



ST. OLAF CHOIR
ANTON ARMSTRONG, CONDUCTOR
Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 7:30pm
Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

ST. OLAF CHOIR

Anton Armstrong, conductor

Charles Gray, violin

SONGS OF PRAISE AND REJOICING

Johann Michael Haydn *Laetatus Sum*
(1737-1806)

Salamone Rossi *Elohim Hashivenu*
(c. 1570-c.1630)

Johann Sebastian Bach *Der Geist hilft unsrer Schwachheit auf (BWV 226)*
(1685-1750)

SONGS OF ADORATION

Ralph Vaughan Williams *Gloria (Mass in G Minor)*
(1872-1958)

Woldemar Voullaire *Selig sind, die reines Herzens sind*
(1825-1902)

Ralph M. Johnson *On Horizon's Brim*
(b. 1955)

Matthew Peterson *Adoramus Te*
(b. 1984)

Jake Runestad *Alleluia*
(b. 1986)

20-minute intermission

SONGS OF JUSTICE AND COMPASSION

Rosephanye Powell
(b. 1962)

Sorida

Alexander Gretchaninov
(1864-1956)

Our Father

Mari Esabel Valverde
(b. 1987)

When Thunder Comes

Jayne Southwick Cool
(b. 1947)
arr. Eric Nelson

When Memory Fades

Robert V. Scholz
(b. 1939)
arr. David Scholz

Set Me As A Seal

Christoph E.F. Weyse
(1774-1842)
arr. F. Melius Christiansen

O Day Full of Grace

SONGS OF LOVE AND HOPE

arr. Shireen Abu-Khader
(b. 1972)

Lammaa Badaa Yatathannaa

arr. Joseph Flummerfelt
(1937–2019)

Danny Boy

René Clausen
(b. 1953)

O My Luv'e's Like A Red, Red Rose

arr Harry T. Burleigh
(1866–1949)

My Lord, What A Mornin'

arr. Josephine Poelinitz
(b. 1944)

City Called Heaven

arr. Moses G. Hogan Jr.
(1957–2003)

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

OPTIONAL SELECTIONS

arr. F. Melius Christiansen
(1871-1955)

Beautiful Savior

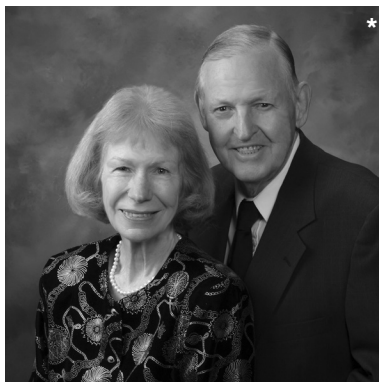
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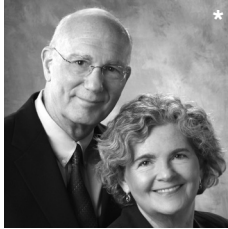
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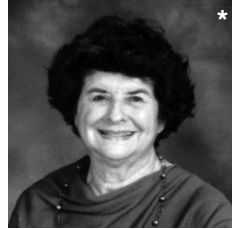
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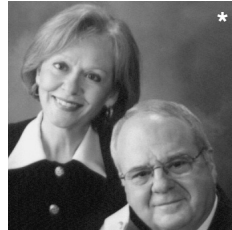
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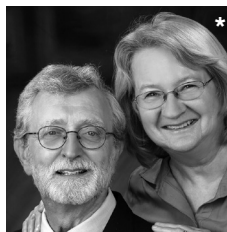


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ST. OLAF CHOIR

SINGERS

SOPRANO I

Natalie Brandt, Eugene, Ore.
music education

Thea Brenner, Ames, Iowa
music

Grace Brigham, Washington, D.C.
music

Elsa Buck, Rosemount, Minn.
music

Emma Chambers, Orlando, Fla.
music performance

Shae Lime, Treasure Island, Fla.
music performance

Hannah Liu, Shoreline, Wash.
music, political science

Marianne Peterson, Duluth, Minn.
French, physics

Bronwyn Redvers-Lee, Takoma Park, Md.
music

Mara Tostengard, Roseville, Minn.
economics

SOPRANO II

Ann Ambach, Garden City, N.Y.
music, psychology

Emma Arachtingi, Burnsville, Minn.
music performance

Lily Askegaard, Eden Prairie, Minn.
music education

Lucas Brazeau, Sycamore, Ill.
music

Marisabel Cordova, Chambersburg, Pa.
music education

Amanda Goldberg, Pompano Beach, Fla.
music education

Katherine Hagaman, Bettendorf, Iowa
music education

Paige Romero, Frisco, Texas
music

Maggie Stock, Philadelphia, Pa.
English

Helena Webster, Oak Harbor, Wash.
music performance

ALTO I

Emily Albrecht, Neenah, Wis.
music education

Alden Bostwick, Northfield, Minn.
music

Emma Bergman, La Grange Park, Ill.
music education

Hannah Chapman-Dutton, Round
Mountain, Nev. | environmental science

Hannah Hasseler, Columbus, Ohio
economics, psychology

Jessica Hoyt, Foxboro, Mass.
music education

Emi Kaliski, St. Charles, Ill.
music

Amalie Kvam, Jar, Norway
musicology

Emily Thompson, Fremont, Ind.
music education

Maddie Smoot, Longmont, Colo.
music

ALTO II

Caroline Alessi, Stillwater, Minn.
music
Felisa Armitage, Portland, Ore.
music education
Emily Chmielewski, Hales Corners, Wis.
music education
Emily Geiger, Andover, Minn.
music education
Audrey Lane-Getaz, Northfield, Minn.
music
Hannah Pahs, Northfield, Minn.
undeclared major
Meg Swanson, St. Paul, Minn.
chemistry
Courtney Talken, Pleasant Hill, Mo.
music
Sophie Vogel, Stillwater, Minn.
music education

TENOR I

Michael Terry Caraher, Eau Claire, Wis.
American studies, church music
Logan Combs, Haysville, Kans.
church music
Kyle Dacon, Garland, Texas
music performance
Noah Han, Staples, Minn.
music education
Jonah Herzog, Champaign, Ill.
music
Samuel Long, Rutland, Mass.
church music
David Ortiz, Houston, Texas
music
Jonah Schmitz, Rogers, Minn.
music

TENOR II

Eli Aronson, Minneapolis, Minn.
music performance
Mason DeGrazia, Iowa City, Iowa
psychology
Alexander Famous, Princeton, N.J.
computer science, Latin
Lucas Jimenez-Kloeckl, Staples, Minn.
music
Gabriel Maxwell, Isanti, Minn.
undeclared major
Samuel Rivera, Windsor, Conn.
music
Michael Tiede, Avon, Minn.
religion
Alexander Williams, New York, N.Y.
undeclared major

BASS I

Nicholas Hinson, Tampa, Fla.
music
Simon Hoehn, Waseca, Minn.
music performance
Hunter Friesen, Sioux Falls, S.D.
biology
Lukas Jaeger, Ixonia, Wis.
music performance
Isaac Lynch, Rochester, Minn.
music
Tony May, Woodbury, Minn.
music, psychology
Noel Patterson, Central Islip, N.Y.
music
Lars Kjell Redpath, Minneapolis, Minn.
political science
Eugene Sandel, Browns Mills, N.J.
music

BASS II

Jonah Berthelsen, Northfield, Minn.
political science
Luke Bultena, Arlington, Va.
economics, history, religion
Jonathan Madden, Rochester, N.Y.
composition
Simon Malotky, Greensboro, N.C.
biology, medieval studies
David McGowan, Nichols, Iowa
mathematics
Blake Northrup, Minnetonka, Minn.
economics, political science
Morgan Penk, Portland, Ore.
music
Cees Postema, Fargo, N.D.
English, music performance
Ian Schipper, Portland, Ore.
economics, music
Evan Strong, Fairfax, Va.
undeclared major
Cole Thompson, St. Louis Park, Minn.
economics

ADDITIONAL MUSICIANS

VIOLIN

Clara Brown, Indianapolis, Ind.
music performance
Jessica Folson, Grand Forks, N.D.
music performance
Meredith Maloley, Omaha, Neb.
music performance
Madeline Miller, Grand Rapids, Mich.
music performance
Annika Seager, Minnetonka, Minn.
music performance, Russian

VIOLA

Joshua Head, Colorado Springs, Colo.
music performance
Alex Long, Worthington, Ohio
biology, chemistry

CELLO

Cameron Gray, Northfield, Minn.
biology

BASS

Beatrice Hammel, Omaha, Neb.
psychology, Spanish

OBOE

Landry Forrest, Oak Creek, Wis.
music
Carter Kuehn, Owatonna, Minn.
chemistry
Colin Lang, Boxborough, Mass.
French

BASSOON

Jonah Schmitz, Rogers, Minn.
music

PIANO

Emily Albrecht, Neenah, Wis.
music education
Jonathan Madden, Rochester, N.Y.
composition

The renowned **ST. OLAF CHOIR** has brought its message of hope and faith to audiences around the world for more than a century.

F. Melius Christiansen founded the St. Olaf Choir in 1912. He worked to establish the ensemble's standard of excellence and its tradition of bringing music to audiences beyond campus. Christiansen chose spiritually profound music and pushed students to perfect a disciplined, controlled tone that was free of excessive vibrato. That sound—securely in tune, controlled in pitch, smooth in delivery—became the choir's hallmark. Olaf Christiansen (1925) succeeded his father as the choir's conductor in 1943 and remained deeply committed to retaining the ensemble's purity of tone while exploring new genres and interpretations of music. He added contemporary compositions, more Renaissance music, and American folk hymns to the repertoire of traditional church chorales.

In 1953, Kenneth Jennings (1950), an alumnus of the choir, joined the music faculty and later became the third conductor of the choir in 1968. Until then, the choir had largely performed a smaller, art song-like repertoire of motets and anthems. Jennings programmed larger choral works, including oratorios, masses, and passions, as well as more 20th-century pieces, focusing on historically informed renditions. He retained much of the choir's a cappella repertoire while introducing pieces with instrumental accompaniment, which opened the door for full orchestral collaborations. Jennings also changed the "shape" of the choir by turning students toward the audience and using wider and deeper risers. One reviewer noted that the choir now had "a more vibrant, warm tone—a resonant, lively, brilliant sound that rings with vitality and conviction."

The choir expanded its global reach with a tour of Asia in celebration of its 75th anniversary in 1986. In 1988, it was one of only five choirs in the world—and the only non-professional one—invited to participate in the Olympic Arts Festival in Seoul, South Korea. When Anton Armstrong (1978) took the helm in 1990, his vast knowledge of music and his ability to articulate a vision to singers and audiences alike took the St. Olaf Choir to the next level, adding more flavor to its signature sound and further expanding its repertoire to include music of the Pacific Rim, Africa, and Latin America.

Anton Armstrong (1978) is in his 30th year as conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. The renowned ensemble has had only three other conductors: Kenneth Jennings (1968–1990, class of 1950), Olaf Christiansen (1941–1968, class of 1925), and F. Melius Christiansen (1912–1943). Each conductor has built upon the choir's foundational ideals of sharing choral music that stirs the souls of listeners. Over the course of the choir's 108-year history, its outreach and sound has expanded both globally and culturally, and today the St. Olaf Choir is a leader in the worldwide music community. The ensemble tours extensively throughout the United States and abroad, and collaborates with numerous professional ensembles while continuing to set the pace in choral repertoire and pedagogy.

"The choir's palate is broader and more colorful, retaining its characteristic sound while adding a lot of spice," says Armstrong, who notes that members will occasionally sway back and forth during certain pieces, bringing a sense of movement to the ensemble.

The St. Olaf Choir has toured 15 times internationally, engaging capacity audiences in major concert halls worldwide. In 2019, the choir embarked on its eighth tour of Norway,

having first visited the country in 1913. In solo concerts and joint performances with the St. Olaf Orchestra—the first of which was attended by King Harald V—the choir sang new pieces by Norwegian composers, as well as African-American spirituals and beloved choral works from masters such as Bach, Mendelssohn, and Grieg. The St. Olaf Choir also recently traveled to Asia in 2017. The choir traveled throughout Japan and South Korea, presenting an eclectic program of regional folksongs, American music, and traditional pieces by Bach and Brahms.

The St. Olaf Choir's many honors include being chosen as American Public Media's sole American representative at the prestigious European Broadcasting Union's Choral Competition, at which it was named one of four finalists. The choir's 2013 PBS Christmas special, filmed in Norway, won two Upper Midwest Regional Emmy awards. In 2017, the St. Olaf Choir was among six St. Olaf ensembles invited to perform the St. Olaf Christmas Festival program at the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association, held at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

While Armstrong embraces the choir's rich legacy and tradition, his eyes are firmly fixed on the future. As technology advances and audiences connect with choral music in new ways, he's confident that the St. Olaf Choir will remain at the forefront of choral singing. "We seek to be a transforming force in society through choral performance, bringing understanding, mercy, justice, peace, and hope to a world that desperately cries out for these things."

PROFILE

ANTON ARMSTRONG (conductor) (1978), Tosdal Professor of Music at St. Olaf College, became the fourth conductor of the St. Olaf Choir in 1990 after 10 years in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he served on the faculty of Calvin University and led the Calvin University Alumni Choir, the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus, and the St. Cecilia Youth Chorale. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College and earned advanced degrees at the University of Illinois (MM) and Michigan State University (DMA). He is editor of a multicultural choral series for Earthsongs Publications and co-editor (with John Ferguson) of the revised St. Olaf Choral Series for Augsburg Fortress Publishers. In June 1998, he began his tenure as founding conductor of the Oregon Bach Festival Sangeland Family Youth Choral Academy.

During the 2019-20 season, Dr. Armstrong will serve as Conductor of the Indonesia Youth Choir and a member of the Choral Jury for the 8th Bali International Choir Festival, in Bali, Indonesia. Dr. Armstrong has been selected as Conductor of the 2019 Utah All-State Choir and will be a featured clinician at the 2020 ACDA North Central/Central Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Additionally, he will lead choral festivals at Carnegie Hall, New York, New York; Schermerhorn Symphony Center, Nashville, Tennessee; and Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco, California. Other guest conducting/lecturing engagements in 2019-20 include appearances at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey; guest conductor of the Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square; Headline Clinician for the Michigan ACDA in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois; California Baptist University, Riverside, California; and further appearances in Tennessee and North Carolina.

The St. Olaf Choir and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra will join forces to present performances of the Mozart *Requiem* in May 2020 at the Cathedral of St. Paul and the Ordway Concert Hall, St. Paul, Minnesota.

In March 2017, The St. Olaf Christmas Festival, one of the oldest musical celebrations of Christmas in the United States begun in 1912 by F. Melius Christiansen, founder of the St. Olaf College Music Department, was featured by invitation in two major performances at the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since 1990, Dr. Armstrong has served as Artistic Director of the St. Olaf Christmas Festival which features nearly 600 student musicians who are members of five St. Olaf choral ensembles and the St. Olaf Orchestra.

In January 2006, Baylor University selected Dr. Armstrong from a field of 118 distinguished nominees to receive the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching. He spent February-June 2007 in residency at Baylor University as a visiting professor. In March 2007, Dr. Armstrong was the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the American Boychoir School and in October 2009, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University. In June 2013, Dr. Armstrong received the Saltzman Award from the Oregon Bach Festival. The festival's highest honor, the Saltzman Award is bestowed upon individuals who have provided exceptional levels of leadership to the organization. In the fall of 2014, The St. Olaf Choir and Dr. Armstrong received a Regional Emmy for the PBS television program *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir*.

CHARLES GRAY (violin) is Professor of Music at St. Olaf College, where he is in his 35th year of teaching violin, viola, and chamber music. He is the rehearsal assistant in charge of the chamber orchestra that accompanies the St. Olaf Choir on tour. He was a regular performer with the Minnesota Orchestra from 1991-2010. Gray is the director of the annual St. Olaf Summer Music Academy and was named 2008 "master string teacher of the year in MN" by the American String Teachers Association. He attended Wheaton College, The University of Michigan, and The Eastman School of Music. His major teachers include Paul Makanowitzky, Sylvia Rosenberg, Atar Arad, and members of

the Cleveland Quartet. Gray was violist of the Casella String Quartet, winner of the Cleveland Quartet Competition, and the top prize at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. He has performed as a solo recitalist at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago and the Aspen, Steamboat Springs, and Breckenridge Music Festivals in Colorado. He has given solo performances at the National American Choral Directors and National American Guild of Organists conventions and has appeared numerous times as violin soloist on NPR's *Performance Today*. Gray often tours with the St. Olaf Choir and has performed with them over 350 times as violin/viola soloist.