Celebrating Seventy-five Years of Beautiful Singing!

52nd Annual Holidays with the Kalamazoo Bach Festival

SEASON No. 75

Sunday, December 5, 2 & 4 pm, 2021
Kalamazoo College, Stetson Chapel
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The Bach Festival Chorus
DR. CHRIS LUDWA, DIRECTOR

The Bach Festival Chorus is the core of the Kalamazoo Bach Festival with a membership of over 65 singers who share a love of great music. The Chorus employs five lead singers who also serve as Bach Festival soloists. The rest of the Chorus is made up of volunteers who come from the entire Southwest Michigan area. Many members of the Chorus maintain active schedules as soloists in churches and other venues throughout the community. Others are simply brought to the Chorus by their love of music.

The choir will perform four concerts this season: the 52nd annual Holidays with The Bach Festival concert, Love Is concert on February 22, featuring Apolo 5 from the U.K. and the Kalamazoo Male Chorus, Daphnis and Chloé with the KSO on April 1, and Haydn’s Creation on June 9 and 10 to celebrate our 75th anniversary season!

The Bach Festival Chorus has performed major choral works of J.S. Bach and composers indebted to his legacy, from Mendelssohn, Mozart, Brahms, and Haydn, to more modern composers such as Rachmaninoff and Bernstein. The Chorus has collaborated with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Arcato Chamber Ensemble, the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra, and the Kalamazoo Philharmonia, to present works by Handel, Shostakovich, Brahms, Mozart, and Orff, as well as the North American premiere of Latvian composer Ugis Praulins’ stunning Te Deum Laudamus.

For more information about the Chorus or to receive information about auditions, please contact Chris Ludaw at bach@kzoo.edu.

Bach Festival Chorus Members

SOPRANO
Laura Boesky
Susan Daniels*
Shari DeYoung-Pruis
Adriana Garriga-Lopez
Shari DeYoung-Pruis
Valerie Groszmann
Kirsten Haverberg
Victoria Jackson*
Allyson Maurer
Mary Jo Reilly
Sharon Smith
Pam Walker
Sara Wick
Claudia Willsea

ALTO
Deb Agne
Caitlin Brooks
Linda Dunn
Diana Falahae
Ann Fontaine
Marti Fritz
Meredith Mancuso
Christina Martinez
Bev Smith
Tami Snyder-Knutson*

TENOR
Mark Feldkamp
John Fink+
Victor Garcia
Esther Gray
Kathy Ossmann
Joseph Sablan
Howard Tejchma*, K’84
Jon Wegner

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Julian Dixon*
John Fisher
Warren Fritz
Mike Jones
Ryan Jones
Tomme Maile
Jeff Mitchell
Larry Montei
Paul Pancell
Richard Van Enk

*Lead Singer
+Current and past Kalamazoo College

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Natalia Bezuglova
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MAY 20, 2022
Bach Prize Award Night and After Glow

MAY 21, 2022
Stulberg Semifinals and Finals

STULBERG INTERNATIONAL STRING COMPETITION

For more information, please visit our website www.stulberg.org
Holidays with the Bach Festival

Bach Festival Chorus, Dr. Chris Ludwa, Director

David Bernard, Trumpet
Natalia Bezuglova, Piano
Caitlin Brooks, Guitar
Irina Kagan, violin
David Peshlakai, Cello
Maria Schneider, Oboe
Carl Witt, Organ

WELCOME
Chris Ludwa, Music Director
Kalamazoo Bach Festival

Dr. Jorge G. Gonzalez, President
Kalamazoo College

PROGRAM

Deck the Hall
Traditional/arr. Robert Shaw & Alice Parker

Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben
J.S Bach

Jesus bleibet meine Freude
from Cantata BWV 127a

David Bernard, trumpet
David Peshlakai, cello
Maria Schneider, oboe
Irina Kagan, violin
Carl Witt, organ

O Tannenbaum
Traditional German, arr. Rutter
Pure in Heart             David O. & Joseph Ossmann  
World Premiere

Deus enim firmavit         Giovanni Palestrina

There Is No Rose           Rene Clausen
David Peshlakai, cello

By and By                  Tindley, arr. Ludwa  
World Premiere

The First Nowell           Traditional, arr. Paulus

The Holly and the Ivy      Traditional, arr. Stephen Main
New text premiere by Chris Ludwa
Tami Snyder-Knutsen, alto
Howard Techjma, tenor
Natalia Bezuglova, Piano

White Christmas            Irving Berlin, arr. Ijames
Natalia Bezuglova, Piano

We Toast the Days          Linda Kachelmeier
Meredith Mancuso, soloist
Caitlin Brooks, Guitar

Jingle Bells               Traditional
Natalia Bezuglova, Piano
David Peshlakai, cello

We Wish You a Merry Christmas  Traditional
Texts and Translations

Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben
Heart and mind and soul and being,
Each bear witness to the saviour,
Without fear or hypocrisy
That the One is God.

Jesus bleibet meine Freude
Jesus remains my joy,
The comfort of my life blood.
Jesus defends me against sorrow
And is my Life strength.
My eyes delight and their sun
My soul's treasure and joy
Therefore I shall not let Jesus go
From my sight and my embrace.

Deus enim firmavit
For it is God who has established the world,
it shall never be moved; your throne is established from of old;
you are from all eternity.

By and By
Dedication: As I looked for holiday music that captured the spirit of love,
charity, and hope that many so spiritual traditions
embrace, I was struck by how few options there are which are
upbeat. Tindley’s folk song seemed to fit the bill perfectly, and I offer this
new text as a way to embrace the wisdom of the ages, and strengthen our
resolve.

There’s a time that will come when the choir all will sing:
Like the good news of a baby born, the gates of love will swing.
As sweet hymns of hope unfurl, joy will come to all the world
and we’ll understand it better by and by.
Til then we’ll cry: By and by, when the mornin’ comes,
All the saints of God will gather in.
We will tell the story of the day we overcame
and we’ll understand it better by and by.
There is wonder in the turning of the earth from year to year,
in a cosmic metaphor of seeing need both far and near..
When we start to starve the emptiness instead of feed the fear,
then we’ll understand it better by and by.
If a time can e’er exist when a message can’t be missed,
when we serve our fellow humans with a power that persists
If the oil for one night would bring days of brighter light, then we understand it better by and by. [To chorus]
When the nights that are long yield their hours to the day and oppressors open doors, unbar the chains so freedom soars
If we nurture a desire, lift our sister even higher, then we’ll understand it better by and by.

On that day when we see that our human family’s free, then the herald angels’ voices will resound from sea to sea. For until that glorious day, we’re no better than today
And it’s TIME THAT WE DO BETTER BY AND BY.
No more cryin’: By and By when the morning comes
Time to lend a hand to all instead of some
We/They have sung the song for years of We Shall Overcome
And its time that we do better by and by
Do we/they understand it better by and by?

**Pure in Heart**

Happy are they who are pure in heart, for they shall see God. Happy are they with a single heart, who know that God is Love. Let us all truly love one another, we know that love is Divine. Loving everyone with a pure heart, there we shall see God.

**Holly and the Ivy**

O the holly and the ivy when they are both full grown Of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown.
O the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer, The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

(Countee Cullen)
For the seed is sown by many, but only few will reap
The reminder we are called to be mindful of those who weep.

(Ojibwe)
O we know in all Creation the human family strayed & the baby in the manger sweet points to a brand new day.

(Juan Montalvo, Ecuador)
For the softness of indifference is hard as any stone Sharing your gifts with all the world brings about a change unknown.

O the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer, The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

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The Bach Festival Chorus, Board of Directors, and Staff wish you hope, peace, joy, and love during the Holidays and throughout the New Year.
About the Performers

DR. CHRIS LUDWA, Bach Festival Music Director and Conductor, is also Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Vocal and Choral Activities at Kalamazoo College where he conducts the College Singers. Dr. Ludwa received his DMA and Master’s in conducting with minors in business and leadership studies from Indiana University in 2012 and 1999 respectively. In addition to his position with the Bach Festival and Kalamazoo College, Dr. Ludwa will continue as the Principal Conductor and the Artistic Director of the Bay View Music Festival in Petoskey, MI. Chris has been a conductor and/or director for many organizations including Kaleidosong, Cuyahoga Community College, Encore Vocal Arts, Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, Bloomington Pop Orchestra and Chorus, Bloomington Youth Symphony Orchestra and Ensemble and the Indianapolis Opera. He has taught at the Academy of the Performing Arts in Chagrin Falls, OH and Kent State University. In addition, Dr. Ludwa has taught music history and arts integration at Butler University Honors and Choral and Instrumental Music at the International School of Indiana. He has been heavily involved in numerous artistic collaborations throughout his career and is well respected for his creativity, his leadership, and ability to work with many kinds of arts and non-arts organizations. He has worked as an arts presenter, educator, speaker, advocate, and activist in various settings, presenting or collaborating with everyone from Diana Krall and Bobby McFerrin to Bruce Hornsby, using various artistic mediums that include choir, opera, orchestra, chamber music and dance to transcend differences and break down barriers.

BACH FESTIVAL CHORUS SECTION LEADERS:

VICTORIA JACKSON, soprano, received her M.M. in Choral Conducting and vocal performance from Western Michigan University. She taught voice at Crescendo Academy of Music and is a former chorus member of Opera Grand Rapids. Tori is currently the Assistant Director of Operations and Personnel Manager for the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.

SUSAN DANIELS, soprano, has performed in the Kalamazoo area since her youth, including church work and musical productions under Thomas Kasdorf. She was a Music Education and Vocal Performance major at Albion College and includes Jacqueline Maag, Fay Smith, Jim Turner, Mel Larimer, and Jack Frey among her vocal instructors. Susan has been a featured soloist with the Kalamazoo Oratorio Society, as well as with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Prep Orchestra, Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church, and others. In addition to her work with the Bach Festival Chorus, she serves as the soprano section leader for the Kalamazoo Singers under the direction of Richard A. Phelps, and is a Praise Team Leader with the Otsego United Methodist Church. She is employed in the Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Western Michigan University, as an Administrative Assistant Senior, and holds a BA in University Studies from WMU.

TAMI SNYDER-KNUTSON, mezzo-soprano, received her Bachelors of Art in Music and Theatre Arts from Saginaw Valley State University and her Masters of Music degree in voice performance from Western Michigan University. Throughout her career, Snyder-Knutson has been featured as a soloist in multiple capacities, including major performances in Greece and Japan, as well as in the United States. She is a member of the American Guild of Musical Artists and has performed in multiple opera houses throughout the state in both solo and choral capacities. She is also an experienced clinician, having led multiple master classes and workshops for high school and college students. In addition to her role as alto section leader for the Kalamazoo Bach Festival chorus, Snyder-Knutson is the alto section leader at First Congregational Church in Kalamazoo, as well as a corporate trainer.
HOWARD TECHMA, tenor, is a 1984 Kalamazoo College graduate who made a life in Kalamazoo over the intervening years. Howard has sung with opera Grand Rapids and has been the tenor section leader at First Congregational Church for a number of years. In addition to singing, Howard loves to play theatre organ music. He and his husband Steve also love to hike and garden.

JP DIZON, baritone, is currently finishing his final semester at Western Michigan University as a Music Education student. JP is currently completing his student teaching internship at Pennfield Schools in Battle Creek, teaching grades 6 through 12. He is honored to be serving as the Bass section leader for the Kalamazoo Bach Festival this season. JP is a previous member of WMU’s top vocal ensembles, University Chorale and Gold Company. Upon graduation, he plans to move back to the Chicago area with his family as well as continue his studies with jazz voice and piano.

About the Guest Composers

DAVID O, composer, is an award-winning composer, performer, and musical director. His work has been featured at Walt Disney Concert Hall, The Kennedy Center, The Mark Taper Forum, and the Hollywood Bowl, as well as other venues in Los Angeles and around the U.S. His choral composition Dadme was commissioned by the Eagle Rock Center for the Arts, and performed at the opening of “The Rock is Art” installation, conducted by Grant Gershon. Many Los Angeles children and their parents know David as “The Professor” for his performances in Summersounds at the Hollywood Bowl, produced by the LA Philharmonic. His original musicals include The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip and The Legend of Alex, both commissioned by Center Theatre Group’s P.L.A.Y. Program. Other compositions for the theatre include the a capella vocal score for Hippolytos, the inaugural production at the Getty Villa, and a score for voices, piano, percussion, and kazoos for Ubu Roi at A Noise Within. His credits as Musical Director include the world premiere of Jason Robert Brown’s 13, as well as the West Coast premiere of Michael John LaChiusa’s The Wild Party and Little Fish. David is a co-creator of Voices Within, an educational outreach program of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, through which children are taught collaborative skills while writing songs together. David has been a featured pianist at Walt Disney Concert Hall in concerts with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, including “The New Broadway” and “Toon Tunes.” David received the Garland Award for Musica Direction of the world premiere production of The Shaggs: Philosophy of the World.

JOE OSSMANN, composer, is a Michigan native, although he lived the majority of his life in California. He is retired from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, where he managed treatment and rehabilitation programs for many years. He has been a choral and solo singer all of his adult life, most recently with the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Chorus. In the 1980s he developed his compositional chops while he and his wife, Kathy, were members of Amadeo, a 5-voice ensemble. He is overjoyed to have been joined by his son, David O, in developing the major work, “Blessed: Meditations on the Beatitudes,” from which “Pure in Heart” is previewed today.
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- Malala Yousafzai

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37.ENT is still available for on-location recording & PA, and for legacy media transfers to digital formats!
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Aedin and Paul Clements
Shirley and Frank Cody
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Marcia Cowell
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Robert and Etsuko Dlouhy
Carl Doubleday
Mary Kay DuBay
Richard and Jane Easton
Stuart and Karen Eddy
Rozanne Elder
Hans Engelke
Ruthanne Erbach
Harold and Billie Fischer
Susan Fisher
Sallie Foley
Ann Meyer Fontaine
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Charles and Ruth Ann Furlow
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Dottie Goodwin
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Frank Joseph
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David Kessler
Jeffton Knight
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Robert Kopen
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Cheryl Krause
Erika Loeffler
Hannah Lehker
William Leonard
Faye Luscombe
Janet Lyons
Barbara Mabee
Phillip Mange
Prudence McCabe
Julia McGinty
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Vi Murphy
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Marybeth Pritschet-Davis
Mike Pruis and Shari
DeYoung-Pruis
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Dan Salerno
Julie Saracina
Chris Schlegel
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LuAnne St. Peter
Clarice Start
Ferrel and Marilyn Stremler
David and Gayle Stuck
Randa Thorburn
Gerald and Pauline Timmer
Karen and Tom Voights
Richard Voorman
Sheran P. Wallis
Nira and Bob Watkins
David and Hanna Wells
Deborahah Werner
Mel and Jan White
Sara Wick
Debra Wickman
Wealthy Willsea
Gene and Vivian Wood
Kate Woodhams
Diane Worden
Ann Wright-Parsons
Laurie Young
Pamela Zandt
Michele Zanetti
Virginia Zywickie

* Denotes Matching Gift

In Memoriam
Emil Berro
by Marianne E. Crawford
Mary Beth Birch
by Larry Smith
by Judith and Robert Whaley
by Mary and Marvin Vantuyl
Jo Bortz
by Michael and Denise Burkard
Dr. Joe Bowler
by Margaret Bowler
by Clare P. Greenberg
by Alex and Arlene Gardner
by Bob and Linda Van Dis
Harry Clark
By Nancy J. Clark
Duke Coleman
by Dennis and Carol Chandler
Bob and Joan Copeland
by Norman and Carol Braksick
SOUNDS OF THE SEASON
HOLIDAY TRADITION!
DEC 17, 2021 | 7:30 p.m.
DEC 18, 2021 | 3 p.m.

STULBERG: BACH DOUBLE
BACH, HOLLAND, & SHOSTAKOVICH
JAN 22, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.
2020 and 2021 Stulberg Gold Medalists

E.T. THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL
IN CONCERT
FEB 18, 2022 | 7 p.m.
Complete film with orchestra

MUSIC OF THE AMERICAS
COPLAND, DVORÁK, & SORO
MAR 4, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.
Derrick Parker, Baritone

DAPHNIS ET CHLOÉ
RAVEL, MOZART, & STRAUSS
APR 1, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.
Kalamazoo Bach Festival Chorus

MASTERWORKS SEASON FINALE
BRAHMS & PREVIN
JUN 4, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.
James Ehnes, Violin

100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
JUNE 18, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS 269.349.7759
KalamazooSymphony.com
MISSION
The mission of the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Society is to bring excellent vocal, choral and instrumental music to the widest possible audience in southwest Michigan through performances of major works by the Bach Festival Chorus and orchestra, the sponsorship of renowned vocal artists and choral groups and educational outreach activities. The Kalamazoo Bach Festival focuses on the music of J. S. Bach and composers from the Renaissance to the contemporary era.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY
The Kalamazoo Bach Festival Society is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to equal rights, equal opportunities, and equal protection under the law. The Kalamazoo Bach Festival conducts its programs and employs personnel without regard to race, creed, age, gender, marital status, national origin, height, weight, religion, physical disability as protected by law, gender identity, or sexual orientation. This policy applies to all aspects of the Kalamazoo Bach Festival’s business, including our use of contractors and consultants, our relationship with outside vendors and customers and in our dealings with the general public.

The Kalamazoo Bach Festival Society committed to sustainable and relevant programming, becoming actively involved in the community with social justice initiatives, increasing diversity with the staff, board, and chorus, creating an equitable organization, and creating a concert experience accessible to the entire community. The Kalamazoo Bach Festival sees profound relevance in civic engagement, connecting music and the arts with community efforts to demonstrate love and commitment to our community.
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Watch our socials and our eNews for more details and registration to come!

If you’re unable to join us on opening night, visit us after January at the center to view the installations.

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