

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY

MEN'S ENSEMBLE

Matthew Topping, Conductor

WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

Rachel Cornacchio, Conductor

Monday, March 24, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

*Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship
and Performing Arts, Parmer Hall*



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

PROGRAM

Men's Ensemble

Zion's Walls..... Aaron Copland
(1900 - 1990)

Come fathers and mothers,
Come sisters and brothers,
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.
O fathers, don't you feel determined
To meet within the walls of Zion?
We'll shout and go round
The walls of Zion.

The Yearning..... Craig Courtney
(b.1948)

There is a yearning in hearts
weighed down by ancient grief
and centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning for the Lord
who visited His own,
and by His death for sin atoned,
to bring to us salvation.
Emmanuel, within our hearts,
the yearning

Prayer of The Children Kurt Bestor
(b. 1958)
Arr. Andrea S. Klouse

Can you hear the pray'r
of the children on bended knee
In the shadow of an unknown room?

Empty eyes with no more tears to cry,
turning heavenward toward the light.

Cryin' Jesus help me to see
the mornin' light of one more day
But if I should die before I wake
I pray my soul to take

Can you feel the hearts of the children
Aching for home
For something of their very own
Reaching hands with nothing to hold onto
But hope for a better day
Cryin' Jesus help me to feel the love again
In my own land,
But if unknown road lead away from home,
Give me loving arms, way from harm

Can you hear the voice of the children softly pleading
for silence in their shattered world?
Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate,
blood of the innocent on their hands.

Cryin' Jesus help me to feel the sun again
Upon my face?
For when darkness clears,
I know you're near bringing peace again.

Can you hear the pray'r of the children?

The Awakening Joseph M. Martin
(b. 1959)

I dreamed a dream,
A silent dream,
Of a land not far away.
Where no birds sang,
No steeples rang,
And teardrops fell like rain.

I dreamed a dream, A silent dream
Of a land so filled with pride
That ev'ry song,
Both weak and strong,
(Withered) withered and died.
I dreamed a dream.

No alleluia,
Not one hosanna,
No song of love,
No lullaby.

And no choir sang to change the world.
(i dreamed a dream)
No pipers played; no dancers twirled.
I dreamed a dream,

A silent dream.
Silent. Silent....
Awake!

Awake, my soul, and sing!
The time for praise has come.
The silence of the night has passed;
A new day has begun.

Let music never die in me!
Forever let my spirit sing!
Wherever emptiness is found,
Let there be joy and glorious sound.

Let music never die in me!
Forever let my spirit sing!
Let all our voices join as one
To praise the Giver of the song!
Awake! Awake!
Let music live!

Women's Ensemble

Rhapsody Anna Dagmar

*Commissioned by the Messiah University Women's Ensemble
and Murray Library at Messiah University, Spring 2025*

Solo 1: Emily Evans

Solo 2: Orphie Hartman

When I was only seven, in the Christmas candlelight,
I hear you play piano from afar.
The guests all gathered singing.
I was half the average height, so I squeezed between
the grown ups past the bar.
I came to listen closers. I grazed a single key.
You leaned and whispered in my ear, "You can play with me."
I remember the music. I remember the song.
You were right there beside me, just to guide me along.
You brought out what was in me, and you helped me feel strong.
I remember the music, and my life is a song.
I was learning syncopation, but I couldn't get the beat.
You said, "It's like a cheery little dance."
Well if cakewalks are for dancing, and fingers are like feet,
Then I must have been born with two left hands.
I couldn't time the notes, I tried with all my might.
You said, "I'll play the left hand, and you can play the right."
Where do memories go as we learn as we grow?
What a rhapsody I find in the garden of my mind.
Every tree, every bird, every tune I've ever heard.
Something calls me away, yet the memoires stay.
I count among my blessings the blessings I've returned,
And one year I taught piano to your wife.
She'd begun to grow forgetful, and we were all concerned
But you helped her keep a calm, fulfilling life.
She'd always sung soprano, and played the violin.
Her fingers searched the piano keys and found the song within.
She remembered the music. She remembered the song.
I was right there beside her just to guide her along.
I brought out what was in her, and I helped her feel strong.

She remembered the music, and her life is a song.
You reminded us to sing, you reminded us to play,
And a melody that's loved and shared can never fade away.
I am not the only one, for I've heard what others say.
And the company of lives you touched are gathered here today.
We remember your music. We remember your song.
You are right here beside us just to guide us along.
You bring out what is in us. And you help us feel strong.
We remember your music, and your life is a song.

Let the River Run..... Carly Simon
arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Solo: Mandy Bevenour
Percussion: Micaela McEvers and Brian Gambler

Warrior Kim Baryluk

Wildflower.....Tom Petty
arr. Mark Grizzard

Trio: Eliana McFate, Lillian Mbuu, and Kristin Nolt
Guitar: Grace Duncan
Violins: Nick Epps and Grace Pearce
Bass: Isaac Neuenschwander

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY MEN'S ENSEMBLE

Conductor: Matthew Topping

Pianist: Daniel Balsbaugh

Tenor 1

Victor Adeyemi - Mechanicsburg, PA

Brian Gambler - Reading, PA

Elijah Palmer - Mechanicsburg, PA

Tenor 2

Connor Duncan - Dillsburg, PA

Jonathan Frank - Mechanicsburg, PA

Robert Glogowski - Corinth, NY

Evan Maserumule - Pretoria, South Africa

Noah Statler - Lancaster, PA

Bass 1

Jake Anzulewicz - Boyertown, PA

Randall Fish - Dillsburg, PA

Micah Hubicki - Greenville, NY

Corban Licitra - Honey Brook, PA

Michael Marquez - Bethany Beach, DE

Christopher Rivera - Staten Island, NY

Patrick Schussler - Lewisberry, PA

Bass 2

Tanner Eshleman - Ephrata, PA

Werner Jones - Mechanicsburg, PA

Kwesi Kumi - Accra, Ghana

Aiden Morris - Middletown, DE

Mark Norbury - Westchester, PA

Jonathan Seeburger - Rochester, NY

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

Conductor: Rachel Cornacchio

Pianist: Julia Laessig

Mila Acosta-Morales – Chalfont, PA
Allison Anema – Douglas, MA
Eleanore Beachy – Palmyra, PA
Mandy Bevenour – Mechanicsburg, PA
Chrisetta Cawley – Mechanicsburg, PA
Grace Chang – Clarksburg, MD
Anna Clement – Quakertown, PA
Emma Davis – Hockessin, DE
Jenny Davis – Dillsburg, PA
Grace Duncan – Springfield, VA
Emily Evans – Duncannon, PA
Sadie Foster – St. Mary's, MD
Jordan Good – Warwick, MD
Lilianna Griffie – Walkersville, MD
Orphie Hartman – Hollidaysburg, PA
Esther Hess – Airville, PA
Callie Hoffer – Manheim, PA
Camryn Horne – Hustontown, PA
Tian Jamieson – Cape Cod, MA
Kendra Jones – Hollidaysburg, PA
Laura Kuehner – East Aurora, NY
Julia Laessig – Newtown Square, PA
Victoria Lang – Hershey, PA
Tiah Masood – Robertsdale, PA
Lillian Mbuu – Harrisburg, PA
Kara McDiffitt – Dillsburg, PA
Micaela McEvers – Carlisle, PA
Eliana McFate – New Market, MD
Grace Mummert – Chambersburg, PA
Becca Nicholson – Hadley, MA
Kristin Nolt – Ephrata, PA
Isa Pagana – Campbell Hall, NY
Hannah Rayner – Hellertown, PA
Hannelore Rydqvist – Rockland County, PA
Kiley Shirk – Broadway, VA
Abigail Simcox – Clearfield, PA
Ellen Smith – Bristow, VA
Grace Stover – York, PA
Kylie Walker – Somerset, PA
Abby Weller – Grove City, PA
Marissa White – Middleburg, PA
Macy Wright – Vienna, VA
Lydia Zehrt – Erie, PA

For details on the 2024-2025 Performing Arts Series and Concerts
visit arts.messiah.edu.

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Cantus

March 28 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Sahoko Sato Timpone, mezzo-soprano

April 4 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Haydn's Creation

Featuring Symphony Orchestra, Choral Arts, Concert Choir, Men's and Women's Ensemble

April 25 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Susquehanna Chorale Spring Concert

Linda Tedford, artistic director, founder and conductor, professor emeritus, Messiah University

May 18 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 4:00 p.m.

CONCERTS

Messiah University Jazz Combo

Todd Goranson, director

March 25 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Messiah University Opera Workshop - A Night of Opera: Opera Scenes Program

Damian Savarino, director

March 27 • Climenhaga Building, Poorman Black Box Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Messiah University Piano Ensemble Concert "Silent Film"

Olivia Ellis, director

April 1 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Messiah University Chamber Singers

Joy Meade, director

April 6 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Messiah University Chamber Ensembles

April 7 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Messiah University Symphonic Winds

Travis Weller, conductor

Messiah University Brass Choir

William Stowman, director

April 8 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Messiah University Wind Ensemble

James Colonna, conductor

April 9 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Messiah University Chamber Ensembles

April 14 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Messiah University Handbell Choir

Shawn Gingrich, director

April 26 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 1:30 p.m.

Messiah University Jazz Ensembles

William Stowman and Todd Goranson, conductors

April 26 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Musica Nova: Student Compositions

May 1 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Messiah University Guitar Ensemble

Gavin Horning, director

May 3 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 1:00 p.m.

Messiah University Vocal Jazz

William Stowman, director

May 3 • High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Messiah University Percussion Ensemble

Erik Forst, conductor

May 3 • High Center, Parmer Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Series require tickets • To purchase, please contact the Messiah University Box Office at 717-691-6036 or online at messiah.edu/tickets.

WE ASK YOUR COOPERATION

Please silence or turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices. Video and audio recording and/or broadcasting is strictly prohibited by copyright laws. Devices used in this manner will be confiscated until after the performance.

A WORD ABOUT CHILDREN

Families with children are always welcome at Messiah University Music Department events. For the courtesy of our performers and other patrons, we ask that you exit quickly and for as long as necessary with unsettled children. Everyone, regardless of age, must have a ticket.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

Please take a minute now to locate the exits closest to your seat. During an emergency evacuation, an alarm will sound. If this happens, proceed calmly to that exit. Once you are out of the building, move to a location that is out of the path of emergency response vehicles.