

Winthrop University
College of Visual and Performing Arts
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Ensemble Series

ALUMNI CHOIR

DR. ROBERT EDGERTON, CONDUCTOR

DR. KATHERINE KINSEY, CONDUCTOR

DR. JEREMY MIMS, CONDUCTOR

ZINORL BROÑOLA, PIANO

HOMECOMING CONCERT

November 11th, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.-Barnes Recital Hall

Bring Me All Your Dreams

Christopher H. Harris
(b. 1971)

Ohtul

Paert Uusberg
(b. 1987)

Leonardo Dreams

Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)

Chorale

Olivia Newton, soprano

Lillie, Kyger, soprano

Lorynn Kyger, soprano

Kaylee Stanaland, soprano

Chelsea Stepp, alto

Emma Swire-Clark, soprano

james Gragg, percussion

Wren Thompson, percussion

Hallelujah, from the Mount of Olives

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Dr. Robert Edgerton

Sing Me to Heaven

Daniel Gawthrop
(b. 1949)

Dr. Jeremy Mims

He Watching Over Israel

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Dr. Katherine Kinsey

Alleluia

**Randall Thompson
(1899-1984)**

*Dr. Jeremy Mims
Alumni Choir*

Silence and Music

**Ralph Vaughn Williams
(1872-1958)**

Gaur Akelarre

**Josu Elberdin
(b. 1976)**

Hold Fast to Dreams

**Roland Carter
(b. 1942)**

Blue Setzer, tenor

Flight Song

(b. 1980)

Kim André Arnesen

Chorale

***Join us for "Holiday Delights," on December 2nd for our annual fundraiser. Scan the QR code below to purchase your tickets.**



Program Notes:

Ohtul is an Estonian folk song arranged by Paert Uusberg. The composer is an active composer and choral singer, versed in Estonian choral culture. The text of this piece reads:

The little bird grows silent
as the wind blows.
The small flower falls sleep
caressed by the dew.

Twilight blushes
as she kisses the night.
The forest trees sleep
in memory and silence.

They are wistful
for my song,
now a silent memory,
as it paddles far away.

Bring Me All Your Dreams, by Christopher H. Harris, is based on the poem "The Dream Keeper" by Langston Hughes. The poem is about protecting our dreams from the harsh realities of life before they are crushed by "the two rough fingers of the world." Dr. Christopher H. Harris is a prominent music educator, conductor, composer, and performer originally from Fort Worth, Texas. He currently holds the position of Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Arkansas Tech University, where he conducts various choral groups and teaches courses in choral methods, conducting, and arranging. With a strong educational background, he earned a Ph.D. in Choral Music Education from Florida State University and master's in Choral Conducting from Ithaca College. Before his academic career, Harris achieved success as a public school teacher in Houston, Texas, earning accolades and honors for his choirs. He is also a published composer, receiving recognition and awards for his compositions, which have been performed internationally. Dr. Harris has a rich history of performing as a baritone soloist and continues to lead choirs that receive numerous performance invitations and honors.

Leonardo Dreams is by the prominent composer and conductor Eric Whitacre. Through music, Eric Whitacre aimed to capture the sensation of soaring over the rooftops and towers of an Italian Renaissance city, just as Leonardo da Vinci had imagined. He gained international recognition for his revolutionary virtual choir projects, where singers from across the globe come together virtually to create harmonious choral performances. Whitacre's musical compositions, such as "Lux Aurumque" and "Sleep," have left an indelible mark on contemporary choral music. His innovative and technologically-driven approach to music has earned him numerous awards and accolades, establishing him as a leading figure in choral music.

Hallelujah from the Mount of Olives by Ludwig van Beethoven, a renowned classical composer. Beethoven is celebrated for his influential body of work, including piano sonatas, string quartets, symphonies, and choral compositions. After moving to Vienna in 1792 to study under the guidance of Franz Joseph Haydn, Beethoven's talents flourished, and he went on to create numerous remarkable compositions. In 1802, he composed "Christ on the Mount of Olives," a deeply personal portrayal of Christ's experience in the Garden of Gethsemane. The "Hallelujah Chorus," known as "Welten singen Dank und Ehre," is a magnificent piece from this oratorio and has been performed and recorded by choirs worldwide. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir's rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus," featured on the album "100 Years: Celebrating A Century Of Recording Excellence," showcases the choir's exceptional ability to deliver sacred music with both power and grace.

Sing Me to Heaven by Daniel Gawthrop explores themes of longing and the desire for a spiritual connection. The text, which express a yearning to be carried to a heavenly realm through song, are mirrored in the music's soaring harmonies and expressive dynamics. The composition takes the listener on a transformative journey. I apologize for the confusion earlier. Daniel E. Gawthrop is a well-known American composer, conductor, and educator, particularly in the field of choral music. Born in 1949, he has composed a wide range of choral works, and his compositions are highly regarded for their craftsmanship and emotional depth. He has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to choral music and has gained recognition for his ability to create music that resonates deeply with both performers and audiences. "Sing Me to Heaven" is one of his notable choral compositions, celebrated for its beauty and emotional impact.

He Watching Over Israel is an aria from Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio "Elijah," which tells the story of the Old Testament prophet. The aria, taken from the book of Psalms, conveys the theme of God's protective care over the people of Israel. It is a jubilant and uplifting piece that reflects confidence, security, and divine protection. Mendelssohn's composition captures the essence of faith and assurance in God's providence. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was a renowned German composer,

conductor, and pianist of the Romantic era. He was celebrated for his musical talent and innovation, with notable contributions to orchestral, chamber, and choral music.

Alleluia by Randall Thompson is a celebrated choral composition that expresses joy, praise, and thanksgiving through music. It is characterized by lush harmonies and is often performed in a spiritual context to evoke a sense of reverence and elation, despite not having a specific narrative. Randall Thompson was an American composer known for his contributions to choral music. He was born in New York City and studied at Harvard University, where he later became a professor. Thompson's compositions are noted for their accessibility and emotional depth. He was a prolific composer of choral works, including "Alleluia," which became one of his most famous compositions. His music is celebrated for its lyricism and expressive melodies. Thompson received numerous awards and honors throughout his career and left a lasting legacy in American choral music, with his works continuing to be performed and admired for their beauty and craftsmanship.

Silence and Music composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams, is the setting of a poem by his wife Ursula in 1953 to form part of "A Garland for the Queen", a collection of ten tributes to the newly-crowned Queen Elizabeth II by leading British composers and poets. In its harmonic language, floating soprano part, unaccompanied scoring, and eerie atmosphere, it is a tribute 'to the memory of Charles Villiers Stanford and his Blue Bird' and mirrors Stanford's masterwork. Ralph Vaughan Williams was a renowned romantic composer. He studied history at Cambridge and music at the Royal College of Music, where he was taught by Parry, Wood, and Stanford. Vaughan Williams believed in the importance of music education and wrote practical competition pieces as well as church music.

Gaur Akelarre by Josu Elberdin tells the story of a coven of witches and warlocks preparing for the night through energetic rhythms and interesting melodic leaps and harmonic passages. Elberdin began his musical studies at Pasaia Musikal Conservatory, where he earned a degree as a piano and singing teacher. He is also a UPV (Universidad del Pas Vasco) graduate in social education. He has been a music teacher at Pasaia's Musical School since 2000, and he has also been an organist at Nuestra Señora del Carmen de Trintxerpe Church (Pasaia) since 1991. He has also written compulsory scores for international choral competitions such as the Tolosa International Choral Competition, Taipei International Choral Festival, Europa Cantat Junior, World Choral Symposium Argentina 2011 and Barcelona 2017, Quincena Musical de San Sebastián International Festival, Musikaste, and others.

Translation

Today coven, forests and meadows
colors of night, jai! (Cheer)
we celebrate our graces,
let us come.
Prepare, prepare now everything
Come, Juana Vicenta, come to our house
take the cauldron.
Go, Josemari and don't forget the herbs
if you don't do it the intxixu will put us in the pot.
(shouts of joy)
(expression of emotion)
Today, Coven! (shouts of joy)

Hold Fast to Dreams by Roland Carter is based on the poems "Dreams" and "Freedom's Plow" by Langston Hughes. Langston Hughes's "Dreams" advises us to nurture our dreams and that life has no meaning without them. "Freedom's Plow" describes Thomas Jefferson's immorality and hypocrisy in the Declaration of Independence. The American political system was founded on the Declaration of Independence, which sought to prevent oppression, tyranny, and despotism. Thomas Jefferson owned slaves who were governed without consent. The poem aims to recognize when a system is unjust and to redefine freedom so that it is inclusive of all. Roland M. Carter is a renowned musician, conductor, and professor, celebrated for his extensive contributions to American music. During his 23-year tenure at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, he excelled as a conductor, teacher, and scholar while actively promoting affirmative action. He is known for his compositions and arrangements, widely performed worldwide, and has received national recognition and awards. Carter's advocacy for the arts is evident through his involvement in various national and regional committees and associations. He is also the founder and CEO of MAR-VEL, a music publisher specializing in African American composers and traditions.

Flight Song by Kim André Arnesen is a captivating choral piece that beautifully captures the theme of hope and transcendence. Through ethereal harmonies and soaring melodies, it conveys a sense of liberation and the joy of taking flight, both metaphorically and literally, into a brighter future. The composition's uplifting and evocative nature makes it a moving musical experience. Kim André Arnesen is a Norwegian composer known for his exceptional contributions to choral and classical music. He studied composition at the Norwegian Academy of Music and has since gained international recognition for his compositions,

including choral works like "Magnificat" and "The Wound in the Water." Arnesen's music is celebrated for its emotional depth and modern sound, making him a respected figure in the world of contemporary classical music.