



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Wednesday, April 23, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.
Margot and Bill Winspear Hall - Murchison Performing Arts Center

Dean's Camerata
David Itkin, conductor

with Grand Chorus
Allen Hightower, director

and Symphony Orchestra

King David

Soloists

Stephen Morscheck, narrator

Marjorie Hayes, the witch of Endor

Shuyi Li, soprano | Sorrel McCarthy, soprano

Dongxu Ding, mezzo-soprano | Maiya Williams, mezzo-soprano

Haolun Zhang, countertenor

Rudy Polk, tenor | Spencer Simpson, tenor

This presentation of Arthur Honegger's *King David* is sponsored by



Program six hundred thirty-eight of the 2024–2025 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

King David (1921)..... Arthur Honegger
Sung in English (1892–1955)

Part I Text by René Morax
(1873–1963)

- I. Introduction
- II. The Song of David, the Shepherd
- III. Psalm: All Praise to Him
- IV. Song of Victory
- V. March
- VI. Psalm: In the Lord, I Put My Faith
- VII. Psalm: O Had I Wings Like A Dove
- VIII. Song of the Prophets
- IX. Psalm: Pity Me Lord
- X. Saul's Camp
- XI. Psalm: God, the Lord Shall Be My Light
- XII. Incantation
- XIII. March of the Philistines
- XIV. The Lamentations of Gilboa

Part II

- I. Festival Song
- II. The Dance Before the Ark

Part III

- III. Song: Now My Voice In Song Upsoaring
- IV. Song of the Handmaid
- V. Psalm of Penitence
- VI. Psalm; Behold, In Evil I Was Born
- VII. Psalm: O Shall I Rise Mine Eyes unto the Mountains?
- VIII. The Song of Ephraïm
- IX. March of the Hebrews
- X. Psalm: Thee Will I Love O Lord
- XI. Psalm: In My Distress, Then I Cried to My God
- XII. The Coronation of Solomon
- XIII. The Death of David

Text

Part I

I. Introduction – Orchestra

Narration:

And in these days the Lord spoke to the people of Israel through the mouth of the Prophet. And God turned against Saul and spoke to Samuel, saying: Arise, fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a King among his sons. And Samuel arose, and went to Bethlehem, where David was tending his flocks and singing in the fields.

II. The Song of David, the Shepherd – Alto Solo

God shall be my shepherd kind,
He will shield me from the wind,
Lead his lamb to pastures cool,
Guide me to the quiet pool.

He shall be my staff and rod,
Restore my spirit again,
E'en the darkest vale I trod
Shall not be travelled in pain.

He will keep me from alarm,
Tho' the lightning play around,
Save me with His mighty arm.
The while, shelter me from harm
Comfort I have found.

Narration:

And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said: The Lord hath not chosen these. And Samuel said unto Jesse: Are here all thy children? And he said: there remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said: send and fetch him. And he seat and brought him in. And the Lord said: Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

III. Psalm: All Praise to Him – Choir

All praise to Him, the Lord of Glory
The everlasting God my helper
He has avenged all my wrongs and my woes,
And by His hand, my people are made safe.

When hordes of heathens arose up against me,
By His right hand, I felt myself sustained
His thunder pealed on the heads of the fore
Who in their malice sought my end.

Narration:

And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together and set the battle in array against the Philistines. And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, a giant. And he mocked the Israelites. And David smote him in the forehead with a stone from his sling. And the Israelites shouted and pursued the Philistines even unto the gates of Ekron.

IV. Song of Victory – Chorus

David is great, the Philistines o'erthrown!
Chosen of God is he.
Succour'd and unafraid.
Saul hath slain his thousands, and ten thousands David!

V. March – Orchestra

Narration:

And Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played to him. And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin. For he was old and David was young and beautiful.

VI. Psalm: In the Lord, I Put My Faith – Tenor Solo

In the Lord I put my faith, I put my trust
How say ye unto my soul.
Flee like any bird unto the mountain,
For behold evil is here.

And the wicked bend their bow
That they may privily shoot them that are clean and upright.

In the Lord I put my faith, I put my trust!

Narration:

So David fled and escaped and came to the prophets. And he languished and pined in the heat of the desert. And he bade farewell to Jonathan, who loved him as a brother.

VII. Psalm: O Had I Wings Like A Dove – Soprano Solo

O had I wings like a dove
Then would I fly away and be at rest.
Save in the tomb alone is there no comfort?
Is there no balm to heal this woe of mine?

Where shall I find for my head some safe shelter?
Morning and eve I pray and cry aloud.
The storm of my distress blows like the tempest.
Bearing to God my cries and pray'r.

Narration:

And Saul sent messengers to take David. And they came to Naioth, in Ramah, and they found him with the company of the prophets, prophesying:

VIII. Song of the Prophets – Tenors

Man that is born of woman lives but a little while!
Whichever way he turn, the path he must pursue is heavy to his feet.
He cometh up like glass, which in time shall be mowed down.
He fleeth as a shadow, and the place that once he knew
remembers him no more.

Narration:

Henceforth he must wander in the wilderness; his heart assailed by want, by care and weeping.

IX. Psalm: Pity Me Lord – Tenor Solo

Pity me Lord, for I am weak!
A refuge and harbour I seek.
My weary head thy wings shall cover
When will the endless night be over?
Pity me Lord, for I am weak!

My heart upraise, my heart upraise
To hymn thy bounty all my days.
O sun arise to lead me on!
That with my harp, the vic'try won,
I may return to sing a joyful song of praise!

Narration:

And the Lord delivered Saul into the hands of David. So David came to the people by night; and, behold, Saul lay sleeping with a spear at his bolster and cruse of water at his head. And David feared to destroy the Lord's anointed. So David took the spear and the cruse of Water from Saul's bolster; and he gat him away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked; for they were all asleep: because a deep sleep from the Lord was fallen upon them.

X. Saul's Camp – Orchestra**XI. Psalm: God the Lord Shall Be My Light – Chorus**

God the lord shall be my light and my salvation
What cause have I to fear?
God the Lord shall be my strength in tribulation
His help is ever near.

Though wicked enemies came
My foes who my flesh would fain devour
Bright sword and lance the might claim,
Yet they stumble and fall upon that hour.

Tenors and Basses:

E'en though an host against me should rise,
I shall not be afraid.
From field of war the Lord will hear my cries.
And their arm shall be stayed.

Sopranos and Altos:

God the Lord shall be my light and salvation
Though my enemies against me should rise,
Yet their arm shall be stayed.

Narration:

And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines in Shunem, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. – And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by prophets. – And his servants said to him: Behold there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. – And Saul disguised himself, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. Then said the woman: whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said: bring me up Samuel.

XII. Incantation – The Witch of Endor

Om. Om.

By fire, by water, by speech and by wind, by sight and by sound,
Break thy chains, burst the locks which bind thee.

Appear. 'Tis time.

Om. Om. I call thee from Sheol's darkness.

Return and enter into the temple of nine doors.

Appear! Appear!

Give thy blood!

Let the breath of live return to thy nostrils;
come from the depths of the Earth.

Appear! Appear!

The fire burns me; the fire below!

It enters into me, it searches the marrow of my bones.

It pierces me, like a sharp sword.

Arise! Arise! Appear! O! O!

Why hast thou deceived me?

For thou art Saul!

The shade of Samuel:

Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?

Narration:

And Samuel prophesied to Saul, saying: Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines. – And Saul fell with his son in mount Gilboa. And the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines.

XIII. March of the Philistines – Orchestra**Narration:**

And the Amalekite messenger brought to David the crown and the bracelet of Saul. Then David rent his clothes, and mourned and wept for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

**XIV. The Lamentations of Gilboa –
Narrator, Soprano and Alto Soli and Chorus**

Narration:

*The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!
Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the
Philistines rejoice.*

*Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you,
nor fields of offerings:*

For there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away,

The shield of Saul as though he had not been anointed with oil. –

From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty,

The ____ of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives,

*And in their death, they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they
were stronger than lions.*

Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you on scarlet,

With other of gold upon your apparel.

Soprano and Alto Chorus: Weep for Saul.

Narration:

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle?

O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.

I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan:

Very pleasant hast thou been unto me:

Thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

How are the mighty fallen and the weapons of war perished!

Jerusalem! Jerusalem! David is King!

He hath chosen thee to cherish the ark of God.

Behold, today it shall be set in the midst of Israel.

Part II

XV. Festival Song – Soprano Soli and Soprano and Alto Chorus

Soprano Solo:

Sister, oh sing thy song!

Never hath God forsaken us, e'en in captivity or in adversity,

Chosen of him above on us now lights his love.

Soprano and Alto Chorus: God the Lord, comes to bless Israel.

Soprano Solo:

*Never hath God forsaken us, e'en in captivity or in adversity,
On us now lights his love.*

God the Lord comes to bless Israel.

Never hath God forsaken us, e'en in captivity or in adversity,

Chosen of him above on us now lights his love.

Soprano and Alto Chorus: Israel give thanks unto the Lord.

**XVI. The Dance Before the Ark –
Narrator, The Angel, Soprano Solo, Chorus**

Narration:

*And behold, shepherds lead their flocks,
The workers in the fields bring their harvest and wine from their vineyards,
And all to the glory of the Lord.*

*O Israel, now get thee to the hill,
For all peoples shall receive the blessing of God.*

*And David played before the Lord and danced before the ark,
And the Earth shook, even as an harp-string trembleth beneath the hand of a virgin.*

Tenors and Basses: Mighty God, Jehovah be with us.

Sopranos and Altos:

Mighty God, be with us,
O radiance of the morn, and the splendour of noon.

Tenors and Basses:

Ope wide those doors that lead to haev'n
Ope wide those doors that lead to justice.
For the righteous alone enter therein
In those precious portals of God the Lord.

Many nations brought me to war
Yet in Jehovah's name, they were destroyed
Compassed me round like bees that swarm
Yet in Jehovah's name, they were destroyed.

Each wither'd bush I set on fire,
In great Jehovah's name, it was destroyed.
For he has shielded me from harm,
And his right hand has led me on.

Altos: Almighty God!

Sopranos and Altos:

God above, almighty God, God above.
Mighty God, be with us.

Tenors: Mighty God, be with us.

Basses:

Lord above!
Show thyself, and scatter all our foes!

Sopranos:

Sing to the Lord, sing loud and long!
Play on your instruments and dance!
Give to the Lord glory and strength!

Sopranos and Altos:

Let the sea roar in this fullness
Ye let the fields rejoice for gladness
And the trees of the forest sing praises.

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Sopranos:

In eternal light he abides,
He hovers on wings of the wind,
And his robe the roof of the Earth.

Hidden by clouds there lies his dwelling
And mid the tempest, he has spoken.
Then magnify the Lord Creator.

Chorus:

Praise to the Holiest!
Saviour of Israel.
Mighty God, Lord above.
Mighty God, be with us.
Come!

Tenors and Basses:

He has shielded me from harm,
And his right hand has led me on.
For he has shielded me from harm,
And his right hand has led me on.

Sopranos and Altos: Jehovah, come to us.

Chorus: Mighty God, be with us!

Basses: Lord above, show thyself and scatter all our foes!

Chorus: Mighty God, come to us!

The Angel:

Give ear – 'tis to for thee as King to build a house unto my name.
Behold a child is born to thee, and I will set him on thy throne.
And he shall be my son, and I will be his Father,
Then shall be build a house for my name,
And Solomon he shall be called
That over Israel peace my reign.

Chorus and Soprano Solo: Alleluia!

Part III**XVII. Song: Now My Voice In Song Upsoaring**

Now my voice in song upsoaring
Shall loud proclaim my King afar!
His wealth of splendour fast outpouring
Shall put to nothing e'en the loveliest of Star.

Pride of Adam's race that bore thee
A simple shepherd want to sing.
And yet surpassing all before thee
Thou hast be chosen by the Lord to be our King.

God will send thee sons to cherish
Who shall inherit in their turn,
Thy name in glory shall not perish
And all the people as their pastour shall announce thee Master.

Narration:

And the blessing of God rested upon David's house. All the Kings of the Earth are united with him, and he is the greatest among them all. But sin entered into his heart, for it came to pass in an evening tide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the King's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, and she was very beautiful to look upon.

XVIII. Song of the Handmaid – Alto Solo

O my love take my hand,
Let us wander the vale
Where the vine leaves so frail
Promise fruit for the land.

Nay, fair one, in this bower,
As yet no grape to cull,
But see in splendour full
The mandrake is in flower.

Narration:

And David took Bathsheba to wife and killed her husband Uriah the Hittite with the sword. And Bathsheba bare a son, but the thing that David had done displeased the Lord. And the Lord struck the child and on the seventh day he died.

XIX. Psalm of Penitence – Chorus

Pity me God in my distress
Turn not away but heal me again,
Wash me of sin and cleanse me of shame
And in thy hot displeasure, O chasten me not.

O God, turn not away, but heal me again
Wash me of sin and cleanse me of shame.
Pardon, O Lord, the evil done.
Pity me God, in my distress,
Pity thou me, O God,
Pity thou me, in my distress.

Narration: *And the Lord sent Nathan unto David to reprove him for his sin.*

XX. Psalm; Behold, In Evil I Was Born – Chorus

Behold in evil I was born,
And in iniquity conceived.
For thou desirest truth and goodness,
And in the hidden part great wisdom.

I have sinned, yea, heavily transgressed!

I have been shown the path to follow
And I have wandered from Thy footsteps.

Pity me God, in my distress,
Pardon Lord, the evil I have done.

Narration:

And the wrath of the Lord fell upon David's house. For a brother had ravished his sister, and a brother killed his brother. And Absalom, David's well-beloved son, rose up against his father, and David escaped and sought the desert.

XXI. Psalm: O Shall I Rise Mine Eyes unto the Mountains? – Tenor Solo

O shall I rise mine eyes unto the mountains,
From whence should come my help?
The Lord shall guide thy steps going and coming
From henceforth, evermore!

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved
For he is on high, watching above,
The Lord who is the Keeper,
Nether slumbers nor sleeps.

Narration:

So the people went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim. And Joab slew Absalom whose hair was caught in the thick boughs of a great oak. – And when the King heard of it he was much moved, and went up into his chamber and wept.

**XXII. The Song of Ephraim –
Soprano Solo and Soprano and Alto Chorus**

O thou forest of grief,
Where ravens seek their prey,
The fruit is gather'd in,
That hung upon thy boughs.

Thy fruit, fiery as blood,
Was pluck'd by envious hands.
And must this be the price and forfeit of a kiss.

Narration:

And David signalled with his hand and the army stood still. And David said: Ye warriors of Israel, ye are my brethren, ye are my ones and my flesh. Ye have established peace in the land. Receive my thanks!

XXIII. March of the Hebrews – Narrator and Orchestra**Narration:**

And David signalled with his hand and the army stood still. And David said: Ye warriors of Israel, ye are my brethren, ye are my ones and my flesh. Ye have established peace in the land. Receive my thanks.

His enemies o'erthrown, David sings a grateful song unto the Lord.

XXIV. Psalm: Thee Will I Love O Lord – Chorus

Thee will I love O Lord who art my fortress,
Thou art my shield, the horn of my salvation
God is my refuge safe I trust in him,
My rock, my strength, my tow'r and my deliverer!

In him I find the solace that I long for.
He guideth my steps, that I may walk in comfort.
I call on him, and invoke his aid,
And I am saved from my strong enemy.

When waves of death encompassed me
And snares of men made me afraid,
Then did he send, and take me from above,
And drew me forth out of many waters.

Narration:

And David waxed old in his palace of cedar and gold. And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number the people. So the Lord sent pestilence upon Israel; and he sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it.

XXV. Psalm: In My Distress, Then I Cried to My God – Chorus

In my distress, then I cried to my God
Sorrows of Hell did so compass me round.
Out of his temple he listened and heard.
E'en to his throne came my voice to his ears.

Suddenly, the Earth, did shale in its foundations.
The very hills moved and trembled, and broke,
From Summit above to the foot of the vale,
So great the anger and wrath of the Lord.

Narration:

And David proclaimed Solomon, the son of Bathsheba, King over Israel and over Judah. And when Nathan had crowned Solomon, David look on the temple for the last time.

XXVI. The Coronation of Solomon – Narrator and Orchestra

Narration:

And Nathan said: Before all Israel and before Jehovah we anoint, as King, Solomon, the son of David. And the people shouted: God save King Solomon!

**XXVII. The Death of David –
Narrator, Soprano Solo, Chorus**

Narration:

And David said: The spirit o God is within me. One cometh after me to lead my people in the fear of the Lord. O how good it was to live. I thank Thee, God, Thou, who gavest me life!

Soprano Solo:

And God said: the day shall dawn to bring a flow'r newly born.
From thy stem in fullness growing,
In fragrance sweet and morn.
All my people shall adorn, with breath of life bestowing.

Sopranos and Altos:

And God said: one day shall dawn
Bringing a flower newly born.
From thy stem in fullness growing,
In sweet fragrance night and morn.
All my people shall adorn,
With breath of life bestowing.

Tenors and Basses: Alleluia.

Soprano Solo, Sopranos, Altos, and Tenors: Alleluia.

Basses:

And God said: one day shall dawn
Bearing that flower newlyborn,
From thy stem in fullness growing.
In sweet fragrance night and morn.
All my people shall adorn,
With breath of life bestowing.

Biographies

The 2024–2025 season marks **David Itkin's** 20th season as music director and conductor of the Abilene Philharmonic, and his 17th year serving as professor of music and director of orchestral studies at the University of North Texas College of Music.

During past seasons Itkin's career has taken him to 45 U.S. states and 15 countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, including concerts and recordings with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Slovenska Filharmonija, San Diego Symphony, and Seoul Philharmonic. Other guest conducting appearances include concerts with the Colorado Philharmonic, Annapolis Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra, Fort Worth, Illinois, Delaware, New Hampshire and Cheyenne Symphonies, and the Indianapolis, Baltimore and Reno chamber orchestras. During the Summer of 2006 Maestro Itkin appeared once again with the Slovenska Filharmonija in Ljubljana, Slovenia, conducting the opening concert of the 14th World Saxophone Congress.

Following a distinguished 17-year tenure, Itkin was named conductor laureate of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in July 2010. Previously Mr. Itkin served as music director and conductor of the Las Vegas Philharmonic, artistic director and conductor of the McCall Summerfest in McCall, Idaho, and as music director and conductor of the Lake Forest Symphony (Chicago), Kingsport Symphony, Birmingham Opera Theatre and Lucius Woods Music Festival (Wisconsin).

His second book, "The Conductor's Craft" [2021] whereupon notable conductors and pedagogues wrote, "a real breakthrough for anyone studying or teaching conducting," "I love this book and will be using it in my studio," and "Bravo to Maestro Itkin." His first book, "Conducting Concerti" [2014] released to considerable critical acclaim. Leonard Slatkin called Conducting Concerti "a valuable textbook for the aspiring Maestro...highly recommended," and Samuel Adler called it "an invaluable addition to the world of conducting textbooks."

Mr. Itkin's first film score "Sugar Creek" was recorded in 2006 by the Arkansas Symphony for the film's 2007 release. His most recent major work, "Exodus", an oratorio, was premiered in April 2005 in Little Rock, Arkansas with William Shatner narrating. "Exodus" was released worldwide on CD in 2007. In May 2009 Itkin was awarded both an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by Lyon College and the Above the Barre award by Ballet Arkansas. In addition to his professional schedule, Maestro Itkin regularly serves as a guest conductor/clinician, including concerts with the Arkansas All-State Orchestra, Southern California High School Honors Orchestra Maine All-State Orchestra, Las Vegas Senior Honors Orchestra, and any number of Texas all-region Honors Orchestras.

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.

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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.

Bass-baritone **Stephen Morscheck** maintains an active performing schedule which has recently included the title role of Elijah in Mendelssohn's "Elijah" with the Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra, the bass solos in J. S. Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, the role of Jesus in Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" with the St. Louis Bach Society, and Raphael in Haydn's "The Creation" with East Texas Symphony Orchestra and Winston-Salem Symphony Orchestra. Known for his interpretations of oratorio and concert repertoire, Mr. Morscheck has appeared with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Bach Society of St. Louis, Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, Costa Rica Philharmonic, Dallas Bach Society, Duke University Chapel, Festival de Saint-Denis, Knoxville Symphony Society, Laudate Deum Chamber Choir of Lausanne, Switzerland; Music of the Baroque in Chicago, Opera Naples, Pacific Symphony, Roanoke Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and Rochester Chamber Philharmonic. Opera engagements include appearances with Arizona Opera, Atlanta Opera, Bonn Opera, Dallas Opera, Florentine Opera of Milwaukee, Florida Grand Opera, Kentucky Opera, Liceu Opera Barcelona, Los Angeles Opera, Lyric Opera Baltimore, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Metropolitan Opera, Opera Carolina, Opera Philadelphia, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opera Colorado, Opéra de Montréal, Santa Fe Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, Teatro Real Madrid, and Washington National Opera. Mr. Morscheck graduated from Wheaton College and completed advanced degrees from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance. In 1995, he was awarded the Richard Tucker Career Grant. He is a professor of Vocal Studies at the University of North Texas College of Music.

Marjorie Hayes was an Institute of the Arts Fellow creating "The Women Who Compose" for Broadway. The show premiered at New York City's Triad Theatre and was produced by Bishop Arts Theatre Center, Dallas. She directed "The Metromanics" for Theatre 40 in Los Angeles. Her most recent project has been an adaptation of the theatre production of "The Donner Party." With the support of a Scholarly and Creative Activity award, her adaptation with playwright Jim Eigo premiered Spring 2024.

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Ms. Hayes was awarded an Artslink Grant to direct a production of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's socio-political musical "Happy End" for Teatr Wybrzeże. Later, her co-translation of "Happy End" was produced for the Polish National Theatre. Her production of Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost" was nominated for best theatre production in the Czech theatre journal "Divadelni Noviny." Hayes was awarded a United States Senior Fulbright Fellowship to Poland where she directed "Three Tall Women."

In the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, Ms. Hayes' production of "The Food Chain" was chosen as one of the "Top Ten Productions of 2000" by the Dallas Morning News. She was recipient of the Austin Circle of Critics Award for Best Director-Drama and directed "My Sister in This House" which was twice named as a top production of 2009.

Hayes is Professor of Acting-Directing at UNT and received her BFA in Acting from California Institute of the Arts and her MFA in Directing from Carnegie Mellon University. She is a member of the performing artists unions: Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Actors' Equity Association, and SAG-AFTRA.

Shuyi Li, soprano, from Beijing, China, is a second year DMA student and Teaching Fellow at the University of North Texas under the tutelage of Carol Wilson. Ms. Li earned her master's degree in vocal performance from Indiana University and her bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Eastman School of Music and Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing. Most recently Ms. Li has performed the roles of Fiordiligi in "Così fan tutte" and Gretel in "Hänsel und Gretel" with UNT Opera. Lauretta in "Gianni Schicchi", Suor Genovieffa / Una conversa in "Suor Angelica" with Bay View Music Festival. Kate in "The Pirates of Penzance" with Cedar Rapids Opera and Cupid in "Orpheus in the Underworld" with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Her other credits include Lizzie in "Goblin Market" with Eastman Opera Theater, Papagena in "Die Zauberflöte" with Beijing Concert Hall. Ms. Li has also performed scenes as the roles of Susanna in "Le nozze di Figaro", Flaminia in "Il mondo della luna", Zerlina in "Don Giovanni", Musetta in "La bohème" and Despina in "Così fan tutte". Upcoming roles as Fox/Rose/Water in "The Little Prince" with The Dallas Opera in their 2025-2026 season.

A native of Houston and resident of Lewisville, Texas, soprano **Sorrel Bohannon McCarthy** is a first year MM student in vocal performance at UNT, studying with Daniel Bubeck. A member of both A Capella Choir and Vox Aquilae, Sorrel has performed as Belinda in "Dido and Aeneas", Fairy and Nymph in "The Fairy Queen", Spirit 2 in "Cendrillon" and in the choruses for "The Bartered Bride" and Gluck's "Orfeo ed Euridice". In addition to performing, Sorrel is a teaching assistant and the resident stage manager for UNT Opera and has been the director of education at The Actors Conservatory Theatre in Lewisville since 2016. She is an experienced stage director, music director, producer, stage manager, and theatre arts teacher, with production credits for over 30 plays, musicals, and operas. She is also an MA in Interdisciplinary Studies student, with fields in education, performance studies and creative writing.

Dongxu Ding, mezzo-soprano, is a first-year DMA student from China studying with Carol Wilson. She is the recipient of TGS Academic Achievement scholarship. In 2024, Dongxu performed the role of Dorabella in "Così fan tutte" and also appears in "Die Fledermaus". She received her masters degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen). She performed in several opera scene productions while at CUHK, portraying roles such as Suzuki in "Madama Butterfly", Carmen in "Carmen", Charlotte in "Werther" and Marthe in "Faust". In 2020 she received her bachelor degree from Tianjin Conservatory of Music. She performed in several opera ensembles while at TCM, such as "Turandot" and "La Bohème".

Maiya Williams, mezzo-soprano and Hutto, Texas native, is pursuing a Graduate Artist Certificate in voice performance at the University of North Texas under the tutelage of Molly Fillmore and Mark Tempesta. Past productions include *Mistress of the Novices* in "Suor Angelica", Hata in "The Bartered Bride", Third lady and Third spirit in "Die Zauberflöte", Marcellina in "Le Nozze di Figaro", Tallest Zegner Daughter in "Proving Up" and Dorothee in "Cendrillon", with chorus positions in The Dallas Opera production of Gounod's "Romeo et Juliette" and Verdi's "La Traviata". Recent engagements include a vocal fellowship with Spoleto Festival, an Emerging Artist position with Seagle Festival and alto soloist for Mozart's "Coronation Mass". Upcoming engagements see Ms. Williams returning to Orpheus Chamber Singers, Verdigris Ensemble and Spoleto Festival. In addition to opera, Williams has a rich background in concert and choral music having been the alto soloist for Durufle's "Requiem", Handel's "Messiah", Thomas' "Fern Hill" as well as performing with Fort Worth Opera for Damien Geter's "African American Requiem".

Haolun Zhang is a dynamic Chinese countertenor whose artistry blends expressive depth with technical finesse. Currently pursuing his doctor of musical arts at the University of North Texas under the guidance of Daniel Bubeck, he recently captivated audiences as Prince Orlofsky in "Die Fledermaus". In 2025, he was honored with the Encouragement Award in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. His operatic credits span a diverse repertoire, including Oberon in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Goffredo in "Rinaldo", Dorothee in "Cendrillon", and Patre in "L'enfant et les sortilèges". As a soloist in "Carmina Burana" with the Xinghai Symphony Orchestra. He is also a prizewinner of multiple international competitions, earning acclaim for his captivating stage presence and refined vocal color.

Rudy Polk is a tenor vocalist from Clinton, Mississippi with considerable achievements as a young musician. He is currently a junior studying vocal performance at the University of North Texas with William Joyner. Rudy is also the tenor section leader for the UNT A Capella Choir. Last year, Rudy performed his first lead role at UNT Opera as Adult Martin in the staged premiere of "That Hell Bound Train". This year, Rudy was a finalist winner in the Schmidt Vocal Arts Undergraduate Competition and he recently performed the role of Alfred in "Die Fledermaus" at UNT Opera. This summer, Rudy will be performing the role of Nemorino in "L'elisir d'amore" at Brevard Opera.

Spencer Simpson, tenor, from Frederick, Maryland, earned a Master of Music in Voice Performance from the University of North Texas in May of 2023, and is now studying with Molly Fillmore in pursuance of a Graduate Artist Certificate in Voice Performance. Before his MM, Spencer received a Bachelor of Music in Applied Music – Voice from the University of Delaware, where he studied with Blake Smith. Recent operatic roles include Ferrando in "Cosi fan tutte", Jenik in "The Bartered Bride", Laurie in "Little Women: The Broadway Musical", Don Basilio in "Le Nozze di Figaro" and Steve in "A Streetcar Named Desire". Spencer will be the tenor soloist in John Stainer's "The Crucifixion" and recently performed the role of Uriel in Haydn's "The Creation". Chorally, Spencer works with groups like Verdigris Ensemble and Orpheus Chamber Singers and is the tenor section leader at First United Methodist Church of Denton. He also teaches private lessons through his own studio and Dallas Independent School District. Internationally, he has travelled to countries such as the Czech Republic, Croatia and France for solo and choral performances.

Symphony Orchestra Personnel

Violin 1

Ming-Wei Hsieh †
Kevork Esmeryan
Olivia Corporon
Kevin (Qiang) Fu
Lucas Furtado
Olivia Dinardis
Hyun Jung Kim
Alfiia Mansurova
Miguel Guillén-Merino
Emma Milian
Anna Seo
Xiachu Song
Hongrui Wang

Violin 2

Gabriel Parker †
Mia Caliri
Ella Curb
Ray (Jui-Chen) Hsu
Delane Marsh
Oscar Morales
Arsenio Peña
Chloe Svadlenka
Thi Tang
Eleanor (Szu Yun) Wang
Peng Yi
Emilia Yoon

Viola

Leonardo Sobral †
Shanya Chynwat
Anthony Couvillion
Margot Elder
Kelsey Felton
Qianqian Fu
Cameron Halsell

Cello

Eric Rau †
Tyler Aguillard
Julia Jiho Choi
Iris (Chao) Fang
Maddy Dykhouse
Esther Kang
Minching Lin
Jiapeng Liu
Xiyun Liu
Ethan Nelsen
Camilo Vasquez

Bass

Zoe Czarniecki †
Ruben Borges
Wyatt Gaugler
Zoe Harris
Joseph La Marca
Jason (Kuan-Chieh) Lo
Ricardo Puche
Xuan Xu

Flute

Mary Chamoun
Alison Parker †

Oboe

Alexander Kang
Hyungju Oh †

Clarinet

Andrew Rutten
Ayuna Sumi †

Bassoon

Emily O'Donnell
Sam Viebrock †

Horn

Justin Beyer
Daniel Castillon
Isaac Fowler
Becca Geitzenauer †
Patrick Ring

Trumpet

Georgia Hageman
David Hall †

Trombone

Benjamin Hahn †
Thomas Spencer

Bass Trombone

Aaron Anderton-Coss

Tuba

Parker Burkey

Timpani

Raina Liao

Percussion

Ryan Blankenship
Ryan Hurford
Jack Spelman
Caleb Yurasek

Harp

Victoria Gonzalez

Celesta

Jiwoo Seo

‡ Concertmaster
† Principal

Grand Chorus Personnel

composed of:

A Cappella Choir

Allen Hightower,
conductor

Soprano

Lauren Abell
Hope Arrazola
Faye Barber
Sarah Barrow
Mattison Beezley
Christen Caldwell
Julianna Carden
Victoria Cerda
Rachel
Cunningham
Maria Diaz
Kayla Flores
Autumn Forgey
Emma Garcia
Abby Gonzalez
Andrea Gonzalez
Anya Guidry
Trinity Houser
Julia Houting
Mia Jamison
Ellyse Joseph
Caroline Konkle
Alena Law
Sorrel McCarthy
Erica Menasco
Gracie Miller
Kris Nearhood
Victoria Pattison
Kaitlyn Rivera
Noelle Rumsey
April Sandoval
Alyssa Schelski
Teagan Serink
Katie Stephenson
Adriana Sweet
Alex Vale
Lindsay Warner
Maryn West
Jae Won Park
Melissa Young

Alto

Julia Amundson
Abi Bahng
Emma Barrow
Ellen Beene
Paityn Bowen
Carolyn Childrey
MaCaa Clancy
Nadia Cloud
Megan Cornejo
Kathryn Davidson
Macey Deck
Marianna Delgadillo
Delia Esparza
Maddie Frost
Sara Foshée-Knoy
Abby Garner
Autumn Gordy
Pebbles Guest
Ayla Hanson
Natalie Harlos
Riley Higgins
Ty Holcomb
Isa Jovanonic
Ris Kemp
Christine Le
Abigail Lewis
Qihang Lu
Kade Miller
Talitha Murphy
Hayeong Park
Constanza Ruiz
Bowie Savoie
Margietza Skinner
Sandra Strittmatter
Diane Tiscareño
Sofia Torbello
Izzy Urroz Arena
Naomi Warren
Jade Wesley
Maddie White
Eleanor Williams
Kristina Wueger

University Singers

Marques L. A. Garrett,
conductor

Tenor

Mateo Berzunza
Jacob Burnham
Piero Centurion
Mason Clarkson
August Crowson
James Dickens
Jalen Ellis
Dong Hyun Kang
Nick Lara
Prescott
Mathieson
Marquis Xavier
McBride
Alexis Mendoza-
Sanchez
Robby Napoli
Nicholas Navarro
William Parris
Ian Pfaffenberger
Rudy Polk
Jay Quinn II
Justin Reece
Caiden Reisinger
Howard Russell III
Cian Sheridan
CJ Stanley
Ramero Vargas
Rustin Verret
Tyler Warwas
Jackson Whitmire
Moisés Ybaben-
Burciaga

Concert Choir

Jessica Nápoles,
conductor

Bass

Zoÿ Achtermann
Christian Anderson
Ian Baez Matos
Eli Barreto
Ben Bassett
Michael Binkley
Colin Busch-
Kennedy
Isaac Carlin
Matt Carlson
Ely Eckles
Andrew Eggers
Silas Franklin
Ian Granado
Christopher Gray
Jimmy Hademenos
Brady Hanson
Conall Hawkins
Case Hubbard
Collin Huffman
Jaden Jackson-
Cooper
Preston Johnson
Joshua LaPrade
Luke Lawless
Zachary Ligh
Vahnna Liller
Eric Martinez
José Nava
Bryan Perez
Evan Reza
Andrew Riedel
DJ Robinson
Sean Roossien
Jacob Royle
Colman Scheibmeir
Lee Simmons
Connor Sturgeon
Marc Villaceran
Noah Wyckoff