

SINGING STATESMEN



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

BRIAN C. MURRAY, CONDUCTOR

EMILY PETERSON, GRADUATE CONDUCTOR

ALISSON GARCIA, PIANIST

RESOLVE

NORTHWEST
AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
CONVENTION

JANUARY 24, 2024

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

RESOLVE

HOSANNA (2014)
CARL FISCHER CM9346

REGINAL WRIGHT

LOCH LOMOND (1921)
GALAXY MUSIC CORPORATION 1.5215

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

ERIK ERLANDSON, BARITONE

SPARK OF LIGHT (2023)
CARL FISCHER CM9751

ANDREW STEFFEN

EMILY PETERSON, CONDUCTOR

LOVE: THEN & STILL (2023)
MANUSCRIPT

SUSAN LABARR

III. SEIGNEUR, JE VOUS EN PRIE (1948)

FRANCIS POULENC

QUATRE PETITES PRIÈRES DE ST. FRANÇOIS D'ASSISE

EDITIONS SALABERT, INC. 50431270

WHEN WE SING (2021)

ROSEPHANYE POWELL

TIMOTHY C. TAKACH PUBLICATIONS TCT-CTS-014

Program Note

Through life's journey we experience myriad triumphs and sorrows. We hope that through these pieces we demonstrate a desire for steadfastness through them all.

We begin our program with Reginal Wright's jubilant "Hosanna." His vibrant and tuneful opening contrasts with the lyrical "benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini" (blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord). Next, we offer Ralph Vaughan Williams' nostalgic setting of "Loch Lomond." Through this elegant part song, we grapple with loss and fondly remember "the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond." Andrew Steffen's vivacious "Spark of Light" depicts our individuality and intrinsic free will. Out of the expanses of the universe, we soar "where cosmic waves crash ashore on the edge of heav'n."

Perhaps the ultimate expression of loss and steadfastness is Susan LaBarr's "Love: Then & Still." This piece recollects a time of happiness, devastating loss, and the courage to move forward.

*But time has passed, and wounds have healed
Leaving scars behind;
But scars remind us
What was, and what yet may be,
That we loved, and love you, still.*

Our response to loss is Francis Poulenc's third movement from his *Quatre petites prières de St. François d'Assise*. Through this simple prayer, we beseech God to expel our wanton vanities and shepherd us toward the eternal. Finally, we close our program with Rosephanye Powell's "When We Sing." This joyful anthem reminds us of the power of singing together to create unity. "Through our songs we live, we love, we breathe."

In the face of the course of life, let us endeavor to have the composure, the wherewithal, and the resolve to finish the race confidently.

Texts & Translations

“Hosanna” - text from the Sanctus of the Latin Mass

Hosanna in excelsis Deo
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini

Hosanna in the highest
Blessed are they that come in the name of the Lord

“Loch Lomond” - Traditional Scottish Air

O you'll take the high road and I'll take the low road,
and I'll be in Scotland afore ye,
But me and my true love will never meet again
on the bonny, bonny banks of Loch Lomond.

The wee birdies sing and the wild flow'rs spring,
And in sunshine the waters are sleeping,
But the broken heart it kens nae second spring again
Tho' the woeful may cease from their greeting.

'Twas there that we parted in yon shady glen,
On the steep, steep side of Ben Lomond,
Where deep in purple hue the Highland hills we view,
And the moon coming out in the gloaming.

“Spark of Light” - text from *The Vastness of the Universe* by Jónas Halgrímsson

I am the speeding spark of light
flung by God from the forge of Chaos.
I soar on wings swifter than wind
above the paths of the pulsing stars.

Faster! faster! to find the place
where cosmic waves crash ashore:
to cast anchor off that empty coast,
that far frontier and final reach
of created things: —the edge of heaven.

I watched the stars in the womb of youth
rise from the still streams of heaven,
eager to make their million year
race through the thin ethereal blue.

Faster! faster! to find the place
where Nothingness reigns
and inane Chaos, wending my way
on wings of light, steering toward port
with steady courage.

“Love: Then and Still” - Charles Anthony Silvestri

We were married in late September,
Among the changing leaves;
Crimson banners in the courtyard
Heralding our union.
We were so happy, then,

The music we shared brought us together,
A duet most unlikely.
Work and home and son and daughter,
Busy in joy and love.
How simple it seemed, then.

But who could have known what fate awaited
Our little family of four?
A spectre came and dwelt among us,
And robbed us of our joy.
And then, we were only three.

But time has passed, and wounds have healed
Leaving scars behind;
But scars, like talismans, remind us
What was, and what yet may be,
That we loved, and love you, still.

“III. Seigneur, je vous en prie” - St. Francis of Assisi

Seigneur, je vous en prie,
que la force brûlante et douce de votre amour
absorbe mon âme
et la retire de tout ce qui est sous le ciel.
Afin que je meure par amour de votre amour,
puisque vous avez daigné mourir par amour de mon amour.

Lord, I pray
that the burning and sweet force of your love
absorb my soul
and removes from it everything under heaven.
Let me die for love of your love,
since you deigned to die for love of my love.

“When We Sing” - Rosephanye Powell

When we sing, we are one. Ev'ry body, come let's sing.
Oh, let's sing. Oh, yes, we are one.
When we sing we're breathing together, living life in harmony.
Ev'ry heartbeat pulsing together when we sing.
When we sing we're one mind and body, joining heartbeats through our song.
Ev'ry breath we take is together. We are one.
Through our songs we live, we love, we breathe as one community in harmony.
In times of war, our songs bring peace.
They ease our troubled minds.
Inhaling, exhaling, we're breathing together.
We're being, we're feeling, we're sharing while singing together.
We sing for joy, peace, life, “la, la, la, la, la, la.”
That's why we sing.
So, let us always sing our songs!

Musicians

Owen Adams

Freshman | Vocal Performance
Green River, Wyoming

Patrick Boyce

Senior | Elementary Education
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Brogan Byram

Freshman | Energy Resource Management
Buffalo, Wyoming

Ben Camino

Sophomore | Environmental System Sciences
Buffalo, Wyoming

Britton Core

Sophomore | Music Education
Laramie, Wyoming

Kaelin Alexander Crichton

Junior | Music Education
Powell, Wyoming

Jeffrey Cuevas

Sophomore | Music Education & Vocal Performance
Douglas, Wyoming

Elijah Damey

Sophomore | Music Education
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Collin Dixon

Senior | Computer Science
Sheridan, Wyoming

Connor Alan Durkee

Sophomore | Musical Theatre
Laramie, Wyoming

Carson Gilbar

Junior | Music
Casper, Wyoming

Joe Gilbar

Sophomore | Vocal Performance
Casper, Wyoming

Karson Hansen

Freshman | Music Education & Vocal Performance
Rock Springs, Wyoming

Achilles Hennessy

Freshman | Journalism
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Manny C. Hernandez

Junior | Kinesiology & Health
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Carter Huntsman

Freshman | Music Education
Lyman, Wyoming

Chase Maddox

Sophomore | Clarinet Performance
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Brenden O'Haire

Senior | Anthropology
Littleton, Colorado

Wyatt A. Olivas

Sophomore | Music Education
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Jayden Parrill

Junior | Music Education
Littleton, Colorado

Dominick Singleton

Junior | Vocal Performance
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Trent Slade

Senior | Mechanical Engineering
Fort Collins, Colorado

Zane Steele

Sophomore | Music Education
Golden, Colorado

Ponce Villaseñor

Freshman | Exploratory Studies
Laramie, Wyoming

Zach Wolz

Senior | Music Education
Gillette, Wyoming

Keaton Yung

Sophomore | Music Education & Vocal Performance
Torrington, Wyoming



Brian C. Murray is the Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Wyoming. At UW, he leads a program of six choral ensembles, including the Collegiate Chorale, Singing Statesmen, and Happy Jacks. Dr. Murray earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting at the University of North Texas, studying with Drs. Allen Hightower, Jessica Nápoles, Richard Sparks, and Kristina MacMullen.

Prior to beginning his doctoral coursework, Dr. Murray taught high school choir for seven years in Carrollton, Texas. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in choral music education, summa cum laude, from the University of North Texas and a Master of Music Education degree from the Florida State University. He remains connected to his alma mater by returning each summer and serving as an associate director of the UNT All-State Choir Camp and a faculty member for the UNT Choral Conducting Symposium.

Dr. Murray has presented interest sessions for state, divisional, and international choral conferences and he has published in *ChorTeach* and the *Choral Journal*. He is a frequent clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor, and his professional affiliations include ACDA, NAFME, TCDA, TMAA, TMEA, WMEA, and Pi Kappa Lambda.



Emily T. Peterson is a graduate student at the University of Wyoming pursuing a master's degree in music performance with an emphasis in choral conducting. She studies under the tutelage of Dr. Brian C. Murray and has conducted UW's Singing Statesmen and Collegiate Chorale.

Emily has been selected to participate in various masterclasses as a conductor and instrumentalist. As part of her master's degree program, she has participated in conducting masterclasses with Dr. Elizabeth Swanson (University of Colorado Boulder) and Dr. Joshua Brown (Dallas Baptist University). Recently, she was selected to participate in the 2024 NWACDA conducting masterclass under the direction of Dr. André J. Thomas.

Emily earned a bachelor's degree in 2013 and a master's degree in 2023, both in music education, from the University of Wyoming. Her teaching experience includes ten years of public school service.



Alisson Garcia is pianist from Goiânia, Brazil, and currently pursues his Master of Music in piano performance at the University of Wyoming under Dr. Theresa Bogard's guidance. With a bachelor's degree from the Federal University of Goiás, Alisson began his musical journey at 8, delving into piano studies at 12. He completed his Bachelor of Music in piano performance in 2020 under Professor Consuelo Quireze, refining his skills through a 2021 specialization. Alisson has participated in many masterclasses with global instructors, including Solungga Liu (China/USA), Enrique Graf (Uruguay) and Raphael Lutchevsky (Poland). Awarded a scholarship at the International Winter Festival of the Federal University of Santa Maria (Brazil) in 2019, he furthered his studies at the University of Georgia (USA) with professors Evgeny Rivkin (Russia/EUA) and David Fung (Australia/USA).

Currently a graduate assistant at UW, Alisson remains deeply committed to the musical arts, showcasing his passion through teaching, artistic performances, and diverse collaborations, including choirs and ensembles.



Erik Erlandson is a baritone from Minnesota. He is a Lecturer of Voice at the University of Wyoming with a private studio. He is passionate about teaching students about the voice, encouraging efficient production with an emphasis on health and longevity.

Dr. Erlandson received his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance and pedagogy from the University of Colorado Boulder in Boulder, Colorado. During his time there, he became very interested in transferring inclusion practices of ESL and Special Education techniques into vocal instruction both in the group and individual settings. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and a Master of Music degree in vocal performance from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Many recent performance credits include Figaro in Le Nozze di Figaro, Il Re in Ariodante, Judge Turpin in Sweeney Todd, The Baker in Into The Woods, Sid in Albert Herring, and Bob in The Old Maid and the Thief. He enjoys performing with music ensembles around the United States, including the Boulder Bach Festival and Consortium Carissimi in Minnesota.

About

About the Choral Program:

The University of Wyoming Choral Program provides high-quality musical experiences for music majors, non-music majors, and community members alike through six choral ensembles: Collegiate Chorale (auditioned, SATB), Bel Canto (non-auditioned, SA), Singing Statesmen (non-auditioned, TB), Civic Chorus (non-auditioned, SATB), 7220 Blues (auditioned, SATB) and the Happy Jacks (auditioned, TB).

Frequently, the choirs at UW combine to perform major works with orchestra. Recently, the choirs performed Brahms' Ein deutsches Requiem, op. 45 with the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra (2022). This spring they will perform Mozart's Requiem in D minor, K. 626 with the UW Symphony Orchestra.

Through tours (both domestic and international) and conference performances, the choirs at the University of Wyoming have shared their music making outside of Laramie. Lately, members of the choirs have been fortunate to tour locally in Wyoming (2022, 2023) and throughout Texas (2023). Historically, the choirs at the University of Wyoming have participated in international tours (Spain, Brazil, England, Scotland, Mexico, Russia, Poland, Austria, The Netherlands, Germany, France, England, and Wales). The choirs have shared their music making regionally through performances at Northwest American Choral Directors Association conventions (Collegiate Chorale—2020, 1990; Bel Canto—2018; & Singing Statesmen—2024 & 2012).

Learn more about the choirs at UW: www.uwyo.edu/choir





About the Department of Music:

Small enough for personal attention, yet large enough to support musical activity at the highest level, the University of Wyoming Department of Music offers innovative and challenging curricula that prepare graduates for 21st-century opportunities. The Department of Music became a part of the University of Wyoming in 1903. The Department of Music has grown from one faculty member and a handful of students in 1903 to having 32 faculty members and over 160 undergraduate and graduate majors. Through coursework, recitals, and performances by our 15 ensembles, students gain experience to prepare them for lifelong music making.

Undergraduate students in the Department of Music can pursue degrees in performance, jazz performance, and music education, in addition to a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Graduate students have the opportunity to earn the Master of Music in Performance or Master of Music Education degrees. Additionally, the Department of Music offers Music Entrepreneurship, Audio Technology, and Performer's certificates. The Department of Music has been a fully accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) since 1947.

Learn more about the Department of Music: www.uwyo.edu/music



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Music



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Choirs

Dr. Brian C. Murray, Director of Choral Activities
Prof. O'Neil Jones, Associate Director of Choral Activities
Emily Peterson, Graduate student
Isabela Araújo, Collaborative Pianist
Francine Cancian, Collaborative Pianist
Alisson Garcia, Collaborative Pianist

