MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
2022 CHORAL FALL CONCERT
BIOGRAPHIES AND TEXTS

FEATURING

University Singers + Vocal Accord
Dr. Heather J. Buchanan, conductor
Steven W. Ryan, accompanist

GUEST ARTISTS
Amanda Simms ‘19, Soprano

WIND SYMPHONY
Dr. Thomas McCauley, conductor

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 30 | 3PM
ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

Jonathan Koppell
President

Junius J. Gonzales
Provost and Senior Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Daniel Gurskis
Dean, College of the Arts

Anthony Mazzocchi
Director
John J. Cali School of Music
Program Notes & Texts

Three Poems of Fiona MacLeod

American Composer Charles Griffes was a pioneer in the development of American art song. With influences from German Lieder and French Impressionism, Charles Griffes has a distinct and unique voice in American art song. Griffes was inspired several times by the poetry of William Sharp. Using the pseudonym Fiona MacLeod, Scottish poet and writer William Sharp took on her persona in 1893 for over a decade with critical success. The pseudonym was created after a romantic affair with Edith Wingate Rinder. It was not until after his death that his secret was revealed by his wife, Elizabeth Sharp, in her memoir in 1910. Three Poems of Fiona MacLeod was debuted by Griffes in 1919 for piano and voice, but later composed for orchestra. It is regarded as one of his well-known works.

Che sento...se pietá di me non senti

Giulio Cesare, composed by George Frederic Handel in 1724, quickly became one of his most popular operas, and is one of his most frequently performed today. Giulio Cesare was his 5th full length opera for the Royal Academy of Music, and the only one he composed in the 1723-24 season.

The opera is based on Julius Caesar’s visit to Egypt in 47-48 BC. In this scene, Cleopatra realizes her love for Cesare and prays to the Gods to save him.

The Lament of Ian the Proud

What is this crying that I hear in the wind? Is it the old sorrow and the old grief? Or is it a new thing coming, a whirling leaf about the gray hair of me who am weary and blind?

I know not what it is, but on the moor above the shore there is a stone which the purple nets of heather bind, and there on is writ: She will return no more.

O blown, whirling leaf and the old grief, and wind crying to me who am old and blind!

Poem by William Sharp (1855-1905)

Thy Dark Eyes to Mine

Thy dark eyes to mine, Eilidh, lamps of desire! O how my soul leaps, leaps to their fire!

Sure, now, if I in heaven, dreaming in bliss, heard but a whisper, but a lost echo even of one such kiss, All of the soul of me would afar, if that called me to thee, aye, I would leap afar, a falling star.

Poem by William Sharp (1855-1905)
The Rose of the Night

The dark rose of thy mouth draw nigher,
draw nigher!
Thy breath is the wind of the south,
a wind of fire!
The wind and the rose and darkness,
O rose of my Desire!

Deep silence of the night,
husht like a breathless lyre,
save the sea’s thunderous might,
dim, menacing, dire;
Silence and wind and sea,
they are thee, O rose of my Desire!

As a wind eddying flame,
leaping higher and higher,
they soul, they secret name
leaps thro’ Death’s blazing pyre!
Kiss me, imperishable Fire,
Dark Rose, O Rose of my Desire!
Poem by William Sharp (1855-1905)

Che sento....se pietà di me non senti

Che sento?
O dio! Morrà Cleopatra ancora.
Anima vil, che parli mai?
Deh taci!
Avrò, per vendicarmi,
in bellicosa parte,
di Bellona in sembianza un cor di
Marte.
Intanto, oh Numi, voi che il ciel reggete,
difendete il mio bene!
Ch'egli è del seno mio conforto e speme.

Se pietà di me non senti,
giusto ciel, io morirò.
Tu da pace a' miei tormenti,
o quest'alma spirerò.
Text by Nicola Francesco Haym (1678-1729);
Adapted from Giacomo Frances Bussani
(1640-1680)

What do I hear?
Oh God! Cleopatra shall also die.
Cowardly soul, what are you saying?
Ah, keep quiet!
In order to avenge myself,
I shall take on a warlike guise,
the appearance of Bellona and the heart of Mars.
Meanwhile, oh Gods, you who rule heaven,
defend my beloved!
For he is the comfort and hope of my heart.

If you do not feel pity for me,
righteous heaven, I will die.
You give peace to my torments,
or this soul shall expire.
Translation by Bard Suverkrop
ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

THE MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY CHORAL PROGRAM is an inclusive and dynamic community built on humanistic values (Integrity - Compassion - Respect), artistic excellence, and service through music. Under the direction of Dr. Heather J. Buchanan since September 2003, the Montclair State choral program has been recognized for its successful collaborations with world-renowned artists and celebrated professional musicians in national and international venues. Collaborative pianist, Steven W. Ryan, is the accompanist for all Montclair State choirs – Chorale, University Singers, Vocal Accord, and Prima Voce (SSAA).

Vocal Accord is a project-based chamber choir recognized for its superb artistry, creative programming, and cutting-edge collaborations. This season the choir members are drawn from University Singers. Vocal Accord made its debut performance in the Cali School of Music’s Leshowitz Recital Hall in January 2010. During the 2011-12 season they completed a 14-day European tour with performances in Austria (Vienna, Graz, Gleisdorf, Ottendorf) and Italy (Venice). Tour highlights included a week-long residency at the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Graz, Austria and performing with members of the Vienna Philharmonic strings in the HÖRgenuss 2012 festival. American Voices, a documentary of this tour, was released in February 2013 and subsequently aired on NJTV network.

Vocal Accord’s 2013-14 season includes two performances of The Legend of Zelda: Symphony of the Goddesses: the First Quest in August 2013 at NJPAC with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and the Second Quest in November 2013 at the Theater at Madison Square Garden with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s. In March 2014 Vocal Accord had their Carnegie Hall debut performance in the Weill Recital Hall, where they also gave the World Premiere performance of Reflection: Innocent thoughts on Peace (James Conrad Smith) which was the winning score in the Inaugural Cali Choral Composition Competition.

In December 2014 Vocal Accord collaborated with the internationally acclaimed Richard Alston Dance Company (UK) for four performances of Britten’s Rejoice in the Lamb as part of Montclair’s Peak Performances series. Following this success, they were invited to Sadler’s Wells, UK for the RADC season opening (January 2015) receiving further critical acclaim. Fall 2015 heralded an invitation to the prestigious Fall For Dance festival in NYC, their final collaboration with RADC before the founder’s retirement. Additional NJSO collaborations include live performances of the Harry Potter film The Prisoner of Azbakan, the European summer music festival The Passion of Italy (July 2017), and a June 2019 tour of Vienna, Salzburg, and Munich. Vocal Accord’s 2022-23 season includes collaborations with internationally acclaimed performing artists VOICES and Rhiannon Giddens for the Cali School’s Immersive Residency Program.

THE UNIVERSITY SINGERS is the Montclair State’s flagship choir - a mixed-voice elective ensemble comprising undergraduate & graduate students who are experienced musicians. Students from all schools/colleges in the University in good academic standing may audition. The University Singers performs a wide variety of sacred and secular repertoire, encompassing genres from the Renaissance to the 21st Century, with special interest in contemporary composers.

Previous season highlights include New York Choral Festival Showcase Concerts performances at Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall, their ACDA Eastern Division Convention debut performance in Providence, RI (2012), their NAFME All-Eastern debut in Atlantic City, NJ (2017), Mid-Atlantic tour of the USA (May 2013), and collaborating with the esteemed American composer Morten Lauridsen on his Nocturnes during his November 2013 MSU residency. The choir has also toured Central Europe and Russia with performances in Prague, Budapest, Bratislava, Debrecen, Moscow, Pushkin, and St. Petersburg. An important ensemble in the NJ arts community, the University Singers perform regularly with the NJSO, presenting Handel’s Messiah annually since 2014. They have also performed Mozart’s Requiem under Jacques Lacombe (2013) and Xian Zhang (2018). In October 2018 they gave the US Premiere performance of Speak Out! by Kate Whitley (UK), an inspiring work based on texts by Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala, for the NJSO’s 2018-19 season opening.

The University Singers has also had an exciting performance relationship with renowned composer-artist Meredith Monk beginning with their historic collaboration in December 2006 and continuing with the critically
acclaimed March 2009 performances of Ascension Variations at the Guggenheim Museum. They recorded the CD Songs of Ascension with Meredith Monk and Vocal Ensemble on the prestigious European label ECM Records under the legendary producer Manfred Eicher, released May 2011. This collaboration was included in the Producer of the Year section of the 2012 Grammy nominations. 2019-20 saw the choir return to the NJSO for two Messiah performances under the baton of guest conductor Roderick Cox, with an inaugural live broadcast on WQXR hosted by John Schaffer from the Cathedral Basilica, Newark. During the COVID pandemic, the Basilica performance was rebroadcast in December 2020 on WQXR and the National Public Broadcast network. The choir’s first solo CD recording, I Sing Because... was released in March 2020 and is also available for digital download on Spotify and iTunes.

During 2020-21, and in the face of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, the University Singers continued to function in the vanguard of best choral practices, with socially distanced outdoor rehearsals and innovative recording projects. The choir’s activities received widespread regional and national media attention, including TV appearances on The Today Show, NBC Nightly News, The Kelly Clarkson Show, and News 12 NJ in addition to print and digital media stories. During the Fall 2020 semester, their social media outreach included 99,591+ views. By invitation of the New York Yankees, their video performance of The Star-Spangled Banner was performed at Yankee Stadium in June 2021.

2021-22 season highlights included two NYC debut performances: collaborating with the internationally acclaimed UK-based vocal ensemble VOCES8 at Merkin Hall; and the MSU/Cali showcase event in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium at The Metropolitan Museum. The choir also commissioned composer Kamala Sankaram Let My Country Awake as part of her Cali Immersive Residency. 2022-23 will see the choir return to mainstage performances with the NJSO (Messiah and Mahler Symphony No. 3) under principal conductor Xian Zhang, perform the NY metropolitan premier of the new social justice piece Weather (Rollo Dilworth) in collaboration with the MSU Wind Symphony (Dr. Thomas McCauley, conductor), and continue their partnership with VOCES8 (February 2023) through the Cali Immersive Residency Program. The University Singers’ performances are broadcast on Cali Live and the Cali YouTube Channel.

Australian-born conductor Heather J. Buchanan, PhD, is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Montclair State University (MSU) where she conducts choirs ranging in size from 24 – 165 voices. Choirs under her direction have won critical acclaim for their “heartfelt conviction” “grace and precision,” “vibrant sound,” “eloquence”, and for singing with the “crispness and dexterity of a professional choir.” During her 20-year tenure, MSU choirs have collaborated with a variety of renowned national and international performing artists, perform masterworks regularly with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO), and have sung on commercially produced recordings with Meredith Monk (Songs of Ascension) and the NJSO (Carmina Burana and Verdi Requiem). The MSU Singers released their first solo CD recording I Sing Because... in March 2020.


Dr. Buchanan holds degrees from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music (Australia), Westminster Choir College of Rider University (USA), and the University of New England (Australia). A licensed Body Mapping Educator since 2002, Dr. Buchanan specializes in the teaching of this neuro-anatomical educational technique that trains musicians to attain freedom of expression through effective movement. In June 2017 she was awarded the Barbara Conable Teaching Award by the Association for Body Mapping Education (ABME) in recognition of exemplary teaching, innovative ideas,
A vibrant teacher, dynamic performer, and passionate musicians’ health advocate, Dr. Buchanan is in demand as a guest conductor, somatic educator, and choral clinician in the U.S. and abroad.

**Steven W. Ryan** joined the Cali School faculty in 2006. He has performed as an orchestral keyboardist with most of the major orchestras in New York City, including members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He has played celesta with the legendary Berlin Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall; piano, harpsichord, and portative organ with the Dessoff Choirs; and synthesizer with the Moody Blues rock band. He has collaborated with conductors such as Lorin Maazel, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Neeme Järvi, Bernhard Haitink, Gerard Schwarz, and Maxim Shostakovich, among others. Mr. Ryan took first place in the 2001 Concours des Grands Amateurs de Piano. At the close of this international competition, he was engaged to perform Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-Flat Minor at the Sorbonne in Paris. In addition to winning the French competition, Steven took second prize in the 2000 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs. In July 2022 he performed Messiaen’s Couleurs de la Cité Céleste with the Wind Symphony (Dr. Thomas McCauley, conductor) in Prague for WASBE Conference. Steven recently performed at Merkin Hall with VOCES8 in their collaboration with Montclair State University’s Vocal Accord.

**GUEST ARTIST BIOS**

**Amanda Simms, ’19 soprano,** is currently pursuing her Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Conservatory, where she was awarded the Artistic Excellence Scholarship in 2021. This year Amanda will make her soloist debut with Bach in Baltimore. She will also perform the title role of “Cendrillon” with the Peabody Conservatory. Amanda was a finalist in the 2022 Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition and a finalist in the 2022 Sylvia Green Vocal Competition. In the 2021-2022 season Amanda has performed “Rhoda” from *Rhoda and the Fossil Hunt* under the direction of librettist Eric Einhorn at the Peabody Institute in collaboration with the Maryland Science Center. Amanda joined Opera North in 2021 as a resident artist for the roles of “Belinda” in *Dido and Aeneas*, “Cleopatra” in *Giulio Cesare*, and “Amore” in *Orfeo ed Euridice*. In 2019, Amanda graduated from Montclair State University with an M.M in Vocal Performance. While at MSU, she performed the roles of “Lucia” in *The Rape of Lucretia*, and “Asteria” in *Tamerlano*. During her time at MSU, Amanda studied with Dr. Julia Rolwing, Kelley Hijleh and Jeanne-Michele Charbonnet. In 2018-2019, she was the Choral Activities Graduate Assistant and in 2017-2018, Amanda was the Music History Teaching Assistant for Dr. Laura Dolp. She sung with Montclair State University Singers and Chorale.

Comprised of the best wind players and percussionists in the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University in New Jersey, the Montclair State University **Wind Symphony**, since 2006, has appeared at the New Jersey Music Educators Association Conference, the 2012 CBDNA Eastern Division Conference, the National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference, and the 2015 and 2012 Northeast Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference. Their appearance at the 2019 CBDNA National Conference in Tempe, Arizona marked the first time that a large ensemble from Montclair State University appeared at a national conference. Most recently, the MSU Wind Symphony appeared at the international conference of the prestigious World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) in Prague, Czech Republic, in July of 2022.

The Montclair State University Wind Symphony is one of three concert bands in the John J. Cali School of Music, and, though the graduate student population is always growing, the majority of its members are undergraduate students majoring in Music Education, Music Therapy, Music Performance, or Composition. The MSU Wind Symphony has premiered pieces by composers Michael Daugherty, Bruce Yurko, David Gillingham, Elizabeth Brown, O’Neal Douglas, Patrick Burns, and Ting Ho, and has participated in commissioning works from composers Lawton Hall, Armando Bayolo, James Beckel, Stephen Anderson, and Rollo Dilworth. The MSU Wind Symphony has appeared in concert with, among others, Dame Evelyn Glennie, The Imani Winds, the Monarch Brass, The Manhatten Brass Quintet, Warren Vache’, and Demandrae Thurman. Since 2006, recruiting and concert tours have taken the ensemble to Philadelphia, Boston, Indianapolis, Chicago, Atlantic City, and New York where, in 2014, they appeared at Carnegie Hall.

Former members of the band program are now teaching in public and private schools throughout the northeast, performing as professional musicians throughout the country, and have gone on to attend some of the most prestigious graduate institutions in the world.
Dr. Thomas McCauley is the Director of University Bands in the John J. Cali School of Music, Montclair State University, New Jersey. There, he conducts the Montclair State University Wind Symphony, the MSU Symphonic Band, and teaches both graduate and undergraduate conducting. He held similar positions in Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois, in addition to teaching high school instrumental music in Nevada for nine years. Composers including Karel Husa, David Gillingham, Joseph Turrin, Bruce Yurko, Robert Aldridge, Morten Lauridsen, Armando Bayolo, and O’Neal Douglas have praised his work. Dr. McCauley has twice appeared as a clinician at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago. Each November, he hosts and teaches a symposium at Montclair State University—the Weekend Wind Conducting Symposium—with renowned guest clinicians and participants from around the world.

Dr. McCauley is in demand as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout North America. Currently a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician, the Nevada Music Educators Association named Dr. McCauley Music Educator of the Year (1995); the Indiana Music Educators Association honored him with the Outstanding University Music Educator Award (2006). He serves on the Executive Board of the New Jersey Band Association, is the New Jersey State Representative of the College Band Directors National Association, and is the former New Jersey State Representative of the National Band Association. He is an active member of the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, and the National Association for Music Education. He has published in The Instrumentalist, several state music education magazines, in the second edition of Teaching Music Through Performance in Band, Vol I (G.I.A. Publications), and is author of Adventures in Band Building: How to Turn a Less-Than-It-Could-Be into More-Than-It-Should-Be (G.I.A. Publications, 2015).