

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Five Hebrew Love Songs – Eric Whitacre

i. TEMUNÁ

Temuná belibí charuntá;
Nodédet beyn ór uveyn ófel:
Min dmamá shekazó et guféch kach otá,
Usaréch al paña'ich kach nófel.

ii. KALÁ KALLÁ

Kalá kallá
Kulá shelí,
U've kalút
Tishákhílí!

iii. LARÓV

“Laróv,” amár gag la'shama'im,
“Hamerchák shebeynéynu hu ad;
Ach lifnéy zman alu lechán shna'im,
Uveynéynu nishár sentiméter echad”

iv. ÉYZE SHÉLEG!

Ézye shéleg!
Kmo chalomót ktaníim
Noflím mehashamá im.

RAKÚT

Hu hayá malé rakút;
Hi haytá kasha
Vechól káma shenistá lehishaér kach,
Pashút, uvlí sibá tová,
Lakách otá el toch atzmó,
Veheníach Bamakóm hachí rach.

Hila Plümann, b.1973

A PICTURE

A picture is engraved in my heart;
Moving between light and darkness:
A sort of silence envelopes your body,
And your hair falls upon your face just so.

LIGHT BRIDE

Light bride
She is all mine,
And lightly
She will kiss me

MOSTLY

“Mostly,” said the roof to the sky,
“the distance between you and I is endlessness;
But a while ago two came up here,
And only one centimeter was left between us

WHAT SNOW!

What snow!
Like little dreams
Falling from the sky

TENDERNESS

He was full of tenderness;
She was very hard.
And as much as she tried to stay thus,
Simply, and with no good reason,
He took her into himself,
And set her down
In the softest, softest place.

The City and the Sea – Whitacre

i walked the boulevard

i walked the boulevard i saw a dirty child skating on noisy wheels of joy pathetic dress fluttering behind her a mothermonster with red grumbling face cluttered in pursuit pleasantly elephantine while nearby the father a thick cheerful man with majestic bulbous lips and forlorn piggish hands joked to a girlish whore with busy rhythmic mouth and silly purple eyelids of how she was with child

the moon is hiding in her hair

the moon is hiding in her hair. The lily of heaven full of all dreams, draws down. cover her briefness in singing close her with intricate faint birds by daisies and twilights Deepen her, Recite upon her flesh the rain's pearls singly-whispering.

maggie and milly and molly and may

maggie and milly and molly and may went down to the beach (to play one day) and maggie discovered a shell that sang so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles, and milly befriended a stranded star whose rays five languid fingers were; and molly was chased by a horrible thing which raced sideways while blowing bubbles:and may came home with a smooth round stone as small as a world and as large as alone. for whatever we lose (like a you or a me) it's always ourselves we find in the sea

as is the sea marvelous

as is the sea marvelous from god's hands which sent her forth to sleep upon the world and the earth withers the moon crumbles one by one stars flutter into dust but the sea does not change and she goes forth out of hands and she returns into hands and is with sleep... love, the breaking of your soul upon my lips

little man in a hurry

little man (in a hurry full of an important worry) halt stop forget relax wait (little child who have tried who have failed who have cried) lie bravely down sleep big rain big snow big sun bug moon (enter us)

e.e. cummings, 1894-1962

Les Colombes - Kearney

Sur le coteau, là-bas où sont les tombes,
Un beau palmier comme un panache vert
Dresse sa tête, où le soir les colombes
Viennent nicher et se mettre à couvert.

Volez, volez, mes colombes !
Mon âme est toujours votre arbre.
Je veux survoler les combes.
Hélas ! je reste de marbre.
Mais le matin elles quittent les branches ;
Comme un collier qui s'égrène, on les voit
S'éparpiller dans l'air bleu, toutes blanches,
Et se poser plus loin sur quelque toit.

Mon âme est l'arbre où tous les soirs, comme elles,
De blancs essaims de folles visions
Tombent des cieux, en palpitant des ailes,
Pour s'envoler dès les premiers rayons.

Elles tombent des cieux, en palpitant des ailes,
Pour s'envoler dès les premiers rayons.

On the hillside, over there where are the tombs,
A beautiful palm tree like a green plume
Erects its head, where in the evening the doves
Come to nest and take cover.

Fly, fly, my doves!
My soul is still your tree.
I want to fly over the combes.
Alas! I remain unmoved.
But in the morning they leave the branches;
Like a necklace that breaks apart into pieces, they are
seen Scattering in the blue air, all white,
And settling far away on some roof.

My soul is the tree where every evening, like them,
White swarms of foolish visions
Fall from the heavens, palpitating their wings,
To take flight at the first rays.

They fall from the heavens, palpitating their wings,
To take flight at the first rays.

Chili Con Carne - Anders Edenroth

Take some ripe and fresh tomatoes,
Put them in a bowl with oil.
Add the onions, strong and tasty,
On the stove you let it boil.

Choose the finest meat you get from cow or pig,
It doesn't matter.
Beans and jalopeno peppers, necessary is to this.

But don't forget, don't forget the Mexican spices,
The heart of the art of the cooking. Oh no!
Don't forget, don't forget the Mexican spices,
Without them you won't get the flavor of sunshine

Chili con carne aha
Let's make chili con carne aha that's good!
Eat your chili nice and slowly
To prevent a stomachache,
Crisp tortillas on your plate
Will sound so nicely when they brake.

When your mouth gets full of fire
You might need something to drink,
One or two or three or four or seven beers
Will be enough.

But don't forget, don't for get the Mexican spices,
The heart of the art of the cooking. Oh no!
Don't forget, don't forget the Mexican spices,
Without them you won't get the flavor of sunshine.
Chili con carne aha
Let's make chili con carne let's eat!

The Seal Lullaby – Whitacre

Oh! Hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,
And black are the waters that sparkled so green.
The moon, o'er the combers, looks downward to find us,
At rest in the hollows that rustle between.

Where billow meets billow, then soft be thy pillow,
Oh weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!
The storm shall not wake thee, nor shark overtake thee,
Asleep in the arms of the slow swinging seas!

Rudyard Kipling, 1865-1936

Cloudburst - Whitacre

El cántaro roto

La lluvia...

Ojos de agua de sombra,
ojos de agua de pozo,
ojos de agua de sueño. Soles azules, verdes remolinos,
picos de luz que abren astros
como granadas.

Dime, tierra quemada, no hay agua?
hay sólo sangre, sólo hay polvo,
sólo pisadas de pies desnudos sobre la espina?
La lluvia despierta...

Hay que dormir con los ojos abiertos,
hay que soñar con les manos,
soñemos sueños activos de río buscando su cauce,
sueños de sol soñando sus mundos,
hay que soñar en voz alta,
hay que cantar hasta que el canto eche,
raíces, tronco, ramas, pájaros, astros,
hay que desenterrar la palabra perdida,
recordar lo que dicen la sangre y la marea,
le tierra y el cuerpo,
volver al punto de partida...

Octavio Paz, 1914-1998

(Adapted by Eric Whitacre, Translation by Lysander Kemp)

The broken water-jar

The rain...

Eyes of shadow-water,
eyes of well-water,
eyes of dream-water. Blue suns, green whirlwinds,
birdbeaks of light pecking open
pomegranate stars.

But tell me, burnt earth, is there no water?
Only blood, only dust,
Only naked footsteps on the thorns?
The rain awakens...

We must sleep with open eyes,
we must dream with our hands,
we must dream the dreams of a river seeking its course,
of the sun dreaming its worlds,
we must dream aloud,
we must sing till the song puts forth roots,
trunk, branches, birds, stars,
we must find the lost word,
and remember what the blood,
the tides, the earth, and the body say,
and return to the point of departure

Sleep – Whitacre

The evening hangs beneath the moon,
 A silver thread on darkened dune.
 With closing eyes and resting head
 I know that sleep is coming soon.

Upon my pillow, safe in bed,
 A thousand pictures fill my head.
 I cannot sleep, my mind's a-flight;
 And yet my limbs seem made of lead.

If there are noises in the night,
 A frightening shadow, flickering light,
 Then I surrender unto sleep,
 Where clouds of dream give second sight,

What dreams may come, both dark and deep,
 Of flying wings and soaring leap
 As I surrender unto sleep,
 As I surrender unto sleep.

Charles Anthony Silvestri, b.1965

Bach (Again) Come Sweet Death – JS Bach arr. Rhonda Sandburg

Come, sweet death!
 Come, soothing rest.
 Come and lead me homeward.
 I am weary of life and longing.
 Come, I am waiting for thee,
 Come now and set me free!
 My eyes at last are gently closing now.
 Come blessed rest!

Lux Aurumque – Whitacre

Lux,
 Calida gravisque pura velut aurum
 Et canunt angeli molliter
 modo natum.

Light,
 warm and heavy as pure gold
 and angels sing softly
 to the new-born babe

Edward Esch, b.1970

(Translated to Latin by Charles Anthony Silvestri)

Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine -Whitacre

Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine...
 Tormented by visions of flight and falling,
 More wondrous and terrible each than the last,
 Master Leonardo imagines an engine
 To carry a man up into the sun...

And as he's dreaming the heavens call him,
 softly whispering their siren-song:
 "Leonardo. Leonardo, vieni á volare".
 ("Leonardo. Leonardo, come fly".)

L'uomo colle sua congegiate e grandi ale,
 facciendo forza contro alla resistente aria.
 (A man with wings large enough and duly connected
 might learn to overcome the resistance of the air.)

Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine...

As the candles burn low he paces and writes,
 Releasing purchased pigeons one by one
 Into the golden Tuscan sunrise...

And as he dreams, again the calling,
 The very air itself gives voice:
 "Leonardo. Leonardo, vieni á volare".
 ("Leonardo. Leonardo, come fly".)

Charles Anthony Silvestri, b.1965

The Sacred Veil – Whitacre
ii. In a Dark and Distant Year

In a dark and distant year,
 A wand'rer ancient and austere,
 He surrounds himself with books he's never read.
 He was a child then, the world inside his head.

He would often wonder, "Who Could love a dreamer such
 as you?"
 And so he trusted no one's shadow but his own.
 He was a fool then, and he was all alone.

Then quite to his surprise,
 Passing there before his eyes,
 A girl unlikely, gently laughing by the shore.
 She had unlocked his heart and let his spirit soar!

And on that golden, hopeful day
 The boy was bold enough to say,
 "Come, hold my deepest secrets here among the foam;
 You are the world to me, and you... you feel like home."

Charles Anthony Silvestri & Julia Lawrence Silvestri

Vicina all'elemento del fuoco...
 (Close to the sphere of elemental fire...)

Scratching quill on crumpled paper,

Rete, canna, filo, carta.
 (Net, cane, thread, paper.)

Images of wing and frame and fabric fastened tightly.

...sulla suprema sottile aria.
 (...in the highest and rarest atmosphere.)

Master Leonardo Da Vinci Dreams of his Flying
 Machine...

As the midnight watchtower tolls,
 Over rooftop, street and dome,
 The triumph of a human being ascending
 In the dreaming of a mortal man.

Leonardo steels himself,
 takes one last breath,
 and leaps...

"Leonardo, Vieni á Volare! Leonardo, Sognare!"
 ("Leonardo, come fly! Leonardo, Dream!")

iii. Home

You feel like home.

iv. Magnetic Poetry

The enormous need
 Egg-ache whispers urging
 Moon wind chanting like sweet languid honey
 Sleep-swimming through sweaty summer
 Dream mists

The delirious girl Woman goddess
 Not yet a mother
 But the spring life force is so near
 What a bare symphony here I recall our gorgeous
 moments together
 Beneath my heaving peach skin
 Essential you
 Like some diamond gift incubating
 In love

Hold on – Moses Hogen

Hold on. (Hold on.)
Lawd! Just a hold on!

Nora, Nora let me come in.
De doors all fastened an' de winders pinned!
Keep yo' hand on that plow. Hold on.

Nora said: "You done lost yo' track.
Can't plow straight an' keep a-lookin back".
Keep your hand on that plow and hold on.

Well, my brother, hold on!
Yes you gotta hold on!
Yes, just keep yo' hand on that plow. Just hold on.

If you wanna get to heaven, let me tell you how:
Jus' a keep yo' hand on de gospel plow
Just keep yo' hand on that plow. Just hold on

If dat plow stay in yo' hand,
Land you straight in de promised land
Just keep yo' hand on that plow. Just hold on

Well, my sister, hold on!
Yes, you gotta hold on!
Just keep yo' hand on that plow. Just hold on!

Mary had a golden chain, an' every link spelled my
Jesus name.
Just keep yo' hand on that plow, hold on.

Keep on climin' an' don't you tire, 'cause ev'ry rung go
higher an' higher!
Just keep yo' hand on de plow. Just hold on

Well, my brother, hold on!
Yes, you gotta hold on!
Just keep yo' hand on that plow. Just hold on!

Well, my sister, hold on!
Yes, you gotta hold on!
Just keep yo' hand on that plow. Just hold on!

Deep River – Norman Luboff

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into camp ground.

Oh don't you want to go
To that gospel feast
That promised land
Where all is peace

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord, I'm gonna cross over into
campground.

Still I Rise – Rosephanye & William Powell

Though I have been wounded, aching heart full of pain.
Still I rise, yes, still I rise.
Jus' like a budding rose, my bloom is nourished by rain.
Haven't time to wonder why, though fearful I strive.
My pray'r and faith uphold me 'til my courage arrives.
Still I rise as an eagle, soaring above ev'ry fear.
With each day I succeed, I grow strong an' believe
That it's all within my reach; I'm reaching for the skies,
Bolstered by courage, yes, still I rise.
Yes, it's all within my reach; I'm reaching for the skies,
Yes, still I rise.

As my heart grows heavy and my confidence dies
Still I rise, yes, still I rise.
Pure strength is in my tears and healing rains in my cries.
Plunging depths of anguish, I determine to strive.
My pray'r and faith uphold me 'til my courage arrives.
Though you see me slump with heartache; Heart so heavy that it breaks.
Be not deceived I fly on bird's wings, rising sun, its healing rays.
Look at me, I'm getting stronger; I'm determined to survive.
Tho' I get tired an' I get weary; I won't give up. I'm still alive.

BIOGRAPHIES



ERIC WHITACRE

COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, SPEAKER

Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor, Eric Whitacre, is among today's most popular musicians. His works are programmed worldwide and his ground-breaking Virtual Choirs have united 100,000 singers from more than 145 countries. Born in Nevada in 1970, Eric is a graduate of The Juilliard School. He is currently Visiting Composer at Pembroke College, Cambridge University (UK) and is an Ambassador for the Royal College of Music (London). He recently completed two terms as Artist in Residence with the Los Angeles Master Chorale. In the 2022-2023 season, the Cincinnati Pops and the National Symphony Orchestra premiered a new commission: *Prelude in C*. Eric is proud to be a Yamaha Artist.

Eric's compositions have been widely recorded and his debut album as a conductor on Universal, *Light and Gold*, went straight to the top of the charts, earning a Grammy. As a guest conductor he has drawn capacity audiences to concerts with many of the world's leading orchestras and choirs in venues from Carnegie Hall (New York) to the Royal Albert Hall (London). Insatiably curious and a lover of all types of music, Eric has worked with legendary Hollywood composer Hans Zimmer, as well as British pop icons Laura Mvula, Imogen Heap and Annie Lennox.

His composition, *Deep Field*, was inspired by the achievements of the Hubble Space Telescope and became the foundation for a pioneering collaboration with NASA, the Space Telescope Science Institute, and film-makers 59 Productions. His long-form work *The Sacred Veil*, a profound meditation on love, life and loss, was premiered by the Los Angeles Master Chorale, conducted by the composer, and released on Signum Records. In 2021, Eric launched the Virtual School with its first course "The Beautiful Mess: Masterclass in Composition and Creativity".

A charismatic speaker, Eric Whitacre has given keynote addresses for TED, Apple, Google, the United Nations Speaker's Program, in education and for numerous global institutions. His collaboration with Spitfire Audio resulted in a trail-blazing vocal sample library which became an instant best-seller and is used by composers the world-over.

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 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 choirs – Chorale, University Singers, Vocal Accord, and Prima Voce.

VOCAL ACCORD

VOCAL ACCORD is a project-based chamber choir recognized for its superb artistry, creative programming, and cutting-edge collaborations. This season's membership comprises UG and GR students drawn from University Singers and ensemble alumni. 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 Azkaban*, 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 included collaborations with internationally acclaimed performing artists VOCES8 and Rhiannon Giddens for the Cali School's Immersive Residency Program. In addition to a performance at National Sawdust in conjunction with Artist in Residence Paola Prestini, their 2023-24 season highlight is Eric Whitacre's highly anticipated immersive residency.

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY CHORALE

MSU Chorale is the core choral ensemble and symphonic choir in the John J. Cali School of Music. Currently 140 voices strong it comprises music students majoring in performance (vocal and instrumental), music education, music therapy, composition, and musical theatre, as well as auditioned non-music majors with choral experience. With a focus on masterwork repertoire, the Chorale's 2018-19 season began with three magnificent performances of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* under the baton of Xian Zhang for the New Jersey Symphony's (NJS) season opening. It continued with their Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage debut at Carnegie Hall, also performing Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* (George Mathew, conductor) in *Beethoven for The Rohingya*, a benefit concert aiding the work of Doctors Without Borders/Médécins Sans Frontières assisting the Rohingya refugees fleeing genocide in Myanmar. The Chorale's 18-19 season concluded with *Dona Nobis Pacem* by Ralph Vaughan Williams featuring soloists Karen Driscoll (soprano) and John Hancock (baritone) with chamber orchestra accompaniment including Steven W. Ryan *pianist*. This concert commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI and the 200th birthday of America's great lyric poet Walt Whitman.

The Chorale's long-standing relationship with the NJS features a range of masterworks, including Howard Shore's Academy Award winning *The Lord of the Rings Symphony*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* (Neeme Järvi and Xian Zhang, conductors), Mahler's *Symphony No. 3*, Verdi's epic *Messa da Requiem* twice with Neeme Järvi (January 2010) and Jacques Lacombe (April 2014) and the Fauré *Requiem* (Eric Jacobsen, conductor) for the NJS Centennial Season. The Chorale's highly acclaimed performances of Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Verdi *Requiem* with Maestro Jacques Lacombe were celebrated with limited edition CD releases in September 2011 and December 2015.

Alexander Kasser Theater performances have included collaborations with professional and alumni soloists and instrumentalists, as well as regional youth choirs Newark Boys Chorus, Children's Chorus of Sussex County, and the American Boy Choir. Chorale repertoire highlights include an interdisciplinary performance of *Carmina Burana* (Orff) with the department of theatre and dance (April 2017), *Ein Deutsches Requiem* (Brahms), *Duruflé Requiem, Saint Nicolas* (Britten), *Fauré Requiem, Chichester Psalms* (Bernstein), the regional premiere of *Parables* (Aldridge) in collaboration with the MSU Symphony Orchestra for the 2011 Crawford Concert, *Annelies* (Whitbourn) for the April 2015 Holocaust Memorial Concert, and the Tri-state premiere of *Alzheimer's Stories* (Cohen) for the 2015 Crawford Concert, and the New Jersey premiere performance of *Jubilate Deo* by Dan Forrest (May 2018).

The Chorale's 2019-20 season featured two semi-staged regional premiere performances of the acclaimed fusion oratorio *Considering Matthew Shepard* (Hella Johnson) for the 2019 Crawford Concert (December 2019). This was their final performance prior to the closure of live performances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After a semester of online instruction with a focus on pedagogical concepts, the Chorale returned to performing in Spring 2021 with two modalities to accommodate students' instructional preferences: Virtual Chorale (100% online instruction) and Red Hawk Chorale (starting online and progressing to in-person instruction). With the welcome return to in-person concertizing, the Chorale celebrated the 2021-22 season with regional premiere performances of two exciting extended works by living composers: *The Breath of Life* (Dan Forrest) and *Circlesong* (Bob Chilcott), integrating multi-media and live dance elements in both productions. *The Breath of Life* was released as a "live audio" digital download in January 2022. Their 2022-3 season included *Psalms* settings by Mendelssohn, Howells, and Wilberg with Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* the Winter Concert centerpiece. The 2023-24 season focus is *Carmina Burana* performed as "highlights" in an interdisciplinary collaboration in Kasser (December 2023) and with the NJS in March 2024 (Xian Zhang *conductor*). The spring semester culminates with Eric Whitacre's eagerly anticipated Cali Immersive Residency, and performances of *Cloudburst* and *Seal Lullaby* under the composer's direction.

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

The **UNIVERSITY SINGERS** is Montclair'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 NJS, 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 NJS'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 NJS 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 Yankees 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 saw the choir return to mainstage performances with the NJS (*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 Montclair Wind Symphony (Dr. Thomas McCauley, *conductor*), and continue their partnership with VOCES8 (February 2023) through the Cali Immersive Residency Program. 2023-24 season highlights include the World Premiere of *Les Colombes* by composition student/baritone Ian Kearney, performing *Messiah* with Maestro Nicholas McGegan, and collaborating with international choral icon Eric Whitacre in April 2024. The University Singers' performances are broadcast on Cali Live and the Cali YouTube Channel.

DR. HEATHER J. BUCHANAN***Conductor***

Australian-born conductor **Heather J. Buchanan, PhD**, is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Montclair State University (MSU) where she conducts the Chorale (symphonic choir), University Singers, Vocal Accord (chamber choir), and Prima Voce (SSAA). 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 21-year tenure, Montclair choirs have collaborated with a variety of renowned national and international performing artists and composers including VOCES8, Rhiannon Giddens, Meredith Monk, Neeme Järvi, Jacques Lacombe, Xian Zhang, Patrick Duprè Quigley, and Richard Alston Dance Company (UK), with Eric Whitacre upcoming in April 2024. Her numerous mainstage orchestral collaborations with the New Jersey Symphony (NJS) include Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, Verdi’s *Messa da Requiem*, Fauré’s *Requiem*, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, Mahler *Symphony No. 3*, Mendelssohn’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Zelda: Symphony of the Goddesses*, *Harry Potter & The Prisoner of Azbakan*, and Howard Shore’s Academy Award winning *The Lord of the Rings Symphony*, with Handel’s *Messiah* annually since December 2014. In June 2023, the NJS honored her 20-year relationship with the orchestra at the New Millenium Gala, the culminating event of their Centennial Season. Dr. Buchanan’s choirs have also sung on commercially produced recordings with Meredith Monk (*Songs of Ascension*) and the NJS (*Carmina Burana & Verdi Requiem*), and in March 2020 the University Singers released their own professionally recorded CD *I sing because...* which is also available for digital download on Spotify and iTunes.

Dr. Buchanan holds degrees from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music (Australia), Westminster Choir College of Rider University (U.S.), and the University of New England (Australia). A licensed Body Mapping Educator since 2002, she specializes in the teaching of this neuro-anatomical educational technique that trains musicians to attain freedom of expression through effective movement. 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. Her 30-day choral tour (June-July 2023) hosted by the Australian National Choral Association was a comprehensive educational and artistic undertaking involving dozens of choirs and hundreds of choristers from all ages, amateur to professional, participating in clinics, festival choirs, rehearsals, and workshops across the nation.

STEVEN W. RYAN***MSU ACCOMPANIST***

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.

SETH VELEZ***CHORALE ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR***

Seth Velez is an accomplished conductor, bass-baritone, and educator within the choral spheres of Los Angeles and New York. As a singer, Seth has performed extensively with choirs touring the United States, the U.K., South Korea, and much of Europe. He has competed and headlined in multiple international choral competitions and has a solo background that encompasses both Classical and Musical Theatre styles. Seth's conducting and teaching portfolio includes positions at Montclair State University, Syracuse University, Azusa Pacific University, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, the Desoff Choirs, and the Los Angeles Children's Chorus. Seth also runs a private voice studio with clients of all ages and ability levels. His research interests primarily revolve around the flexibility and versatility of the human voice. Seth holds both a MMus in Choral Conducting and a MMus in Voice Pedagogy from Syracuse University as well as a BM in Performance from Azusa Pacific University. He is an inducted member of Pi Kappa Lambda and has active memberships with ACDA, NATS, and CMS.

TOMOKO FUJITA***CELLO***

Hailed as "first-rate" by *The Boston Globe*, cellist **Tomoko Fujita** enjoys an active musical life as a performer and educator. She was a founding member of the Bryant Park Quartet, and has performed with esteemed artists such as Itzhak Perlman, members of the Cleveland, Emerson, and Juilliard String Quartets, dancer Wendy Whelan, and the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. She is Assistant Professor at Montclair State University where she also coordinates the Cali Pathways Project, an equity and access initiative to support talented young musicians from under-resourced backgrounds. She also coaches with the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program. In the summers, Tomoko is in residence at the Kinhaven Music School in Weston, VT. For more information, visit www.tomokofujita.com.

THE ROSE QUARTET

The Rose Quartet, formed in 2022, is comprised of Gabriel Anker and Liana Branscome (violins), Rachel O'Connor (viola), and Alonso Restrepo Cardozo (cello).

The Rose Quartet has shared the stage with many world renowned artists including the Harlem Quartet, the Cavani Quartet, Caroline Shaw, Rhiannon Giddens, DeCoda Ensemble, David Krakauer and Kathleen Tagg, Randall Wolfgang, Vijay Gupta and Time for Three. Upcoming performances for the remainder of the 2023-2024 season include a collaboration with Eric Whitacre and recitals in New Jersey and Vermont. This summer, the Rose Quartet is excited to be in residency at the Amelia Island Christopher Rex String Seminar, Texas Chamber Music Institute and Madeline Island Chamber Music Fellowship String Quartet program. They have performed in notable venues such as Merkin Hall at the Kaufman Music Center, Carnegie Hall, National Sawdust, Hennessy Hall at Farleigh Dickinson University, and at schools and churches on a tour of South Florida.

The Rose Quartet is intensely dedicated to community engagement. Working in collaboration with the non-profit Music for All Seasons as part of MSU's initiative, the Cali Collective, the Rose Quartet regularly presents programs in communities such as senior centers, halfway houses, schools, veterans homes, and correctional facilities. Music education and mentorship of the next generation play a major role in the Rose Quartet's vision. They regularly present masterclasses and maintain active teaching engagements, notably through the Paterson Music Project in New Jersey. The Rose Quartet is currently the graduate string quartet in residence at Montclair State University, under the mentorship of Kathryn Lockwood and the Harlem Quartet.

ABBY BRODNICK

SOPRANO

Abby Brodnick, coloratura soprano, is finishing her Master of Music in Vocal Performance with Beth Roberts at the Cali School of Music. Abby is the first prize winner of the 2023 Camille Coloratura Awards Student Division. A finalist in the 2023 Sherrill Milnes Opera Idol Competition, she also graced the 2023 Savannah Voice Festival as a Study Grant Artist. This summer, Abby will perform as a Resident Artist with Opera North (Eurydice in *Orphée aux Enfers*, Rapunzel in *Into the Woods*). Recent credits include *Sœur Constance* in *Dialogues des Carmélites* and soprano soloist of Orff's *Carmina Burana* (Cali School of Music), and soprano soloist of Handel's *Messiah* (South Orange Symphony). She consistently performs choral and contemporary works, and recently performed at the New York Composer's Circle to premiere Thomas Parente's song cycle. Abby earned her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance with a musical theater minor at DePauw University, studying with André Campelo.

HANNAH D'ELIA***PERCUSSION***

Hannah D'Elia is a Sophomore at Montclair State University pursuing a degree in Music Education with a Primary Concentration in Percussion. With a background in drumset performance for 15 years, she is passionate about music and its transformative impact on audiences. Hannah is a participant in several ensembles at Montclair State University including the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, Chorale, Popular Music Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, and more. Through music, she hopes to continually inspire and entertain.

JONATHAN FRELIX***VIOLIN***

Jonathan Frelix (violin), a native from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, was first introduced to the violin at a young age. Extremely curious, he joined the strings program at Rowan Elementary School, oblivious to the profound impact that music would have on his life. The violin not only helped him expand his perspective but he also gained valuable skills that one can only achieve through the dedication and commitment to mastering a craft or self-development. Outside of music, Jonathan enjoys roller skating, hiking, playing spades, shooting pool, and having wholesome conversations with friends. A graduate from William Carey University, Jonathan received his bachelor's degree in Music Education. Through the violin he aims to inspire and encourage young people to cultivate and nurture the gifts that they already possess. Jonathan is inspired by Ralph Waldo Emerson words: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

MAYA HENRY***SOPRANO***

Maya Henry is a lyric coloratura soprano and a graduate vocal performance student at Montclair State University. A Presser Scholar awarded in 2022, Maya has performed roles as Mere Jeanne (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), Laurentia (*The Beautiful Bridegroom*), The Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Barbarina, Cherubino (*Le Nozze di Figaro*). She completed her Bachelor degree in Music at MSU in 2023, and returned for the fall semester to begin her master studies.

Praised for her colorful and imaginative abilities as a singing actress, Maya has enjoyed working with Christine Moore, Lori McCann, Jeffrey Gall, and her current vocal teacher, Karen Driscoll.

ARIANNA JOSEPH***MEZZO SOPRANO***

Arianna Joseph is a Sophomore Music Education Major at Montclair State University, studying classical voice under Dr. Lori McCann. Arianna is involved with the Montclair State University Chorale, University Singers, and Vocal Accord at the John J Cali School of Music. She is also Vice President for Montclair State University ACDA chapter (The American Choral Directors Association) and Assistant Manager for the University Singers. Arianna looks forward to continuing an education full of music at MSU and is looking forward to the exciting semesters to come!

TIM NUZZETTI***PERCUSSION***

Tim Nuzzetti is a Senior music education major with a percussion primary. He studied with Barry Centanni and Minhye Ju and now is doing his clinical work at Northern Valley Old Tappan with Amy Wilcox. He plays in MSU's Wind Symphony and performed with them at the WASBE conference in Prague in July 2022 as well as CBDNA at Cornell University in 2024. Tim works as the Drumline instructor at Fortlee High school during the marching band season. Additionally, he recently traveled to Atlantic City to work with the first ever Honors Modern Band with students from all across the state. He also plays drums for Jack Flowers and the Petal tones at music venues all across the tri state area.

MAX TRIPODI***PERCUSSION***

Max Tripodi is a senior music education major at Montclair State University, specializing in classical percussion under his teachers Barry Centanni and Minhye Ju. He actively participates in multiple ensembles at MSU, like the Wind Symphony, Orchestra, and Percussion Ensemble. Max's notable achievements include a performance at the prestigious WASBE international conference in Prague in July 2022 with the MSU Wind Symphony. Beyond Montclair, Max is deeply involved in the marching arts community across several schools in North Jersey, contributing significantly to their musical development. As a versatile musician, he thrives as a freelance percussionist and collaborates with orchestras and pit bands in the NJ/NYC music scene. Additionally, Max is a dedicated music instructor, sharing his expertise with numerous students through private lessons.