



Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs – Cantanti Singers

Philip Brown, conductor. Jamie Schmidt, collaborative pianist

2025 ACDA National Conference, Dallas, Texas

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

10:00am – The Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House

1:45pm – Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center

Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs, founded in 1980, is an award winning children's community choral program and among one of the oldest in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area. Recognized for its outstanding music education and renowned for excellence in performance, ACYC has become an established pillar of our arts community. The Artistic Staff includes Directors Ann Williams, Michelle Gehrz, Elizabeth Egger, Philip Brown and Nancy Grundahl. The ACYC organization offers ten ensembles, serving youth from grades K-12, with an adaptive class for singers with special needs and an alumni adult chorus. Singers in ACYC performed at the 2018 Super Bowl at US Bank Stadium, 2019 at the National ACDA Conference in Kansas City and the organization was voted "Best Community Choir in Minnesota" by WCCO-TV. www.angelicacantanti.org.



Philip Brown is the conductor of the high school choirs (Cantanti Singers, Treble Singers) with Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs. He graduated summa cum laude from Bethany College (KS), majoring in K-12 music education and vocal performance. He later received his M.M. degree in music education from Northern Arizona University.

Philip has been honored as the ACDA-MN Young Director of the Year, Director of Note for Minnesota by Choral Director Magazine, and the VocalEssence/ACDA-MN Creative Programming Award for his repertoire philosophy and programming. Philip was named a Bethany College Gold Award recipient and was the featured community member in the Eden Prairie Lifestyle Magazine. Philip is a multi-year Winner of the

Youth Choir Conducting Division for The American Prize. He conducted the Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs - Treble Singers at the 2019 National ACDA Conference in his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri, and the Cantanti Singers at this year's 2025 National ACDA Conference in Dallas!

Choral groups under his direction have been selected for performances at state, regional, and national choral conferences for ACDA, NAfME, and Chorus America Conferences. They have collaborated with many university and community choirs regionally, while also garnering consistent superior ratings, best in class awards, and sweepstakes awards at various music festivals and competitions. Philip is an active clinician, guest conductor, and consultant (philip.m.brown.79@gmail.com). He is professionally affiliated with ACDA and NAfME, and is the High School Repertoire & Resource chair for ACDA.

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.

CONTINUUM

*Honoring the Past — Celebrating the Present — Preparing for the Future
Continuum — an unbroken and consistent whole that extends over time*

Honoring the Past

The complexity of human emotion and its messages are seen, heard, remembered, learned from and honored in these first two songs. The joy of Exultate Justi and introspective yearning in Abendlied reflect timeless aspects of humanity, offering a view to honor those who came before us.

Exultate Justi in Domino..... Andreas Hakenberger (1574-1627)

Drawing on sacred text, Hakenberger connects listeners to celebrating timeless spiritual devotion. The motet's polyphonic structure and imitative counterpoint exemplify techniques rooted in Renaissance sacred music. Performing this today honors the heritage of early choral music with sounds of joy.

Abendlied..... Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Rheinberger's text honors the deep spiritual traditions of Christianity and the continuity of scripture in musical expression. The rich harmonic language represents the Romantic time period while paying homage to earlier sacred music. The evening imagery symbolizes the twilight of life, connecting with traditions of honoring ancestors and contemplating humanity.

Celebrating the Present

This part of the program reflects ideas of mindfulness, gratitude, and embracing the energy of the present moment. Both pieces, in their unique ways, align by evoking feelings that bring listeners into deep reflection and appreciation for the moment at hand.

Splendor, Mvt. 1 from Illuminare..... Elaine Hagenberg

This modern work emphasizes wonder and majesty, which resonate with the theme through awe and gratitude. The brilliance and beauty of life's moments, recognizing light, joy or love as powerful forces in the present. A reverence for nature, spirituality, and the human experience.

Shadow Dance of Sylva..... Darius Lim

Percussion: Drew Lang, Jacob Hord

Darius Lim's music often blends modern textures with evocative emotions. In this piece, the interplay of shadow and movement might suggest the balance between light and darkness in life's present challenges. The song is a celebration of motion, vitality, and the rhythms of living in the moment.

Preparing for the Future

By combining these pieces, there is a meaningful exploration that balances personal growth, societal shifts, and a collective vision for tomorrow. The transition through these songs mirrors an individual's journey from reflection to action, then resolution. Together, these songs set thoughts about humanity's preparedness for changes in culture, technology, and morality. One can take inspiration from the resilience and optimism expressed in these works.

TimeJennifer Lucy Cook

Time often captures the root of fading moments and the tension between the present and the future. The song emphasizes that while we cannot control the passage of time, we can choose how to respond to it. Preparing for the future begins with mindfulness in the present. Time opens the narrative by grounding us in the present, urging reflection and intentionality as we take our first steps toward the future.

Hymn of AcxiomVienna Teng/arr. Kerry Marsh

Vienna Teng presents a powerful mixture of beauty and edginess, portraying a future driven by technological surveillance and the growing power of artificial intelligence. It examines how progress, while beneficial, can come with unintended consequences. The chilling beauty of this piece serves as a cautionary story, warning that the future we prepare for must prioritize humanity and ethics over unchecked progress.

Soon We Will Be DoneKyle Pederson

Soloists: Grace Galbus, Maya Zhaivoronok, Chloe Brown, Damyre Perry, Niko Gruss

We conclude our program with a piece that both honors our past and points us to a hope-filled future. *Soon We Will Be Done* is an adaptation of an iconic spiritual, seeking to honor the voice of the original writers by inviting the contemporary listener to envision and commit to a better world — one filled with more justice, love, peace, and grace.

Rooted in the hope and strength of the spiritual tradition, this piece speaks to enduring struggles alongside the promise of renewal. It carries a sense of community and unity through challenges. This piece reinforces the notion that preparing for the future is not just about definite actions, but also about elevating inner strength and a sense of purpose.

It suggests that even in uncertainty or difficulty, there is hope in what lies ahead. *Soon We Will Be Done* concludes the journey with optimism, suggesting that no matter the challenges, we can emerge stronger, more united, and better prepared for the next chapter.

Exultate Justi in Domino

Exultate, Justi, in Domino,
Rectos decet collaudatio.
Confitemini Domino in cithara.
In psalterio decem chordarum psallite illi.
Cantate ei canticum novum.
Bene psalite ei, in voci feratione.
Quia rectum est, verbum domini,
Et omnia opera ejus in fide.
Diligit misericordiam, et iudicium.
Misericordia domini, plena est terra

Translation:

*Come, rejoice, sing praise to the Lord, our God;
Righteous are the ones who praise his name.
On the harp and the lyre play joyous melodies.
Sing ye psalms and proclaim thru your music
that ye serve the Lord.
Sing to the Lord new songs of his praises.
Praise the Lord with a loud shout,
in a voice of exultation.
For the Lord is just, and his word is truth,
And all of his actions are worthy of our trust.
For he loves whate'er is just and good.
The earth is filled with his tender love,
filled with his glory.*

Abendlied

Bleib bei uns,
Denn es will Abend werden,
Und der Tag hat sich geneiget.

Translation:

*Bide with us,
For evening shadows darken,
And the day will soon be over.*

Splendor

Splendor paternae gloriae,
De luce lucem proferens,
Lux lucis et fons luminis,
Diem dies illuminans.

Translation:

*Splendor of God's glory,
Brings forth light from light,
Light of light, light's living spring,
Day, all days illuminates.
(Saint Ambrose)*

The Shadow Dance of Sylva

Do not wander too far into the woods
Haunting rustles whisper in the night
Do not wander too far
that I may lose you to the shadows
You'll never find your way back
The ancient trees, the tangled vines
The hidden groves are alive
The air is thick; filled with the scent of flowers
Whisp'ring harmonies in the wind
The endless beat ignites a song
moving through the night
Surrender to its rhythmic might!
It's the valley of wonders
It's the voice of the angels
It's the night that empowers
It's the voice that calls us to the dance
Ya sha taka taka
Move the music
Da bada la
Move the music of the ancient forest woods!
Mystic, powerful, magical,
enchancing ancient music!
Dance in the shadows of Sylva!

Time

Time, you can spend it, when you spend it
then you're running out of
Time, you can save it but to save it
is to take a little
Time, in a minute, when you're in it,
can you feel the passing
Time is an illusion, there's confusion
when they tell you that it's

Time to get older, time to work and
time to waste and there's no
Time left to hold her, time to tell him
how you feel while there's still
Time, three two one eleven thirty, two AM,
then dinner
Time now to kill, I said I will and
still it flies and flies
Oh, time.

Hymn of Axiom

Somebody hears you. You know that.
You know that. Somebody hears you.
You know that inside.
Someone is learning the colors of all your
moods.
To (Say just the right thing and)
show that you're understood.
Here you're known. Leave your life open.
You don't have. You don't have.
Leave your life open. You don't have to hide.
Someone is gathering every crumb you drop.
These (Mindless decisions and)
moments you long forgot.
Keep them all. Let our formulas find your soul.
We'll divine your artesian source (in your mind).
Marshal feed and force (our machines will)
To design you a perfect love.
Or (better still) a perfect lust.
Oh, how glorious!
A brand new need, this need is born.
Now we possess you. You'll own that.
You'll own that.
Now we possess you. You'll own that in time.
Now we will build you an endlessly upward world.
(Reach in your pocket)
embrace you for all you're worth.
Is that wrong? Isn't this what you want?
Amen

Soon We Will Be Done

Done with hatred and done with war;
Come lift the lonely, come lift up the poor.
Soon we will be done
with the troubles of the world,
Troubles of the world, troubles of the world.
Oh, soon we will be done
with the troubles of the world
When heaven comes to earth.
No more weepin' and wailin',
no more weepin' and wailin',
No more weepin' and wailin'
when heaven comes to earth.
Soon we will be done.
Done with the racism, and sexism,
And all the isms and prisons that bind us,
That blind us from the hurt of another,
I want to be done, done with addiction,
With any affliction
that takes a hold and won't let go,
And speaks in lies and fiction.
Yeah, I want to be done,
With the things that divide us
instead of unite us,
Like the walls we build, the hate instilled,
We fill with judgement inside us.
I want to be done, done with the violence
And the silence when facing injustice,
But I wonder if you'd trust us
If love was our compass.
When we come together,
when we stand up for each other,
We will offer these hands and feet
And be love, compassion, and grace,
Come heaven to earth,
Oh, Thy (we) will be done!

Cantanti Singers is a mixed choir for SATB voices in grades 9-12 with members that come from 36 high schools and communities from all over the Minneapolis and St. Paul area. The group rehearses once a week, September – May in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Soprano

Elise Albrecht
Vian Caskey
Hazel Collins
Elliott Cook
Grace Galbus
Aubrey Halpern-Smith
Charlotte Husten
Audrey Jakopin
Payten Miller-Zarambo
Nora Moon
Ella Moore
Reeve Olson
Ingrid Olson
Avery Patterson
Berit Schulz
Anne Whalen
Maya Zhaivoronok

Alto

Chloe Brown
Sadie Cinnamon
Ellery Eapen
Chloe Fider
Sophia Gardner
Gabby Haake
Elizabeth Hegarty
Eliannah Jespersen
Natali Jorgensen
Ash Kansara
Isabel Kristensen
Annika Nelson
Kelsey Rasinen
Ella Takalo
Ada Thompson
Gemma Wallace
Aimee Weaver
Katie Weaver
Anna Woods

Tenor

Jonah Baker
Jacob Berna
Collin Burns
Jonas Dammen
Niko Gruss
AJ Johnson
Jericho Juenemann
Conor McCrave
McCoy Miller
Mason Pardoe
Damyre Perry
Preston Rose
Carter Strand
Rostislav Tomasevich
Jack Trygstad
Wyatt Vogland

Bass

Mason Baas
Christopher Bennett
Clark Bergstrom
Sam Bomar
Andrew Burnes
Gabriel Challberg
Leo Choi
Samuel De Toffol
Elling Dyrud
Alex Huie
Brody Lawrence
Nathaniel Boyd
Mayfield
Sawyer Olson
Levi Potchinsky
Will Rafn
Owen Salmi
Evan Weiler
Kieran Winegarten

Acknowledgements

Jennifer Lucy Cook, Kyle Pederson, Mathew Mehaffey, Elizabeth Egger, Ann Williams and Michelle Gehrz. Parents of singers and chaperones and many donors and financial supporters of our trip.



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Executive Director – Audrey Riddle

Choir Manager – Andrea Dittmer