



**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Stephen Alltop, Music Director & Conductor

**PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA IN RESIDENCE AT KRANNERT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

# *Good Tidings!*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025  
KRANNERT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
Stephen Alltop, Music Director & Conductor**

University of Illinois Meredith Chamber Singers, Andrea Solya, director  
UI Oratorio Society, Andrew Major, director  
Central Illinois Youth Chorus,  
Simon Tiffin and Ann Marie Morrisette, conductors  
Emily Birsan, soprano



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

## MARCH 7 2026



### AMERICAN HIGHLIGHTS for the 250th Anniversary of the United States

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 7:30 pm**

**Krannert Center for the Performing Arts**

**Stephen Alltop**, music director and conductor

**Taimur Sullivan**, alto saxophone

Join CUSO for a wide-ranging program of American music to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States. Joan Tower's bold *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* and Leonard Bernstein's unforgettable *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* will contrast with Samuel Barber's soulful *Adagio for Strings* and the deeply contemplative *Dream Elegy* by Jonathan Bailey Holland. John Williams' cool jazz music, *Escapades for Alto Saxophone* from the film "Catch Me If You Can" will feature Champaign's own Taimur Sullivan. The lively *Fandangos* of Roberto Sierra will bring the celebration to an uproarious close.

JOAN TOWER: *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman*

SAMUEL BARBER: *Adagio for Strings*

LEONARD BERNSTEIN: *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*

JOHN WILLIAMS: *Escapades for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra* (from the film "Catch Me if You Can")

JONATHAN BAILEY HOLLAND: *Dream Elegy*

ROBERTO SIERRA: *Fandangos*



CHAMPAIGN-URBANA  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Stephen Alltop, Music Director & Conductor

**Tickets on sale at [krannertcenter.com](http://krannertcenter.com)**

\$45 standard/\$40 senior/\$10 youth, student

# WELCOME

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Dear Friends,

How happy we are that you have joined us for our annual Holiday Concert of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. This evening's program, entitled "Good Tidings," is full of glorious music that we hope will give your holiday season just the right start.

It is a joy to collaborate again with Dr. Andrea Solya, Ann-Marie Morrisette, Simon Tiffin, and the wonderful singers of the Central Illinois Youth Chorus. A hearty welcome to the Oratorio Society of the University of Illinois with conductor Andrew Major, and the Meredith Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. Solya. The U of I choirs will join with soprano Emily Birsan in Poulenc's resounding and ebullient *Gloria*, a beloved work of choirs around the world.

The talented young members of CIYC will be featured in two songs from the now iconic film *Home Alone*, with its fine score by the dean of American film composers, John Williams.

The orchestra will bring you a fun variety of carol arrangements, from a very baroque version of "Angels We Have Heard on High" to Matt Naughtin's scintillating treatment of the *Carol of the Bells*. We hope you will add your voices to the Christmas Angels Sing Along and Handel's "Hallelujah."

Wishing truly Good Tidings to one and all,

Stephen Alltop  
Music-Director and Conductor



## **CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Stephen Alltop, Music Director & Conductor

CUSO is the professional orchestra in residence at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and is a member of the League of American Orchestras, the Illinois Council of Orchestras, the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers (ASCAP), and Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI). CUSO is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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### **CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

701 Devonshire Drive, C-24

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# CELEBRATING 66 SEASONS OF LOCAL MUSIC



PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA IN RESIDENCE AT KRANNERT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## 1959

The “Champaign-Urbana Civic Symphony Orchestra” was founded in 1959 by music lovers in our community who had the dream of establishing a local, professional symphony orchestra. Funded by local businesses and more than 300 subscribers, the orchestra performed the opening concert in Smith Hall on October 20, 1960 under the leadership of Bernard Goodman. The concert was hailed “a magnificent success” by *The News-Gazette* and the new orchestra flourished with the help of the Symphony Guild that was formed in 1962.

CUSO began performing at the newly-built Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in 1969 and was designated the professional orchestra in residence at Krannert Center in 1988. Over the years, CUSO has performed more than 350 concerts and showcased the talents of thousands of local, professional musicians, bringing the magic of music to audiences of all ages. In partnership with the Guild, CUSO youth music programs have introduced thousands of grade school children to the vibrancy of live orchestral music, with Youth Concerts at Krannert Center and free concerts in the schools.

For the past 66 years, CUSO has thrived with community support. The orchestra is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and receives no funding from Krannert Center or the University of Illinois. Like orchestras throughout the country, more than 60% of our budget is funded by the generous support of sponsors and donors.

**Your gift to the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra** makes these performances of great music by talented local musicians possible. To make a donation, call the CUSO office at 217-351-9139 or visit our website at [cussympphony.org](http://cussympphony.org). Thank you for your support!





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in memory of James Economy  
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## 2025-2026 Maestro Circle Members

*The Maestro Circle recognizes donations of \$1,000 or more more for the current season. CUSO gratefully acknowledges these donors for their support of the programs and performances of the 2025-2026 season, with gifts made to CUSO and the Guild from April 4, 2025 through November 30, 2025.*

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## 2025-2026 Season Donations

*The Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra warmly thanks these community members for their gifts made to CUSO and the Guild from April 4, 2025 through November 30, 2025 to support the programs and performances of the 2025-2026 season.*

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*It is with sincere gratitude that we recognize donations to CUSO and the Guild in the past 12 months for memorials and gifts made in honor of an individual for a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion.*

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Sara Elsasser  
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### **In Memory of Eric Dalheim**

Barbara Dalheim

### **In Memory of Diane Dold**

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# MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR



## STEPHEN ALLTOP

Stephen Alltop is celebrating his thirteenth season as Music Director and Conductor of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. In 2022, he received the Conductor of the Year Award from the Illinois Council of Orchestras for his work with CUSO. He also serves as Music Director of the Apollo Chorus of Chicago and the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Alltop has been a member of Northwestern University's conducting and keyboard faculties since 1994. His recent projects at Northwestern have included conducting the world premiere recording of Stacy Garrop's oratorio *Terra Nostra* for Cedille Records, and leading Handel's *Alcina* and Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea*.

Stephen Alltop has appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as both a harpsichord and organ soloist, and performs frequently with Chicago's Music of The Baroque. He has appeared with Boston's Handel and Haydn Society and the Chicago Bach Project, Chicago Sinfonietta, Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, Joffrey Ballet, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Omaha Symphony, and the Peninsula Music Festival and Ravinia Festival. Dr. Alltop served as coordinator and performer for WFMT's Chicago Bach Organ Project in the fall of 2014, a live performance series of all of Bach's organ works, and the WFMT Bach Keyboard Festival in the fall of 2015. His recordings are on the Albany, American Gramophone, Cedille, and Clarion labels.

Dr. Alltop has performed with many leading musicians and actors of our time, including Hilary Hahn, Orli Shaham, Tony Randall, Martin Sheen, and Brian Dennehy. He has prepared ensembles for the Ravinia Festival, Chicago Opera Theater, The Oprah Winfrey Show, Star Wars in Concert, Lollapalooza, and Josh Groban on Tour.

(continued on page 29)





# THE ORCHESTRA

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Stephen Alltop, Conductor  
*[Margaret C. Goodman Memorial Chair]*  
Noah Freeman Burch,  
Acting Assistant Conductor

## FIRST VIOLIN

Ji Myung Kim, Acting Concertmaster  
*[Homer Schmitt Memorial Chair]*  
Wei-Ting Chen,  
Acting Associate Concertmaster  
Luke Brann  
Noel Chi  
Maiya Favis  
Frantz Kjoniksen  
Armine Mortimer  
Anna Wallace

## SECOND VIOLIN

Bethany McClatchey, Principal  
*[Raymond E. Williams Memorial Chair]*  
Armgard Haken, Associate Principal  
Alivia Gaskins  
Jacy Jacobus  
Johnny Lusardi  
Eun Namkung  
Ezekiel Oyedepi  
Juliana Scofield

## VIOLA

Erin Rafferty, Principal  
*[Wyndham J. Roberts Memorial Chair]*  
Isaac Henry, Associate Principal  
*[Ernest and Lois Gullerud Endowed Chair]*  
Elaine Fine  
Genevieve Knoebel  
Andreas Ruiz-Gehrt  
Rebecca Saul

## CELLO

Barbara Hedlund, Principal  
*[CUSO Guild Memorial Chair]*  
Frances Reedy, Associate Principal  
*[Carl and Nadja Altstetter Endowed Chair]*  
Andrew Gagliu  
Oskar Norell  
Zora Yo

## BASS

Andrew French, Principal  
Margaret Briskin  
Todd Gallagher

## FLUTE

Elisa Moles, Acting Principal  
*[Thomas and Barbara Page Memorial Chair]*  
Amanda Pond

## PICCOLO

Ellen Elrick

## OBOE

John Dee, Principal  
*[Margaret R. and Michael Grossman Endowed Chair]*  
Peggy Grossman

## ENGLISH HORN

Evan Tammen

## CLARINET

J. David Harris, Principal  
Allison Brandt

## BASS CLARINET

Solomon Baer

**BASSOON**

Claire Taylor, Acting Principal  
Ben Maclay

**CONTRABASSOON**

Walt Vinoski

**HORN**

Rebecca Salo, Principal  
Rachel Hockenberry  
Brian Kilp  
Jancie Harris  
Joseph Goldstein, Assistant

**TRUMPET**

Charles Daval, Acting Principal  
Tracy Parish  
Robin Heltsley

**TROMBONE**

Jonathan Whitaker, Principal  
Matt Williamson  
Reid Lasley

**TUBA**

Mark Moore, Principal

**TIMPANI**

William Moersch, Principal

**PERCUSSION**

Ricardo Flores, Principal  
Aiden Endres  
Tess Lorraine

**HARP**

Molly Madden, Principal

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Anthony Patterson, Principal

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# GOOD TIDINGS!

## THE CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Stephen Alltop, Music Director & Conductor**

Concert No. 321, December 10, 2025 | 7:30 pm

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Foellinger Great Hall

**Stephen Alltop, conductor**

**UI Meredith Chamber Singers, Andrea Solya, director**

**UI Oratorio Society, Andrew Major, director**

**Central Illinois Youth Chorus,**

**Ann Marie Morrisette and Simon Tiffin, conductors**

**Emily Birsan, soprano**

### **O magnum mysterium**

Francis Poulenc

*Text & Translation on Page 18*

Meredith Chamber Singers

Andrea Solya, conductor

### **Gloria**

Francis Poulenc

*Text & Translation on Page 18*

I. Gloria

II. Laudamus te

III. Domine Deus

IV. Domine fi li unigenite

V. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei

VI. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris

Emily Birsan, soprano

Meredith Chamber Singers

Oratorio Society

INTERMISSION

### **Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 140 "Sleepers Awake"**

J. S. Bach

arr. Eugene Ormandy

### **"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

arr. Peter Breiner

**Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella**

Traditional French Carol  
arr. Matthew Naughtin

**Carol of the Bells**

Mykola Leontovych  
arr. Matthew Naughtin

**Two Songs from “Home Alone”**

John Williams  
lyrics by Leslie Bricusse

*Lyrics on Page 19*

“Somewhere in My Memory”

“Star of Bethlehem”

Central Illinois Youth Chorus

**Sleigh Ride**

Leroy Anderson

**Christmas Angels Sing-Along**

arr. Matthew Naughtin

*Lyrics on Page 30*

“Joy to the World”

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

“Away in a Manger”

“What Child is This?”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

Oratorio Society  
Central Illinois Youth Chorus

**“Hallelujah” from *Messiah***

G. F. Handel

*Text on Page 31*

Oratorio Society  
Central Illinois Youth Chorus



# TEXT & TRANSLATIONS

## **Francis Poulenc: O magnum mysterium from “Quatre Motets pour le temps de Noël” (1952)**

O magnum mysterium  
et admirabile sacramentum  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum  
jacentem in praesepio.  
Beata Virgo cujus viscera  
meruerunt portare  
Dominum Christum.

O great mystery  
and wonderful sacrament  
that the animals should see the newborn  
Lord lying in a manger.  
Blessed the Virgin, whose womb  
was worthy to bear  
our Lord Christ.

## **Francis Poulenc: Gloria**

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra hominibus, bonae, voluntatis.  
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,  
adoramus te, glorificamus te;  
Gratias agimus, agimus tibi, propter  
magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis!  
Deus, Pater omnipotens!  
Domine, Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe!  
Domine Deus! Agnus Dei! Filius Patris!  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus sanctus.  
Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe!  
Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei patris.  
Amen

Glory to God in the highest.  
And on earth peace to all of good will.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,  
We adore Thee, we glorify Thee.  
We give Thee thanks for Thy great glory.  
Lord God! Heavenly King!  
God, the father Almighty!  
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son!  
Lord God! Lamb of God! Son of the  
Father.  
Thou, who takest away the sins of the  
world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou, who takest away the sins of the  
world, receive our prayer.  
Thou, who sittest at the right hand of the  
Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou alone art holy,  
Thou alone art Lord,  
Thou alone art the most high, Jesus  
Christ.  
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God  
the Father. Amen.

# SONGS FROM “HOME ALONE” LYRICS

Music by John Williams, Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse

## Somewhere in My Memory

Candles in the window  
Shadows painting the ceiling  
Gazing at the fire glow  
Feeling that gingerbread feeling  
Precious moments, special people  
Happy faces, I can see  
Somewhere in my memory  
Christmas joys all around me  
Living in my memory  
All of the music, all of the magic  
All of the family, home here with me

## Star of Bethlehem

Star of Bethlehem shining bright  
Bathing the world in heav'nly light,  
Let the glow of your distant glory  
Fill us with hope this Christmas night.  
Star of innocence, star of goodness  
Gazing out since time began,  
You who've lived through endless ages  
View with love the age of man.  
Star of beauty hear our plea,  
Whisper your wisdom tenderly.  
Star of Bethlehem set us free  
Make us a world we long to see.  
Star of Bethlehem, star up high,  
Miracle of the midnight sky,  
Let your luminous life of heaven  
Better our hearts and make us fly.  
Star of happiness, star of wonder  
You see everything from afar,  
Cast your eye upon the future  
Make us wiser than we are.  
Star of gentleness, hear our plea,  
Whisper your wisdom tenderly.  
Star of Bethlehem set us free  
Make us a world we long to see.



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# UI MEREDITH CHAMBER SINGERS



## ANDREA SOLYA

Andrea Solya, DMA, is Director of Choral Studies and Teaching Professor of Choral Music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she is director of the UI Meredith Chamber Singers and Women's Glee Club. She teaches choral conducting and literature to undergraduate and graduate students. In addition to her duties at the University of Illinois, she serves as the Artistic Director of the Central Illinois Youth Chorus.

Each summer she teaches musicianship, conducting and choral methodology in the Master's program of the Kodály Institute at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Solya's research interests include the choral music of Andreas Rauch (1592-1656), as well as the art of teaching sight singing to the choral singer and beyond. She has performed and presented on national and international stages and is contributing author of *Choral Repertoire by Women Composers*, published by GIA Publications.

Under her direction, the UI Women's Glee Club has received numerous concert invitations and has undertaken memorable tours to Nashville, New Orleans, Atlanta and New York City. The UI Women's Glee Club also appears on renowned composer Augusta Read Thomas's CD recording, *Astral Canticle*, released by Nimbus Records.

Dr. Solya is a member of the National Board at the National Collegiate Choral Organization and serves as the Collegiate Repertoire and Standards Chair of the Midwest division of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). She is the coordinator of the "Lift Every Voice" Symposium that takes place every other year at the University of Illinois, which is created for underrepresented junior and senior choral conductors and co-sponsored by ACDA.



**The University of Illinois Meredith Chamber Singers** is the premier vocal ensemble of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, dedicated to the highest standards of choral artistry. Comprising of advanced undergraduate and graduate singers, the ensemble specializes in a diverse repertoire, spanning Renaissance polyphony, masterworks of the choral canon, and contemporary compositions.

Known for its expressive performances and musical excellence, the Meredith Chamber Singers frequently collaborate with Illinois faculty, guest artists, perform at prestigious events, and engage in national and international tours. Through innovative programming and refined vocal technique, the ensemble continues to uphold the rich choral tradition of the University of Illinois.

### **University of Illinois Meredith Chamber Singers**

**Andrea Solya**, director

**Jessica Mattiace**, graduate assistant director

**Andrey Ivanov**, collaborative piano

#### **SOPRANO**

Cyanne Chan  
Lila Dettelback  
Jana Dinkeloo  
Yoojin Jung  
Sophia Katsma  
Grace Kreps  
Lily Mamminga  
Levi Petrine  
Whitley Smith  
Sasha Van Den Berg

#### **ALTO**

Adeline Arana  
Sarah Heidorn  
Marley Lammers  
Jessica Mattiace  
Dahlia Medvinsky  
Esme Pelton  
Amber Phillips  
Kristina Vezmar  
Xinyu Wu  
Tsoi Yi Yeung

#### **TENOR**

Christopher Commiso  
Christian Diaz  
Santiago He  
Tian Hu  
Guandong Lin  
Zihao Liu  
Nick Pierle  
Simon Tiffin

#### **BASS**

Graham Carlson  
Owen Gonzalez  
Hunter Merriman  
Lukas Nederloe  
Nick Schroeder  
Wilmer Smilde  
Samuel Stephenson  
Albert Tay  
Nathan Tilton



# GUEST ARTIST



## EMILY BIRSAN

Described as “luminous” (*The Guardian*) and “radiant” (*London Telegraph*), soprano Emily Birsan is known to Chicago audiences for her “mesmerizing” (*Splash Magazine*) performance as Violetta in Verdi’s *La Traviata* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Previous performances include leading roles at Lyric Opera, Welsh National Opera, Edinburgh International Festival, Boston Lyric Opera, Madison Opera and concert performances at Carnegie Hall, BBC Symphony, Ravinia Festival, Grant Park Symphony, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and the Chicago Philharmonic. With the Chandos Record Label, Birsan has recorded Elgar’s oratorio, *The Saga of St. Olaf*, with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and Sir Andrew Davis.

In the 2025/2026 season, she appears as Speranza Celeste in Stradella’s *Ester*, with Haymarket Opera Company in Chicago, performs as soprano soloist in Brahms’s *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with Apollo Chorus, *Carmina Burana* with New Philharmonic Orchestra, Poulenc’s *Gloria* with Lacrosse Symphony Orchestra and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. In addition, Ms. Birsan premieres the new opera called *Everlasting Faint* with Madison Opera in the spring.

# ORATORIO SOCIETY DIRECTOR



## ANDREW MAJOR

Andrew Major is a dynamic choral artist committed to crafting narrative concert experiences that explore the complexities of life in the 21st century. Hailing from Bozeman, Montana, Andrew has a proven track record of culturally relevant programming, innovative collaborations, and community building as the artistic director of *Roots in the Sky*, an amateur-turned-professional chamber choir he founded in 2012 as an undergraduate at Montana State University. In addition to his work with *Roots in the Sky*, Andrew serves on faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he helps administer a comprehensive choral program that serves more than 400 singers. At UIUC, Andrew teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in choral conducting and literature and directs the Varsity Men's Glee Club and the Oratorio Society, a symphonic choir comprising students, staff, faculty, and community members of all stripes.

Andrew holds graduate degrees in choral conducting from the Bienen School of Music (DMA and MM) at Northwestern University, where he studied with GRAMMY Award-winning conductor Donald Nally. During his doctoral residency, Andrew was the assistant conductor of the school's flagship choral ensemble and during the pandemic served as chorus master for Northwestern Opera Theatre's pioneering, virtual production of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*. Andrew served as the assistant conductor of the Apollo Chorus of Chicago during their 150th anniversary season, helping to prepare performances of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, and Stacy Garrop's *Terra Nostra* as well as preparing members of the Apollo Chorus for performances of Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* and *Don Giovanni* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the 2022 Ravinia Festival.

An active ensemble singer, Andrew's recent and upcoming engagements include performances with Music of the Baroque, the Grant Park Symphony Chorus, Chicago Opera Theater, *Stare at the Sun*, and with the GRAMMY Award-winning chamber choir *The Crossing*. For his 2025-26 season, Andrew will join *The Crossing* for performances with the Boston Symphony and Philadelphia Orchestra and will also prepare the University of Illinois Oratorio Society for performances of the Duruflé and Verdi Requiems and Poulenc's *Gloria*. A dedicated advocate for new works, Andrew recently conducted the U.S. premiere of Karin Rehnqvist's *Silent Earth* with the University of Illinois Oratorio Society and Symphony Orchestra.

# ORATORIO SOCIETY



**The Oratorio Society** is the symphonic choir of the University of Illinois. Conducted by Dr. Andrew Major, the ensemble brings together students, faculty, staff, and community members to perform significant works of the choral-orchestral repertory at a high level of artistic excellence.

Recent seasons have included collaborations with the finest local orchestras, including the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia da Camera, and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, performing works including Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Oratorio Society is also committed to discovering and presenting important new works. In 2015, they gave the world premiere of Lewis Spratlan's *Of War*, and in 2025 they presented the US premiere of Karin Rehnqvist's *Silent Earth*.

Concerts and rehearsals are enriched by the diversity of the members' life experiences — but all the singers of the Oratorio Society share a common passion for musical excellence and a belief in the ability of great choral music to transform the lives of those who perform and those who listen.

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ORATORIO SOCIETY

**Andrew Major**, director

**Nick Pierle**, graduate assistant conductor

**Simon Tiffin**, collaborative piano

### SOPRANO

Lisa Anderson  
Grace Beumler  
Tori Boyle  
Morgan Doud  
Jennie Eagle  
Laura Gray  
Madison Hussey  
Allyson Imig  
Linda Hamman Moore  
Roxanne Munch  
Katlyn Ochs  
Sabrina Ortiz Vazquez  
Meghan Pierce  
Naomi Saathoff  
Heather Schultz  
Haley Sechen  
Peyton Sorensen  
Yinglun Sun  
Sylvia Techmanski  
Stephanie Tillman  
Angie Tomita

### ALTO

Elena Andrews  
Paula Bachman  
Alexis Baldwin  
Sophia Bengtson  
Ellen Brewer  
Melinda Burden  
Marsha Clinard  
Naomi Cobb  
Susan Cobb  
Barbara Curtis  
Anne Ellison  
Colleen Hammel  
Maggie Harper  
Holly Jordan  
Jane Kuntz  
Luisa Matzner  
Mari McKeeth  
Marissa Michael  
Libbie Morley  
Anna Polasky  
Weiran Ren  
Robin Sahner  
Mary Sanderson  
Janice Shiu  
Kathie Spegal  
Iris Swanson  
Susan Teicher  
Karen Tow  
Amy Tram  
Lisa Travis  
Joanne Vician  
Irene Wilken  
Gaye Wong

### TENOR

Tony An  
Rob Chambers  
Yaman Erzurumlu  
Gideon Gharty  
Nathan Hayes  
Diana Licklider  
Nick Pierle  
Kirsten Pullen  
Derryl Singley  
Ada Stelzer  
Sebastian Stirnkorb  
Simon Tiffin  
David Willcox  
Grant Witynski

### BASS

Raymond T. Anderson  
Ted Bachman  
George Bell  
Bradley Burla  
Bill Busen  
Felix Chan  
Terry England  
Kelly Findley  
Abraham Frank  
Richard L. Kaplan  
Mathias Kronlund  
Isaak Kumar  
James Kumar  
Richard McClary  
Chris Petterson  
Matthew Salek  
Tristan Steffen  
Sam Tillman  
Jacob Tolar  
Eric Toliver  
Jack Zwettler



# CENTRAL ILLINOIS YOUTH CHORUS

Enriching the lives of children since 1978, Central Illinois Youth Chorus (CIYC) provides choral music instruction, vocal training, and performance opportunities to youth in preschool through twelfth grade. Based in Champaign-Urbana, the Chorus includes four choir levels and draws members from surrounding communities and counties. Members are taught sound vocal technique, musicianship, and performance etiquette while learning repertoire covering a diverse range of music, languages, and composers. CIYC's early education program also offers free, drop-in singalongs to singers too young for its performing choirs. CIYC choristers experience the joy, discipline, pride, and teamwork of high-quality choral singing.

CIYC presents annual winter and spring concerts, performs with area orchestras and choruses, hosts other children's choirs such as the Lithuanian Boys Choir and the American Boychoir, and sings at choral festivals and at community, corporate, and private events. Recent performance highlights include *Cellular Songs* with Meredith Monk, the Midwest premier of Stacy Garrop's *Terra Nostra*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, Puccini's *La Boheme*, and regular collaborations with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra.

Under the artistic direction of Dr. Andrea Solya, the Chorus staff includes Conductors Simon Tiffin, Ann Marie Morrisette, Nick Pierl and Robin King, Resident Voice Teacher Ingrid Kammin, and additional artistic and administrative staff. CIYC is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council and also by individual and corporate donations. For further information, visit [www.CIYCsings.org](http://www.CIYCsings.org) and <https://facebook.com/CIYCsings>.



**Simon R. Tiffin** is a conductor, pianist, and vocalist who finds joy in bringing people together through music. He serves as Artistic Director of The Chorale of Champaign-Urbana and Conductor of CIYC's Chamber Choir and the University Treble Chorus at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he is pursuing his Master of Music in Choral Conducting with Dr. Andrea Solya. Tiffin has toured nationally with composer and

conductor Steve Hackman, performing in productions such as *The Beatles Reimagined*, *Taylor Swift: The Symphony Era*, and *Bob Dylan Reimagined*. He has also sung with *Music of the Baroque* under Dame Jane Glover and Dr. Andrew Megill. Tiffin believes in the communicative power of music-making as a means of fostering empathy and shared humanity.

## CENTRAL ILLINOIS YOUTH CHORUS

**Andrea Soyla**, artistic director

### CHAMBER CHOIR

**Simon Tiffin**, conductor

Renee Anderson  
Juliana Balogh  
Eliana Blackwell  
Isaac Blackwell  
Antje Bollero  
Elizabeth Cazares  
Charlotte Colella  
Meera Dande  
Nola Daugherty  
Laila Gabel  
Ada Gillen  
Avery Hanlon

Hannah Israel  
Emily Keagle  
Annamarie King  
Rissah Kumar  
Devyani Lalwani  
Avery Lane  
Mayameen Mizan  
Evelyn Mizzen  
Jenna Mullen  
Tatum Mulliken  
Lucas Mumm  
Agnes Nelson

Oscar Pollard  
Evie Price  
Katie Snider  
Ruixuan Tang  
Laila Tawfick  
Nadia Tawfick  
John VanSteenhuysen  
Leah Walker  
Junxin Wang  
Lena Wright

### CONCERT CHOIR

**Ann Marie Morrisette**, conductor

Nicole Anderson  
Grace Batsie  
Megan Cole  
Julia Crow  
Cecily Crum  
Fiona Daugherty  
Emilia Dicken  
Declan Farkas  
Iona Granlund-Yu

Malakai Hudson  
Penelope Huston  
Sybil Kammin  
Linnea Kronlund  
Grace Liu  
Beatrix McIlvain  
Margot McKnight  
Pippa McKnight  
Olivia Meek

Amorina Menn  
Yuna Nagashima  
James Nelson  
Alden O'Dwyer  
Margaret Oakley-  
Wlosek  
De'Zyire Staple  
Yoon Yi

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**Ann Marie Morrisette** is the choir director at Central High School in Champaign. Prior to her current position, she taught elementary general music at Barkstall Elementary School for 22 years. Ann Marie continues her love of working with young singers by conducting the Concert Choir of Central Illinois Youth Chorus. At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she received her teaching certification and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in vocal performance. Ann Marie has performed in many musicals and operas with the Illinois Opera Theatre and Parkland College, as well as solo performances with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. She is a former member of CIYC and sang under





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### **STEPHEN ALLTOP** *(continued from page 11)*

Dr. Alltop has guest conducted numerous orchestras and choruses across the United States, Europe, and South Korea. In June of 2022, he stepped in on three-hours notice to lead the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra in a program of Beethoven, Schubert and Tchaikovsky broadcast live on WFMT Radio. He returned to the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra in August of 2023. He has worked closely with leading composers of the day, including residency projects with John Corigliano, Eleanor Daley, Stacy Garrop, Stephen Paulus and Eric Whitacre, and has conducted world premieres of works by John Luther Adams, Joseph Schwantner, Frank Ferko, Fabrizio Festa, Stacy Garrop, Stephen Paulus, and many others. In 2007, he made his Carnegie Hall debut conducting the music of Eric Whitacre.

He has conducted opera and orchestral concerts with a number of Italian orchestras, including I Soloisti di Perugia, Fondazione Arturo Toscanini (Bologna), Teatro Reggion Orchestra (Parma), Festival Mozart (Rovato), Orchestra Sinfonica (Bari), Teatro Piccinni (Bari), and the Festival Duni (Matera). In June of 2025, he led an all-American concert with Choeur Arsis in Fribourg, Switzerland.

Dr. Alltop lectures frequently for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Northwestern University Alumnae Continuing Education Series, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and other organizations. Since 2014, he has given presentations on leadership for various programs in the Kellogg School of Management.

Stephen is an avid squash player and baseball fan. His latest fitness goal is to do fifty 5k races (17 still to go).

# SING-ALONG LYRICS

## **Joy to the World!**

Joy to the world! The Lord has come:  
Let earth receive her King; Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

## **Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plain.  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## **Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head,  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

## **What Child Is This?**

What Child is this, Who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard, and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

## **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild he lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

### **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

### **We Wish You a Merry Christmas**

Solo: We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas, and happy New Year!

Children's Chorus: Good tidings to you wherever you are;  
Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!  
We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

Good tidings to you wherever you are;  
Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!

We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

### **TEXT: Handel, "Hallelujah"**

|: Hallelujah! :|  
|: For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah! :|

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ,  
and of His Christ! |: And He shall reign for ever and ever. :|

|: King of kings forever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And Lord of lords forever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! :|  
King of kings forever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And Lord of lords, King of kings and Lord of lords.

|: And He shall reign forever and ever. :|

King of kings forever and ever, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And He shall reign forever and ever.

King of kings, and Lord of lords. King of kings, and Lord of lords. And He shall reign  
forever and ever.

King of kings (forever and ever), and Lord of lords (forever and ever).  
|: Hallelujah! :|

# ORCHESTRA LAUREATES

CUSO proudly recognizes Orchestra Laureates, distinguished musicians who have played in the orchestra for ten or more years.

Nadja Altstetter	Phyllis Hamilton	Alexander Murray
Marina Antoline	Jancie Harris*	John O'Connor‡
Maria Arrua	J. David Harris*	Howard Osborn‡
Solomon Baer*	Barbara Hedlund*	Tracy Parish*
Sanford Berry‡	Anne Heiles	Guillermo Perich‡
Shirley Blankenship	Robin Heltsley*	G. David Peters
Margaret Briskin*	Aaron Jacobs	Amanda Pond*
Stephen Burian*	Kristen Johns*	Frances Reedy*
Mary Leathers Chapman	Carlyle Johnson	Camille Rose
Christine Cheng	Robin Kearton	Kathreen Ryan
Terry Coulton	Mary Kelly‡	Dean Sanders‡
John Dee*	Robert Kelly‡	Homer Schmitt‡
Charles DeLaney‡	Margaret Khachaturian	Grace Schoedel
Linda Dietzen‡	Betty Krolick‡	Grace Sexton‡
Blaine Edlefsen‡	Edward Krolick‡	Haskell Sexton‡
Ellen Elrick*	Kazimierz Machala	Wendy Sitenga
Michael Ewald‡	Molly Madden*	Debra Sutter
Fred Fairchild	Terry Maher	Robert Swenson‡
Virginia Farmer‡	Dorothy Martirano	Evan Tammen*
Elaine Fine*	Austin McDowell ‡	Claire Taylor
Ricardo Flores*	Timothy McGovern	Kathryn Tessin
Thomas Fredrickson‡	J. Alex McHattie	Raymond E. Williams‡
Todd Gallagher*	Lucie Merrill‡	Ann Zetervall
Robert Gray‡	Donald Miller‡	
Peggy Grossman*	William Moersch*	* Currently performing with CUSO
Lois Gullerud	Mark Moore*	‡ Deceased
Armgard Haken*	Armine Mortimer*	

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**MAY 2**



# VERDI'S REQUIEM

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

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**Stephen Alltop**, music director and conductor

**University of Illinois Meredith Chamber Singers**, Andrea Solya, director

**UI Oratorio Society**, Andrew Major, director

**UI Varsity Men's Glee Club**, Barrington Coleman, director

**UI Women's Glee Club**, Andrea Solya, director

**Laura Strickling**, soprano      **Susan Platts**, mezzo-soprano

**Scott Ramsay**, tenor      **Stephen Clark**, bass

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Stephen Alltop, Music Director & Conductor

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