



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

**UNIVERSITY SINGERS
HOME CONCERT
FEATURING THE
NORTHWEST
MISSISSIPPI
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE RANGER
CHORALE**

Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductor
Dr. Alex Belohlavek, conductor

OCTOBER 29 | 7:00 PM

PLOUGH CONCERT HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Albert Nguyen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Debra Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

Northwest Mississippi Community College Ranger Chorale

Dr. Alex Belohlavek, conductor

Color All Maps New

Dylan Trần (b. 1994)

I. Nuage

IV. Gulf, Waves

V. Lines for Lake DeCade

VII. New Growth Moon

VIII. Just a Beginning

University of Memphis University Singers

Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductor

Karen Zeferino, assistant conductor

Amy Nguyen, collaborative pianist

Warum

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Versa Est in Luctum

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

Veni Sante Spiritus

Zanaida Robles (b. 1979)

Atlas and Heracles

Jordan D. Boyd (b. 1991)

I should be glad

Susan LaBarr (b. 1981)

Jubilate Deo

Peter Anglea (b. 1988)

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

Northwest Mississippi Community College Ranger Chorale

Color All Maps New

Dylan Trần (b. 1994)

Text by Jack B. Bedell (b. 1966)

I. Nuage

All along the coast,
reeds are laid down by wind:
the sky one long cloud,
grey to the horizon,
soft breeze and shallow surf,
low land my children will never see,
each tide a quiet goodbye.
Pelicans refuse to leave their nests,
closer together each season,
their sand washing out to the gulf.
Soon enough storms will brew offshore,
water will color all maps new.

IV. Gulf, Waves

Big moon, breeze,
my daughter hurries to finish her sentence in the sand
before waves climb up the shore like dogs sniffing panéed meat.
She wants to spell out the names of all the people she loves,
but the closer the water gets the more she knows
she'll have to edit her list on the fly,
leave some names behind in the air to beat the tide and time,
its hunger boundless.

V. Lines for Lake DeCade

Down the warped dock,
boards frayed and leaning toward the surface of this lake
water going brown, then to froth,
sand flies mosquito hawks trawling motors,
hum in the gray light of tired days and heavy nets
Lord of fin and wing and prayer,
hold me here as long as you can
before the water shifts, brings its salt in.

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

vi. Isle de Jean Charles

Forget about the taut line stretched between forefinger and cast net.

Forget about the densities of family, and of time,
binding old ones to babies just learning to walk.

Forget about the days spent working together after countless storms,
salvaging the whole island's memories,
spreading them out to dry in the sun.

When the water finally takes the last ten percent of this island,
think only of Island Road,
how the road once offered the one way to school or town or places
past the horizon.

Soon enough, there will be no way back along this road.
Anyone who drives around the barricade on the mainland
will find waves at the end of the blacktop
will find gulls floating over the ghosts of rooftops
wind where there once was song.

vii. New Growth Moon

If I could, I'd leave low land and pine forests behind,
move away from rivers that ache for my backyard,
merciless Old Testament rains.

Lord, how would it feel at the base of a mountain range,
calm lake in the distance,
night breeze whispering without the smell of storm?

Let me hole up on a porch,
wood creaking under me like a raft.
The moon aglow over settling fog
could turn treetops into waves.

VIII. Just a Beginning

What a slow breath let out from the porch
as the sun rises over pine trees
my wife teaching our daughter to brown roux
without burning flour.

University of Memphis University Singers

Warum

Warum doch erschallen
himmelwärts die Lieder?
Zögen gerne nieder Sterne, die
droben
Blinken und wallen, zögen sich
Lunas
Lieblich Umarmen, zögen die
warmen,
Wonnigen Tage, seliger Götter
Gern uns herab!

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

poem, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

Why then do songs resound
heavenward?
They would gladly lure down the
stars, which
gleam and wander above; they
would entice Luna's
lovely embraces, and invoke the
warm,
blissful days of blessed gods -
gladly would they do this!

Versa Est in Luctum

Versa est in luctum cithara mea, et
organum meum
in vocem flentium. Parce mihi,
Domine: nihil
enim sunt dies mei.

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

Text: Job (30:31, 7:16)

My harp is turned to mourning,
and my music to the
voice of weeping. Spare me, Lord,
for my days are
nothing.

Veni Sante Spiritus

Veni, Sancte Spiritus, et emitte
caelitus lucis tuae radium.
Veni, pater pauperum, veni, dator
munerum veni, lumen cordium.
Consolator optime, dulcis hospes
animae, dulce refrigerium.
In labore requies, in aestu
temperies in fletu solatium.
Come, Holy Spirit. Send from
heaven Thy rays of light.
O lux beatissima, reple cordis
intima tuorum fidelium.
Sine tuo numine, nihil est in
homine, nihil est innoxium.

Zanaida Robles (b. 1979)

poem, attrib. to Archbishop Stephen Langton (1150-1228)

Come, Holy Spirit, send from
heaven Thy rays of light.
Come, Father of the poor,
Come, Giver of the gifts,
Come, Light of the heart.
Greatest Comforter, Sweet Guest
of the soul, Sweet Consolation
In labor, rest. In heat, temperance.
In tears, solace.
O Most Blessed Light. Fill the
inmost heart of your faithful.
Without Your Spirit, there is
nothing in humankind, nothing that
is not harmful.

Atlas and Heracles

Jordan D. Boyd (b. 1991)
Text by: Michaela Cobb (b. 2002)

Atlas! Ah! Atlas!
Atlas! Atlas, set down the world! Let go control.
Atlas! Set down, let go!
Is this what you wanted when you stormed the heavens?
Atlas! Ah! Atlas!
And I know it keeps crushing you,
The penance you're paying, but let down the world rest your shoulders
Atlas! Ah! Atlas!
Heracles it wasn't your fault!
The madness was a curse, no they didn't deserve to die
No, they didn't deserve to die
but the fault is not yours, Heracles!
And I know it keep crushing you, the penance you're paying
But take a small break from the monsters you're slaying.
Atlas let down the world,
Oh, Heracles, the fault is not yours.

I should be glad

Susan LaBarr (1981)
poem, Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

I should be glad of loneliness
And hours that go on broken wings,
A thirsty body, a tired heart
And the unchanging ache of things,
If I could make a single song
As lovely and as full of light,
As hushed and brief as a falling star
On a winter night.

Jubilate Deo

Peter Anglea (b. 1988)

Psalm 100

Jubilate Deo!
Jubilate Deo, omnis terra; Servite
Domino in lætitia
Introite in conspectu ejus in
exultatione.
Quoniam suavis est Dominus, in
æternum misericordia ejus,
et usque in generationem et
generationem veritas ejus.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,
all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness:
come before his presence with
singing.
For the Lord is good, his mercy is
everlasting,
and His truth endureth to all
generations.

PERSONNEL

Northwest Mississippi Community College Ranger Choral

Dr. Alex Belohlavek, conductor

Soprano

Izzy Cunningham
Brenda Jimenez
Sunny Marriot
Lilly McNail
Felicity Sansom
Taylor Simmons
Elise Smith
Kaitlyn Smith
Conan Sullivan
Chloee Wood

Altos

Parker Andersen
Amelia Clausel
Ann Haire
Sabria Jackson
Sarah Kegley
Zoe Millbrooks
Kendal Moseley
Angelina Ramirez
Jayla Sanders

Tenor

Kam Beavers
J'Caleb Corner
Jacob Herring
Matthew Joyner
Zachary Jude
Ethan Kirkpatrick
Skarlett Wahlquist
Cass Wiley
Tommy Williamson

Bass

JB Barksdale
Jacob Cospser
Fletcher Daniel
Wyatt Downs
Luke Harrison
Marcus Hill
Jonathan Pittman
Christopher Robinson

University Singers

Dr. Francis Cathlina, conductor
Karen Zeferino, assistant conductor
Amy Nguyen, collaborative pianist

**denotes Section Leader

*denotes Assistant Section Leader

Soprano

Caroline Davis	BM Vocal Performance	Amarillo, TX
Amy Enlow	BM Music Industry	Memphis, TN
Madeline Hawkins	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Mya Hawkins	BS Health & Exercise	Horn Lake, MS
Edlyn Jarquin	BM Music Education	Nashville, TN
Kayla Jones	BM Recording Technology	Richmond, VA
Kylee Kee	BM Music Education	Bartlett, TN
Anne Landsgaard	BM Music Therapy	Olive Branch, MS
Serafina Ross	BM Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Ava Shatley	BM Music Business	Jonesboro, AR
Hope Whitehead	BM Music Therapy/ BM Commercial Music	Orlando, FL
*Emily Woelke	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
**Karen Zeferino	DMA Choral Conducting	Maringá, Paraná, Brazil

Alto

Ella Cline	BM Music Therapy	Memphis, TN
Sarah Enoch	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Mercy Hammond	BM Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Yasrah Haseeb	BM Commercial Music	Lahore, Pakistan
Heaven Hubbard	BS Sports & Leisure Management	Horn Lake, MS
Brio'Na Jackson	BM Vocal Performance	Southaven, MS
*Isabella Palmer	BM Music Education	Russellville, AR
**Lindsay Reeves	BM Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN
Stephanie Rolfe	BM Music Education	Memphis, TN
Katie Sann	BM Commercial Music	Memphis, TN
Bella Grace Valente	BA Psychology	Nashville, TN
Rachel Young	BS Nursing	Memphis, TN
Courtne Wilson	BS Nursing	Lawton, OK

**denotes Section Leader

*denotes Assistant Section Leader

Tenor

Alex Perez-Afanador	BM Vocal Performance	Plano, TX
*Kane Bradley	DMA Choral Conducting	Russellville, AR
Ryan Cashion	BS Nursing	Coeur d'Alene, ID
Merritt Hanemann	BM Vocal Performance	Franklin, TN
Matthew Heatcock	BS Biology	Ypsilanti, MS
Cade Jett	BM Music Theatre	Jackson, TN
Christian McAlister	BM Music Education	Majuro, Marshall Island
Reagan Nunley	BM Music Education	Chattanooga, TN
**Joseph Powell	DMA Choral Conducting	Mobile, AL
Brody Melton	BM Music Education	Lakeland, TN
Terry Waler	DMA Choral Conducting	Tupelo, MS

Bass

*Shawn Campbell	BM Commercial Music	Little Rock, AR
Ethan Davis	BM Music Education	Olive Branch, MS
Samari Gowdy	BM Music Education	Itta Bena, MS
Garrett Heady	BM Music Education/ BM Music Theory & Composition	Cordova, TN
Neil Kelly	BM Recording Technology	Kalamazoo, MI
Micah Loftis	BM Music Business	Germantown, TN
**Benjamin Nguyen	BM Music Education	Cordova, TN
Dylan Swinger	BM Commercial Music	Bartlett, TN
Gregory Thomas	BLS, Religious Studies	Memphis, TN
Anthony Valle	BM Vocal Performance	Miami, FL
Kalen Wilson	BM Music Education	Greenwood, MS
SirLatimore Wilson	BM Commercial Music BM Jazz Performance	Memphis, TN

BIOGRAPHIES

Alex Belohlavek is a conductor and teacher respected for his musicianship, technical skills, and leadership. He brings intellectual curiosity and an adventurous spirit to the podium, leading ensembles of every age and experience level. Alex is interested in contemporary choral and choral-orchestral literature, particularly from the Baltics. He has prepared and performed premieres by Tõnu Kõrvits, Nico Muhly, Richard Burchard, and others. Alex's current research focuses on the state of voice science in choral methods, offering solutions for integrating physiological directives for better outcomes in the choral rehearsal.

Alex's professional experience includes teaching numerous courses at the Jim Henson Academy of Visual & Performing Arts and conducting the Vocal Arts Conservatory Chorus at the California School of the Arts, as well as conducting youth ensembles at the National Children's Chorus. At the collegiate level, he has conducted chamber ensembles, recital choirs, the USC Thornton Apollo Chorus, and the USC Thornton University Chorus, among others. In sacred settings, Alex has served in both Christian and Jewish congregations as vocalist and conductor.

Alex is a candidate for a DMA in Choral Music at the University of Southern California, with emphases in theory and analysis, vocology, and musicology. He holds an MM in Choral Conducting from The University of Southern Mississippi, where he studied with Dr. Gregory Fuller, and a BM in Music Education from Susquehanna University, where he studied with Dr. Julia Thorn.

Off the podium, Alex can usually be found drinking coffee, climbing, or backpacking. He recently completed the 110-mile Alta Via 2 in the Dolomites of northern Italy, and his next ambition is to complete the 211-mile John Muir Trail in California's Sierra Nevada.

BIOGRAPHIES

Francis Cathlina, D.M.A. (he/him) is a distinguished Vietnamese-American conductor and educator, known for his innovative programming that seamlessly weaves choral music with narrative. His transformative concert experiences invite audiences into a world where choral artistry becomes a powerful storytelling medium.

A two-time GRAMMY-nominated educator, Dr. Cathlina currently serves as the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music. He oversees the Choral Area, leads the MM and DMA Choral Conducting program, and conducts the University Singers.

Dr. Cathlina's Eastern heritage shapes his dedication to collaboration and excellence. His 2025 international engagements include an invitation to work with the Brazilian Choral Directors Association, serving as the Conducting Faculty for the 2025 XV FIMUS Festival in Brazil, and selection for ACDA's International Conductors Exchange Program to the Philippines. Early in his career, the Texas Choral Directors Association (TCDA) designated him the "Young Director of Distinction."

Dr. Cathlina's teaching philosophy centers on developing masterful technicians, creative communicators, and responsible citizens. Under his direction, the UofM University Singers have been invited to perform for national and state conferences. His former students successfully lead programs at universities, public schools, prominent churches, and community choirs. Driven by a passion for human connection, he finds great inspiration as an honor choir conductor. Upcoming and recent engagements involve the International Mu Phi Convention Chorus, Mississippi All-State Treble Choir, Kentucky All-State SATB Choir, Carnegie Hall, and honor choirs nationwide.

A recognized authority in vocal pedagogy, Dr. Cathlina's research focuses on choral tone and conducting gesture. He has published articles in international journals and has presented over 60 interest sessions across the globe. In 2023, he co-led two Conducting Masterclasses in Greece with the University of Macedonia (Thessaloniki) and Ionian University (Corfu). In 2025, he is set to be the Choral Headliner for the Alabama Music Educators Association Conference.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Cathlina holds a D.M.A. in conducting with a vocal pedagogy cognate from the University of North Texas, an M.M. from Michigan State University, and a B.M.E. from Baylor University. Before his doctorate, he taught in Texas public schools. Beyond the podium, Dr. Cathlina is an avid pickleball player. He, his husband Kyle, and their dog Coco proudly call Memphis, Tennessee, their home. www.franciscathlina.com.

Graduate Choral Conducting Studio

Karen Zeferino (b. 1996) was born in Maringá, Brazil, where she first studied piano with her father. She later explored piano, guitar, and choral singing at the UEM Music School, which inspired her to pursue a degree in conducting. While studying at the State University of Maringá, she served as an assistant conductor for various choirs and ensembles, including the UEM Flute and Strings Ensembles. In Brazil, Karen participated in masterclasses with renowned conductors like Marco Antonio da Silva Ramos, Alessandro Sangiorgi, and Abel Rocha. She also conducted performances at the Londrina Music Festival and with the OSUEL Orchestra. Karen pursued a Master of Music in Choral Conducting at the University of Missouri-Columbia (2021-23), where she was a teaching assistant for several choirs. She also attended masterclasses with distinguished conductors like Dr. Marques L.A. Garrett, Dr. Derrick Fox, and Rick Bjella. In July 2022, she conducted the Tacoma Symphony and Tacoma Symphony Voices during the Cascade Conducting Masterclass.

Collaborative Pianist

Amy Nguyen currently serves as the collaborative artist for the University of Memphis Choral Arts Department. She regularly performs with students, faculty, and guest artists at the University of Memphis. She works throughout the Mid-South, performing at area high schools, colleges, and churches. Nguyen has performed throughout the country, including performances with the Independence Symphony, the Kansas City Symphony, and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. She has played for the West TN Youth Chorus and the Collegiate School of Memphis.

Nguyen started her piano studies at the age of five. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors from Graceland University where she studied with Charles Schmidt. Under the tutelage of Richard Smith, she earned a Master of Music Degree from Central Missouri State University. She also studied with Betty Mallard at the University of Texas at Austin.

UPCOMING CHORAL AREA EVENTS

Tigerchor Concert

November 4, 2024
7:00 PM
SFPAC Plough Hall

Mazi & Collegiate Choir Concert

November 21, 2024
7:00 PM
Harris Hall

Karen Zeferino's DMA Choral Conducting Recital with University Singers featuring Garrett Heady Choral Ensemble

November 25, 2024
2:00 PM
Harris Hall

Honor Choir

January 30 and 31, 2025

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Choral Area Faculty

Dr. Francis Cathlina, Director of Choral Activities
Dr. Emily Frizzell - Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education

Graduate Staff

Kane Bradley - DMA Choral Conducting
Joseph Powell - DMA Choral Conducting
Terry Walker - DMA Choral Conducting
Karen Zeferino - DMA Choral Conducting

Vocal Arts Faculty

Matthew Burns - Assistant Professor of Voice
Dr. Stephen Karr - Opera Music Director
Dr. Carlos Santelli - Assistant Professor of Voice
Benjamin Smith - Opera Stage Director
Dr. Paulina Villareal - Assistant Professor of Voice
Mary Wilson - Associate Professor of Voice

College & School of Music Administration

Dr. Debra Burns - Dean
Dr. Albert Nguyen - Interim Director,
Director of Bands, and Chair of the Conducting Area
Kristen Russell - Marketing & Communications Officer
Jennifer Mueller - Business Officer
Kaleb Ritchie - Operations Manager
Mac Gittinger - Scheduling & Event Coordinator
Kim Marston - Administrative Associate to the Director

Finally, THANK YOU to all of the former Music Educators, parents, family, and friends who have invested in these musicians' lives.