



University of North Texas College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Friday, November 22, 2024 | 8:00 p.m.
Paul Voertman Concert Hall

Baroque Orchestra and Vox Aquilae

Allen Hightower, conductor
Robby Napoli, associate conductor

Vox Aquilae

Rimanti in Pace (prima pars) Claudio Monteverdi
(1567–1643)

Baroque Orchestra

Sinfonia #2 in D Major, R.533.2 Domenico Scarlatti
(1685–1757)

Concerto XII in F Major, Op. 4 Pietro Locatelli
(1695–1764)

Soloists:

Karim Ayala Pool, violin | Ming-Wei Hsieh, violin
Ethan Dunn, violin | Olivia Corporon, violin

Program two hundred and thirty-four of the 2024–2025 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Baroque Orchestra & Vox Aquilae

Dixit Dominus, RV 594 Antonio Vivaldi
(1678–1741)

I. Dixit Dominus: Allegro

II. Donec ponam inimicos tuos: Largo

III. Virgam virtutis tuae: Allegro | Abigail Bahng & Victoria Cerda, soprano

IV. Tecum principium: Andante | Graham Day, countertenor

V. Juravit Dominus: Adagio

VI. Dominus a dextris tuis: Allegro | Robby Napoli, tenor & Matt Carlson, bass

VII. Judicabit in nationibus: Largo - Allegro molto

VIII. De torrente: Andante | Emma Garcia, soprano

IX. Gloria Patri: Allegro

X. Sicut erat in principio: Allegro

Early Music at UNT

With over 80 students participating every semester, the University of North Texas has one of the largest early music programs in the world. Regular ensembles include the UNT Baroque Orchestra, early music choir Vox Aquilae, UNT Baroque Trumpet Ensemble, UNT Sackbut Ensemble as well as numerous chamber ensembles.

Private instruction is offered on the following instruments: baroque violin and viola (Cynthia Roberts); baroque cello & viola da gamba (Sydney ZumMallen); voice (Daniel Bubeck & Jennifer Lane); baroque flute (Na'ama Lion); baroque trumpet (Adam Gordon); natural horn (Stacie Mickens); lute, theorbo & baroque guitar (Arash Noori); harpsichord & basso continuo (Brad Bennight); double bass & chamber music (Gudrun Raschen). The instrument collection is extensive, numbering nearly 275, so that ensembles of nearly every era before 1800 can be assembled. Degrees in musicology with an emphasis in early music performance are offered at the master's and doctoral levels as well as a related field program for DMA and MM candidates.

Ensembles have performed to critical acclaim at each of the Boston and Berkeley early music festivals since 2001 as well as performances throughout Texas and surrounding states. UNT's flagship early music ensemble Fantasmi has toured Brazil, Peru, Puerto Rico, Germany, Austria, Croatia, Vietnam, Taiwan, China and the Czech Republic during the past twelve years. Performances and masterclasses with other notable early music specialists such as Christoph Hammer, Bart van Oort, Phoebe Carrai, Monica Huggett, Manfredo Kraemer, Miloš Valent, David Douglass, Arthur Haas, Barbara Willi, Ellen Hargis, Bruce Dickey, Charles Toet, John Thiessen, Kiri Tollaksen, Paula Fagerberg, Julianne Baird, Hanneke van Proosdij, William Skeen and baroque dance specialist Catherine Turocy have been a regular event.

In cooperation with the UNT Collegium Singers directed by Richard Sparks and UNT Opera, major productions have been presented, such as Bach's St. John Passion, Handel's Theodora, Rousseau's Le Devin du Village and Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea (2003 & 2016).

Together with Vox Aquilae, directed by Allen Hightower, the UNT Baroque Orchestra performed at the American Choral Directors Association Conference in March 2021. In 2020 members of the UNT Early Music Program also took part in UNT's choral presentation at TMEA in San Antonio, TX.

Biographies

Allen Hightower is a seventh generation Texan, and resides in McKinney, Texas with his wife, Dr. Kristin Hightower and their two daughters Caroline and Julianne. As the director of Choral Studies at the University of North Texas, Allen leads the master's and doctoral programs in choral conducting, and oversees a comprehensive choral program of eight ensembles. Allen serves as the conductor of the UNT A Cappella Choir, and 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 leads the vocal ensemble Vox Aquilae, an artistic partner of the UNT Baroque Orchestra.

Since arriving 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.

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

Prior to his appointment at UNT, he held the Weston Noble Endowed Chair in Music at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where he served as conductor of the renowned 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 over 530 singers. Under Hightower's direction, the Nordic Choir performed at the 2014 North Central Division of ACDA, recorded six compact discs, made annual concert tours throughout the United States, and toured Europe on two occasions.

From 2000-2010, Hightower 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, 2010 Southwestern Division of ACDA, and 2003, 2006, and 2010 conventions of the Texas Music Educators Association. His high school teaching career included tenures at Klein High School in Spring, Texas and at Odessa Permian High School in Odessa, where he led the PHS Kantorei and Satin Strings in performance at the 1996 TMEA convention.

Outside of his work in academia, Allen has served as the Artistic Director of the Houston Masterworks Chorus and Orchestra, leading an annual concert series of choral-orchestral masterworks. As a deeply committed church musician, he has served Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches in Texas, California, and Minnesota. He currently serves on the music staff of Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas, and has served as the Church Music Vice-President of the Texas Choral Directors Association. He was as Adjunct Professor of Conducting at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

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 accompanist 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. Hightower pursued additional orchestral conducting studies with Jung-Ho Pak at the University of Southern California, 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 Competition in 1997, Allen served as assistant to Paul Salamunovich, conductor of the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Robby Napoli, a conductor, educator, tenor, and composer/arranger from College Park, Maryland, is currently pursuing a master's degree in Choral Conducting at the University of North Texas. Prior to UNT, Napoli co-founded the professional chamber choir, Lux, and served as the Choral Director at Chesapeake High School in Pasadena, MD.

As Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Lux, Napoli has led the ensemble in over 20 concert programs and recorded five full-length albums, including a collaboration with renowned composer Paul Mealor. Lux's accolades include two Wammies (2021), and a Featured Choral Album on Classical MPR. In 2024, Lux performed at the American Choral Directors' Association (ACDA) Eastern Region Conference.

During his tenure at Chesapeake High School, Napoli directed their Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and a cappella group, Evolve, earning superior ratings at District and State Festivals. Under his direction, Chamber Singers performed at school and community events, and across the East Coast. Singers from Chesapeake's choral program were named to various honor choirs, receiving state-high selections to Maryland's All State Chorus in 2022 (11 singers), and 2024 (13).

Napoli also served as director, arranger, and choreographer for Chesapeake's contemporary a cappella group, Evolve. With him, they advanced in the International Competition for High School A Cappella (ICHSA), placing as high as Semifinal Runners-up in 2023. Under Napoli, members of Evolve earned honors as Outstanding Soloist, Outstanding Vocal Percussion, and Outstanding Choreography. In 2024, Evolve was selected for a workshop with Pentatonix's Matt Sallee at the Maryland Music Educators' Association Conference.

Throughout his public school career, Napoli was actively involved in local and statewide music events, managing All County Chorus and the Maryland Tenor/Bass Demonstration Chorus, and hosting District Choral Festivals for both high school and middle school. He has also presented multiple sessions for county and state conferences, and served as adjudicator/clinician for secondary choirs throughout the state of Maryland. An avid performer, Napoli maintained an active career as a professional choral singer throughout Washington, D.C., primarily with the Choir of Christ Church, Georgetown.

Robby enjoys performing contemporary choral music, and has premiered over thirty works with choirs since 2019. He is particularly passionate about inspiring and creating opportunity for the upcoming generations of choral musicians.

Napoli holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College, where he studied conducting with Robert Natter and Brent Talbot, voice with Matthew Osifchin, and composition with Avner Dorman.

Baroque Orchestra Personnel

Violin

Karim Ayala Pool †
Braeden Boyles
Olivia Rose Corporon*
Ethan Dunn*
Ming-Wei Hsieh*
Jiwon Lee*
Hongrui Wang
Peng Yi

Viola

Margot Lynette Elder
Kelsey Felton
Cameron Halsell

Cello

Tyler Aguiard
Madeline Dykhouse †
Jiapeng Liu

Double Bass

Joe Ferris
Zoe Czarnecki

Harpsichord & Organ

Chelsea Qiuxian Lu
Michael Soto
Liang Wang
Talitha Murphy

Flute

Marie Chamoun
You Yang

Trumpet

Bradley Swanson
Joseph William

* – Principal player

† – Ensemble assistant

Vox Aquilae Personnel

Soprano

Abi Bahng
Victoria Cerda
Olivia Cottar
Emma Garcia
Sorrel McCarthy
Christina Lopez

Tenor

James Dickens II
David Ferguson
Marquis McBride
Robby Napoli

Alto

Kathryn Davidson
Graham Day
Pebbles Guest
Meredith Hinshaw
J. Christine Le
Talitha Murphy

Bass

Michael Binkley
Matt Carlson
Brian De Stephano
Jaden Jackson-Cooper
Noah Wyckoff

Text and Translation

Rimanti in Pace by Claudio Monteverdi

Italian

"Rimanti in pace," a la dolente e bella
Fillida, Tirsi sospirando disse.

"Rimanti, io me ne vo; tal mi prescrisse
legge, empio fato, aspra sorte e
rubella."

Ed ella ora da l'una e l'altra stella
stillando amaro umore, i lumi affisse
ne i lumi del suo Tirsi e gli trafisse
il cor di pietosissime quadrella.

English

"Stay here in peace," said Thyrsis, sighing
to the grieving and lovely Phyllis.

"Stay here; I go, as decreed by law,
pitiless destiny, bitter and hostile fate."

And she, now from one eye to the other,
dripping bitter tears, fixed her eyes
on the eyes of her Thyrsis, and pierced
his heart with the most piteous arrows.

Dixit Dominus, RV 594 by Antonio Vivaldi

Latin

*Dixit Dominus Domino meo: sede a
dextris meis, donec ponam inimicos tuos
scabellum pedum tuorum.*

*Virgam virtutis tuae emittet Dominus ex
Sion: dominare in medio inimicorum
tuorum.*

*Tecum principium in die virtutis tuae in
splendoribus sanctorum:
ex utero, ante luciferum, genui te.*

*Juravit Dominus et non poenitebit eum:
tu es sacerdos in aeternum secundum
ordinem Melchisedech.*

*Dominus a dextris tuis: confregit in die irae
suae reges.*

*Judicabit in nationibus, implebit ruinas:
conquassabit capita in terra multorum.*

*De torrente in via bibet: propterea
exaltabit caput.*

English

The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit thou on My
right hand, until I make thine enemies thy
footstool.

The Lord shall send the rod of thy power
out of Zion: be thou ruler, even in the
midst of thine enemies.

On the day of Thy power shall the people
offer thee free-will offerings with an holy
worship: I have begotten you from the
womb before the rising of the morning.

The Lord sware, and will not repent: Thou
art a priest forever after the order of
Melchizedek.

The Lord upon thy right hand: shall wound
even kings in the day of His wrath.

He shall judge among the heathen, He
shall pile up ruins: and scatter skulls on the
land of many.

He shall drink of the brook in the way:
therefore shall He lift up his head.