



Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs — Treble Singers
Minneapolis, MN

ACDA National Conference

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City, MO
Thursday, February 28, 2019

12:30pm – Helzberg Hall | 2:45pm – Muriel Kauffman Theatre

Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs

Celebrating 38 years, the Angelica choral program currently has 5 youth ensembles and an adult/alumni choir. The organization provides a premiere musical experience through consistent, high quality choral music education and artistic excellence in performance. Led by conductors Philip Brown, Elizabeth Egger, Rachel Lucius and Michelle Gehrz, Angelica has 330 members in grades 2 – 12 that represent communities in and around Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Singers in ACYC performed at the 2018 Super Bowl and the organization was recently voted “Best Community Choir in MN” by WCCO-TV.

Philip Brown is the director of choral activities at Thomas Jefferson Senior High School in Bloomington and conductor of the Treble Singers and Cantanti Singers with Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs. He graduated summa cum laude from Bethany College (KS), majoring in K-12 music education. He received his M.M. degree in music education from Northern Arizona University. Philip started his public school teaching in the suburbs of Denver, Colorado (Arvada West High School). After teaching for one year in White Bear Lake, Minnesota (North Campus High School), Philip taught for 11 years at Hopkins High School. At Hopkins he conducted seven choral ensembles and coached the JV tennis teams. At Bloomington Jefferson he conducts all choir ensembles and oversees the show choir program.

His choral groups have been selected for performances at CMEA Conference, CU-Boulder Madrigal Festival, MMEA Mid-Winter Conference, ACDA-MN Fall Conference, NC-ACDA Conference, MSU-Mankato Choral Festival, ACDA-MN Choral Arts Finale, St. Olaf College Choir Festival, Concordia College Choir Festival, and the Northern Voice Festival.

Philip was honored as the 2011 ACDA-MN Young Director of the Year. He was selected as the Director of Note for Minnesota by Choral Director Magazine in 2012. In 2013 he received the VocalEssence/ACDA-MN Creative Programming Award for his repertoire philosophy and programming. Philip was named the Bethany College Gold Award recipient for 2015 and was the Winner of the Youth Choir Conducting Division for The American Prize 2016. Philip is an active clinician and professionally affiliated with ACDA and NAFME.



Director's Notes

It is an absolute joy and honor to perform for the conference attendees at this year's ACDA national conference. I grew up in Kansas City, and this performance is the first time I have been back with a choir—a truly unique and humbling experience. In programming today's performance, I wanted to keep the focus on what the singers will get to experience and learn: allowing them opportunities to grow musically, enjoy sounds that inspire them to continue singing, and to work with texts that teach life lessons and are emotional and meaningful.

Cantate Domino by Heinrich Schütz opens the program. This edition is arranged by Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir conductor, Nancy Grundahl. Several of the Treble Singers had Nancy as their junior high choir director, and our performance of this timeless motet is dedicated to her and her work with the Angelica Cantanti organization.

Starting Now, a newly composed piece by Jocelyn Hagen, uses a wonderful text by Joyce Sidman that speaks to us all. Hagen states, "The piece begins with a spark and heaps of forward momentum, and in the end, it's the repetitive drive of the harmonic progression of four chords mixed with the empowering words of the poem that gives the listeners the most powerful message: Stay the path. Don't give up. Continue with all you've got even when you're tired and weary. Stay positive."

The program then shifts to the world premiere of Richard Burchard's *Everyone Sang*. Using the text from Sassoon, Burchard takes elements of contemporary a cappella singing and modern folk singing styles and fuses them together. The choir is extremely grateful to the organization for allowing the commission of a new work by such a musically gifted composer.

The next piece combines text from the speeches and writings of Susan B. Anthony. Jake Runestad's *Rise Up* employs strong driving rhythms in the opening and closing sections of the song with a stunning slower section in the middle of the composition. The title of the song is prominent, and the music brings the text to life.

The final two selections are *Ndikhokhele Bawo* and *Brave*. The first is a traditional Xhosa prayer, displaying a simple beauty in its mood and tone, common to church music in South Africa. The closer is a popular song by artist Sara Bareilles, set in a vocal jazz arrangement by Kerry Marsh. The text is a message that speaks so well to young adults as they are starting their journey into adulthood, but can also have application in a greater sense. Marsh's arrangement allows the singers to cut loose and have a great time singing vocal jazz.

Program

Philip Brown, Conductor
Jamie Schmidt, Collaborative Pianist

Cantate Domino

Music by Heinrich Schütz, Arranged by Nancy Grundahl

Starting Now

Words by Joyce Sidman, Music by Jocelyn Hagen

Everyone Sang

Words by Siegfried Sassoon, Music by Richard Burchard

*Commissioned by the Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs for the
2019 ACDA 60th Anniversary Jubilee National Conference
World Premiere Performance*

Rise Up

Words by Susan B. Anthony, Music by Jake Runestad

Ndikhokhele Bawo (Xhosa Prayer)

Traditional, Arranged by Mzwandile Mabuza

Soloist: Claire Kwait

Percussion: Adam Edmonds

Brave

Words and Music by Sara Bareilles and Jack Antonoff,
Arranged by Kerry Marsh

Soloists: Elliana Meier, Kara Schwenn

Percussion: Adam Edmonds

Bass: Micah Horton

Cantate Domino

Psalm 98:1

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for He hath done marvelous things.
His right hand and His holy arm
hath gotten Him the victory.

Starting Now

*from WHAT THE HEART KNOWS:
Chants, Charms, and Blessings
by Joyce Sidman*

It is time for us to wake:
we who stumble through the day
with our gripes and complaints,
who drift numbly
through thronging halls and streets —
you and I, who rant about injustice,
who see all that is wrong in this world
but believe we are shackled
and powerless.

It is time to look into
each other's faces,
we who glide along the surface,
time to dive down
and feel the currents
of each other's lives.
Time to speak until the air
holds all of our voices.
Time to weave for each other
a garment of brightness.

Open your eyes.
Feel your strength.
Bless the past.
Greet the future.

Join hands.
Right here.
Our moment:
starting now.

Everyone Sang

Siegfried Sassoon (1816 – 1967)

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields; on — on
-and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;
And beauty came like the setting sun:
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror
Drifted away ... O, but Everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless;
the singing will never be done.

Rise Up

Taken from speeches and writings by Susan B. Anthony

There shall never be another season of silence.
Deepen your sympathy then convert it to action.
Pray every single second of your life, not on your knees
but with your work.

Think your best thoughts,
speak your best words,
do your best work.

There is so much yet to be done.
Rise up!

Ndikhokhele Bawo

*Ndikhokhele Bawo is a traditional Xhosa song
that almost every black South African grew up
singing in church. It is commonly sung during
the Holy Communion, as it is significant to do so
considering the text.*

Guide me, O Lord,
Guide me, O Great Redeemer
Through the troubles of this world.
Lord, I thank you
For watching over me thus far.
You are forever by my side,
Lord, I thank you
For watching over me thus far.

Brave

Sara Bareilles

You can be amazing, you can turn a phrase
into a weapon or a drug.
You can be the outcast or be the backlash of
somebody's lack of love,
Or you can start speaking up.
Nothing's gonna hurt you the way that words do when
they settle 'neath your skin,
Kept on the inside and no sunlight.
Sometimes a shadow wins.
But I wonder what would happen if you say
what you wanna say
And let the words fall out honestly.
I wanna see you be brave with what you want to say
And let the words fall out honestly.
I wanna see you be brave.

Everybody's been there, everybody's been stared down
by the enemy.
Fallen for the fear and done some disappearing,
bow down to the mighty.

Don't run, just stop holding your tongue.
Maybe there's a way out of the cage where you live.
Maybe one of these days you can let the light in and
show me how big your brave is.
Say what you wanna say and let the words fall out
honestly.
I wanna see you be brave with what you want to say
And let the words fall out honestly.
I wanna see you be brave.

And since your history of silence
Won't do you any good,
Did you think it would?
Let your words be anything but empty.
Why don't you tell them the truth?
Say what you wanna say and let the words
fall out honestly.
I wanna see you be brave with what you want to say
And let the words fall out honestly.
I wanna see you be brave.

Jamie Schmidt is a freelance collaborative pianist in Minneapolis, MN. She has a BA in music and accounting from Briar Cliff University and an MM in Collaborative Piano with Vocal Emphasis from the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee. She specializes in vocal coaching, including opera, art song, musical theater, and choral repertoire. She works with high school, collegiate, and professional vocalists and is currently the accompanist for the Vocal Music Department at Thomas Jefferson Senior High School and the Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs Cantanti Singers and Treble Singers ensembles.

Richard Burchard is Associate Professor of Music and Executive Composer-in-Residence at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY. For more information and to hear other of Burchard's works, visit www.richardburchard.com and <https://soundcloud.com/richardburchard-1>

Treble Singers (9th-12th grade)

The Treble Singers are soprano and alto voices in grades 9–12 with members that come from 29 high schools and communities from all over the Twin Cities. The group rehearses once a week, September–May at the Bloomington Center for the Arts.

Soprano 1

Olivia Butala
Joelle Cartwright
Olivia Coughlan
Malena Hall
Amanda Kauls
Shreya Konkimalla
Ava Krocheski-Meyer
Meta Lobben
Madison McGraw
Marjanne O'Hara-David
Molly Robblee*
Laura Stauffer
Lauren Trygstad
Julia Zaepfel
Zoe Zarth

Soprano 2

Allison Brodin
Ella Doyle
Caroline Flaten
Marie JinLian Galligan
Eleanor Graff
Katie Hatton
Sarah Hatton
Ella Jones
Sofia Kemeny
Min Seo Kim
Claire Kwiat
Gabriela Leovan*
Sofia Melchert
Virginia Ogaard
Emma Sellner
Vivienne Wahlstrom
Keira Zavadsky

Alto 1

Kiera Birdwell
Katriela Caspari*
Aubrianna Churchill
Josie Hanneken
Libby Heitzmann
Isabella Hofer
Abigail Jensen
Sophie La Fave
Elliana Meier
Brianna Mutterer
Laura Olson
Grace Phan
Erika Rolling
Olivia Rukstele
Elise Weier

Alto 2

Ingrid Anderson
Lucy Avenson*
Anna Benjamin
Desiree Boyer
Sarah Bryan
Anna Carufel
Maria Coughlan
Emma Freudenstein
Grace Hammes
Clare Koll
Rebecca Perkins
Courtney Rogat
Oriana Sampson
Kara Schwenn
Caroline Yue

*Denotes section leader

Acknowledgements

Chris Aspaas, Nancy Grundahl, Mark Lucas, Sandra Peter, Jennaya Robison, Eugene Rogers, Ann Schrooten—concert program mentorship

Richard Burchard, Jocelyn Hagen, Jake Runestad—composer visits to the choir

Ann Schrooten, Kyle Eastman, Mary Kay Geston —guest conductors

The parents and families of the Treble Singers



Executive Director – Audrey Riddle

Choir Manager – Andrea Dittmer

Intern – Kaitlyn Peroutka

Choir Coordinators – Martha Anderson, Katy Koll & Carrie Sellner

Chaperones – Laura Bryan, Jennifer Flaten, Renee Hammes,
Jessie Pfeifer

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