

Sunday, 1 March 2026  
2:30 p.m.

Biemesderfer Concert Hall  
Winter Center of Visual and Performing Arts



presents

## *American Dreams, New Beginnings*

**Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell, conductor**  
**Jonathan Lefever, collaborative pianist**

With special guests

**Millersville University Wind Ensemble**  
**Dr. Joe Cernuto, conductor**

Welcome to our first choral concert of the Spring semester as we launch a year-long celebration of America's Semiquincentennial. Repertoire presented this afternoon features composers who came to our country and inspired a lasting influence on our musical culture, namely Igor Stravinsky (Russia), Ola Gjeilo (Norway), Paul Hindemith (Germany), Sydney Guillaume (Haiti), and Sergei Rachmaninoff (Russia).

As has become our tradition, we also celebrate February's Black History Month. This year our focus is on African American composers André Thomas and Rosephanye Powell and their powerful settings of poems by "Poet Laureate of Harlem" Langston Hughes.

An excerpt of *Desh: An Indian Raga*, by American composer Ethan Sperry, is included to add even more variety to our program and to recognize Indian Americans who contribute to the cultural fabric of our nation.

For the Finale, the Choral Union and Wind Ensemble join forces to perform Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Howard Hanson's *Song of Democracy*. Published in 1957, the work was dedicated to the Music Educators of America for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Music Educators National Conference and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Education Association. Hanson selected two poems by Walt Whitman that describe the democratic ideal through the themes of unity, freedom, and a "ship of democracy" sailing from the past, through the present, and into the future. Inclusive idealistic patriotism is promoted with an emphasis on human dignity, education, and individual diverse voices coming together as one.

On **Saturday, 2 May, at 7:30 p.m.**, everyone is invited to return for our next concert, *American Choral Classics: Stage and Screen*. Beginning with *Oklahoma!* (1943) and continuing to the present, selections from Broadway shows will be performed that reflect every decade to showcase our strong heritage of American musical theater, where shows are often converted successfully to the silver screen. This concert will inspire you to depart with a song in your heart and a smile on your face!

# I. Cantilena Women's Choir

## У Спаса в Чигисах ("At the Savior's in Chigasi")

from *Подблюдные* (*Four Russian Peasant Songs* (1917)).....Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

*Near Our Saviour's Church in Chigasi, beyond the Yauza river, Glorious! Live rich peasants, Glorious!  
They rake gold in by the shovelful, Glorious! Pure silver by the basketful, Glorious!*

## Tundra.....Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

*Wide, worn and weathered, sacred expanse of green and white and granite grey;  
Snowy patches strewn, anchored to the craggy earth, unmoving; while clouds dance across the vast, eternal sky.*  
Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

Cassidy McNew and Teeanna Fogle, soloists

## I Dream a World.....André J. Thomas (b. 1952)

*Of such I dream. I dream a world where man, no other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth and peace its path adorn.  
I dream a world where all will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white, whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth and every man is free,  
Of such I dream. Where wretchedness will hand its head and joy,  
Like a pearl, attends the needs of all mankind.  
Of such a I dream, I dream a world.*  
Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

# II. Chorale

## From *Six Chansons*.....Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

### La Biche (The Doe)

*O doe: what beautiful interior of ancient forests abounds in your eyes;  
So much profound confidence mixed with so much fear.  
All that, borne by the lively graciousness of your bounds.  
But nothing ever arrives on this unimposing ignorance of your front.*

### Un Cygne (A Swan)

*A swan moves across the water, completely surrounded by itself, like a gliding painting;  
Thus at certain moments a being that one loves is a whole moving space.  
It draws near, duplicated, like the swimming swan, on our troubled soul...  
Which to that being adds the trembling image of happiness and of doubt.*

### Puisque tout passe (Since all is passing)

*Since all things pass, let us make a passing melody;  
The one that quenches our thirst shall be the right one for us.  
That which leaves us, let us sing with love and art;  
Let us be swifter than the swift departure.*

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926), from *Poèmes français*

## Twa Tanbou (Three Drums) .....Sydney Guillaume (b. 1982)

*Three drums are having an argument a great Sunday morning on their way back from Guinea.  
A little Kata...a little Tanbouren...a big Boula....  
Boula declared that he can hit the loudest. Boula declared, "I can hit the loudest!"  
Tanbouren said, "I have the most beautiful sound." He said, "when I perform, keep quiet and listen!"  
Kata, who was hearing all this, became angry.*

*He could not comprehend how two soldiers who are dressed with the same outfit  
And are children of the same mother are sitting around making a scandal.  
One fine Mardi-Gras day, Kata started to “zouk.” Every single person there began to dance....  
Tanbouren and Boula, who were there listening, to make the party more exciting, they started a great throng.  
That day, they all sang a song that I’ll never forget: All drums that are dispersed,  
Let’s put our shoulders together to make life more beautiful.*  
Louis Marie Celestin

### III. University Choir

**To Sit and Dream**.....Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

*To sit and dream. To sit and read. To sit and learn about the world.  
Outside our world of here and now. Outside our world, our problem world.  
To dream of vast horizons of the soul, of dreams made whole.  
Unfettered, free. Help me, help me. All you who are dreamers too.  
Help me make our world anew. I reach out my hand to you, I reach out my hand.*  
Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

**Богородице Дево, радуйся (Rejoice, O Virgin Mother)**

from *Всенощное бдение (All-Night Vigil)* (1915), Op. 37.....Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women and blessed is the Fruit of your womb,  
For you have borne the Savior of our souls.*

**Desh, An Indian Raga**.....Arr. Ethan Sperry (b. 1971)

### Brief Intermission

## IV. Choral Union with Wind Ensemble

**Song of Democracy**.....Howard Hanson (1896-1981)

*An old man’s thought of school; an old man, gathering youthful memories and blooms that youth itself cannot,  
Now only do I know you, O fair auroral skies—O morning dew upon the grass!  
And these I see, these sparkling eyes, these stores of mystic meaning, these young lives,  
Building, equipping, like a fleet of ships, immortal ships!  
Soon to sail out over the measureless seas, on the soul’s voyage.  
Only a lot of boys and girls? Only the tiresome spelling, writing, cipherring classes?  
Only a public school? Ah more—infinately more;  
And you, America, cast you the real reckoning for your present?  
The lights and shadows of your future, good or evil?  
To girlhood, boyhood look—the teacher and the school.*

Walt Whitman (1819-1892), from *An Old Man’s Thought of School*  
For the inauguration of a Public School, Camden, New Jersey, 1874

*Sail, sail thy best, ship of Democracy, Of value is thy freight, ‘tis not the Present only,  
The Past is also stored in thee, thou holdest not the venture of thyself alone, not of the Western continent alone.  
Earth’s résumé entire floats on thy keel O ship, is steadied by thy spars,  
With thee Time voyages in trust, the antecedent nations sink or swim with thee,  
With all their ancient struggles, martyrs, heroes, epics, wars, thou bear’st the other continents,  
Theirs, theirs as much as thine, the destination—port triumphant;  
Steer then with good strong hand and wary eye O helmsman, thou carriest great companions,  
Venerable priestly Asia sails this day with thee, And royal feudal Europe sails with thee.*

Walt Whitman, from *Thou Mother with Thy Equal Brood*, 1872

## PERFORMING PERSONNEL

### CANTILENA CHOIR

Emma Agis  
Eva Anderson  
Kaylie Boas  
Gianna Carbone  
Kirstin Crone  
Rania De La Mar  
Victoria Dorsch  
Isabelle Ebersole  
Zoey Fizz

Karyme Flores  
Teeanna Fogle  
Veronica Fox  
Abigail Fraver  
Anya Garber  
Abbey Giughlo  
Anna Hennessy  
Zining Hu  
Rose Leitner

Keirly Mcgonigal  
Cassidy McNew  
Madalyn Miller  
Madelyne Prazak  
Dana Raugh  
Caris Rolph  
Celia Romero  
Sarah Rothermel  
Catherine Samer

Katherine Sarro  
Nenea Schimek  
Eva Shaw  
Morgan Shultz  
Cameron Smeltz  
Bozhena Sobkevych  
Emily Stinchfield  
Ava Zink

Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell, conductor

### CHORALE

#### Soprano

Emma Agis  
Katarina Lingo  
Jinge Ma  
Luciana Martinez  
Cassidy McNew  
Dana Raugh  
Cassandra Wright

#### Alto

Hannah Buckbee  
Teeanna Fogle  
Abbey Giughlo  
Leah Halcisak  
Madalyn Miller  
Sarah Rothermel

#### Tenor

Grayson Conrad  
Matthew Cortes  
Kyle Duvall  
Nick Keilholtz  
Roberto Santana  
Brayden Smith  
Xavier Polite

#### Bass

Ezekiel MacCloskey  
Liam Moss  
Samuel Pedersen  
Dakota Shertzer  
Lucas Sinkinson  
Evan Zimmerman

Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell, conductor

### UNIVERSITY CHOIR

#### Soprano

Emma Agis  
Eva Anderson  
Kat Dorsheimer  
Isabelle Ere  
Zoey Fizz  
Margaret Fogleman  
Alec Gartner  
Renaë Greak  
Luciana Martinez  
Cassidy McNew  
Dana Raugh  
Charlotte Reisse  
Grace Ritter  
Ava Rodriguez  
Sarah Rothermel  
Charlotte Schnur  
Bozhena Sobkevych  
Devin Sparwasser  
Elizabeth Wicht  
Cassandra Wright

#### Alto

Bella Dayton  
Kathryn Felix  
Teeanna Fogle  
Izzy Funari  
Abigail Giughlo  
Kaiya Hass  
Talia Hall  
Chrono Holly  
Jemai Mallory  
Natalie Martin  
Jozie Papcun  
Gennessee Pichardo  
Caris Rolph  
Celia Romero  
Olivia Seiberling  
Madelyn Stern  
Lapis Valido  
Olivia Zimmerman

#### Tenor

Blake Atkins  
Enzo Bellini  
Noah Brosey  
Matt Cortes  
Caleb Creviston  
Ethan Desjardin  
Brian Dobbs  
Victoria Dorsch  
Kyle Duvall  
Timothy Grundy  
Conley LaPratt  
Kevin Lynch  
Samuel Messersmith  
Liam Moss  
Olivia Shaheen  
Dakota Shertzer  
Elliott Stabler  
Michael Tchernev

#### Bass

Enrique Angeles  
Jackson Baker  
Brahm Bean  
Anthony Ramos Calderon  
Josh Corcoran  
Damion Crawford  
Daniel D'Albora  
Justin Davis  
Joaquin De Los Rios  
Max French  
Dylan Gehringer  
Tymere Glenn-Peters  
Sam Heebner  
Eamon Helfrich  
Rohit Kandala  
Justin Natale  
Edward Nieves  
Jack Newkirk  
Samuel Pedersen  
Kurt Scheuerman  
Zheyu Shi  
Lucas Sinkinson  
Liam Ventrella  
Micaiah Weaver  
Gabe Wolford

Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell, conductor

### WIND ENSEMBLE

#### Flute/Piccolo

Molly Hibshman  
Charlotte Schnur  
Emily Shank

#### Oboe

Ella Baltz  
Olivia Seiberling

#### Bassoon

Shelby McLean  
Enrique Angeles

#### Clarinet

Savannah Brady  
Adam Ciampaglia  
Dakota Frey  
Kaiya Haas  
Lindsey Hutchinson  
Cat Malloy  
Roën Quickel  
Grace Ritter

#### Saxophone

Michael Asprea  
Nick Carter  
Laci Miller

#### Horn

B Druckenmiller  
Caleb Creviston  
Owen McMahan  
Matthew Miller

#### Trumpet

Peter Coullbourne  
Enzo Dreon  
Caitlynn Shaffer

#### Trombone

Robert Ferry  
Luke George  
Cameron Malone  
Tim Zettlemoyer

#### Euphonium

Ethan Bathurst

#### Bass

Jaydon King

#### Tuba

Tymere Glenn-Peters

#### Percussion

Angus Corpus  
Edrien Dingzon  
Izzy Funari  
Sarah Guide  
Shelby Hedrick  
Patrick Jenkins

Dr. Joe Cernuto, conductor

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