



University of North Texas A Cappella Choir

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

present

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Friday, December 1, 2023
7:30 pm
Winspear Hall
Murchison Performing Arts Center

PROGRAM

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Awake the Harp, <i>Die Schöpfung</i> , Hob. XXI:2 (1798)	Joseph Haydn (1732–1809) Ken Sieloff, tenor solo
from <i>Drei Quartette</i> (1874)	Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)
2. Der Abend	
from <i>Trois Chansons</i> (1908)	Claude Debussy (1862–1918)
1. Dieu! qu'il la fait bon regarder	
from <i>Mass for Double Choir</i> (1922)	Frank Martin (1890–1974)
IV. Sanctus	
Rejoice in the Lamb (1943)	Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)
Ezechiel Daos, organ • J. Christine Le, conductor	
The Evening Primrose (1951)	Benjamin Britten
Like as the Hart (1943)	Herbert Howells (1892–1983)
Harli Daniel, soprano solo • Ezechiel Daos, organ	
All Things Bright and Beautiful (1984)	John Rutter (b. 1945)
J. Christine Le, conductor	
Animal Crackers, Vol. 1 (2006)	Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)
1. The Panther	
2. The Cow	
3. The Firefly	
--Intermission--	
Come to the Woods (2015)	Jake Runestad (b. 1986)
Come To Me (2022)	Ivo Antognini (b. 1963)
Soloist: Danah Berry	
Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair.....	Appalachian Folk Song
arr. 1948 Stuart Churchill (1907–1999)	
All Things New (2021)	Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)
Let Everything that Hath Breath (1998)	Jeffery L. Ames (b. 1969)
Soloists: Marquis Xavier McBride, Abigail Bahng Aidan Gould, bass • Benjamin Holt, drumset Robert T. Gibson, conductor	
I Love You/What a Wonderful World arr. 2014 Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)	
Soloists: Rudy Polk, Brianna Nelson, Evan Powers	

TEXT/TRANSLATIONS

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 Cupido.
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.

TEXT/TRANSLATIONS

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

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cœli 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.

TEXT/TRANSLATIONS

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?

TEXT/TRANSLATIONS

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.

TEXT/TRANSLATIONS

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.

TEXT/TRANSLATIONS

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, 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, The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night; And I think to myself what a wonderful world.	The colors of the rainbow 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, I watch them grow; They'll learn much more Than I'll ever know, 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

Three hundred fifty-second program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

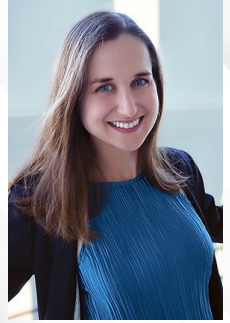
BIOGRAPHIES

As the Director of Choral Studies at the University of North Texas, **Allen Hightower** leads the graduate program in choral conducting, and oversees a 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. The 2022 conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization will feature a video performance of UNT's Vox Aquilae and Baroque Orchestra among their juried performance offerings. 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. As Luther's Director of Choral Activities, he gave leadership to a choral program that included 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, 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 Division of ACDA, and the 2003, 2006, and 2010 conventions of the Texas Music Educators Association. Allen has served as the Artistic Director of the Houston Masterworks Chorus and Orchestra, leading an annual concert series of choral-orchestral masterworks. 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.



BIOGRAPHIES

J. Christine Le has served as conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and collaborative pianist in Louisiana, Michigan, Florida, and Mississippi. She taught chorus and music theory in Florida and Louisiana public schools for 9 years. Choirs under Ms. Le's direction have performed at State, Regional, and National ACDA Conferences. A founding member and past associate conductor of the Orlando Sings Symphonic Chorus, Ms. Le conducted Haydn's *Die Schöpfung* with The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra in 2022. Ms. Le was the first middle school clinician for Jacksonville Sings! in September 2019, and she has conducted honor choirs in several Florida counties. Ms. Le has adjudicated choral festivals in Michigan and Florida, including the Orlando Worldstrides Heritage Festival. She has presented at the Louisiana ACDA and Florida Music Educators' Association conferences. Ms. Le earned her Bachelor's degree in choral music education from Centenary College of Louisiana, studying under Dr. Julia Thorn. She completed her master of music at Michigan State University, studying under Dr. David Rayl, Dr. Sandra Snow, and Dr. Jonathan Reed. At the University of North Texas, Ms. Le has served as instructor of record for Camerata; teaching assistant for University Singers. Concert Choir and A Cappella Choir; and chorus master for UNT Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.



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
Marques L. A. Garrett - Conductor, University Singers
Jessica Nápoles - Choral Music Education; Conductor, Concert Choir
Jamey Kelley - Choral Music Education
Joshua Habermann - Choral Literature
Jacob Augsten - Conducting Associate, University Singers, Dallas Symphony Chorus & Conducting Class
Dong Hyun Kang - Conducting Associate, Vox Aquilae; Collaborative Pianist, A Cappella Choir & Grand Chorus
J. Christine Le - Conducting Associate, Concert Choir & A Cappella Choir
Julianna LoBiondo - Conductor, Camerata
Kenneth Sieloff - Conductor, Chorale; Choral Librarian
Boyeon Choi, Collaborative Pianist, Camerata & University Singers
Daeun Kim - Collaborative Pianist, Concert Choir
Chun-Yuan Wei, Collaborative Pianist, Chorale
Jiyoung Kim - Collaborative Organist, Vox Aquilae

Vocal Studies

Faculty: Daniel Bubeck, Samantha Dapcic, Stephen Dubberly (Opera), Jonathan Eaton (Opera), Molly Fillmore (Division Chair), Nereida García, William Joyner, Jennifer Lane, Mary Mills, Stephen Morscheck, Elvia Puccinelli, Stephanie Rhodes Russell, Jeffrey Snider, Willem van Schalkwyk (Opera), Carol Wilson

Teaching Fellows: Natasha Bekker, Isaac Carlin (Opera), Megan Gackle, Beatrice Kim, Shuyi Li, Kara 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
Joel D. Wiley - Director, Admissions
Matt Hardman - Director, Communications, Marketing and Public Relations