

Treble Chamber Choir

Soprano One

Ellie Brann
Lindesy Bross
Abigail Cordova
Alyssa Downing
Kate Gibson
Christy Marchand
Hannah Sayles
Emily Wiley

Alto One

Emily Bryson
Julia Faber
Alish Hall
Maggie Hallauer
Caroline Marney
Rachel Pennington
Hattie Saunders
Abigail Wallen

Soprano Two

Molly Cahlinkin
Josie Manning
Kate Miller
Kathryn Morgan
Lucy Moss
Jessica Stahle
Ashley Starkson
Emily Swett

Alto Two

Sophia Anzalone
Emily Chapman
Erin Dixon
Camilla Maric
Cecelia Polvere
Alex Stenseth
Adrienne Tomlinson
Michael Trulio

University Men's Chorus

Jeremy Alexander	Noah Galbreath	Bryce Morgan
Eric Ballman	Rhiley Harris	Brandon Morris
Manoa Bell	Parker Hicks	Chris Ogunfowora
Stan Bottcher	Josh Holsinger	Benjamin Ostapovicz
Keith Brown	Robert Jackson	George Phillips
Garrett Christian	Daniel Jenkins	Ian Ring
Coleman Cox	Jason Klugh	Robert Schriber
Benjamin Dingus	Kris Kouzougian	Dan Wash
Dom Fowler	Steven Koskulitz	William Stimpson
Aaron Green	Andrew Magruder	Kyle Wenger
Antonio Griffin	Riley Millward	Reid Wilkins
David Gwynn	Graham McDowell	Jacob Wilson
		Nathaniel Wolters

In the words of composer Dan Davison, “*Armonía* is a journey where the singers invite the audience to experience the joys that musicians know so well. Most choristers have had the experience of falling in love with harmony. Choir people love harmony, and we are not always sure why that is the case. Here, the Spanish flavor of the chords and the “bolero” style beat will take the listener to another land. The marimba helps to complete the Spanish feel.”

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) wrote extensively for male chorus in his short life. *Nächtliches Ständchen* is a setting of a poem by Anton Weiß (1869-1940) added retroactively to Schubert’s original part song. The third stanza is the original text set by Schubert, replacing the name “Fanny” from the original text by “Holde”. The author of Schubert’s original text is unknown.

In the words of composer Z. Randall Stroope, “Text and music should mirror each other, like a mountain’s reflection on a glassy lake below. The uniqueness of each graces the other, and together form a beautiful image all its own. Similarly, the composer convey the ‘dramatic essence’ of poetry by purifying all musical elements that might obscure the text, to create a transparent color palette that inseparably merges words and music. In the Civil War poem **Dance for Love** (William Straub, 1865), the person has survived the ravages of war, and now eagerly turns homeward—walking, even dancing past “furrowed fields and gentle rain on summer wheat.” Sarah, who has waited years for this reunion, is just beyond the “old gray mill and the meadow’s brow.” Out of the seemingly impossible brokenness of war comes beauty and renewed life. The “pillars” or constants in life—just like the sun—have been there all the time...waiting for our return.”

In the words of the beloved choral arranger, Alice Parker: “**Hard Times Come Again No More** is one of the sweetest Stephen Foster songs, balancing nostalgia with heartfelt lament. The refrain, ‘Tis the song, the sigh of the weary’ seems to bear the weight of the world on its shoulders, embracing all in its warm lyricism. It seems made for male chorus with piano accompaniment that would have been found in 19th century homes.”

Sufjan Stevens, born July 1, 1975, is an American singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. His debut album “A Sun Came” was released in 2000 on the Asthmatic Kitty label, which he cofounded with his stepfather. He is perhaps best known for his 2005 album “Illinois”, which hit number one on the Billboard Top Heatseekers chart, and for the single “Chicago” from that album. He received an Academy Award nomination in 2018 for Best Original Song for “Mystery of Love” from the movie *Call Me by Your Name*. The University Men’s Chorus have worked with Stevens’ original song, **Flint (for the Unemployed and Underpaid)** throughout this semester, developing our own unique arrangement that showcases solfege chording skills, and the instrumental talents within our choral ensemble!

Nuit d'étoiles (Starry Night), a poem by Théodore Faullin de Banville (1823-1891), most famously set by Claude Debussy (1862-1918) quite early in his compositional career, as a song for solo voice. Debussy's chansons are wonderful tools for use in the development of the voice, encouraging singers to sing "on the breath" using the full spectrum of color in their voices and to sing with all of the line that Debussy's music requires.

<i>Nuit d'étoiles, Sous tes voiles, Sous ta brise et tes parfums, Triste lyre Qui soupire, Je rêve aux amours défunts.</i>	Starry night, under your veils, Under your breeze and your perfume, A sad lyre that sighs, I dream of loves lapsed.
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<i>La seriene Mélancolie Vient éclore au fond de mon cœur, Et j'entends l'âme de ma mie Tressallir dans le bois rêveur.</i>	A serene melancholy Unfurls in the pit of my heart, And I hear the soul of my beloved Trembling in the dreamlike wood.
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<i>Je revois à notre fontaine Tes regards bleus comme les cieux; Cette rose, c'est ton haleine, Et ces étoiles sont tes yeux.</i>	I see again in our fountain Your eyes, blue like the skies; This rose, it's your breath, And these stars are your eyes.
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Heart, We Will Forget Him is an oft set poem by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886). This setting is by Minnesota based composer David Dickau, director of Choral Activities at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The piano represents the endless beating of the heart and the voices represent the soul of the poem, mourning the loss of a love.

Canticle of Love is a brand new setting of the "The Years", a poem by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933) by David Childs. The lyricism in this setting supports the beauty of the Teasdale text, as the speaker reflects back on lost loves, "The years before I saw your face Go by me with a wistful grace; They pass, the sensitive, shy years, As one who strives to dance, half blind with tears."

The alternative rock band, Radiohead, released their debut single **Creep** in 1992. The song also appeared on their first album, "Pablo Honey". The song went on to become a worldwide hit and has been covered by numerous singers. The arrangement presented here was written for the Belgian girls' choir, Scala, and was featured during the trailer to the 2010 film "The Social Network". In our set this song represents the private stage of grief, when one deals with loss through anger.

The past year has brought women's rights to the forefront of media attention with the #metoo movement and the women's rights marches across the nation. The song **Quiet** by singer-songwriter Milck has been claimed by this movement, sparking it's own hashtag as #icantkeepquiet. Milck (real name Connie Lam) wrote this song about her experiences overcoming traumas, including domestic abuse and anorexia.

Will the Circle Be Unbroken has become a spring tradition for the members of The Treble Chamber Choir. This Appalachian hymn first appeared in a 1908 hymnal. This arrangement makes use of bluegrass trio and gospel quartet singing styles. The meaning for the tradition of this ensemble is encapsulated in the lyric, "I was singing with my sisters, I was singing with my friends."

The *alma mater* is an official song or anthem of an educational institution. The official song may be referred to as the *alma mater* of the institution, and it may be understood by those who know, which song is referred to. It is not to be confused with an institution's fight song, which is usually much more upbeat and used for an institution's athletics programs. An alma mater is typically slow, light in instrumentation and with lyrics that wax nostalgic about the institution's setting and affirm the singer's devotion to, and fondness for, the institution.

JMU's current *alma mater* will close our program today. But before that, we will step back in history to listen to the *alma mater* from the founding of JMU's founding institution, entitled **Blue Stone Hill**. Founded in 1908 as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg, the campus began with a few buildings on the quad, made of locally quarried blue stone. The song makes reference to the beauty and majesty of these original buildings, just across the street from Forbes.

*"Noon night and morning we attend thy signal bell,
True to its warning till we say farewell.
Through the years, swift winging, oft will come a quickening thrill
In the soul still ringing songs of blue stone hill.*

*Mater, alma mater, Though afar we bless thee still;
And may Love forever Smile on Blue-Stone Hill."*