

Montclair State University
JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

CHORAL WINTER CONCERT

FEATURING

**VOCAL ACCORD
UNIVERSITY SINGERS
CHORALE**

Dr. Heather J. Buchanan, *conductor*
Gregory Stout, *accompanist*

GUEST ARTIST

Indigo Quartet
Chorale Chamber Orchestra

7PM MEET-THE-COMPOSERS PRE-CONCERT PRESENTATION

Moderator – Sabina Kunze

Featuring – Ian Kearney '25 + William Payn

Hosted by MSU ACDA Chapter

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 @ 8 PM

ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

Daniel Gurskis

Dean, College of the Arts

Shea Scruggs

Director, John J. Cali School of Music

John J. Cali
School of Music

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY



PROGRAM



VOCAL ACCORD

The Rose

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Poem by Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894)

Indigo Quartet

Kylie Foxhall, *violin I* + Jade Hattori-Hamilton, *violin II*

Armando Atanda, *viola* + Yubin Choi, *cello*

There Will Come Soft Rains

Ian Kearney '25 (b. 2003)

Poem by Sara Teasdale (1884 – 1933)

World Premiere

Rorate Cæli Desuper (Gregorian Chant)

Arr. Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

The Advent Prose – Isaiah 45:8



UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Highlights from Messiah Part I

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Ev'ry valley (*Air*: Tenor)

Jeffrey Castellano, *tenor*

And the glory of the Lord (*Chorus*)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive (*Recitative*: Alto)

O thou that tellest (*Air*: Alto & Chorus)

Arianna Joseph, *mezzo-soprano*

For behold, darkness (*Accompagnato*: Bass)

The people that walked in darkness (*Air*: Bass)

Joey Staltari, *baritone*

For unto us a child is born (*Chorus*)

There were shepherds (*Recitative*: Soprano) - And lo, the angel of the Lord (*Accompagnato*: Soprano)

- And the angel said unto them (*Recitative*: Soprano) - And suddenly there was with the angel

(*Accompagnato*: Soprano)

Taryn Spoto, *soprano*

Glory to God (*Chorus*)

Rejoice greatly (*Air*: Soprano)

Brianna Coppolino, *soprano*

He shall feed his flock (*Air*: Soprano)

Jenna Ferrera, *soprano*

Hallelujah (*Chorus*)

Audience members are invited to stand and sing with the choir

INTERMISSION



CHORALE

NJ Premiere + World Premiere Montclair State version for
mixed choir, soprano & baritone soli, piano, string orchestra, & poetry readers



LOVE

William A. Payn (b. 1946)

I. **How Do I Love Thee? (Sonnet 43)**

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

Hannah Kemp, *poetry reader*

Vasilisa Pjevovic, *soprano*

II. **Kindness**

Naomi Shihab Nye (b. 1952)

Gabrielle Cintrón, *poetry reader*

Alan Pinzon, *bass-baritone*

III. **The Big Dipper**

Virginia Smith (b. 1953)

Hannah Kemp & Jake McCreery, *poetry readers*

IV. **Dreams**

Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

Denise DeMaio & Hannah Kemp, *poetry readers*

Gabrielle Guida, *mezzo-soprano*

V. **I Have Come to See**

William A. Payn (b. 1946)

Jake McCreery, *poetry reader*

Victoria Mango, *soprano*

Isaac Rodriguez, *baritone*



FROM THE PODIUM

LIGHT & LOVE showcases contrasting choral styles and genres from the classical music spectrum while shining a spotlight on our talented student soloists and supporting the artistic and pedagogical growth of our curricular choirs.

Vocal Accord's set features music that explores themes of love, beauty, and mortality (*The Rose*); celebrating peace and a healed world (*There Will Come Soft Rains*); and a call for the heavens to "drop dew" symbolizing the coming of the Savior via the advent prose *Rorate Caeli Desuper* in a contemporary setting of the Gregorian chant with improvised piano accompaniment. We are delighted to welcome alumnus Ian Kearney '25 for the world premiere of his composition that was developed in conjunction with Vocal Accord and AY25 Immersive Residency artist Jake Runestad.

Tonight's *Messiah* highlights are focused on Part I - the Christmas portion - and feature six student soloists in debut solo performances. A beloved masterwork regarded as "a universal symbol of transcendent joy", *Messiah's* message of faith, love and hope has endured through the centuries and continues to inspire. For the complete *Messiah* experience, we invite you to join us on Dec 19, 20 and 21 for our professional collaboration with the New Jersey Symphony under the baton of Anthony Parnter, *guest conductor*.

Throughout the ages, poets have written eloquently about love in its many forms. *LOVE* is a multi-movement work featuring settings of inspirational poetry and our enduring human need for connection. It was commissioned by the Susquehanna Valley Chorale in partnership with several Consortium Sponsors and donors, of which Montclair State/John J. Cali School of Music was one. Tonight's performance is a world premiere of the reduced version in five movements and features student soloists accompanied by string orchestra and piano. The libretto is presented in the QR code, and the performance will also feature supertitles. We are honored to welcome composer William Payn to the Kasser Theater for tonight's performance.



Texts + Translations & Bios

SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION

Cali School:

@Montclair_Cali 

@John J. Cali School of Music 

Choral Activities:

@MontclairChoral 

Montclair Choral 

@Montclair.Choral 

VOCAL ACCORD

Dr. Heather J. Buchanan, *conductor*
Gregory Stout, *accompanist*

Soprano I

Jenna Ferrera *
Sabina Kunze
Madelynn McDevitt
Paige Stewart
Alexa Tammone

Soprano II

Anna Kodak +
Hannah Stratton
Sarah Sweeney

Alto I

Elinet Brito
Melanie Gilbert
Gabrielle Guida ^
Karina Kilbashian
Kathryn Radcliffe

Alto II

Gabrielle Cintrón~ ^^
Laurel Cousineau
Arianna Joseph
Taylor Kitzman *

Tenor I

Jeffrey Castellano*
Eddie Morel
Gordon Rowan
Samuel Sanchez #
Jamie Yermish

Tenor II

Russell Gomez-Martinez
Benjamin Silvesti

High Baritone

Dean Tarriff
Julio Santiago *
Joey Staltari
Yadiel Rivera Colon

Bass Baritone

Omar Abdallah
Ryan Avallone
RJ Chandler
Elvin Santana Roa

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Dr. Heather J. Buchanan, *conductor*
Gregory Stout, *accompanist*

Soprano I

Jenna Ferrera*
Vera Grossman
Megan Huber
Helen Makus
Crystal Maoga
Madelynn McDevitt
Olivia Meyer
Mckenzie Miller
Hailey Morin
Negin Saidian

Soprano II

Ava DeFebbo
Amanda Guach
Emma Hinz
Anna Kodak +
Deborah Myhren
Katherine Sheeran
Savana Reyes
Aizhan Soltanova ~ ++
Taryn Spoto
Chloe Stavis
Hannah Stratton

Alto I

Elinet Brito
Brianna Coppolino
Alicia Gadek
Melanie Gilbert
Emily Gramley
Gabrielle Guida ^
Karina Kilbashian
Leah Laguerre
Kathryn Radcliffe
Angela Salvador
Sephora Santiago
Olivia Willms

Alto II

Anamika Bachoo
Gabrielle Cintrón ^^ ~
Jelena Diaz
Laurel Cousineau
Arianna Joseph
Taylor Kitzman *
Emily Piccola
Gabiella Surace
Nicole Ulerio
Perla Villacampa

Tenor I

Jeffrey Castellano *
Eddie Morel
Gordon Rowan
Samuel Sanchez #
Jamie Yermish

Tenor II

Royalte Alori Roberts
Raymond Del Gaudio
Damon Dellanno
Jayson Greengold
Russel Gomez-Martinez
Benjamin Silvesti

High Baritone

Brian Corona
Luis Grados
Tyler Kriney
Dean Tarriff
Julio Santiago *
Joey Staltari
Yadiel Rivera-Colon
Christopher Vasquez

Bass Baritone

Omar Abdallah
Ryan Avallone
Darren Butler
RJ Chandler
Jake McCreery
Ethan Merritt
Alan Pinzon
Elvin Santana Roa
Ezra Snyder

^ - Graduate Assistant ^^ - Teaching Assistant * - Section Leader + - Manager ~ - Student Conductor
- Student Accompanist

CHORALE

Dr. Heather J. Buchanan, *conductor*

Gregory Stout, *accompanist*

Seth Velez, *assistant conductor*

Soprano I

Isabella Cruz
Vera Grossman
Megan Huber
Morgan Maher
Helen Makus
Victoria Mango
Crystal Maoga
Madelynn McDevitt *
Olivia Meyer
Mckenzie Miller
Hailey Morin **
Sophie Negrete
Tessa O'Keefe
Monica Rodriguez
Negin Saidian
Paige Stewart
Giuliana Zambrano

Tenor I

Drew Abney
Milo Berntsen
Ian Kanev
Jovan Lira
Eddie Morel *
Xavier Pesante
Carlos Revelo Zorrilla
Gordon Rowan
Samuel Sanchez ** #

Soprano II

Ava DeFebbo
Ariana Giammanco
Amanda Guach
Emma Hinz
Sunnie Hughes-Sellers
Rosalie Judd
Hannah Kemp
Anna Kodak
Mischa Kujawa
Karla Menjivar Guerrero
Sara Michaleas
Deborah Myhren
Melina Ortiz
Camille Pajonas
Giana Pellegrini
Vasilisa Pjevovic
Kathryn Radcliffe *
Sanana Reyes
Genesis Rodriguez Medina
Katherine Sheeran
Aizhan Soltanova # ~
Taryn Spoto

Tenor II

Patrick Bai
Jaidan Becker
Frankie Carbonaro
Donnie Chenel
Carlos Chuqui-Minchala
Krstofer Collier
John Csik
Raymond Del Gaudio
Damon Dellanno
Isaac Galang
Russell Gomez Martinez
Miguel Paniagua
John Rodriguez
Benjamin Silvesti *
Tyler Skelly

Alto I

Isadora Caruso Galvez
Elinet Brito *
Melanie Gilbert *
Giselle Gomez
Gabrielle Guida ^
Seonyu Han
Amanda Jimenez
Kaitlyn Kayser
Karina Kilbashian
Leah Laguerre
Hannah Lav
Aihua Li
Giovanna Limaldi
Tajanee Mayo
Shanzay Memon
Haydn Ng
Caridad Pelayo
Michelle Peralta **
Leah Schwing-Krompholz
Amber Vergara
Katerina Wachtel
Brayden Williams
Annamaria Watek
Jing Zhang

High Baritone

Aiden Carr
Brian Corona
Audrick Franco
Luis Grados
Joseph Hurtado
Tyler Kriney
James Murray
Stefan Nita
Johnnez Pantanilla
David Reinstein
John Rivas
Yadiel Rivera Colon *
Isaac Rodriguez
Julio Santiago
Joey Staltari
Jacob Swanson
Dean Tarriff +
Samuel Yoon

Alto II

Anamika Bachoo
Gabrielle Cintrón ^^ #
Denise DeMaio
Katelyn Grzesiak
Taylor Kitzman
Eliza Leszczynski
Xinyi Ma
Jiana Mojica
Samantha Price
Dora Rodriguez
Camilla Russell
Angela Salvador
Faith Santana
Sephora Santiago
Lesha Schenkolewski
Carlie Senatore
Katie Sorrentino
Nicole Ulerio
Perla Villacampa
Olivia Willms
Ilana Zeidman

Bass Baritone

Ryan Avallone
Matteo Barahona
Darren Butler
Hairo Cesar
Park Choy
Thomas Gray
Ethan Merritt
Amir Nassar
Alan Pinzon **
Jess Pritchett
Nick Rodriguez
Elvin Santana Roa *
Jean Santos
Luke Scarpa
Ezra Snyder
Gabe Vega
Seth Velez
Cyrus Vaughn

CHORALE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Violin I:

Sofia Levchenko * + #
Kiley Foxhall
Jade Hattori-Hamilton
Brianna Almonte

Violin II

Angela Fiedler * #
Carlos Santamaria
Raphael Linares
Haydn Ng

Double Bass

JP Barnabe #
Niles Scott

Viola

Rachel O'Connor * #
Armando Atanda
Emma Musial

Cello

Kathy Cherbas * #
Yubin Cho
Justeen Valere

Piano

Gregory Stout

* - Principal + - Concert Master # - Guest Artist

SPECIAL THANKS:

- Guest composers: Ian Kearney '25 and William Payn
- Professional instrumental guest artists: list string player pros by name & instrument
- Student strings: Indigo Quartet + names & instruments
- Kathryn Lockwood, *Strings Coordinator* for organizing the Vocal Accord String Quartet
- Kyle Ritenauer, *Interim Director Orchestral Studies* for organizing LOVE student string players
- Lori McCann & Anya Fidelia for *Messiah* student solo coaching
- Seth Velez for LOVE student coaching and artistic support
- Greg Stout for collaborative piano support
- Gabrielle Cintrón (TA) for creating the LOVE supertitles
- Sabina Kunze LOVE supertitles caller + Meet-the-Composers Moderator
- Gabrielle Guida (GA) logistical program support
- ACDA Chapter for hosting and organizing the pre-concert Meet-the-Composers event.
- Choral Program Student Leaders – thank you for all you do!
- Rob Davidson – audio production and livestream video
- Cali Production Team – Andy Dickerson, *Production Manager*

CHORAL ACTIVITIES 2025-26 STUDENT LEADERS

CHORAL ACTIVITIES	Graduate Assistant	Gabrielle Guida
	Teaching Assistant	Gabrielle Cintrón
	Public Relations	Taryn Spoto Laurel Cousineau
CHORALE	Communications	Gabrielle Cintrón
	Manager Logistics Manager	Dean Tarriff
	Section Leaders:	
	Soprano I	Madelynn McDevitt
	Soprano II	Kathryn Radcliffe
	Alto I	Melanie Gilbert
	Alto II	Elinet Brito
	Tenor I	Eddie Morel
	Tenor II	Benjamin Silvesti
	Baritone	Yadiel Rivera Colon
	Bass	Elvin Santana Roa
	Assistant Section Leaders:	
	Soprano	Hailey Morin
UNIVERSITY SINGERS	Alto	Michelle Peralta
	Tenor	Samuel Sanchez
	Bass	Alan Pinzon
	Sectional Conductors:	Gabrielle Cintrón Aizhan Soltanova
	Student Accompanists:	Aizhan Soltanova (principal) Samuel Sanchez
	Manager	Anna Kodak
	Section Leaders:	
	Soprano	Jenna Ferrera
	Alto	Taylor Kitzman
	Tenor	Jeffrey Castellano
	Bass	Julio Santiago
	Student Accompanists:	Aizhan Soltanova (Principal) Samuel Sanchez
KINDNESS CREW	Laurel Cousineau	Jake McCreery
	Arianna Joseph	Karina Kilbashian
ACDA CHAPTER	President	Taylor Kitzman
	President Elect	Anna Kodak
	Secretary	Madelynn McDevitt
	PR	Elvin Santana Roa