

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF MUSIC

A CAPPELLA CHOIR



SPIRITUS

2010-2011

AMERICAN
CHORAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION



NATIONAL
CONVENTION 2025
DALLAS, TEXAS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Dean ---P.1

Administration ----- P.2

Program ----- P.3

Text & Translations----- P.3

Program Notes ----- P.5

A Cappella Choir ----- P.6

Meet the Conductor ----- P.7

Leadership ----- P.8

Summer Symposium ----- P.9

Choir Camp ----- P.10



Words of Welcome

Greetings from your colleagues in the College of Music at the University of North Texas on the occasion of our A Cappella Choir performance here at the 2025 National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. I feel certain you will be inspired by our amazing students under the direction of their gifted leader, Dr. Allen Hightower, Professor and Director of Choral Studies. In addition to his duties with our A Cappella Choir, Dr. Hightower conducts the UNT Grand Chorus which collaborates annually with the UNT Symphony Orchestra in performances of major choral-orchestral works. As a member of UNT's Early Music faculty, he also leads the vocal ensemble Vox Aquilae, an artistic partner of the UNT Baroque Orchestra. Since Dr. Hightower's arrival at UNT in 2016, the A Cappella Choir has received invitations to perform for the Texas Music Educators Association in 2020, the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in 2021, and the Southwestern Division of ACDA in 2022. Vox Aquilae and the UNT Baroque Orchestra were featured at the January 2022 virtual conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization.

In addition to Dr. Hightower, the choral faculty at the University of North Texas includes Dr. Marques L. A. Garrett (Associate

Words of Welcome continued

Professor of Choral Studies), Dr. Jessica Nápoles (Professor of Choral Music Education and President-Elect Designate of ACDA), Dr. Jamey Kelley (Associate Professor of Choral Music Education) and Dr. Joshua Habermann (Instructor of Choral Literature). Some of you also may know that Dr. Warren Henry (Professor & Sr. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs) and I also have our artistic and academic roots in choral music education. In short, there is no shortage of choral music expertise and heartfelt enthusiasm in the UNT College of Music! We are here for you in service of our College of Music mission “...to serve our diverse musical culture with excellence, integrity, and imagination.”

Thank you again for the tremendous honor of this invitation to perform. We are humbled and profoundly grateful. I wish you every success during the course of your conference and wish you every success in the coming days. For those UNT alumni in attendance, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your exceptional support over the years. In case you missed it, a short recording that updates our recent progress at your alma mater can be found at our new, award-winning welcome video, Join the Journey, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6Bn1zexBo8>. Please be sure to tune in as your time and interests permit.

Heartfelt best wishes!,

JOHN W. RICHMOND, PH.D.

Professor and Dean of the College of Music
University of North Texas



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Chancellor

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Faculty Development Leave, Spring 2025

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Associate Chair,
Division of Instrumental Studies

JESSICA NÁPOLES
Acting Chair, Spring 2025
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Program

A Cappella Choir
Allen Hightower, conductor

Spiritus

**Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf,
BWV 226 (1729)**

**Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)**

Daeun Kim, portative organ

Text from Romans 8:26-27 & Martin Luther (1524)

Translation by Francis Browne (2008)

Der geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf,

*Den wir Wissen nicht was wir beten sollen, wie
sich's gebühret;*

*Sondern der Geist selbst vertritt uns aufs best
emit unaussprechlichem Seufzen.*

*Der aber die Herzen forschet, der Weiss, was
des Geiste sinn sei;
Denn er vertritt die Heiligen nach dem, das
Gott gefället.*

*Du heilige Brunst, süsser Trost
Nun hilf uns, frölich und getrost
In deinem Dienst beständig bleiben
Die Trübsal uns nicht abtreiben.
O Herr, durch dein Kraft uns bereit
Und stark des Fleisches Blödigkeit,
Das wir hie ritterlich ringen,
Durch Tod und Leben zu dir dringen.
Halleluja, halleluja.*

The spirit comes to help our weakness,

For we do not know what we should pray, as
we ought to pray;

But the spirit itself pleads for us in the best way
with inexpressible groans.

But he who searches our hearts knows what
the Spirit means
since he pleads for the saints in the way that
pleases God.

You sacred warmth, sweet consolation,
now help us joyful and comforted
in your service, always to remain
do not let sorrow drive us away!
O Lord, through your power make us ready
and strengthen the feebleness of our flesh
so that we may bravely struggle
through life and death to reach you!
Halleluja, halleluja.

Come to the Woods (2015)

**Jake Runestad
(b. 1986)**

Daeun Kim, piano

Text from the writings John Muir (1838-1914), adapted by the composer

Another glorious day, the air as delicious
to the lungs as nectar to the tongue.

The day was full of sparkling sunshine,
and at the same time enlivened with one of
the most bracing wind storms.

The mountain winds bless the forests with love.
They touch every tree, not one is forgotten.

When the storm began to sound,
I pushed out into the woods to enjoy it.
I should climb one of the trees for a wider look.

Program continued

The sounds of the storm were glorious with
wild exuberance of light and motion.
Bending and swirling backward and forward, round and round,
in this wild sea of pines.

The storm-tones died away, and turning toward the east,
I beheld the trees, hushed and tranquil.
The setting sun filled them with amber light, and seemed to say,
“Come to the woods, for here is rest.”

Veni, Sancte Spiritus (2025)

Marques L. A. Garrett

Text from the sequence for the Masses of Pentecost Sunday

*Veni, Sancte Spiritus,
et emitte caelitus
lucis tuae radium.*

Come, Holy Spirit
and send out from heaven
the ray of your light

*In labore requies,
In aestu temperies,
In fletu solatium.*

In labor, rest,
In heat, temperateness
In tears, solace.

*O lux beatissima,
reple cordis intima
tuorum fidelium.*

O most blessed light,
fill the inmost heart
of your faithful.

Program Notes

Spiritus

The Latin term “spirare,” meaning “breathe,” conjures images of wind, breath and the Holy Spirit. In crating this program, we have intentionally chosen repertoire whose texts draw together these concepts.

From the very first phrase of Bach’s “**Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf**”, the spirit descends with energetic urgency. Vivacious sixteenth-note melismas are passed between the voices of the double choir texture intended to represent the fiery winds of the Holy Spirit. The genius of Bach’s artistry is on further display through a sonic depiction of “inexpressible groans,” in which he uses angular melodic lines and dissonant intervals to create a ghostly, haunting effect. The ending chorale summarizes and moralizes on the text as the spirit guides us on a militant march toward eternal life.

“**Come to the Woods**” is an exploration of the spirit of nature. Jake Runestad complied the text from the writings of John Muir who was inspired by the transcendent natural landscape of California’s Yosemite Valley. The music meditates on Muir’s celebrations of nature through stunningly beautiful choral harmonies and pensive piano solos. Mountain winds, bracing windstorms and a wild sea of pines invigorate the soul and lead us to peace and rest.

Commissioned by the UNT A Cappella Choir and receiving its world premiere performance today, we conclude with UNT associate professor Marques L. A. Garrett’s latest work, “**Veni, Sancte Spiritus**”. Dr. Garrett used the Negro spiritual “Every Time I Feel the Spirit” as a source of melodic content, fusing this song tradition with the Latin sequence for Pentecost Sunday. The spirit first descends as the breath of heaven through wind sounds created by the choir. Lively mixed-meter rhythms alternate with peaceful homophony, creating a variety of images of heavenly light. As the music builds to its conclusion, the texture and harmony become increasingly complex, leading a crescendo to the brilliantly thrilling final chord.

- Matt Carlson

UNT A Cappella Choir

CONDUCTOR

Allen Hightower

SOPRANO

Lauren Abell
Sarah Barrow
Julianna Carden
Victoria Cerda
Rachel Cunningham
Kayla Flores
Sara Foshée-Knoy
Emma Garcia
Sorrel McCarthy
Katie Grace Stephenson
Maryn West

ALTO

Julia Amundson
Abi Bahng
Nadia Cloud
Kathryn Davidson
Delia Esparza
Pebbles Guest
Isa Jovanovic
Talitha Murphy
Ris Kemp
Diane Tiscareño
Jade Wesley
Eleanor Williams
Kristina Wueger

TENOR

Piero Centurion
Mason Clarkson
James Dickens II
Gavin Godbey
Marquis Xavier McBride
Robby Napoli
Rudy Polk
Tyler Warwas
Moisès Ybaben-Burciaga

BASS

Ben Bassett
Michael Binkley
Colin Busch-Kennedy
Isaac Carlin
Matt Carlson
Ely Eckles
Christopher Gray
Jaden Jackson-Cooper
Joshua LaPrade
Eric Martinez
Demetrius Robinson Jr.
Noah Wyckoff

PORTATIVE ORGAN/PIANO

Daeun Kim



Meet The Conductor



ALLEN HIGHTOWER

is a seventh generation Texan and resides in McKinney, with his wife Dr. Kristin Hightower and their two daughters Caroline and Julianne. As the director of choral studies, Allen leads the master's and doctoral programs in choral conducting and oversees a comprehensive choral program of nine ensembles. Allen serves as the conductor of the A Cappella Choir and the Grand Chorus, which collaborates annually with the UNT Symphony Orchestra in performances of major choral-orchestral works.

As a member of UNT's Early Music faculty, he leads the vocal ensemble Vox Aquilae, an artistic partner of the UNT Baroque Orchestra. Since arriving in 2016, the A Cappella Choir has performed at the 2020 Texas Music Educators Conference, the 2021 National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association and the 2022 Southwest Regional Conference of ACDA. Vox Aquilae and the Baroque Orchestra were featured at the 2022 conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization.

From 2000-2010, he served as professor of music and director

of choral studies at Sam Houston State University. During his tenure, the SHSU Chorale toured Europe, performed for the 2007 National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association, the 2010 Southwestern ACDA, and the 2003, 2006, and 2010 conventions of the Texas Music Educators Association. His public school teaching career included tenures at Klein High School in Spring, Texas and at Odessa Permian High School, where he led the PHS Kantorei and Satin Strings in performance at the 1996 TMEA convention.

As a teacher and conductor, he has visited 30 states, Asia and Europe. His students hold positions of leadership as choral conductors in public schools, colleges and universities, churches and community choirs throughout the United States.

Prior to his appointment at UNT, Dr. Hightower held the Weston Noble Endowed Chair in Music at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where he served as conductor of the Nordic Choir and artistic director of Christmas at Luther. As Luther's director of choral activities, he gave leadership to a choral program that included four conductors, six choirs and more than 530 singers. Under his direction, the Nordic Choir performed at the 2014 North Central ACDA, recorded six compact discs, made annual concert tours throughout the United States and toured Europe on two occasions.

Outside of his work in the academic setting, he has served as director of the Houston Symphony Chorus and as artistic director of the Houston Masterworks Chorus and Orchestra, leading an annual concert series of choral-orchestral masterworks. As a church musician, he has served Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Texas, California and Minnesota. He currently serves on the music

and worship staff of Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas, and is a past church music vice-president of the Texas Choral Directors Association. Dr. Hightower has served as an adjunct professor of conducting at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

As a conducting student of the Texas choral legend Bev Henson, Allen earned his undergraduate degree in music education and piano from Sam Houston State University. He went on to earn a master's degree in choral conducting from the Eastman School of Music where he was a student of Baroque scholar Alfred Mann, and a master's degree in orchestral conducting from Baylor University, where he served as assistant conductor to Stephen Heyde and pianist to Donald Bailey and the Baylor Chamber Singers.

Allen earned his doctorate in conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he served as assistant conductor to Donald Neuen. He pursued additional orchestral conducting studies with Jung-Ho Pak at the University of Southern California, additional choral conducting studies with Joseph Flummerfelt at Westminster Choir College, and choral-orchestral conducting with Helmuth Rilling at the Oregon Bach Festival. After winning first prize in the graduate division of the American Choral Directors Association's Conducting and Competition in 1997, Allen served as assistant to Paul Salamunovich, conductor of the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Division of Conducting & Ensembles

Choral Studies



ANDREW TRACHSEL

Chair of the Division of
Conducting and Ensembles
Professor of Wind Studies
Wind Orchestra Conductor



**MARQUES L. A.
GARRETT**

Associate Professor
of Choral Studies
*University Singers
Conductor*



JOSHUA HABERMANN

Adjunct Lecturer of
Choral Literature



ALLEN HIGHTOWER

Director of Choral Studies
Professor of Choral Studies
*A Cappella Choir,
Vox Aquilae and
Grand Chorus Conductor*



JAMEY KELLEY

Associate Professor of
Choral Music Education



JESSICA NÁPOLES

Professor of Choral
Music Education
*Concert Choir
Conductor*

Graduate Students

MATT CARLSON
Chorale Conductor, A Cappella
Choir Conducting Associate

KATHRYN DAVIDSON
Camerata Conductor, Dallas
Symphony Chorus Assistant

DONG HYUN KANG
Chorale Conductor,
Conducting Instructor

J. CHRISTINE LE
Camerata Conductor, University
Singers Conducting Associate

ERIC MARTINEZ
Concert Choir Conducting
Associate, Grand Chorus
Manager

ROBBY NAPOLI
Vox Aquilae Conducting
Associate, Social Media
Manager, Choral Librarian

Collaborative Pianists/Organists

YOUNGGI HONG
Vox Aquilae

DONG HYUN KANG
Chorale

DAEUN KIM
A Cappella Choir & Grand Chorus

YAXUAN LI
University Singers

ANNA MCCOMBIE
Camerata & Concert Choir

VOCAL STUDIES

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Chair, Division of Vocal Studies
Professor of Voice | soprano

DANIEL BUBECK
Lecturer of Voice | countertenor

STEPHEN DUBBERLY
Associate Professor of Vocal
Literature and Coaching

JONATHAN EATON
Professor of Music, Director of Opera
Bill & Margot Winspear Chair in Opera Studies

NEREIDA GARCÍA
Adjunct Instructor of Voice | soprano

WILLIAM JOYNER
Associate Professor of Voice | tenor

JENNIFER LANE
Professor of Voice | mezzo-soprano

SHARON BJORNDAL LAVERY
Lecturer in Opera

MARY MILLS
Lecturer of Voice | soprano

STEPHEN MORSCHECK
Professor of Voice | bass-baritone

ELVIA PUCCINELLI
Professor of Collaborative Piano
and Vocal Coaching

STEPHANIE RHODES RUSSELL
Associate Professor and Music Director of Opera

WILLEM VAN SCHALKWYK
Assistant Professor of Collaborative Piano
and Vocal Coaching

JEFFREY SNIDER
Associate Professor of Voice | baritone

MARK TEMPESTA
Assistant Professor of Voice
and Vocal Pedagogy | tenor

CAROL WILSON
Professor of Voice | soprano

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2025

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Choral Conducting
SYMPOSIUM



JULY 13-17

Meet our Symposium Faculty



**ALLEN
HIGHTOWER**

Director of Choral Studies
Professor of Choral Studies



**MARQUES L. A.
GARRETT**

Associate Professor
of Choral Studies



**JESSICA
NÁPOLES**

Professor of Choral
Music Education



**BRIAN C.
MURRAY**

Director of Choral Activities
University of Wyoming

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ALL-STATE CHOIR CAMP

JUNE 11-14, 2025



LYNNE GACKLE
Soprano/Alto & Tenor/Bass
Choir Conductor



MARQUES L. A. GARRETT
Mixed Choir Conductor



JESSICA NÁPOLES
Camp Director



BRIAN MURRAY
Associate Camp Director

CODY ALARCÓN
Assistant Camp Director

SECTION LEADERS:
Cathy Koziatek
Tara Sikon
Evan Brown
Derrick Brookins

PIANISTS:
Kelly Pfaffenberger
Andrew Steffen
Kathryn Zetterstrom
Cheryl Lemmons

**APPLY
HERE:**



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OUR VALUES



Courageous
Integrity



Be Curious



We Care



Better Together



Show Your
Fire



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