



Acknowledgements

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Dr. Grier Williams
School of Music
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA



The Dr. Grier Williams School of Music at the University of West Florida
presents

UWF Singers

Dr. Peter Steenblik, director



Florida ACDA 2022 Conference

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 10:00 am
First United Methodist Church, Orlando

Concert Program

Joy (1998) **Ricky Ian Gordon (b. 1956)**

I went to look for joy
Slim dancing joy
Gay, laughing joy
Bright eyed joy

And I found her
Driving the butcher's cart
In the arms of the butcher boy
Such company
As keeps this young nymph¹ joy

Hal Leonard 08711340

- text by Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

Madre, la de los primores (1686) **Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648-1695)**

*Madre, la de los primores
La que es virgen siendo madre.
La madre de tantas hijas
Y madre de tantos padres.*

Mother, most lovely,
Who is virgin through a mother,
Mother of so many daughters,
And mother of so many fathers.

*Goza hoy en tu templo felicidades,
Pues de tu esposo eres divino
Atlante.*

Enjoy today in your temple congratulations,
For from your husband, you are divine
Atlantean.²

*Señora reformadora
La que a sus benditos frailes,
Los trae por esos desiertos,
Al sol, a la nieve, alaire.*

Reforming lady,
Who for her blessed friars
Brings them through those deserts
To the sun, the snow, the air.

Unpublished edition

- text attributed to the composer

from Mass in C minor (1783) **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)**
Gloria

*Gloria in excelsis Deo
Et in terra pax hominibus
Bonae voluntatis.*

Glory to God in the highest
And on earth peace to all those
Of good will.

CPDL

- liturgical text

A Prayer of Compassion (2018) **Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)**

Lead me, Lord,
Lead me in the paths of peace.
Make Your way plain before my eyes.

But let me keep a heart that still can feel,
And eyes that still can weep.

For it is You, Lord,
You, and You, alone,
Who can make me to dwell in safety.

Oh, my brother,
Oh, my sister,
All who live in peril...
For you let me keep a heart that still can feel...
For you...
And eyes that still can weep.

Lead me always to listen.
Teach me to live with compassion,
That when I come to a place of rest
Only by Your grace,
And not by my merit, no praise be mine,

- texts from Psalms 4:8 and 5:8
and from *Divine Compassion*, by John
Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

ECS Publishing 8730

Say Her Name (2020) **Alysia Lee**

Say her name.
She cannot be forgotten by us.
Say her name.

Breonna Taylor
Janisha Fonville
Latasha Walton
Layleen Polanco
Ahmaud Arbury
Tamir Rice
Philando Castile
Eric Garner

Put her name in the air.

Say her name. Say his name.
Say their names.

Mark Foster 00357682

- text by the composer

Somewhere (1956/2002) **Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)**
arr. Robert Edgerton

There's a place for us,
Somewhere a place for us.
Peace and quiet and open air
Wait for us somewhere.
There's a time for us,
Someday a time for us.
Time together with time to spare,
Time to learn, time to care.

Someday, somewhere,
We'll find a new way of living,
We'll find a way of forgiving,
Somewhere.
There's a place for us,
A time and place for us.
Hold my hand and we're halfway there.
Hold my hand and I'll take you there,
Somehow, someday, somewhere.

Boosey & Hawkes 00450073

- text by Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)

Cantate Canticum Novum (2014) **Dan Forrest (b. 1978)**

Sing a new song.
Cantate canticum novum.

When darkness falls, when spirit is lost,
Bravely sing, Sing a new song, A song of light.

Cantate canticum novum.

When all is silence and nothing is clear.
Bravely sing, Sing a new song, A song of faith.
Let it rise up from the spirit of truth,
And echo from heart to heart.
Joyfully sing, Sing a new song, (*Cantate canticum novum*)
Till all are filled with love.

Canticum novum, cantate novum, canticum novum.
Cantate canticum novum.
Sing a new song!

Hinshaw HMC 2401

- text by Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

UWF Singers

Dr. Peter Steenblik, director
Hyunjoo Kim, collaborative pianist

¹ Nymph: (n.) a beautiful maiden. Origin in Greek mythology.

² Atlantean: Atlas, of Greek mythology, a possible metaphor for Christ.

Program Notes

Empathy. Understanding. Love. These are the descriptors of our program. By opening our hearts to feeling, we enable compassion, which facilitates the means for action.

We begin with a most honest and universal feeling, that of *Joy*, composed by Ricky Ian Gordon, most known for his work in art song and opera (*Grapes of Wrath*, 2007). All of us can emerge from this place together, having felt joy, whether we “found [joy] in the arms of” someone special, as Langston Hughes writes, or in some other capacity. This seedling of joy is our common ground.

The next two pieces explore a deeper adoration – one introspective offering for the church, one outward praise for the concert hall. Sister Juana Inés de la Cruz, a 17th century poet, composer, philosopher, writer, and nun, is considered by some as the “Hildegard of Mexico.” Her *Madre, la de los primores* is a lengthy, six verse motet that stands as a personal and prayerful expression of gratitude. [This audience should know that our 2-verse edition is for SSAB – a practical voicing for many choirs even today.] By contrast, we pair this with a short movement from W. A. Mozart’s *Great Mass in C minor*, which, like the *Requiem*, was left unfinished at the time of his passing. This *Gloria*, written in Classical Italian style, has cadential moments that resound the spirit of Handel. While vocally acrobatic, it equally serves as an expression of the composer’s faith.

Our program is crafted in a 7-piece arch form; its keystone is *A Prayer of Compassion*. Composed in 2018 after one of the many newsworthy tragedies in our collective experience, Gwyneth Walker stitched together a text that spoke the feelings of her heart. Walker writes,

This prayer combines traditional texts (Psalms 4:8 and 5:8) with the closing lines of John Greenleaf Whittier’s poem “Divine Compassion.” The biblical passages ask for the Lord’s guidance that we may walk in the paths of peace. Extending the supplication, the poignant Whittier lines ask for human compassion:

Let me keep a heart that still can feel, and eyes that still can weep.

In today’s world of increasing violence, and increasing global awareness of atrocities, we are often challenged to remain sensitive to suffering, to respond with *a heart that still can feel, and eyes that still can weep.*”

It is our hope that we never become numb. Sometimes, to feel is a choice, and one we hope to keep making. To stay in touch with our feelings invites greater empathy, which provides the catalyst for change.

One perspective that pleads for empathy is the honest *Say Her Name* by Alysia Lee. This piece engages the choir and audience in a Kwanzaa libation ceremony – a tradition that invites a family or group to honor a moment of silence, then call out names of departed ancestors. Lee writes, “Names are powerful. As the names are called, memories and stories fill the room. Love fills the room.” It is in the spirit of love that we sing *Say Her Name*. Various chorus members have selected the names spoken in this piece. Kimberlé Crenshaw, a central leader of the #SayHerName movement has shared, “If you say the name, you’re prompted to learn the story, and if you know the story, then you have a broader sense of [empathy].”

The final two pieces inspire human resolve – the first envisions reform, the second embodies a more specific call to action. In *Somewhere*, words and music are equally powerful partners. Sondheim’s text, “Hold my hand, and we’re halfway there” outwardly admits that this goal is not complete; the message is emphasized by the repeated words, “Someday, Somehow, Somewhere.” Bernstein’s incessant use of the tritone musically suggests that this plea, while noble, is unattainable. We, the performers, however, are unsatisfied with that impasse. Our programmatic journey embraces that tritone shift, the farthest possible tonal displacement, with the opening chords of *Cantate Canticum Novum*. The choir comes full circle, back to joy, and declares in macaronic verse and aggregate solidarity, “Joyfully sing, Sing a new song, Till all are filled with love.”

Bios



Peter Steenblik
Director of Choral
Activities

Dr. Peter Steenblik is Director of Choral Activities at the University of West Florida, and Artistic Director of the Choral Society of Pensacola. Previous appointments include Chorus Master for the Pensacola Opera, director of Women’s Chorus at the University of North Texas, and director of choirs at Jordan High School (Salt Lake City). He holds degrees in conducting, vocal pedagogy, and music education from the University of North Texas, and the University of Utah, respectively.

Steenblik is the most recent recipient of the Service Award from the Florida Vocal Association, recognizing his work in the state and beyond. An active presenter, adjudicator, and clinician, recent appearances have included the Chengdu Children’s Choir Festival, the Xi’an International Choral Festival, the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute, various ACDA Division Conferences, the Florida Vocal Association State MPA and Summer Convention, Florida Music Educators Association Conference, the Festival Singers of Florida tour to Indonesia, the Utah Music Educators Association State Festival, and ACDA state conferences in Florida, Georgia, and Utah. He has served as the head of choral activities for the Utah Music Educators Association and on the Utah ACDA board as R & S Chair for Men’s Choruses. He has conducted various honor choirs in Utah, Alabama, and Tennessee, and will be conducting the 2023 Florida All-state Reading Chorus. Additional collaborations include the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Utah Symphony, Ballet West, Women’s Chorus of Dallas, Pensacola Opera, and Pensacola Symphony Orchestra.



Hyunjoo Kim
Collaborative Pianist

Hyunjoo Kim is a staff pianist for the Grier Williams School of Music and collaborative pianist for the UWF Singers. She is the organist/pianist at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pensacola, and the collaborative pianist for the Choral Society of Pensacola.

She holds a master’s degree in organ performance from Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea. She holds a bachelor’s degree in music from the Catholic University of Korea. While seeking her degrees, she served as an organist at a Presbyterian church in Korea.

Hyunjoo has served as the organist for the UWF Commencement and organist at St. Mark Methodist Church in Pensacola. Prior to coming to Florida, she served as a pianist at Lake Forest Baptist Church in Gainesville, FL, and an organist at Jesus Community Church in San Diego, CA. She has been a member of the American Guild of Organists since 2015.



2022-2023 UWF Singers

Allison Banks

Freshman
BS Business
Crestview, FL

Lex Bowers

Sophomore
BM Vocal Performance
Wilmington, DE

Ann Marie Browning

Senior
AA General Studies
Pace, FL

Allison Carey

Senior
BME Music Education
Navarre, FL

Gabrielle Carley

Sophomore
BM Vocal Performance
Niceville, FL

Julianna Crook

Senior
BA Music / Minor Business
Pensacola, FL

Dean Dake

Freshman
BA Music
Pace, FL

Joe Decker

Sophomore
BM Vocal Performance
Niceville, FL

MJ Dunn

Senior
BFA Musical Theatre
Niceville, FL

Patrice Egan

Junior
BSBA Marketing
Navarre, FL

Dylan Ervin

Junior
BA Legal Studies /
Minor Hospitality & Tourism
Milton, FL

Mark Gaddy

Senior
BS Cybersecurity / Minor Music
Navarre, FL

Alayshia Green

Senior
BM Vocal Performance
Ft. Walton Beach, FL

Tyler Green

Freshman
AA General Studies
Navarre, FL

Abigail Harper

Sophomore
BME Music Education
Pace, FL

Katie Hilliard

Junior
BME Music Education
Pace, FL

Kaylah Holton

Freshman
BM Vocal Performance
Pensacola, FL

Jacob Hyer

Freshman
BME Music Education
Venice, FL

Ellis Jones

Freshman
BA Communications
Panama City, FL

Gabriel Lee

Freshman
BS Nursing
Milton, FL

Maegan Mallett

Sophomore
BME Music Education
Pace, FL

Abigail Mallory

Junior
BM Vocal Performance
Niceville, FL

Sarah Marroquin

Sophomore
BA Political Science
Weston, FL

Ethan Middleton

Junior
BA Music / BA Arts Administration
Pensacola, FL

Hannah Mills

Senior
BME Music Education
Shalimar, FL

Daniel Perkins

Senior
BM Piano Performance
Pensacola, FL

Leigh Proctor

Sophomore
BM Vocal Performance
Tallahassee, FL

Andrei Reynoso

Freshman
BA Arts Administration
Fayetteville, NC

Brooke Ryan

Sophomore
BA Music / BA Psychology
Fairhope, AL

Jocelyn Sevilla

Senior
BSW Social Work
Jarrettsville, MD

Harry Smith

Sophomore
BFA Musical Theatre
Panama City, FL

Kaitlyn Speegle

Junior
BME Music Education
Pensacola, FL

Jordan Svendsen

Sophomore
BM Vocal Performance
Fairhope, AL

Thomas Nolan Syverson

Freshman
BS Biology
Pensacola, FL

Rachael Thacker

Sophomore
BM Vocal Performance
Pensacola, FL

Tris Weeks

Junior
BM Vocal Performance
Pensacola, FL

Morgan Whitehead

Senior
BME Music Education
Pace, FL

Kaitlyn Xander

Sophomore
BS Business
Chesapeake, VA

Kalani Yen

Sophomore
BM Vocal Performance
Niceville, FL

Veronica Zaldana

Freshman
BA Music / BA Psychology
Pensacola, FL





A Message from the College Dean

On behalf of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of West Florida, I wish to congratulate the UWF Singers and Dr. Peter Steenblik on their invitation to appear at the 2022 Florida ACDA Conference. This is a distinct honor that recognizes the hard work of our students and entire music faculty. The UWF Singers ensemble includes majors from across campus and has an established history of excellence, being founded in 1967 during the inaugural year of the university. I am delighted to see this musical tradition celebrated at the state level, a first for our institution. Go Argos!

Dr. Amy Mitchell-Cook
Interim Dean, College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities
University of West Florida



A Message from the Director of Voice

It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the UWF Singers on their invitation to perform at the 2022 FLACDA State Conference. The UWF Singers includes students who are pursuing degrees in a broad variety of disciplines from across all five colleges at UWF. These individuals are rising leaders who demonstrate the highest level of achievement and performance. As creative, critical thinkers they are invested in enriching the quality of life for all of us through dynamic community exchanges at the local, regional and global level. The Williams School of Music believes the skills gained in the UWF Singers endure and prepare students to be lifetime learners no matter where their journey takes them. The UWF Williams School of Music provides a personalized all-undergraduate education with expert faculty who develop well-rounded graduates who demonstrate the 21st Century skills necessary to succeed in today's workplace. The Williams School of Music (WSOM) was established in 2020 after receiving the largest cash gift from a living donor in the history of the university with a scholarship endowment that is estimated to be in excess of 7.5 million dollars. We are located in culturally rich historic Pensacola with a backdrop of white sandy beaches and emerald waters. Performing at the FLACDA Conference is a distinguished honor and I am proud to be associated with this outstanding group of musicians. I wish the members of the UWF Singers and Dr. Peter Steenblik all the best as they share their dedication to music and their Argonaut spirit with the FLACDA community.

Dr. Sheila Dunn
Director of Voice
Dr. Grier Williams School of Music
University of West Florida

Scholarship Information

The Dr. Grier Williams School of Music (WSOM) has a robust scholarship initiative. Auditions for degree programs for the 2023-2024 school year will be held:

- Friday, December 9, 2022
- Friday, February 17, 2023
- Friday, May 5, 2023 (last audition date for transfer students for Fall 2023 acceptance)

Priority scholarship deadline is December 1, 2022 for the University-sponsored scholarships, and March 31, 2023 for the WSOM-sponsored scholarships. To be eligible, students must have their university application and WSOM audition completed. Scholarship consideration preference will be given in order of completed applications received. www.uwf.edu/music

The University of West Florida

At the University of West Florida, we believe in the power of higher education to drive change. We see that impact on campus, in our region, across the state and around the world. Based in Pensacola, we have additional locations in the region and an ever-growing global online presence. We've awarded more than 100,000 degrees from 110+ undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs.

UWF is more than a university. It's a symbol of success, commitment to lifelong learning and boundless potential.

www.uwf.edu



Undergraduate Music Degrees Available:

- BA – Music & an Outside Field
- BM – Music Performance
- BME – Music Education
- Music Minor

The UWF Singers

The UWF Singers is the flagship choral ensemble at the University of West Florida. It is an undergraduate-only choir made up of majors from across the university. Founded in 1967 at the newly established school, the group engages in collaborative performances, offers multiple concerts a year, and regularly appears with the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, the Pensacola Choral Society, and the Pensacola Children's Chorus. They appeared by invitation with the Mobile Symphony Orchestra at the 2020 ACDA Southern Division Conference. They also represent the university by invitation of the President and Provost at such events as Commencement, the State of the University Address, and Homecoming festivities. Additional choirs under the UWF Singers umbrella include the Concert Choir (SSAA), and the Argo Chorus (TTBB). The UWF Singers has long been an example of choral excellence in the Northwest Florida region.

www.uwfsingers.com



UWF Singers
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA