, he has held positions at Opera Philadelphia, Westminster Choir College, the University of Pennsylvania, the Curtis Institute Summerfest Young Artist Program, the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy, and Opera in the Ozarks. He received his doctoral and master's degrees in Collaborative Piano from the University of Michigan and his bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

The University of Georgia Hodgson Singers

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Ava Bogarde	Marianna Baccus	Noah Colwell	JR Banitt
Zaria R. Doss	Elle Dignam	Aidan Eclavea	Milo Bauman
Hope Unger	Quinn Dillard	Ian Harding	Thomas Dixon *
Victoria Goodnature	Sarah Dudley	Trey Heaton	Peter Kandra
Shelby Laird *	Elisa Garcia-Carreras	Rayvon Love *	Owen Margaret-Verrett
Joy McCarthy	Sydney Godfrey	Will Pollard	Walter Moody
Laurel McFarland	Caroline Malcom	Julian Rivera-	Braden Rymer *
Grace Ann Miller	Danielle Olivares	Summerville	Sam Son
Nova Senkyrick	Shayna Suddeth	Liam Mueller	Liam Taylor
Meera Srinivasan	Taya Taylor	Sean Wilson	Josh Wagner *
Audrey Vazquez	De'Nasia Thomas		
Lillie Sims	Audrey Raynor		* = denotes graduate
Margaret Wilson	Danielle Vergara		student conductor

The **UGA Hodgson Singers** was formed by E. Pierce Arant Jr. in the late 1970's as The UGA Concert Choir and continues to serve as the flagship ambassadorial choral ensemble of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia. Comprised of UGA's most gifted and dedicated singers, this ensemble provides vibrant, pre-professional ensemble training for the next generation of professional singers, choral music educators, and talented choral enthusiasts. Membership in the UGA Hodgson Singers is open to all UGA students and celebrates excellent musicianship skills, a sophisticated and flexible vocal technique, thoughtful interpretative ideas, and a passion for music-making.

The ensemble has appeared in concert in recent years with The King' Singers, Kathleen Battle, Andrea Bocelli, Tenebrae, the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and The Knights Chamber Orchestra. In addition to winning the Grand Prix at the International Choral Competition Ave Verum in 2014 and won 2nd prize at the prestigious Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition (Germany) in spring of 2023. The choir has performed by invitation at the ACDA Southern Division conventions in 2014, 2018, and 2024, and for the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in 2012, 2017, and 2023. Its first professional recording, *Grace Immaculate*, is distributed by Naxos on the Gothic Records label and is available on all streaming platforms.

The UGA Hodgson Singers is one of seven choirs at the University of Georgia, including the University Chorus, Men's Glee Club, Women's Glee Club, Choral Project, Repertory Singers and the African American Choral Ensemble. Each ensemble performs in public concerts each semester, and often combine for major choral-orchestral master work performances. Non-music-majors comprise the bulk of the membership in the choral program, enriching each ensemble with a class profile that represents the full academic and cultural diversity of the university as a whole.

Daniel Bara is the Interim Director of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia and serves as the John D. Boyd UGA Foundation Professor of Choral Music and the Director of Choral Activities where he oversees seven university choral ensembles as well as the graduate choral conducting program. His university choirs have performed by juried invitation for state, regional, and national conventions of ACDA, MENC, and IMC.

The UGA Hodgson Singers under Bara's direction won the Grand Prix at the International Choral Competition Ave Verum in Baden, Austria in 2014 and has performed at Southern Division ACDA Conventions in 2014 and 2018 with an invitation to perform in the 2024 conference in Louisville, KY. In May of 2023 the UGA Hodgson Singers won 2nd prize at the prestigious Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition in Germany, where their performances were categorized as "Excellent on an International Level." Their 2017 Gothic Records professional recording, *Grace Immaculate*, is distributed internationally by Naxos. Recent professional collaborations between Bara and the UGA Hodgson Singers include performances with Kathleen Battle, Andrew Bocelli, The Knights Chamber Orchestra, internationally acclaimed vocal sextet The King's Singers with whom they premiered a jointly commissioned piece by Nico Muhly in 2018, the acclaimed British professional choir. Tenebrae, and the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra.

Prior to his appointment at UGA, Dr. Bara was the Director of Choral Activities at East Carolina University, where he received the UNC Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award and the Robert L. Jones Award for Outstanding Teaching, and released two internationally distributed choral recordings, *Greater Love* (2007) and *Eternal Light* (2010) with Gothic Records. In 2001 he won the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize given at the Eastman School of Music, and the ACDA National Student Conducting Competition (Graduate Division) awarded at the National Convention in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Bara is in regular demand as a guest conductor and clinician, having conducted all-state and honor choirs in 20 states and Carnegie Hall, and has served as clinician for conferences sponsored by NAFME, ACDA, AGO, and other school and church musical organizations. He is a past-president of NC-ACDA, has held the Artistic Directorship of the New York State Summer School of the Arts – School of Choral Studies (2007-2009), and has served as conductor of the World Youth Honor Choir at Interlochen Arts Camp (2004-2006).

Dr. Bara holds the DMA degree in conducting from the Eastman School of Music, organ and conducting degrees from the University of Michigan, and is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy. At UGA, Dr. Bara conducts the UGA Hodgson Singers, and oversees the graduate conducting student recital choir, The Repertory Singers.

Special thanks to Lisa Beale for coordinating dinner for tonight's singers and the reception following the concert.

We also thank the PRUMC Friends of Music for sponsoring tonight's reception.

2024-2025 Music and Arts Season

Upcoming Events

Celebrate the Joy: 100 Years of Music Making

Sunday, May 4, 7:00 pm

PRUMC Chancel Choir, Georgia Boy Choir, Doxology Youth Choir, Orchestra
Scott Atchison, *Conductor*

The Music and Arts Program celebrates the church's centennial with a program of beloved pieces of our church community and music that honors the rich history, artistic excellence and legacy of Music and Arts at Peachtree Road.

\$15 suggested donation.

Atlanta Summer Organ Festival

Wednesday, June 25, 7:30 pm

Paul Jacobs

Heralded as "one of the finest organists and teachers of our day," by Zachary Woolfe of The New York Times, the internationally celebrated organist Paul Jacobs combines a probing intellect and extraordinary technical mastery with an unusually large repertoire, both old and new. Mr. Jacobs studied at the Curtis Institute of Music and at Yale University. He joined the faculty of The Juilliard School in 2003 and was named chairman of the organ department in 2004, one of the youngest faculty appointees in the school's history.

\$15 suggested donation. Dessert reception following the recital.

