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ABOUT MUSIC

The University of Arkansas is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Department of Music is housed within the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.

Home to over 300 music students and fifty faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Department faculty and students perform over 400 concerts per year, on and off campus. Large concerts are performed at the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center that opened in 2015. Chamber and solo recitals are primarily presented at the 200-seat Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall, which began a full renovation in December 2022 and is scheduled to be completed in spring 2025.

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SCHOLA CANTORUM

Dr. Stephen Caldwell, director
Lisa Auten, piano

University of Arkansas Collegiate Chorale

Gabriel Blotor, graduate conductor

with the Ozark Academy Choir

7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 6, 2025
Faulkner Performing Arts Center
University of Arkansas

PROGRAM

Collegiate Chorale

Wander-Thirst

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Sure on this Shining Night

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Somnoroase pășărele

Tudor Flondor (1862-1908)

Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Collegiate Chorale & Ozark Academy Choir

The Road Not Taken

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

with the University Symphony Orchestra

Gabriel's Oboe

Ennio Morricone (1928-2020)

Arr. Blotor

Nick Tacu, pan flute

Soon ah will be done

William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

INTERMISSION

Schola Cantorum

My spirit sang all day

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

Phoenix

Jocelyn Hagen

Jonathan Lea, cello

Jumalo

Laura Jekabsone

Clayton Vanderberg, drum

Charm me asleep

David Conte

Little Bird

Gail Kubik (1914-1984)

Gabriel Blotor is a student of Dr. Stephen Caldwell.

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the Master of Music in Conducting.

PROGRAM NOTES

WANDER-THIRST

Florence Price (born April 9, 1887, Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S.—died June 3, 1953, Chicago, Illinois) was an American composer and pianist whose work spans three decades, during which she wrote more than 300 musical compositions. In 1933, she became the first African American woman to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra. In 2009, the discovery of unpublished scores and manuscripts by Price sparked renewed interest in her work.

SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT

Samuel Barber's "Sure on this Shining Night" is the third song in the collection entitled Four Songs which was published by G. Schirmer in 1940. The text for is based on an untitled lyric from James Agee's first published collection of poems, Permit Me Voyage (1934). The brilliance of this composition lies in its long, seamlessly lyrical canonical lines.

SOMNOROASE PĂSĂRELE

Mihai Eminescu (1850-1889) was a Romantic poet, novelist and journalist, often regarded as the most famous and influential Romanian poet. His poetry was first published when he was sixteen. Mystically inclined and of a melancholy disposition, he lived in the glory of the Romanian medieval past and in folklore, on which he based one of his outstanding poems, "Luceafărul" (1883; "The Evening Star"). Eminescu's poetry has a distinctive simplicity of language, a masterly handling of rhyme and verse form, a profundity of thought, and a plasticity of expression which affected nearly every Romanian writer of his own period and after. His poems have been translated into several languages, including an English translation in 1930, but chiefly into German. The poet's manuscripts, containing 46 volumes and approximately 14,000 pages, were offered by Titu Maiorescu as a gift to the Romanian Academy.

In 1884, the Romanian composer Tudor Flondor (1862–1908) set Eminescu’s poem “Somnoroase păsărele” to music as a serenade for voice and piano. Made popular by Corul National de Cameră ‘Madrigal’ of Romania the song became the most treasured lullaby.

Sleepy little birds
Gather at the nests
Hide among the branches
Good night! Good night!
Only water springs sob,
While the dark forest remains silent;
Flowers sleeping in the garden,
Sleep in peace! Sleep in peace!
The swan glides on water
To sleep among the reeds
May the angels be near
Sweet sleep! Sweet sleep!
Over the magical night
The proud moon arises,
All is dream and harmony
Good night! Good night!

CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE

Cantique de Jean Racine, Op. 11, choral work by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) was composed for four-part chorus and organ in 1865. The words “Verbe égal au Très-Haut” are a translation by 17th-century French poet Jean Racine of a Latin hymn, “Consors paterni luminis” (“O Light of Light”). During Fauré’s lengthy career, he became one of the foremost composers of French choral and sacred music. The Cantique de Jean Racine was the first of these works; it was written for a competition held just before the 20-year-old composer graduated from the École Niedermeyer, a school in Paris for training in classical and religious music. The judges—who included Fauré’s lifelong friend and one of his teachers Camille Saint-Saëns— awarded Fauré first prize for his gentle, emotionally pitch-perfect entry.

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Randall Thompson’s (1899-1984) early works, including several songs, varied considerably in style. In 1922 he began studies at the American Academy in Rome where, inspired by the master composers of the Renaissance, he developed the musical style which led him to the forefront of American choral composers. Though he composed symphonies, operas and instrumental works, he is best known for his choral compositions including the popular Alleluia, The Peaceable Kingdom, and The Testament of Freedom. “The Road Not Taken” is taken from composer’s work Frostiana, a collection of seven pieces set to accompany seven poems of American poet Robert Frost (1874-1963) who attended the premiere on October 18, 1959, in Amherst, Massachusetts. Thompson himself conducted the premiere performed with singers from the township and accompanied on the piano, as Thompson didn’t orchestrate the work until 1965. Robert Frost attended the event and was so delighted that at the conclusion of the performance, he rose to his feet and shouted, “Sing that again!”

GABRIEL'S OBOE

Ennio Morricone (1928-2020), the winner of an Academy Award, three Grammy Awards, and six Golden Globes was an Italian composer and orchestrator. His sensational and emphatic pieces, together with his ability to write music for almost any kind of genre, are the reasons he is regarded as one of the greatest film composers of all time. Originally an instrumental piece, "Gabriel's Oboe" from the motion picture *The Mission* (1986) was set with Italian text by Chiara Ferrà as *Nella fantasia* ("In My Fantasy"). The song's titular fantasy envisions a just world of peace and harmony, a world that grows ever brighter where we may "... dream of spirits that are always free, Like the clouds that fly, Full of humanity in the depths of the spirit.

I see a fair world

Everyone there lives in peace and honesty

SOON AH WILL BE DONE

William Levi Dawson (1899-1990) was one of the greatest contributors to the art of American choral music. Deeply rooted in the flowering era of the American a cappella choir and African-American folk traditions, William Dawson fashioned the most widely performed selection of such original American choral music. In November 1934, Leopold Stokowski conducted the Philadelphia Orchestra in four performances of William Levi Dawson's *Negro Folk Symphony*. Dawson thus became the third African American composer whose symphony was premiered by a major American orchestra within just a few years.

JUMALO

Horse to horse, wheel to wheel, it all rolled to Riga.

They brought to Kurzeme all of Riga's treasures.

Where did you get the horse, my son?

A horse this big, I bought it in Riga.

Those golden bridles, at the end of the leash, rolled the morning star.

PERSONNEL

University of Arkansas Collegiate Chorale

Soprano

Botiller, Natalia
Broncano, Naomi
De La Torre, Catalina
Fabbri, Eliana
Graves, McKinley
Hoang, Anna
Hubbard, Chloe
Jensen, Delaney
Larsen, Annabeth
Mac, Shay
McCarthy, Kyndall
McCormick, Mick
McGee, Kaylea
Morrison, Ayla
O'Leary, Brooke
Ramsey, Rose
Rector, Sophie
Summers, Emery
Walters, Isabel
Wood, Abigail
Yin, Kayla

Alto

Choate, Olivia
Drinkard, Phoebe
Huskey, Madison
Jackson, Lizzy
Murphy, Morgan
Overacker, Lillian
Pardue, Olivia
Russell, Jill
Simpson, Layla
Torres, Nayra
Vang, Shoshiana

Tenor

Arterberry, Connor
Bader, Parker
Beaty, Tanner
Bryant, Nolan
Caperton, Joshua
Hughes, Jacob
Linkin, Noah
Mabry, Mason
Powers, Blake
Rosnett, Josiah
Russel, Jacob
Sheeley, John
Smith, Donovan
Tucker, Bryles

Bass

Blalack, Logan
Brown, D'Shawn
Denham, Elam
Hartwig, Brayden
Henley, Will
Hensley, Joseph
Hinson, Sam
Hoang, Alex
Jackson, Cole
Lawhon, Nash
Manning, Spencer
Shock, Brett E.
Thach, Tony
Vanderburg, Clayton

Ozark Academy Choir

Soprano

Dupertuis, Abi
Giddings, Anthem
Giddings, Solace
Hoover, Audrey
Johnson, Amiyah McQueen
Landaverde, Shaelynn
Martinez, Ismeray
McCormick, Josie
McCormick, Joy
Mendez Sanabria, Olga
Muendo, Rachael
Myers, Zion
Ngo, Alice
Pfeiffer, Kes
Teal, Kiya
Thigani, Bura
Thigani, Njuni
Villatoro, Adelina
Waggoner, Emma

Alto

Bailey, Faith
Gee, Violet
Grant, Katherine
Grant, Rebekah
Green, Dailey
Hernandez, Jasmin
Krein, Bella
Le, Thanh-An
Nuam, Selyna
Olea, Raquel
Spencer, Annah
Villanueva Cordova,
Victoria
Watson, Eden
Williams, Marian
Wilson, Madelyn

Tenor

Castillo, Sammy
Cox, Graham
Ham, Travis
Harman, Kelson
Krein, Jack
Langinbelik, Rickly
Lipsmeyer, Brayden
Parra, Obed

Bass

Castillo, Jacob
Castro Moreno, JC
Cook, Logan
Farley, Timothy
Lopez, Eryck
Nielson, Kaleb
Shuzelilay, Winner
Ukegbu, Ikechi
Vixie, Luke

University of Arkansas Schola Cantorum

Soprano

1. Tess Barborek
Emma Davis
Emma Price
Isabelle Pennick
Kalista Brown
Rachel Willett
Sadie Hilton
Lillie Large
2. Peyton Tomlin
Nathalie Arias
Emma Massengale
Amelia Booker
Isabel Fuentes
Emma Scott
Lauren Ramsey
Emma Breaux

Alto

1. Olivia Parker
Talina Woods
Mick McCormick
Lizbeth Lopez
Helem Gomez-Jimenez
Mia Johnson
Harper Combs
Verna Labitad
2. Hannah Horton
Lauren Launhardt
Valeria Quintanilla
Amy Underwood
Ashlyn Hodge
Idaly Jimenez
Madeleine Amox
Samara Crouse

Tenor

1. Avery Golz
Daniel Fox
Nathan Edwards
Evan Collier
Dustin Warner
Garrett Cash
Luke Burnside
Trey Marvin
2. Alexander Garcia
Aundre Wesley
Connor Clayton
Austin Letterman
Jose Rodriguez
Giovanni Zamora-Reyes
Gavin Miller
Nicholas Turney

Bass

1. Evan Goforth
Peter Black
James Morningstar
Jonathan Rosas
Ryan Gay
Cole Jackson
Christian Matthews
Max Pardo
2. Jeb Sandefur
Gabriel Blotor
Titus Sutterfield
Sam Messick
Edwin Soto
Jackson Landers
Aaron Estep
Carter Price