



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Friday, February 21, 2025 | 8:00 p.m. | Paul Voertman Concert Hall

Baroque Orchestra
Malcolm Matthews, conductor

Vox Aquilae
Allen Hightower, conductor

Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened, HWV 259 (1727) George Frideric Handel
1. Let thy hand be strengthened (1685–1759)
2. Let justice and judgment
3. Alleluia

Ouverture and Suite in E minor,
TWV 55:e1 (c. 1733) Georg Philipp Telemann (1681–1767)
1. Ouverture: Lentement-Vite
2. Rejouissance
3. Rondeau
4. Lourée
5. Passepiéd
6. Air un peu vivement
7. Gigue

Sinfonia in F, F. 67 (c. 1740–1745) Wilhelm Friedemann Bach (1710–1784)

The King Shall Rejoice, HWV 260 (1727) George Frideric Handel
1. The King shall rejoice
2. Exceeding glad shall he be
3. Glory and great worship
4. Alleluia

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

Texts

Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened, HWV 259 (Handel)

Movement I

Let thy hand be strengthened,
and thy right hand be exalted.

Movement II

Let justice and judgement be the preparation of thy seat,
Let mercy and truth go before thy face!

Movement III

Alleluia!

The King Shall Rejoice, HWV 260 (Handel)

Movement I

The King shall rejoice in Thy strength, O Lord!

Movement II

Exceeding glad shall he be of Thy salvation.

Movement III

Glory and great worship hast Thou laid upon him.
Thou hast prevented him with the blessings of goodness,
and hast set a crown of pure gold upon his head.

Movement IV

Alleluia!

Biographies

Malcolm Matthews, who earned a doctoral degree in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music, is one of only four organists to have been awarded the prestigious Artist's Certificate in Eastman's century-long history. In addition to his organ studies with David Higgs, he earned a master's degree in harpsichord performance under William Porter and pursued a minor in collaborative piano with Jean Barr.

Dr. Matthews comes to UNT most recently from the faculty of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee where he served as Adjunct Artist Teacher of Organ and Harpsichord. He also served as associate organist and choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville. Matthews enjoys collaborative work and often accompanies ensembles and soloists across a broad repertoire. He has performed as a soloist with the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra, Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. A featured artist at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society, his accolades include first place at the 2013 Westfield International Organ Competition, second place at the 2012 National Young Artist's Competition in Organ Performance, semi-finalist at the 2016 International Bach Competition, second place at the 201 OSM Manulife Competition, first place at the 2005 Southeastern Region IV Young Organists Competition and semi-finalist at the 2009 Concours international d'orgue d Lyon.

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.

Ensemble Personnel

Baroque Orchestra

Malcolm Matthews, conductor
Madeline Dykhouse & Karim Ayala Pool, assistants

Violin

Karim Ayala Pool
Braeden Boyles
Olivia Rose Corporon
Ethan Dunn
Ming-Wei Hsieh
Hyun Jung Kim
Emma Millian
Hongrui Wang

Viola

Margot Lynette Elder
RJ McDowell
Cameron Halsell

Cello

Tyler Aguiard
Claire Cabral
Madeline Dykhouse
Esther Kang

Double Bass

Ruben Borges
Wyatt Gaugler

Double Bass & Gamba

Zoe Czarnecki

Flute

Mary Lucile Chamoun
Brytan Veracruz
You Yang

Oboe

Hyungju Oh
Billy Traylor

Trumpet

Jakob Burnham
Lexy Kilgore
Joseph Williams

Organ

Younggi Hong
Talitha Murphy

Timpani

Jack Spelman

Vox Aquilae

Allen Hightower, conductor
Robby Napoli, associate conductor

Soprano

Julia Amundsen
Victoria Cerda
Rachel Cunningham
Emma Garcia
Christina Lopez
Sorrel McCarthy

Tenor

James Dickens II
Gavin Godbey
Marquis Xavier McBride
Moisés Ybaben-Burciaga
Robby Napoli

Alto

Kathryn Davidson
Pebbles Guest
Ris Kemp
Christine Le
Talitha Murphy

Bass

Michael Binkley
Matt Carlson
Jaden Jackson-Cooper
Arthur Keast
Noah C. M. Wyckoff