

# University of North Texas A Cappella Choir Tour

Dr. Allen Hightower, Conductor J. Christine Le, Associate Conductor Robert T. Gibson, Associate Conductor Dong Hyun Kang, Collaborative Pianist

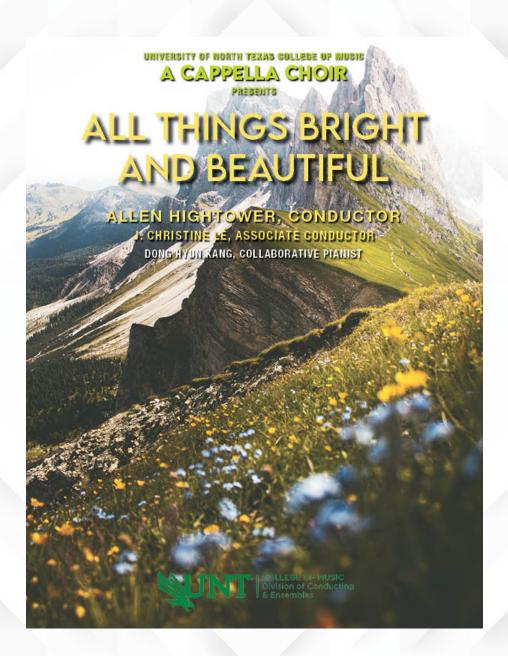
present

### ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

January 11, 2024
Hebron High School
Plano West High School
Booker T. Washington High School
for the Performing and Visual Arts
January 12, 2024
Granbury High School
Stephenville High School

Stonebriar Community Church, 3:00 and 5:00

January 13, 2024



## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

I am pleased to greet you on behalf of the alumni, faculty, staff, and students of the College of Music at the University of North Texas (UNT). Under the direction of Allen Hightower, our A Cappella Choir continues to garner attention in some of the most prestigious venues, including auditioned appearances at the Southwest Regional and the National Conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, as well as the state convention of the Texas Music Educators Association, in the recent past.



Our distinguished faculty in Choral Studies also includes Marques L. A. Garrett (Associate Professor of Choral

Studies and conductor of the UNT University Singers), Jessica Nápoles (Professor of Choral Music Education and conductor of the UNT Concert Choir), Jamey Kelley (Associate Professor of Choral Music Education), and Joshua Habermann (Adjunct Lecturer of Choral Literature).

For information about upcoming concerts and other UNT choral events, please be sure to consult our Events page at the UNT College of Music website at https://music.unt.edu/events. Please remember that most of our choral performances on the UNT campus are live-streamed in ultra-HD at no charge. Whether you can attend in person or online, please be sure to partake of the excellence of our choral offerings as your schedule and interests suggest.

Thank you for joining us for this celebration of the choral art.

Most sincerely,

John W. Richmond, Ph.D. Professor and Dean of the College of Music University of North Texas

#### **College of Music Division Chairs**

Molly A. Fillmore, Vocal Studies
Steven Harlos, Keyboard Studies
David Heetderks, Music History, Theory, and Ethnomusicology
Joseph Klein, Composition Studies
Kimberly Cole Luevano, Instrumental Studies
Natalie Mannix, Assistant Chair, Instrumental Studies
Robert Parton, Jazz Studies
Sean Powell, Music Education
Andrew Trachsel, Conducting and Ensembles

## **PROGRAM**

### to be chosen from the following

Awake the Harp, Die Schöpfung, Hob. XXI:2 (1798)
from Drei Quartette (1874)
from Trois Chansons (1908)
Rejoice in the Lamb (1943)
The Evening Primrose (1951)
Like as the Hart (1943)
All Things Bright and Beautiful (1984)
Animal Crackers, Vol. 1 (2006)
Come to the Woods (2015)Jake Runestad (b. 1986)
Come To Me (2022)
Black is the Color of My True Love's HairAppalachian Folk Song arr. 1948 Stuart Churchill (1907–1999)
All Things New (2021) Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)
Let Everything that Hath Breath (1998)

I Love You/What a Wonderful World ...... arr. 2014 Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962) Soloists: Rudy Polk, Brianna Nelson, Evan Powers

2023 – 2024 • UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

#### Awake the Harp

Uriel:

And the Heavenly Host proclaimed the third day, praising God and saying:

#### Chorus:

Awake the harp, the lyre awake, And let your joyful song resound, Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God: For He both heaven and earth Has clothed in stately dress.

#### **Der Abend**

Senke, strahlender Gott, die Fluren dürsten

Nach erquickendem Tau, der Mensch verschmachtet,

Matter ziehen die Rosse, senke den wagen hinab.

Sehe, wer aus des Meeres krystallner Woge Lieblich lächelnd dir winkt!

Erkennt dein Herz sie? Rascher fliegen die Rosse; Thetys, die göttliche, winkt.

Schnell vom Wagen herab in ihre Arme springt der Führer. Den Zaum ergreift Kupido. Stille halten die Rosse, trinken die ühlende Flut.

Auf dem Himmel herauf mit leisen Schritten

Kommt die duftende Nacht; ihr folgt die süsse Liebe.

Ruht und liebet! Phöbus, der Liebende, ruht.

#### The Evening

Let it sink, radiant God - the fields thirst

for refreshing dew; the people languish,

the steeds are weary - let the chariot sink down!

Behold the one who beckons you, sweetly smiling, from the sea's crystalline wave!

Does your heart recognize her? Faster fly the steeds; Thetys, the divine one, beckons.

The driver leaps quickly from the chariot into her arms.

Cupid seizes the reins;

the steeds stand still and drink at the cooling stream.

Ascending in the sky with quiet steps

comes the fragrant night; sweet love follows.

Rest and love! Phoebus, the loving one, rests.

#### **Dieu! qu'il la fait bon regarder** Dieu! qu'il la fait bon regarder,

La gracieuse bonne et belle;

Pour les grans biens que sont en elle, Chascun est prest de la louer. Qui se pourroit d'elle lasser? Tousjours sa beauté renouvelle.

Dieu! qu'il la fait bon regarder, La gracieuse bonne et belle!

Par deça, ne delà, la mer, Ne scay dame, ne damoiselle Qui soit en tous biens parfais telle! C'est un songe d'y penser. Dieu! qu'il la fait bon regarder!

#### Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

#### God! What a Vision She Is

God, what a vision she is; one imbued with grace, true and beautiful!

For all the virtues that are hers
Everyone is quick to praise her.
Who could tire of her?
Her beauty constantly renews itself;

God, what a vision she is; one imbued with grace, true and beautiful! On neither side of the ocean do I know any girl or woman who is in all virtues so perfect; it's a dream even to think of her;

God, what a vision she is!

#### Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of hosts:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

#### Rejoice in the Lamb

Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; Give the glory to the Lord, And the Lamb. Nations, and languages, And every Creature In which is the breath of Life. Let man and beast appear before him, And magnify his name together.

Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, Bind a leopard to the altar And consecrate his spear to the Lord.

Let Ishmail dedicate a tyger, And give praise for the liberty In which the Lord has let him at large.

Let Balaam appear with an ass, And bless the Lord his people And his creatures for a reward eternal.

Let Daniel come forth with a lion, And praise God with all his might Through faith in Christ Jesus.

Let Ithamar minister with a chamois, And bless the name of Him That clotheth the naked.

Let Jakim with the satyr Bless God in the dance, Dance, dance, dance.

Let David bless with the bear
The beginning of victory to the Lord,
To the Lord the perfection of
excellence.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, Hallelujah for the heart of God, And from the hand of the artist inimitable,

And from the echo of the heavenly harp,

In sweetness magnifical and mighty. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

#### The Evening Primrose

When once the sun sinks in the west, And dew-drops pearl the evening's breast;

Almost as pale as moonbeams are, Or its companionable star, The Evening Primrose opes anew Its delicate blossoms to the dew; And, hermit-like, shunning the light, Wastes its fair bloom upon the Night; Who, blindfold to its fond caresses, Knows not the beauty he possesses. Thus it blooms on while night is by; When day looks out with open eye, 'Bashed at the gaze it cannot shun, It faints, and withers, and is gone.

#### Like as the Hart

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for the living God yes, even for the living God.

When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me Where, where is now thy God? My tears have been my meat day and night.

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks So longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, Yea, for the living God.

When shall I come to appear before the presence... the presence of God?

#### All Things Bright and Beautiful

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain, The river running by, The sunset and the morning, That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun, The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell How great is God Almighty Who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

#### Animal Crackers, Vol. 1

#### The Panther

The panther is like a leopard, Except it hasn't been peppered. If you behold a panther crouch, Prepare to say "Ouch." Better yet, if called by a panther, Don't anther.

#### The Cow

The cow is of the bovine ilk; One end is moo, the other milk.

#### The Firefly

The firefly's flame
Is something for which science has
no name
I can think of nothing eerier
Than flying around with an
unidentified glow on a
person's posterior.

#### Come to the Woods

Another glorious day, the air as delicious to the lungs as nectar to the tongue.

The day was full of sparkling sunshine, and at the same time enlivened with one of the most bracing wind storms.

The mountain winds bless the forests with love.
They touch every tree, not one is forgotten.

When the storm began to sound,
I pushed out into the woods to enjoy it.
I should climb one of the trees for a
wider look

The sounds of the storm were glorious with wild exuberance of light and motion.

Bending and swirling backward and forward, round and round, in this wild sea of pines.

The storm-tones died away, and turning toward the east,
I beheld the trees, hushed and tranquil.
The setting sun filled them with amber light, and seemed to say,
"Come to the woods, for here is rest."
--Taken from writings by John Muir,

adapted by the composer.

#### Come To Me

Come to me in the silence of the night;

Come in the speaking silence of a dream:

Come with soft rounded cheeks and eyes as bright

As sunlight on a stream;

Come back in tears,

O memory, hope, love of finished years.

Oh dream how sweet, too sweet, too bitter sweet,

Whose wakening should have been in Paradise,

Where souls brimful of love abide and meet;

Where thirsting longing eyes
Watch the slow door
That opening, letting in, lets out no
more.

Yet come to me in dreams, that I may live

My very life again tho' cold in death: Come back to me in dreams, that I may give

Pulse for pulse, breath for breath: Speak low, lean low,

As long ago, my love, how long ago. --Christina Rossetti

#### Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair

Black is the color of my true love's hair, Her lips are something wondrous fair. The purest eyes and the daintiest hands,

I love the grass whereon she stands.

I love my love, and well she knows, I love the grass on where she goes. If she on earth no more I'd see, My life would quickly fade away.

Black is the color of my true love's hair.

#### **All Things New**

Light after darkness, gain after loss, Strength after weakness, crown after cross;

Sweet after bitter, hope after fears Home after wandering, praise after tears.

Alpha and Omega Beginning and the end, He is making all things new, Springs of living water Shall wash away each tear. He is making all things new.

Sight after mystery, sun after rain, Joy after sorrow, peace after pain; Near after distant, gleam after gloom, Love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Alpha and Omega Beginning and the end, He is making all things new, Springs of living water Shall wash away each tear. He is making all things new.

#### Let Everything that Hath Breath

Sing unto the Lord a new song. Sing unto the Lord all the earth. Declare His glory among the nations. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Magnify the Lord with me and exalt His name together. Hallelujah, bless His name for He is worthy to be praised. Clap your hands all ye people. Shout with the voice of triumph! For the Mighty Lord is great and greatly to be praised. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Come on and praise the Lord. Let's all praise His name. Give him the highest praise. Praise Him, the Lord Praise Him with the timbrel, praise him with the dance. Stand up on your feet and just lift up holy hands. Sing "Hallelujah," Praise His holy name. For the Lord is worthy to be praised. Let's praise the Lord. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. You ought to praise Him!

#### I Love You/What a Wonderful World

We can be together now and forever, The colors of the rainbow I love you.

And when I'm prayin,' I hear him sayin' "I love you. I love you." People all over the world, they're opening up, they're comin' around and they're sayin' I love you.

--Larry Norman and Randy Stonehill I see skies of blue and clouds of white, I watch them grow;

The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night;

And I think to myself what a wonderful Than I'll ever know, world.

So pretty in the sky, Are also on the faces Of people going by, I see friends shaking hands, Saying, "How do you do?" They're really saying "I love you." I hear babies cry,

They'll learn much more

And I think to myself What a wonderful world. --George David Weiss and Bob Thiele

### **PERSONNEL**

Soprano
Lauren Abell
Maddie Aman
Danah Berry
Ella Castro
Harli Daniel
Emma Garcia
Madison Juneau
Madison Lang
Isabel Lara
Hyejin Lee
Savanna Singleton
Kate Stedman
Maryn West

Alto Abigail Bahng Nicole Barbeau Graham Day Sarah Decker Trinity Del Regno Madeline Friesen Pebbles Guest Meredith Hinshaw Ris Kemp Christine Le Kassidy Montán Brianna Nelson Madison Pfaffenberger Anna Schmelter Chloe Spellmann

Tenor
Caleb Aguirre
Tristino Ali
Timothy Anderson
Sam Benavidez
J.T. Durrwachter
David Ferguson
Gavin Godbey
Xavier Howard
Marquis Xavier McBride
Rudy Polk
Ken Sieloff
Craig Smith
Will Swinney
Brandon Veazey

Bass Seth Bazán Michael Binkley Isaac Carlin Brian De Stefano Matthew Dexter Xavier Garcia Robert T. Gibson PJ Mooney Evan Powers Christopher Rodriguez Gray Zachary Rohwer Avery Sanderlin

<u>Pianist</u> Dong Hyun Kang

Four hundred first program of the 2023–2024 season Photography and videography are prohibited

## MEET THE CONDUCTOR

Allen Hightower is a seventh generation Texan and resides in McKinney, 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 nine 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, Hightower's Vox Aquilae and the Baroque Orchestra were featured in the 2022 virtual conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization.

As a teacher and conductor, he has visited 30 states, Asia and Europe. His students hold positions of leadership as choral conductors in public schools, colleges and universities, 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 his direction, the Nordic Choir performed at the 2014 North Central ACDA, recorded six compact discs, made annual concert tours throughout the United States and toured Europe on two occasions.

From 2000–2010, he 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 ACDA, and the 2003, 2006, 2010 and 2020 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.

## MEET THE CONDUCTOR

Outside of his work in the academic setting, he currently serves as director of the Houston Symphony Chorus and has served as the artistic director of the Houston Masterworks Chorus and Orchestra, leading an annual concert series of choral-orchestral masterworks. As a church musician, he has served Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Texas, California and Minnesota. He currently serves on the music and worship staff of Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas, and is a past 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.

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 pianist 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.

#### **High School/Church Choir Directors**

Hebron High School: Alex Carr and Nathan Ratliff
Plano West High School: Sarah Council
Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts:
William George-Twyman and Audra Scott
Granbury High School: Kendra Fisher and Andrew Walters
Stephenville High School: Arielle Sword
Stonebriar Community Church: Don McMinn

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

J. Christine Le is a second-year graduate student at the University of North Texas, pursuing a doctor of musical arts in choral conducting. Prior to UNT, Ms. Le taught choir in Florida and Louisiana public schools for 9 years, performing at State, Regional, and National ACDA Conferences. While in Florida, Ms. Le's choirs were recognized as Florida Vocal Association Choirs of Distinction. Ms. Le enjoyed formative musical experiences at UNT. In March 2023, she conducted the world premiere of Requiem for a Poisoned Earth, a choral-orchestral work by UNT student composer P.J. Mooney. In February 2023, Ms. Le participated in the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Conducting Masterclass. She has served as conductor for



UNT Camerata and chorusmaster for UNT Opera's production of Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro. Ms. Le's current scholastic assignments at UNT include serving as instructor for undergraduate conducting, teaching assistant for UNT Concert Choir and A Cappella Choir. In spring of 2024, Ms. Le will serve as adjunct faculty at Texas Woman's University while completing her studies at UNT. Ms. Le earned her bachelor's degree in choral music education from Centenary College of Louisiana. She completed her master of music at Michigan State University in 2015. Ms. Le is a member of ACDA, NAfME, WiCHEd, Choristers Guild, and Chorus America.

Houston native **Robert T. Gibson** is a conductor, clinician, composer/arranger, lecturer, and educator who desires to develop future music educators for the next generation. His passion for music continues to leave lasting impressions on the singers he encounters. Gibson received a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of North Texas and a Master of Music at Missouri State University. He has held middle school, high school, collegiate and church positions and has served as guest clinician in Texas, Missouri, and Pennsylvania, Kansas, Tennessee, and New York. Gibson is the 2020 recipient of the Missouri Choral Director Association Opus Award for his arrangement of "We Shall Overcome." His



works have been performed in various district and all state conferences. Robert's choral arrangements can be found through Walton Music and Alfred Publications. He is a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Phi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society. Gibson currently resides in Denton, TX with his wife Amber Renae and children Truly and Lovie.

## **FACULTY AND STAFF**

#### **Choral Studies**

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

Margues L. A. Garrett - Conductor, University Singers

Jessica Nápoles - Choral Music Education; Conductor, Concert Choir

Jamey Kelley - Choral Music Education

Joshua Habermann - Choral Literature

#### **Teaching Fellows**

Jacob Augsten - Conductor, Chorale; Conducting Associate, Dallas Symphony Chorus; Assistant to DCS

Dong Hyun Kang - Conducting Associate, A Cappella Choir

J. Christine Le - Conducting Associate, Concert Choir; Conducting Fundamentals Instructor; Choral Librarian

Julianna LoBiondo - Conductor, Camerata

Evan Powers - Conducting Associate, Concert Choir

Kenneth Sieloff - Conducting Associate, University Singers and Vox Aquilae

Boyoon Choi, Collaborative Pianist, Camerata & University Singers

Dong Hyun Kang - Collaborative Pianist, Concert Choir

Daeun Kim - Collaborative Pianist, A Cappella Choir and Grand Chorus

Chun-Yuan Wei, Collaborative Pianist, Chorale

Jiyoung Kim - Collaborative Organist, Vox Aquilae

#### **Vocal Studies**

Daniel Bubeck (countertenor), Samantha Dapcic (German diction; soprano), Stephen Dubberly (Opera), Jonathan Eaton (Opera), Molly Fillmore (Division Chair; soprano), Nereida García (soprano), William Joyner (tenor), Jennifer Lane (mezzo-soprano), Mary Mills (soprano), Stephen Morscheck (bass-baritone), Elvia Puccinelli, Stephanie Rhodes Russell (Opera), Jeffrey Snider (baritone), Willem van Schalkwyk (Opera), Carol Wilson (soprano)

**Teaching Fellows:** Natasha Bekker, Isaac Carlin (Opera), Megan Gackle, Beatrice Kim, Shuyi Li, Kara Libby McBain, Kori Miller, Christopher Rodriguez, David Štech (Opera), Jennifer Watson

#### College of Music Administration

John W. Richmond - Dean

Warren H. Henry - Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

Kirsten Soriano - Associate Dean, Operations

Emilita Marin - Assistant Dean, Business and Finance

Raymond Rowell - Assistant Dean, Scholarships and External Affairs

Jaymee Haefner - Director, Graduate Studies

Mark Montemayor - Director, Undergraduate Studies

Cyriel Aerts - Director, Piano Services

Matt Hardman - Director, Communications, Marketing and Public Relations

Austin Martinez - Director, Recording Services

Carol Pollard - Director, Undergraduate Advising

Joel D. Wiley - Director, Admissions

Maria Baylock - Executive Administrative Assistant to the Dean

Blake Hardesty - Graphic Design Specialist

## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS ALL-STATE CHOIR CAMP **JUNE 12-15, 2024**



**ALLEN HIGHTOWER Mixed Choir Conductor** 



**MARQUES L. A. GARRETT** Soprano/Alto & Tenor/Bass Choir Conductor



**JESSICA NÁPOLES** Camp Director



**Hank Tharpe** Kathryn Zetterstrom

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