



University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Friday, March 27, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.
Margot and Bill Winspear Hall - Murchison Performing Arts Center

University Singers *

Marques L. A. Garrett, conductor

Kathryn Davidson, associate conductor

Anna McCombie, piano

Haven Trio ^

Kimberly Luevano Cole, clarinet

Lindsay Kesselman, soprano

Midori Koga, piano

Concert order determined by audience vote

Introduction

PLEASE Turn Off Your Phone (2025)*^.....Demetrius Robinson Jr.
(BM '27)

Love Is Love Is Love Is Love (2017)^.....Music and text by Abbie Betinis
(Living)

Voting Group One

6 songs (in alphabetical order for voting)

Autumn's Loss (2015)*.....Andrew Steffen
(Living)

*Lost love: Seasonal imagery is used to describe the
love that once was but is no longer since they are
not together anymore.* Text by Andrew Lang

World Premiere

**Program three hundred forty-three of the 2025–2026 season
Photography and videography are prohibited**

from i wish that loving
were enough (2022)^ Music and text by Lee Kesselman
no. 3 (Living)

Romantic love and longing: If only loving were enough... A song written within a relationship coming to a close and acknowledging the heartbreaking truth that love alone is not enough.

from Nattsanger (2008)^ Abbie Betinis
2. Når de Sover (Living)

Love while asleep: When they sleep there is a childlike innocence, an openness and a quiet rhythm of breath granted from heaven. "Only then there is no war in them... and our hearts are blooming as half-open flowers". This is a song about utter vulnerability and the possibility of true peace and love while we sleep.

Text by Rolf Jacobsen

from Five Short Choral Works (pub. 1984)* Adolphus Hailstork
2. Nocturne (Living)

Romantic love: We hear questions of nature where the two can enjoy each other's company.

Lindsay Kesselman, soprano

Text by Jim Curtis

from Atonement (2014)^ Evan Chambers
3. Prayer for the Waters (Living)

Love and prayer for the earth: "Then, with clearer eyes, we might begin to live in a posture of reverence. We can turn and offer up a small prayer for the waters that sustain us. After all, we are of the water; it is in us and we are made of it... May each of us care for the waters of the Earth as we would care for ourselves". – Evan Chambers

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs, from Messiah (1741)*.. Georg Frideric Handel
(1685–1759)

Sacrificial love: The ultimate sacrifice of giving of one's life for someone we love. The Bible shares that Jesus died on the cross for humanity.

Text from Isaiah 53:4

Voting Music Group One

Music to be played while voting (not included in voting)

Stars (2025)* Abigail Lewis
(BM '28)

Lindsay Kesselman, soprano

Inner thoughts, as seen from the outside (2025)^..... Pak Hei (Alvin) Leung
(PhD '26)

She Dried Her Tears (2026)*Jilin Zhang
(BM '27)

Pieces of the Unknown (2025)*Demetrius Robinson, Jr.

Idea 2 (2025)Teyo Gutierrez
(BA '29)

Midori Koga, piano

Transition

Love Is Love Is Love Is Love (2017)*^Music and text by Abbie Betinis

Voting Group Two

6 songs (in alphabetical order for voting)

all stars are love (2023)^.....Steven Bryant
(Living)

*Bright love: In this beautiful setting of a classic
E. E. Cummings poem, our beloved becomes
a cosmic presence...an infinite, luminous
source of love.*

Text by E. E. Cummings

for Mark Friello (2024)*Justin Friello
(Living)

*Familial love: Much like a hospital, the world can be a
place of great loss but also a place of great healing. –
from the composer*

Text by Robert Lax

World Premiere

from Liebeslieder Walzer, Op. 52 (1868) Johannes Brahms
6. Ein Kleiner hübscher Vogel (1833–1897)
8. Wenn so lind dein Auge mir Text by Georg Friedrich Daumer
10. O wie sanft die Quelle

Romantic love: A beloved collection of eighteen movements based on multi-faceted elements of love. The selected movements view love in a positive light, emphasizing the sweetness of love, specifically related to nature.

Midori Koga, piano

Love: Then and Still (pub. 2019)* Susan LaBarr
(Living)
Love seen through loss: The poem takes the listener through marriage, children, loss, and the scars that can result of long-term relationships. However, the denouement of the poem acknowledges that love existed and still exists, then and still. Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

O Love (pub. 2016)* Elaine Hagenberg
(Living)
Sacred love: The speaker calls on Love and Joy to provide comfort and rest. A simple melody, intensity of emotion, ending with a return to sweet simplicity of its opening which provides a roundedness to the concept of love as an eternal force. Text by George Matheson

Kimberly Luevano Cole, clarinet

from Cookbook (2004)^ Kenji Bunch
(Living)
4. Ultima Noche en la Casa del Flamenco
Celebratory love: This is a vibrant celebration of love for great food, drink, dance and music at the Casa del Flamenco.

Voting Music Group Two

Music to be played while voting (not included in voting)

Variation on a Waiting Theme (2025)*^..... Milo Warrior
(BM '30)

Autumn (2025)*..... Abigail Lewis

Lullaby (2025)..... Ryan Fillinger
(MA '27)
Midori Koga, piano

A Theme of Love (2026)* Collin Huffman
(BM '27)

Excerpt from nice. (2025)Jilin Zhang
(BM '27)
Kimberly Luevano Cole, clarinet

Finale

Love Is Love Is Love Is Love (2017)*^Music and text by Abbie Betinis

Texts and Translations

Love Is Love Is Love Is Love

Love is love is love is love,
Love is love is love is love.

Oh, love is love is love is love,
Oh, love is love is love is love.

Love, love, love.
All we need is love, love, love.

Ubi caritas et amor (where there is charity and love),
Where there's love, love is love.

Voting Group One

Autumn's Loss

Text by Andrew Lang (1844–1912)

We built a castle in the air,
In the summer weather, you and I,
The wind and sun were in your hair,
Gold hair against a sapphire sky:
When autumn came with leaves that fly
Before the storm across the plain,
You fled from me, with scarce a sigh
My Love returns no more again!

The windy lights of Autumn flare:
I watch the sails go by;
I marvel how men toil and fare,
The weary business that they ply!
Their voyaging is vanity,
And fairy gold is all their gain,
And all the winds of winter cry!
'My Love, My Love, My Love returns no more again!'

Here, in my castle of Despair,
I sit alone with memory;
The windfed wolf has left his lair,
To keep the outcast company.
My Love, My Love, My Love, returns no more again!

We built a castle in the air,
In summer weather, you and I,
My Love, My Love, My Love returns no more again!

i wish that loving were enough

Text by Lee Kesselman (Living)

i wish that loving were enough,

and that birdsong could overpower the grumblings of the earth.
and the treble and bass of the suncycle could stay

in phase with the moon. Suspension, like disbelief,
soonest or latest loses its equal librium and the answer, O Love, is not equal to
the question of

would that loving were, were, would be enough.

Når de Sover

Text by Rolf Jacobsen (1907–1994)

Alle er barn når de sover.
Da er det ikke krig i dem.
De åpner hendene og
puster i den stille rytme
som himlen har gitt menneskene.

De spisser munnen som små
barn og åpner hendene halvt alle,
soldat og statsmann,
tjenere og herrer.
Stjernene står vakt da og det
er en dis over hvelvene,
noen timer da ingen
skal gjøre hverandre ondt.

Kunne vi baretale
til hverandre
da når hjertene er
some halvt åpne blomster.
Ord som gylne bier
skulde trenge inn der.
—Gud, lær mig søvnens sprog.

All people sleep so like children.
Only then is no war in them.
They open their hands a bit
and breathe in the quiet rhythm that
heaven gives to all of us.

They purse their lips just like a child,
open their hands a bit more,
all, soldiers and statesmen,
ev'ry slave and master.
Stars above all stand guard and
there is a haze over ev'rything,
just a moment, some hours,
when no one can dare do harm.

Would that we all could talk
one to another then
when our hearts are blooming
as half-open flowers.
Words like golden honeybees
would squeeze in there.
—God, make my language "sleep."

Nocturne, from Five Short Choral Works

Text by Jim Curtis

Have you known the beauty of a summer night with a white streak of stars in a charcoal sky?
Have you heard the insects with their countless array of sounds, endlessly busy through the otherwise silent night?
Have you walked in the field with the cool wind and the black grass rustling around you?
Have you at last turned your face to the brilliant sky above, and seen the suns floating there, each a fiery universe?
Have you lost yourself in that broad expanse so that the black grass and the humming insects and the chill breeze have all vanished?
Have you felt the wonder that flows without end in those mighty spaces where countless fires burn in the surrounding darkness?
Have you kissed the night and its promise, when it turned its expectant face to your lips?
If you have done those things, lover, then come and watch these skies, then come and watch these fields, with me, my love.

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs from Messiah

Text from Isaiah 53:4

Surely, surely,
He hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows;
He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

Voting Group Two

all stars are love

Text by E. E. Cummings (1894–1962)

all stars are (and not one star only) love
--but if a day climbs from the mountain of myself,
each bird alive will sing for joy
in some no longer darkness who am i

Selections from Liebeslieder Walzer, Op. 52

Text by Georg Friedrich Daumer (1800–1875)

No. 6 Ein Kleiner hübscher Vogel

Ein Kleiner, hübscher Vogel
nahm den Flug
Zum Garten hin, da gab es
Obst genug.
Wenn ich
ein hübscher, kleiner Vogel wär,
Ich säumte nicht,
ich täte so wie der.
Leimruten-Arglist lauert
an dem Ort;
Der arme Vogel
konnte nicht mehr fort.
Wenn ich ein hübscher,
Kleiner Vogel wär,
Ich säumte doch, ich täte nicht wie der.
Der Vogel kam
in eine schöne Hand,
Da tat es ihm,
dem Glücklichen, nicht and.
Wenn ich ein
hübscher, Kleiner Vogel wär,
Ich säumte nicht,
ich täte doch wie der.

No. 6 A pretty little bird

A pretty little bird
flew off
into a garden
full of fruit.
Were I
a pretty little bird,
I'd not hesitate,
I'd do the same.
But treacherous lime-twigs
lay in wait;
the poor bird
could not fly away.
Were I a
pretty little bird,
I'd hesitate, not do the same.
The bird alighted on
a fair hand,
the lucky thing
wanted nothing more.
Were I
a pretty little bird,
I'd not hesitate,
I'd do the same.

No. 8 Wenn so lind dein Auge mir

Wenn so lind dein Aug mir
Und so lieblich schauet –
Jede letzte Trübe fliehet,
Welche mich umgrauet.
Dieser Liebe schöne Glut,
Laß sie nicht verstieben!
Nimmer wird, wie ich, so treu
Dich ein andrer lieben.

No. 8 When you gaze at me so tenderly

When you gaze at me so tenderly
and so full of love –
all the gloom that assails me
fades away.
Oh, do not let this love's
sweet ardour vanish!
No one will love you
as truly as I.

No. 10 O wie sanft die Quelle

O wie sanft die Quelle sich
Durch die Wiese windet!
O wie schön, wenn Liebe sich,
Zu der Liebe findet!

No. 10 Ah, how gently the stream

Ah, how gently the stream
meanders through the meadow!
Ah, how sweet, when love
finds itself requited!

Love: Then and Still

Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri (Living)

We were married in late September,
Among the changing leaves;
Crimson banners in the courtyard
Heralding our union.
We were so happy, then.

The music we shared brought us together,
A duet most unlikely.
Work and home and son and daughter,
Busy in joy and love.
How simple it seemed, then.

But who could have known what fate awaited
Our little family of four?
A spectre came and dwelt among us.
And robbed us of our joy.
And then, we were only three.

But time has passed, and wounds have healed,
Leaving scars behind:
But scars, like talismans, remind us
What was, and what yet may be,
That we loved, and love you, still.

O Love

Text by George Matheson (1842–1906)

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,

Biographies

Haven Trio

Established solo artists soprano Lindsay Kesselman, clarinetist Kimberly Cole Luevano, and pianist Midori Koga joined as the HAVEN Trio in 2011 around performances of Abbie Betinis' hauntingly beautiful song cycle *Nattsanger*. HAVEN released its first album, *Bright Angel*, (Fleur de Son, Ltd.) in 2013 to critical acclaim: "...amazingly performed works...performances are exquisite as is their ensemble chemistry." (Sequenza 21)

Now in its 14th season, HAVEN has commissioned a compelling body of repertoire from its extended family of composers. Their recordings—would that loving were enough (Blue Griffin, 2025), all we are given we cannot hold (Blue Griffin, 2023), *Twinge* (Blue Griffin, 2019), *Atonement* (Fleur de Son, 2015), and *Bright Angel* (Fleur de Son, 2013)—can be found on all streaming platforms. HAVEN believes in commissioning people, not pieces of music, and enjoys ongoing relationships with composers such as Abbie Betinis, David Biedenbender, Evan Chambers, Roshanne Etezady, Lee Kesselman, Amy Beth Kirsten, Gilda Lyons, Kieren MacMillan, Jon Magnussen and Ivette Herryman Rodriguez.

HAVEN feels fortunate to have received support from numerous granting organizations in support of new music and is the recipient of a Barlow Endowment Commissioning Grant (2021), Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant (2021 and 2015), Ontario Arts Council Grant (2016) and others.

Recent performances include: world premieres of all we are given we cannot hold by David Biedenbender and poet Robert Fanning, *DE OTRO MUNDO* by Ivette Herryman Rodriguez, *Hardwired for Optimism* by Roshanne Etezady and poet Carolyn Petit Pinet, as well as premieres of new arrangements of David Biedenbender's *Shell and Wing*, Amy Beth Kirsten's *to my own heart*, Steven Bryant's *all stars are love for HAVEN* and wind symphony, Spencer Bambrick's *You are a Photon* and Gilda Lyons's *Velada 1949*. They were featured in performances with Chamber Music International and the Fine Arts Chamber Players in Dallas, TX, as well as in a residency with the Jackman Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto.

Kim, Lindsay and Midori are all passionate teachers and actively seek out opportunities to work with student performers and composers. HAVEN has recently engaged in performing/teaching residencies at Michigan State University, the Hartt School, University of Texas – San Antonio, Sam Houston State University, Emory and Henry University, Abilene Christian University, St. Mary of the Woods College, College of DuPage and as an Ensemble-in-Residence at the Connecticut Summerfest (2022, 2024).

Whether in a living room, an art gallery, a school, or a concert hall, HAVEN harnesses the power of vulnerability...inviting its audiences into an intimate and personal experience of contemporary music. Through their composers, they aim to create artistic experiences which allow audiences to feel welcomed, included, and connected to one another through poetry and musical storytelling.

University Singers

While comprised primarily of musicians from the College of Music, the University Singers welcomes artists of every academic discipline with a love and capacity for choral singing. The ensemble explores a variety of repertoire to push the boundaries of what a choral ensemble can do. Recent performances have included Shaw's *To the Hands*, a concert production of Puccini's *Tosca*, a collaboration with the UNT Jazz Singers, Bach motets, and premieres of works by student composers. In addition to a robust performance schedule throughout the year, the University Singers become part of the UNT Grand Chorus to present extended works with orchestra every spring.

University Singers Personnel

Marques L. A. Garrett, conductor

Christian Anderson
Ian Baez Matos
Faye Barber
Megan Cornejo
August Crowson
Kathryn Davidson
Marianna Delgadillo
Christian Eddington
Landry Escobedo
Autumn Forgey
Aydric Griffin
Ty Holcomb
Trinity Houser
Julia Houting
Preston Johnson
Ellyse Joseph
Ashton Landry
Alena Law
Danika Locey
Ethan Matous
Wyatt McNeely
Elena Menasco
Alexis Mendoza-Sánchez
Kade Miller
José Nava
Anabelle Parra
Ian Pfaffenberger
Jay Quinn II
Justin Reece
Kaitlyn Rivera
Sean Roossien
Alyssa Schelski
Connor Sturgeon
Adriana Sweet
Milo Warrior
Maddie White
Jackson Whitmire