



University of North Texas A Cappella Choir

Dr. Allen Hightower, Conductor
Kenneth Sieloff, Conducting Associate
Dong Hyun Kang, Collaborative Pianist

present

Ad Astra

Monday, November 21, 2022
7:30 pm
Winspear Hall
Murchison Performing Arts Center

PROGRAM

In the Beginning (1947)..... Aaron Copland (1900–1990)

Ruth Sytsma, soloist

Stars (2011)..... Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)

Taylor Fenner, soloist
Kenneth Sieloff, conductor

from *Midwinter Songs* (1983)..... Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

1. Lament for Pasiphaë

from *Four Quartets*, Opus 92 (1884) Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

1. O Schöne Nacht
4. Warum?

Hail, Gladdening Light (1919)..... Charles Wood (1866–1926)

--Intermission--

Seek Him That Maketh the
Seven Stars (1995) Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)

Matthew Wilkinson, organ

There Will Be Rest (1999) Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Moonlight Sound Design (2012) Raimonds Tiguls (b. 1972)

Dr. Michael Crawford, percussion

In the Still of the Night (1937) Cole Porter (1891–1964)
arr. for 2 pianos Roy Ringwald (1910–1995)

Hannah Watkins, soloist • Timothy Sanchez, piano

Three hundred twenty-first program of the 2022–2023 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

TEXT/TRANSLATION

In the Beginning

The First Day

Solo

In the beginning

God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form,
and void;
and darkness was upon the face of
the deep.

Chorus

And the spirit of God
moved upon the face of the waters.

Solo

And God said, Let there be light:
and there was light.

Chorus

And God saw the light, that it was
good:
and God divided the light from the
darkness.

And God called the light Day,
and the darkness he called Night.
And the evening and the morning
were the first day.

The Second Day

Solo

And God said, Let there be a
firmament in the midst of the
waters,
and let it divide the waters from the
waters.

Chorus

And God made the firmament,
and divided the waters which were
under the firmament
from the waters which were above
the firmament:

And it was so.

And God called the firmament
Heaven.

And the evening and the morning
were the second day.

The Third Day

Solo

And God said,
Let the waters under the heaven be
gathered together unto one place,
and let the dry land appear:

Chorus

And it was so.
And God called the dry land Earth;
and the gathering together of the
waters called he Seas:
And God saw that it was good.

Solo and Chorus

And God said,
Let the earth bring forth grass,

Solo

the herb yielding seed,
and the fruit tree yielding fruit after
its kind,
whose seed is in itself,
upon the earth:
And it was so.

Chorus

And the earth brought forth grass,
and herb yielding seed after its kind,
and the tree yielding fruit,
whose seed was in itself,
after its kind:
And God saw that it was good.
And the evening and the morning
were the third day.

The Fourth Day

Solo

And God said,
Let there be lights in the firmament
of the heaven
to divide the day from the night;
and let them be for signs, and for
seasons, and for days and years
And let there be lights in the firmament
of the heaven
to divide the day from the night

TEXT/TRANSLATION

and let them be for signs and for
seasons and for days, and years:
And let there be lights

Chorus

Lights!

Let there be lights in the firmament
of the heaven

to divide the day from the night
and let them be for signs and for
seasons and for days and years

And let there be lights in the
firmament of the heaven

to divide the day from the night
and let them be for signs and for
seasons and for days and years

And let there be lights in the
firmament of the heaven

to give light upon the earth

And it was so.

And God made two great lights;
the greater light to rule the day,
and the lesser light to rule the night:
he made the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament
of the heaven

to give light upon the earth,
and to rule over the day and over
the night,

and to divide the day from the
darkness:

And God saw that it was good.

And the evening and the morning
were the fourth day.

The Fifth Day

Chorus

And God said

Let the waters bring forth abundantly
the moving creature that hath life,
and fowl that may fly above the earth
in the open firmament of heaven.

And God created great whales,
and ev'ry living creature that moveth,
which the waters brought forth

abundantly,
after their kind,

and ev'ry winged fowl after his kind:

And God saw that it was good.

and God blessed them, saying,

Be fruitful and multiply,

and fill the waters in the seas,

and let fowl multiply in the earth.

And the evening and the morning

were the fifth day.

The Sixth Day

Solo

And God said,

Let the earth bring forth the living
creature after his kind,

cattle, and creeping thing, and

beast of the earth after his kind:

and it was so.

Chorus

And God said,

Let the earth bring forth grass.

And God made the beast of the

earth after his kind,

and cattle after their kind,

and ev'ry thing that creepeth upon

the earth after his kind:

Solo and Chorus

And God saw that it was good.

Chorus

And God said,

Let us make man in our image,

after our likeness:

and let him have dominion over

the fish of the sea,

and over the fowl of the air,

and over the cattle,

and over all the earth,

and over ev'ry creeping thing that

creepeth upon the earth.

Solo and Chorus

So God created man in his own

image,

TEXT/TRANSLATION

Chorus

in the image of God created he him;
male and female created he them.
And God blessed them,
and God said unto them,
Be fruitful, and multiply,
and replenish the earth, and subdue
it:
and have dominion over the fish of
the sea,
and over the fowl of the air,
and over ev'ry living thing that
moveth upon the earth.
Behold...

Solo

And God said,
Behold, I have given you ev'ry herb
bearing seed,
which is upon the face of all the
earth,
and ev'ry tree,
in which is the fruit of a tree yielding
seed;
To you it shall be for food.
And to ev'ry beast of the earth,
and to ev'ry fowl of the air,
and to ev'ry thing that creepeth
upon the earth,
wherein there is life,
I have given ev'ry green herb for
food:

Chorus

And it was so
And God saw ev'ry thing that he had
made,
and, behold, it was very good.
And the evening and the morning
were the sixth day.

The Seventh Day

Chorus

Thus the heavens and the earth
were finished,
and all the hosts of them
And on the seventh day God ended
his work which he had made;
and he rested on the seventh day
from all his work which he had made.
And God blessed the seventh day,
and sanctified it:
because that in it he had rested
from all his work which God created
and made.

Solo

These are the generations of the
heavens
and of the earth when they were
created,
in the day that the Lord God made
the earth and the heavens,
and ev'ry plant of the field before it
was in the earth,
and ev'ry herb of the field before it
grew:

Solo and Chorus

For the Lord God had not caused it
to rain upon the earth,
and there was not a man to fill the
ground.

Chorus

But there went up a mist from the
earth,
and watered the whole face of the
ground.

Solo and Chorus

And the Lord God formed man of
the dust of the ground,

Chorus

and breathed into his nostrils the
breath of life;
and man became a living soul.

TEXT/TRANSLATION

Stars

Alone in the night
On a dark hill
With pines around me
Spicy and still,

And a heaven full of stars
Over my head
White and topaz
And misty red;

Myriads with beating
Hearts of fire
The aeons
Cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven
Like a great hill
I watch them marching
Stately and still.

And I know that I
Am honored to be
Witness
Of so much majesty.
--Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

O Schöne Nacht

Oh beautiful night!
The moon is fabulously shining in its
complete splendour in the sky;
Around it, sweet company of little
stars.

Oh beautiful night!
The dew is shimmering brightly on
the green blades of grass;
The nightingale sings ardently in the
lilac bush, and
The boy steals softly to his lover.
Oh beautiful night!

Warum?

Why then do songs resonate
Ever up towards heaven?
They would draw down the stars
That twinkle and sparkle above;
Or Luna's lovely embrace;
Or the warm, blissful days
Of the blessed gods towards us!

Hail, Gladdening Light

Hail Gladdening Light, of His pure
glory poured, who is the immortal
father, heavenly blessed.
Holiest of Holies, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Now we are come to the Sun's hour
of rest.

The lights of evening round us shine.
We hymn the Father, Son and Holy
Spirit divine.

Worthiest art thou, at all times to be
sung, with undefiled tongue.
Son of our God, giver of life alone.
Therefore in all the world, thy glories,
thy glories Lord, they own.

Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars

Seek him that maketh the seven stars
and Orion
And turneth the shadow of death into
the morning
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as
the day
The night is light about me
Amen.

There Will Be Rest

There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,
The music of stillness holy and low.
I will make this world of my devising
Out of a dream in my lonely mind.
I shall find the crystal of peace, –
above me
Stars I shall find.
--Sara Teasdale

TEXT/TRANSLATION

Moonlight Sound Design

In the moonlight, time stands still.
The present melts into the past,
And my spirit communes with souls
That have passed before me.

I can never explain, can never
tell you.
No!

In the night, it smells of morning.
And in the silence, flowers and birds
herald the light.
Tears in my eyes, like dewdrops on
flowers that,
With the light, will disappear, having
been lost in
Darkness.

I can never explain, can never
tell you.
No!
--Raimonds Tiguls (b. 1972)

In the Still of the Night

In the still of the night
As I gaze from my window
At the moon in its flight
My thoughts all stray to you

In the still of the night
All the world is in slumber
All the times without number
Darling when I say to you

Do you love me, as I love you
Are you my life to be, my dream
come true
Or will this dream of mine fade out
of sight
Like the moon growing dim, on the
rim of the hill
In the chill, still, of the night

Like the moon growing dim, on the
rim of the hill
In the chill, still, of the night.

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 Region of ACDA in 2022. Vox Aquilae and the Baroque Orchestra were featured in the 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, Dr. Hightower 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 Dr. 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, Dr. 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, the 2010 Southwestern Division of 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 in Odessa, where he led the PHS Kantorei and Satin Strings in performance at the 1996 TMEA convention.

Outside of his work in the academic setting, 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

BIOGRAPHIES

churches in Texas, California, and Minnesota. He currently serves on the music staff of Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas, and is the 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, 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, 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 Competition in 1997, Allen served as assistant to Paul Salamunovich, conductor of the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Kenneth Sieloff is currently a first-year graduate student at the University of North Texas where he is pursuing a master's degree in choral conducting. Prior to UNT, Sieloff served as director of choirs at Permian High School in Odessa, Texas. In his time at Permian HS, Mr. Sieloff's choirs performed at the 2018 Texas Music Educators Association Conference and the 2020 Southwestern ACDA Conference. In 2020, Permian HS Cantus (tenor-bass choir) was selected as National Winner in the Foundation for Music Education Mark of Excellence competition, and in 2021 they were winners of the American Prize in Choral Performance – High School Division. Ensembles under Mr. Sieloff's leadership have consistently earned "Best in Class" and superior ratings in concert and sightreading evaluations. In 2017 he was named a Young Director of Distinction by the Texas Choral Directors Association. Along with his passion for working with young musicians in the classroom, Sieloff has long been dedicated to the art of conducting. In 2011 he competed in the American Choral Directors Association's National Student Conducting Competition in Chicago, IL and won first place. Sieloff enjoys serving as an active clinician and adjudicator throughout Texas, and in 2023 he looks forward to conducting the Arkansas All-State Tenor-Bass Choir. From 2015–2020 Sieloff served as artistic director and conductor of the Allegro Chorale in Midland-Odessa, TX where he implemented a thriving scholarship program for college students who sang with the ensemble. Notable performances with Allegro include *Fern Hill* by Corigliano, *Chichester Psalms* by Bernstein, *Annelies* by Whitbourn, and Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* for chamber orchestra. Sieloff has appeared as guest conductor with

BIOGRAPHIES

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin Symphony Orchestra, the Midland-Odessa Symphony Orchestra & Chorale, and in 2013 conducted a production of Stephen Sondheim's American opera *Sweeney Todd* at Odessa College which featured Metropolitan Opera baritone Gary Simpson. Sieloff holds a bachelor of music education degree from The University of Michigan, where he studied voice with Professor Martha Sheil and conducting with Eugene Rogers, Paul Rardin, and Jerry Blackstone. Ken loves to spend time with his wife Annie, daughter Charlotte, and dogs Lily and Sadie. He enjoys the great outdoors, including hunting, and spending time with friends whenever he has the chance.

Born in South Korea, **Dong Hyun Kang** is a pianist, conductor, and educator. He began his musical education with the piano at the age of seven. When he was fifteen, he first appeared in a public concert with Seoul Symphony Orchestra in Seoul Arts Center. In his piano studies since, he has performed in various venues and won prizes in national or international competitions in South Korea and the United States. Kang earned bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from Seoul National University. He continued his piano studies in the United States receiving another master's degree from Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, a graduate diploma from New England Conservatory of Music, and a doctoral degree from University of Cincinnati. His musical mentors and teachers in piano chronologically include James Tocco, Eugene Pridonoff, Gabriel Chodos, Seth Knopp, Hyung Bae Kim, and Young-Mee Yun. Kang served as a graduate assistant at University of Cincinnati, teaching piano for undergraduate and graduate students from diverse musical backgrounds. In his piano studios, he taught numerous piano students over 16 years. In 2020-2021, he served as an Adjunct Professor of Piano and Staff Accompanist at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, coaching undergraduate and graduate voice students and providing accompaniments for Southwestern Singers, recitals, applied lessons, juries, and classes. Kang's musical passion is further extended to both choral and orchestral conducting: the latter is the cognate area of his doctoral study at University of Cincinnati. In 2015-2020, he served as a conductor for the choir and orchestra at Power Mission Baptist Church of Cincinnati. In 2020-2021, he studied conducting and theology of music in the Master of Music in Church Music program (Conducting Concentration) at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, while shaping theological understandings on music and its related topics as well as on his calling to live as a Christ-centered professional musician who glorifies God and serves people with music. Currently, Kang continues his conducting training, under the guidance of Allen Hightower, in the Master of Music in Choral Conducting program at University of North Texas, where he also serves as a TA accompanist for A Cappella Choir and Kalandra and sings with Vox Aquilae. His conducting teachers include Allen Hightower, Kristina MacMullen, Ian Yeung, Markand Thakar, Aik Khai Pung, Mark Gibson, Brett Scott, Annunziata Tomaro, Huan Jing, Charles Peltz, Erica Washburn, and William Drury.

A CAPPELLA CHOIR

Soprano

Dannah Berry
Harli Daniel
Reagan Dunn
Taylor Fenner
Emma Garcia
Marissa Guerro
Danielle Harrington
Madison Lang
Hyejin Lee
Kyuyim Lee
Katelyn Spivey
Katherine Stedman
Ruth Sytsma
Hannah Watkins

Alto

Nicole Barbeau
Sarah Decker
Trinity Del Regno
Madeline Friesen
Raquel Guest
Meredith Hinshaw
Elizabeth King
Kassidy Montan
Brianna Nelson
Madison Pfaffenberger
Anna Schmelter
Savanna Singleton
Chloe Spellmann

Tenor

Caleb Aguirre
Samuel Benavidez
Ezechiel Daos
Joshua Durrwachter
Jack Forden
Cecil Garrison
Xavier Howard
Benjamin Johnson
Marquis McBride
Chase Shaw
Kenneth Sieloff
Craig Smith
William Swinney
Nicholas Veazey

Bass

Jacob Augsten
Seth Bazan
Joseph Boatwright
Hawkins Burns
Brian DeStefano
Matthew Dexter
Xavier Garcia
Peter Mooney
Cameron Purcell
Zachary Rohwer
Max Rubenstein-Miller
Timothy Sanchez
Avery Sanderlin

Founded in 1938, the University of North Texas **A Cappella Choir** has a distinguished history of conductors that includes Wilfred Bain, Frank McKinley, Hal Gibbons, Mel Ivey, and Jerry McCoy. Allen Hightower assumed leadership of the choir upon his appointment as Director of Choral Studies at UNT in the Fall of 2016. His previous choirs have performed for the Southwestern, North Central, and National conferences of ACDA. Having previously served at Odessa Permian High School, Sam Houston State University, and Luther College, this conference appearance marks his fifth ACDA invited choir. The A Cappella Choir is frequently invited to regional, national, and international conferences. Most recent engagements include National ACDA in 2021 (live-streamed), 2013 (Dallas), 2005 (Los Angeles), and 1999 (Chicago); NCCO in 2008 (Cincinnati); and the International Choral Festival in 2012 (Daejeon, South Korea) and in 2009 (Taipei). The A Cappella Choir is one of ten choral ensembles at UNT which includes the University Singers, Concert Choir, Kalandra, Chorale, Camerata, Vox Aquilae, Grand Chorus, Conductor's Chorus, and UpFront!. The Choral Studies program works closely with the renowned Vocal Studies and Opera programs at UNT, creating an ideal environment for student singers.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Choral Studies

Allen Hightower - Director of Choral Studies & Conductor, A Cappella Choir, Vox Aquilae, & Grand Chorus

Kristina Caswell MacMullen - Conductor, University Singers & Kalandra

Jessica Nápoles - Conductor, Concert Choir

Jamey Kelley and Jessica Nápoles - Choral Music Education

Joshua Habermann - Choral Literature

Jacob Augsten - Conducting Associate, Concert Choir & Kalandra

J. Christine Le - Conductor, Camerata & Conducting Associate, University Singers

William McLean - Assistant Conductor, Dallas Symphony Chorus & Conducting Class

Thomas Rinn - Conductor, Chorale & Conducting Class

Kenneth Sieloff - Conducting Associate, A Cappella Choir; Choral Librarian; DCS Assistant

Daewn Kim - Collaborative Pianist, Kalandra & University Singers

Chiao-Ju Hung - Collaborative Pianist, Camerata & Concert Choir

Matthew Wilkinson - Collaborative Pianist, Chorale

Dong Hyun Kang - Conducting Associate, Vox Aquilae; Collaborative Pianist, A Cappella Choir & Grand Chorus

Vocal Studies

Faculty: Stephen F. Austin, Daniel Bubeck, Richard Croft, Stephen Dubberly, Molly Fillmore (Division Chair), Nereida García, William Joyner, Jennifer Lane, Jeff MacMullen, Stephen Morscheck, Elvia Puccinelli, Jeffrey Snider, Carol Wilson

Teaching Fellows: Natasha Bekker, Megan Gackle, Jessica Glenn, Kara Libby, Kori Miller, Andrea Pinder, Christopher Rodriguez, Andrés Silva Valencia

College of Music Administration

John W. Richmond - Dean

Warren H. Henry - Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

Felix Olschofka - Associate Dean, Operations

Emilita Marin - Assistant Dean, Business and Finance

Raymond Rowell - Assistant Dean, Scholarships and External Affairs

Kirsten Soriano Broberg - Director, Undergraduate Studies

Jaymee Haefner - Director, Graduate Studies

Matt Hardman - Director, Communications, Marketing and Public Relations

Joel D. Wiley - Director, Admissions

Upcoming Events

University Singers - Nov. 29

A Cappella Choir & Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra

George Jackson, conductor

Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30, Will Rogers Memorial Auditorium

3401 W. Lancaster Avenue; box office: 817-665-6000

Handel's *Messiah* with soloists Molly Netter, soprano; Luthien Brackett, mezzo-soprano; UNT alum Steven Soph, tenor; Jonathan Woody, bass