

A photograph of a modern building entrance at night. The building features a prominent overhanging concrete canopy supported by dark columns. The walls are made of red brick. Large glass windows and doors are visible, reflecting the interior lights. The sky is dark blue.

Graceland
UNIVERSITY | 1895



Music
Department

Music Department

Faculty

Sara Blessing..... Music Department Coordinator,
Director of Choral/Vocal Activities,
Assistant Professor of Music

Jack Ergo Piano/Harpsichord and Orchestral Studies,
Associate Professor of Music

Dr. Christopher Brandt Director of Bands,
Assistant Professor of Music

Adjunct Faculty

Dr. Stephen Cunningham.....Voice, VPA Faculty Liason

Tessla MichaelPercussion, VPA Recruiter

Andrew NaylorStrings

Dr. Ethan Patterson Low Brass



Visual and Performing Arts Personnel

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Administrative Assistant/Ticket Office ManagerTracey Dale, 784.5270

Art Department CoordinatorKaren Gergely, 784.5327

Theatre Department Coordinator Tracy Salter, 784.5268

Shaw Center Technical CoordinatorDavid Laughlin, 784.5274

Graceland University Music Department

Presents

Music Showcase

Featuring

The Graceland University Symphonic Band, Concert Choir,
Chamber Singers, The Graceland Harmonium, and Orchestra

Friday, October 2nd, 2020

7:30 p.m.

SHAW CENTER AMPHITHEATRE

Shaw Center for the Performing Arts

Graceland University Music Department
presents

Music Showcase

Sara Blessing, conductor

Dr. Christopher Brandt, conductor

Jack Ergo, conductor

Friday, Oct. 2, 2020 | 7:30 p.m. | Shaw Center Amphitheatre

Choirs

Sara Blessing, director of choral activities

Yonder Come Day (2015) arr. Paul John Rudoj (b. 1985)
Carter Wiley, Kinsey Collins, *soloists*

Sing Gently (2020) Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)
Jack Ergo, *piano*

Hlohonolofasta (2016) arr. Daniel Jackson (b. 1957)
Salume Osakue, Dustin Robinson, *soloists*
Emily Scobee, Cameron Fry, William Bayse, *percussion*

The Longest Time (1984) Billy Joel (b. 1949)
Conner Holben, Jordan Bradford, *soloists*

And So It Goes (1983) Billy Joel (b. 1949)
Sydney Billings, Dora Martz, Conner Holben, *soloists*

Interested in joining one of the ensembles at Graceland
Visit: www.graceland.edu/music

PROGRAM CONT.

Orchestra

Jack Ergo, director of orchestral activities

Capriol Suite (1924) Peter Warlock (1894-1930)
I - *Basse Dance* IV - *Mattachins* (Sword Dance)

Symphonic Band

Dr. Christopher Brandt, director of bands

The Corcoran Cadets (1890) John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)

Sine Nomine (1906/1976) Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
arr. Alfred Reed

Elegy for Albinoni (2011) Shelly Hanson (b. 1951)

Elements "Petite Symphony" (2010) Brian Balmages (b. 1975)
I - Air II - Water III - Earth IV - Fire

Combined Ensembles

Graceland Alma Mater (1926/2020) Roy A. Cheville (1897-1986)
arr. Christopher Brandt

Sara Blessing, conductor

Hymn to the Fallen (1998) John Williams (b. 1932)
arr. Paul Lavender

America the Beautiful (1958) Samuel A. Ward (1848-1903)
arr. Carmen Dragon

Dr. Christopher Brandt, conductor

PROGRAM NOTES

Yonder Come Day

History, the Georgia Sea Islands were some of the first places slaving ships arrived, and many of those slaves ended up on plantations on those islands. The slaves who lived on the Sea Islands developed a language and culture known as "Gullah." Because the Sea Islands' isolation buffered them from urban and white-dominated culture, the deepest roots of African-American culture were largely preserved intact. Paul John Rudoj's arrangement of *Yonder Come Day* deepens the traditional Georgia Sea Islands tune with a narrative journey. Through other well-known spirituals, including *Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name, Steal Away, and Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, we move forward and upward, hoping for a better day.

Sing Gently

Grammy Award-winning American composer Eric Whitacre is one of the most popular musicians on the planet. His works for choir, orchestra, and wind ensemble are performed all over the world. In 2009, Whitacre pioneered the first virtual choir with the release of his "Lux Aurumque," featuring 185 singers from 12 countries. Compelled to write a piece during the early stages of the country's COVID lockdown, Whitacre states: "I was thunderstruck by the speed and breadth of the coronavirus pandemic, particularly those early reports of choir members being super-spreaders. Choral music is such a benevolent and benign art form. What is better than singing together?" He met with this music producers and told them they needed to do another virtual choir because people "needed a sense of community right now. The basic truth of the arts is its humanity."

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On July 19, Whitacre unveiled *Virtual Choir 6: Sing Gently* on YouTube. It showcases 17, 572 singers from 129 countries (Professor Blessing is one of the singers)! The message behind the lyrics: "That we sing gently as one. That we be together. That we are kind and delicate with each other. By just having a piano score adds a level of intimacy, because the piano is such a human sound." It took 3.5 months to do 3.5 minutes of music.

Hlohonolofatsa "Bless everything in the name of the Father."

Hlohonolofatsa is a South African greeting song that has been performed by the Soweto Gospel Choir. It is spiritual hymn of the Sotho people. Of the approximately 8 million Sotho, 5.6 live in South Africa, 2 million in Lesotho; they are the second largest ethnic group in Southern Africa, after the Zulu. *Hlohonolofatsa* is a song of celebration and praise – celebrate and cherish all that is good.

And So It Goes (1990) and **The Longest Time** (1984) are both hit songs by American icon Billy Joel (a.k.a. "The Piano Man"). Having sold more than 150 million records, he continues to be one of the most popular recording artists and entertainers in the world. **The Longest Time** pays homage to the doo-wop genre of rhythm and blues originating in the 1940s, made iconic by groups such as Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers. It reached no. 14 on the Billboard Hot 100 and no. 1 on Billboard's Adult Contemporary. **And So It Goes** was written by Joel about a doomed relationship with model Elle Macpherson. Oddly enough, the song is written in iambic tetrameter – a meter in poetry that refers to a line consisting of four iambic feet. Although originally written in 1983, Joel didn't release the song until 1989 on his album "Storm Front." The single peaked at no. 37 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100, and no. 5 on the Adult Contemporary chart in 1990.

PROGRAM NOTES

Corcoran Cadets takes its name from the infamous Washington D.C. drill team of the 1800s. This elite, albeit young (average age of 16), group competed with units throughout the United States and embodied *esprit de corps*. The unit was named for the American banker and philanthropist William W. Corcoran. Corcoran nearly changed wind band history by offering to finance a young **John Philip Sousa's** music education in Europe which may have precluded Sousa from securing his position as director of the United States Marine Band and establishing himself as the "March King" with over 130 marches composed. It is thought that the march is so named as a belated expression of appreciation to Corcoran for his support. The *Corcoran Cadets March* was the very first march ever performed by the newly established Eastman Wind Ensemble during its first NBC network broadcast in January 1953 under the direction of Frederick Fennell.

Sine Nomine "without name" is an original setting of the hymn "For all Saints". Originally the hymn was sung to the melody *Sarum* by Victorian composer Joseph Barnby until 1906 when **Ralph Vaughan Williams** penned the new melody for the *English Hymnal*. Williams spent most of his life in London where he studied composition at the Royal College of Music. Known for his interest in English folk melodies his music has become synonymous with the English tradition. A staple of the Ivy League, *Sine Nomine* is often featured in place of *Pomp and Circumstance* in collegiate commencement ceremonies.

Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni was a prolific Baroque-era composer with an opus comprised of 48 operas, several solo cantatas and numerous sonatas, concerto's and sinfonia.

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Though somewhat forgotten by modern audiences his music left a lasting impression on Johann Sebastian Bach who would base four of his own keyboard fugues on themes composed by Albinoni. **Elegy for Albinoni** is a memorial piece composed in Albinoni's honor. After an opening theme which sets the ultra-romantic tone of this piece, a second theme is based on rhythmically and harmonically altered versions of a few measures of one of Albinoni's violin sonatas. The two themes can be heard in alternation, fragments, or simultaneously throughout the entirety of the work. **Shelley Hanson** is an American composer, conductor, and clarinetist from Minnesota. She completed her PhD in Music from Michigan State University and currently serves on the faculty of Macalester College.

Four short movements make up this "petite symphony" constructed in the same form as a traditional symphony: Allegro non troppo, Largo, Scherzo, and Allegro vivace. In **Elements** each movement also refers to an element of nature. Movement 1, Air, is light and breathy, made up mostly of staccato notes. Water, the second movement, ripples and flows softly and gently. An homage to Holst's The Planets can be heard in Earth, the third movement. The piece concludes in an intense inferno with Fire.

Roy A. Cheville was a religious leader, theologian, and educator in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (now known as Community of Christ). Cheville graduated from Graceland University in 1921, continued on to receive an A.M. in Divinity, D.B. in Practical Theology and later a PhD in religion from the University of Chicago. In 1926 he authored Graceland University's **Alma Mater Hymn** while serving on faculty as a professor of Religion and as campus pastor. Tonights setting of the hymn was arranged specifically for this performance by Graceland Director of Bands, Dr. Christopher Brandt.

PROGRAM NOTES

Verse 1

Come Graceland sons and
daughters all,
and join our happy throng.
With loyal voices let us raise
our Alma Mater song.
O hillcrest home of vision wide,
where bonds of love hold sway.
Where all may learn in life and lore
'tis Thee we praise today.

Verse 2

Through memory a thread shall run,
of golden richness made.
Cementing there the treasures rare
in thy foundation laid.
O Alma Mater, guide us on,
thy standard e'er unfold
And call us on with memories
of days 'neath the Blue and Gold.

Verse 3

Through years and decades long to come
thy battlemented tower
Shall rise to call the youth of lands
to answer to the hour.
And while thy work shall carry on,
our benisons are told
In lives of honor, truth and right,
the seal of the Blue and Gold.

~ Roy A. Cheville, 1926

Hymn to the Fallen from the film "Saving Private Ryan", is a memorial for all the soldiers who sacrificed themselves on the altar of freedom in the Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1944. Steven Spielberg comments on Williams' film score: "It's a piece of music and a testament to **John Williams'** sensitivity and brilliance that, in my opinion, will stand the test of time and honor forever the fallen of this war and possibly all wars. *Saving Private Ryan* contains very

PROGRAM NOTES

sparse writing as restraint seemed to be John Williams' primary objective. He did not want to sentimentalize or create emotion from what already existed in raw form. *Saving Private Ryan* is furious and relentless, as are all wars. But where is music? It is exactly where John Williams intends for us, the chance to breathe and remember."

The poem **America the Beautiful** by Katherine Lee Bates was published in a magazine in 1894. The words were set to numerous tunes, but the melody that suited best was Samuel A. Ward's "Materna". So closely are these words and music associated by Americans today, that most generally assume that the two were conceived together. **Samuel A. Ward** composed the melody in 1882 for a hymn written a century prior. His music survives today because of the linkage of this hymn tune with Bate's poem. Bates was a professor of English at Wellesley College in New England. She drew her inspiration for the poem in 1893 following her first visit to Pike's Peak, Colorado. Ward's melodies and Bate's words were first presented together in 1910, seven years after Ward's death.

As we conclude tonight's performance we want to thank the community of Lamoni for its support of the music department at Graceland University. We would also like to thank the Graceland University administration for their continued commitment to music on campus, and David Laughlin for the great care he takes of our beautiful facilities. We look forward to seeing you again at one of our music department events.

PERFORMERS

CHAMBER SINGERS

SOPRANO 1

Dora Martz*
Ashlyn Byrd*
Kinsey Collins

SOPRANO 2

Bailey Kuster
Diana Williams
Naomi Long
Kyla West
Aubree Powders
Allison Carter

ALTO 1

Megan Byrd
Lexie Frazier
Daryn Nowlin

ALTO 2

Hannah Carnes
Abigail Allison
Cassie Tucker

TENOR 1

Jared Wood
Conner Holben*

BARITONE

Max Wessner
Ethan Matlock

TENOR 2

Dallas Hare
Landon Hampton
Jordan Bradford

BASS

Derionte Roby
Dustin Robinson*

CONCERT CHOIR

SOPRANO 1

Gwenyth Sacry
Dora Martz*
Emily Hill
Ashlyn Byrd*

SOPRANO 2

Bailey Kuster
Allison Rebling
Sydney Billings
Tanis Rees
Naomi Thompsen
Audry Briggs

ALTO 1

Jolie Yang
Sammi Reinier
Sophia Lopez
Alecia Bennett
Cat Hexamer
Byanca Smith
Patience Robers

ALTO 2

Salume Oksakue
Cassie Tucker
Katelyn Gerke
Mackenzie Klinginsmith
Riley Newendorp

TENOR 1

Conner Holben*
Nate Smith

TENOR 2

Carter Wiley
Dallas Hare

BARITONE

Max Wessner
Ben Long
Adam Sherer
Josh Gowan
Clayton Allen

BASS

Braydon Chase
Dustin Robinson*
Josiah Heckman

PERFORMERS

THE GRACELAND HARMONIUM

SOPRANO 1

Dora Martz*
Ashlyn Byrd*

ALTO 1

Megan Byrd
Sophia Lopez

TENOR 2

Jordan Bradford
Landon Hampton

SOPRANO 2

Sydney Billings
Kinsey Collins

ALTO 2

Daryn Nowlin
Salume Oksakue

BARITONE

Max Wessner
Ethan Matlock
Josh Gowan

TENOR 1

Noah Wood
Conner Holben*

BASS

Braydon Chase
Dustin Robinson*

GRACELAND ORCHESTRA

VIOLINS

Natalie Harper
Joshua Jordison
Andrew Naylor
Kristen Owens
Aurora Gordon
Beth Presler
Shianne Cook

CELLO

Zach Grover
Jessica Rodriguez
Kaitlyn Bover
Tyler McKinney

BASS

Ashlynn Perkins
Lacey Harder

VIOLA

Cassandra Tucker
Jack Ergo

GUITAR

Josiah Heckmann

ProMusica Recipients

Dora Martz, 20'
Dustin Robinson, 20'
Emily Scobee, 20'
Jared Wood, 20'

Conner Holben, 23'
Benjamin Long, 23'
Mackenzie Klinginsmith, 24'
Ashlyn Byrd, 24'

PERFORMERS

SYMPHONIC BAND

FLUTE

Kristen Owens
Waverly, IA, Chemistry, Music Performance
Hannah Harder
St. Louis, MO, Undeclared
Tara True
Mclouth, KS, Business Administration,
Accounting,

CLARINET

Benjamin Long
Mt. Juliet, TN, Music & Economics
Mackenzie Klingensmith
Trenton, MO, Music Education
Kali Forbach
Bethany, MO, Accounting and Business
Administration
Kamryn Whelchel
Perry, IA, Sociology
Naomi Thomsen
St. Louis, MO, Mathematics

BASS CLARINET

Sydney Billings
Barnard, MO, Music

SAXOPHONE

Audry Briggs
Eagleville, MO, Psychology
Kara Thobe
Davenport, IA, Biology
Carly Stark
Fayette, MO, Psychology & Criminal Justice
Naomi Long
Jefferson, IA, Music Education

Ensemble Manager

TRUMPET

Soleece Anabwani
Brownsville, TX, Music Performance
Hayden Morlan
Moulton, IA, Criminal Justice & Sociology
Steven Neilssen
Central Decatur Director of Bands

TROMBONE

Logan Harder
St. Louis, MO, Mathematics
Dustin Robinson
Storm Lake, IA, Music Education

EUPHONIUM

Dr. Ethan Petterson
Adjunct Professor of Low Brass

TUBA

Jared Wood
Gower, MO, Music & Business
Ashley Leible
Bolivar, MO, Psychology

PERCUSSION

William Bayse
Polk City, IA, Music Education
Emily Scobee #
Eagleville, MO, Music Performance
Laura Harder
St. Louis, MO, Music Education
Karryn Nickell
Corydon, IA, Psychology
Cameron Fry
Oak Creek, WI, Business Administration &
Economics
Sammi Reinier
Ollie, IA, Music Education

PIANO

Clayton Allen
Leon, IA, Music & Criminal Justice

DIVISION OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
Upcoming Events

MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

August

28 Faculty Recital / Shaw Family Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

October

1 Thursday at Noon Music Recital / Carol Hall Noon
2 Music Department Showcase Concert / Shaw Family Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
26 Chamber Ensemble Concert / Shaw Family Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
30 Orchestra Halloween Concert / Shaw Family Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

November

5 Thursday at Noon Music Recital / Carol Hall 12:00 p.m.
14 Fall Choir Concert / Shaw Family Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
17 Symphonic Band Concert / Shaw Family Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

All indoor events for Fall 2020 will be limited to 100 people. Facial masks and social distancing will be strictly enforced for all events, regardless of location. Additionally, all events will continue to be live-streamed and can be located at www.graceland.edu/live.

THEATER DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

October

2-11 *Antigone* / JR Theatre Online Only
*Pre-recorded; can be viewed at
www.youtube.com/c/GracelandUniversity

November

19-29 *Men on Boats* / JR Theatre Online Only
*Pre-recorded; can be viewed at
www.youtube.com/c/GracelandUniversity

Division of Visual and Performing Arts

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*Louise Whittington
*Darlene VanBiber Wight
David and *Maureen Yost

** Deceased*

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from the comfort of your home at
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Music Department
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www.graceland.edu/Music

