



**ROBERTS**  
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
Music & Performing Arts



presents our  
tour preview concert

*Renewing  
Minds,  
Transforming  
Hearts*

Sunday, February 2, 2025  
6:00 p.m.  
Bergen Evangelical  
Presbyterian Church  
Bergen, New York

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## WELCOME!

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*As a courtesy to the performers and to your fellow audience members, please be certain that all mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off. Flash photography can be very disconcerting to performers and is not permitted during the performance. Please exit and enter the auditorium only between selections. Out of regard for the performers' efforts, please remain silent for the duration of the concert and accompany any disruptive children out of the hall. Thank you for your cooperation.*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

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## 2024–2025 THEME VERSES

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***Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.***

Romans 12:1–2 (NIV)

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## PROGRAM NOTE

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The theme of this concert, “Renewing Minds, Transforming Hearts,” is drawn from Scripture’s calls to challenge untruths in culture, nurture resilience, and promote unity. As we explore the concert’s three subthemes, each musical selection offers a reflection on these ideas, aiming to touch both mind and spirit.

### ***Wisdom Beyond Emotion: Anchoring the Heart***

This opening section emphasizes the importance of balancing emotion with wisdom and understanding. Proverbs 3:5–8 reminds us, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding”—a reminder that faith and wisdom require more than just following our feelings. The jubilant strains of Ronald Staheli’s **Sing a New Song** invite us to embrace a broader perspective, looking beyond the immediate and embracing God’s vision for life. Dan Forrest’s **Who can sail without the wind?** follows, offering a metaphor of the need for guidance and steadfastness amidst the winds of life. Finally, Arvo Pärt’s **Solfeggio** provides a minimalist meditation, its clarity and order encouraging reflection and standing in contrast to emotional turmoil.



**Dr. Adam Potter**  
*Conductor of The Roberts Chorale*

### ***From Trials to Triumph: Strength in Vulnerability***

In the second section, we move from the introspective to the transformative power of trials. As James 1:2–4 tells us, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.” This section opens with the world premiere of Nicholas Nicassio’s **I Will Rejoice**, a setting of Habakkuk 3:17–19, capturing the prophet’s declaration of faith and joy amid desolation. Palestrina’s **Sicut cervus** follows, offering its serene yet longing lines, echoing a psalmist’s yearning for God amid hardship. This longing deepens in Z. Randall Stroope’s **Lamentations of Jeremiah**, which gives voice to profound sorrow and the cry for deliverance. Brahms’ **Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen** from *Ein deutsches Requiem* shifts to a message of comfort, portraying a vision of divine peace for those who endure. Elaine Hagenberg’s **You Do Not Walk Alone** closes this section, reassuring listeners of the support that surrounds them in times of struggle, echoing 2 Corinthians 12:9–10, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

### ***Unity in Diversity: Healing the Divide***

The concert concludes with a call to unity and communal hope, challenging the divisive tendencies of our time. Ephesians 4:1–3 calls us to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling... with all humility and gentleness... eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Moses Hogan’s **Wade in the Water** evokes the struggles for justice and the journey toward liberation, connecting deeply with those seeking redemption. **Tshotsholoza**, arranged by Jeffery Ames, celebrates perseverance and collective strength, a vibrant reminder that “you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). Finally, Mack Wilberg’s **Saints Bound for Heaven** sends the audience out with joy, a triumphant affirmation of our shared hope and future.

Together, these works encourage us to reflect deeply, endure trials with strength, and strive for unity. This journey from introspection to celebration reflects the call of our theme verses for the year, Romans 12:1–2: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Our prayer as we perform tonight is that our music opens us to transformation, equipping us to meet life’s challenges with wisdom and hope. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

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# PROGRAM

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## I. WISDOM BEYOND EMOTION: ANCHORING THE HEART

RONALD STAHELI  
b. 1947 (United States)

### Sing a New Song

6'

*A text by the composer, sung in English*

Alleluia.

Praise Him for His mercy.

Praise Him for His care.

*[Refrain]*

Sing a new song unto God!

Praise Him for the beauties of life,

near us evr'ywhere.

Praise His holy name!

There's good earth beneath your feet,

with gladdened heart and voice

and a sun in the heavens above!

triumphant

There are people all around you

sing unto God!

who share His love!

Sing a new song unto God!

Praise the light divine!

Sing a new song unto God!

Praise Him for His comfort, praise Him  
for His love.

For His word of truth sing praise to God  
above,

with the song of a trumpet,

with the song of a drum,

with the sound of a human voice

crying out to heaven in song.

Jackman Music Corporation #00680 ©1993

SWEDISH FOLKSONG  
arr. Dan Forrest

### Who can sail without the wind?

4'30"

*A traditional folksong from Sweden, anonymously translated into English by Swedish immigrants in the American upper Midwest*

Who can sail without the wind?

I can sail without the wind,

Who can row without oars?

I can row without oars,

Who can leave a parting friend

But I can't leave a parting friend

Without shedding tears?

Without shedding tears.

Hinshaw Music, Inc. #HMC2405 ©2014

ARVO PÄRT  
b. 1935 (Estonia)

### Solfeggio (1963)

5'30"

do re mi fa so la si do

Universal Edition A.G., Wien #UE 30 455 ©1997

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# PROGRAM

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## II. FROM TRIALS TO TRIUMPH: STRENGTH IN VULNERABILITY

NICHOLAS NICASSIO  
b. 1977 (United States)

### I Will Rejoice

3'45"

*Habakkuk 3:17–19, sung in English*

Though the fig tree should not blossom,  
nor fruit be on the vines,  
though the produce of the olive should fail,  
I will rejoice in the Lord;  
though the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,  
there be no fruit, there be no herd, there be no food, there be no flock,  
yet I will rejoice in God my strength,  
I will rejoice in the Lord;  
he makes me walk on high places.  
I will take joy in the God of my salvation!  
In the Lord, I will rejoice!

Manuscript ©2025

GIOVANNI PERLUIGI DA PALESTRINA **Sicut cervus**  
c. 1525–1594 (Italy)

6'15"

*Psalm 42:1–3, sung in Latin*

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarem: Ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus.	As a deer yearns for flowing water,  so yearns my soul for You, O God.
Sitivit anima mea ad Deum fontem vivum, quando veniam et apparebo ante faciem Dei?	My soul thirsts for God, the living fountain. When shall I come and appear before the face of God?
Fuerunt mihi lacrymæ meæ panes die ac nocte, dum dicitur mihi quotidie: Ubi est Deus tuus?	My tears have been my food day and night, while it is said to me every day: "Where is your God?"

Public domain (Choral Public Domain Library, ed. David Masao Zimmerman)  
First published posthumously in 1604

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# PROGRAM

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Z. RANDALL STROOPE  
b. 1953 (United States)

## Lamentations of Jeremiah

4'15"

*Adapted from the Old Testament book of Lamentations, sung in Latin*

O vos omnes,  
qui transitis per viam,  
attendite et videte  
si est dolor,  
sicut dolor meus.

O you people,  
who pass this way,  
look and see  
if there exists any agony  
like unto my sorrow.

Recordare Domine  
intuere et respice  
opprobrium nostrum.

Remember, Lord,  
consider and notice  
our humiliation and disgrace!

Alliance Music Publications, Inc. #AMP 0356 ©1999

JOHANNES BRAHMS  
1833–1897 (Germany)

## Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen

from *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Op. 45, No. 4

5'30"

*Psalm 84:1, 2, 4, translated by Martin Luther, sung in German*

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen,  
Herr Zebaoth!  
Meine seele verlangt und sehnet sich  
nach den Vorhöfen des Herrn;  
mein Leib und Seele freuen sich  
in dem lebendigen Gott.

How lovely are Your dwelling places,  
O LORD of hosts!  
My soul longs and yearns  
for the courts of the LORD;  
my body and soul sing for joy  
to the living God.

Wohl denen, die in deinem Hause  
wohnen,  
die loben dich immerdar.

Blessed are those who dwell in Your  
house,  
those who praise You forever more.

Public domain: choral score from the Choral Public Domain Library, ed. Wilfried Schnetzler; arrangement of the accompaniment for two pianos by August Grüters from the Internet Music Score Library Project  
Premiered 1867–1868

ELAINE HAGENBERG  
b. 1979 (United States)

## You Do Not Walk Alone

5'30"

*A traditional Irish blessing, sung in English*

May you see God's light on the path ahead  
When the road you walk is dark.  
May you always hear,  
Even in your hour of sorrow,  
The gentle singing of the lark.  
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone,  
May you always remember when the shadows fall:  
You do not walk alone.

Beckenhorst Press, Inc. #BP2212 ©2019

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## INTERMISSION

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During the intermission, we invite the audience to join in singing three hymns that reflect the themes of the evening. These hymns serve as a moment of communal reflection and participation, reinforcing the messages of resilience, faith, and unity expressed in the program.

**No. 562 "Be Thou My Vision"**  
**No. 682 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**  
**No. 705 "It Is Well with My Soul"**

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## PROGRAM

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### III. UNITY IN DIVERSITY: HEALING THE DIVIDE

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

**Wade in the Water**

3'15"

*arr.* Moses Hogan

*A traditional text, sung in English*

God's a gonna trouble the water.

See that host all dressed in white.  
The leader looks like an Israelite.

*[Refrain]*

Wade in the water,  
wade in the water, children.  
Wade in the water,  
God's gonna trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in red.  
Well, it looked like the band that Moses  
led.

Hal Leonard Corporation #08741180 ©1997

TRADITIONAL SOUTH AFRICAN

**Tshotsholoza**

2'15"

*arr.* Jeffery L. Ames

*A freedom song sung by South African miners and the "unofficial" anthem of South Africa, sung in a mixture of the Zulu and Ndebele dialects*

Tshotsholoza  
Ku lezontaba  
Stimela siphum'e South Afrika  
Wen' uyabalekah

Go forward  
To those mountains  
The train is coming from South Africa  
You're running away

Walton Music Corporation #WLG139 ©2011

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## PROGRAM

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WILLIAM WALKER (1809–1875) **Saints Bound for Heaven**

3'

arr. Mack Wilberg

*Author unknown, from Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835, sung in English*

Our bondage it shall end by and by, From Egypt's yoke set free, hail the glorious jubilee, and to Canaan we'll return by and by.	And when to Jordan's floods we are come, Jehovah rules the tide and the waters He'll divide, and the ransom'd host shall shout, "We are come."
Our deliv'rer He shall come by and by, And our sorrows have an end with our three-score years and ten, and vast glory crown the day by and by.	Then with all the happy throng we'll rejoice. Shouting glory to our King, till the vaults of heaven ring, and thro' all eternity we'll rejoice.

Oxford University Press, Inc. #9780193860568 ©1998

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## THE ROBERTS CHORALE

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**The Roberts Choral** is the premier vocal ensemble of Roberts Wesleyan University in Rochester, New York, devoted to the study and performance of high-quality choral music from diverse styles, musical eras, languages, and cultures. Bonded by a passion for compelling musical performance and a desire for meaningful Christian fellowship, the Chorale is an ensemble of talented singer-artists who combine their gifts to cultivate excellence in choral singing, affirming the ensemble's mission statement to "express ourselves humbly and honestly through song" and "find joy in all we do."

The Chorale took its first international tour and released its first recordings on LP under director Gregory Goida. During the 33-year tenure of his successor, Robert Shewan, the Chorale released multiple recordings on the Albany label and performed frequently with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. The proud heritage of choral singing at Roberts Wesleyan College was further fostered by subsequent Chorale directors Nelson Hill, Stephen Caracciolo, Jeffery McGhee, Jamie Spillane, and David Chin. Under its current director, Adam Potter, the Chorale continues to serve the university and community through frequent on- and off-campus performances, recording projects, collaborations with the Roberts Symphony Orchestra, joint concerts with other ensembles in the region, biennial domestic performance tours, quadrennial international performance tours, and innovative programming and partnerships.

The Chorale's recent repertoire has included *Choral Fantasy* (Beethoven), *Polovetsian Dance & Chorus* (Borodin), *Et in Terra Pax* (Finzi), *Requiem for the Living* (Forrest), *Messiah* and "Zadok the Priest" (Handel), *Mass in C* (Mozart), *A Vision Unfolding* (Pederson), *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* (Vaughan Williams), and the New York State premiere of *LUX: The Dawn from On High* (Forrest). In addition to major works and classical music, the Chorale delights in inviting its audiences into a spirit of worship through the singing of new music, well-crafted hymn settings, music from the Global South, gospel music, and spirituals.



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# PERSONNEL

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**Dr. Adam Potter, conductor | Joshua Fugate & Zach Richard, pianists**

## SOPRANO 1

Jocelyn McDaniel '26 	BS Vocal Performance	Elizabeth, N.J.
Murphy McDermott '25	BS Vocal Performance	Appleton, N.Y.
Naomi Raphael '27	BS Music Therapy	Lodi, Calif.
Logan Smith '25	BS Music Therapy	Webster, N.Y.


## SOPRANO 2

Lauryn Beyer '26	BS Music Therapy	Hilton, N.Y.
Victoria Heffner '26 	BS Music Therapy	Somerset, N.J.
Kennedy Pattison '25	BS Choral Music Education	Cassadaga, N.Y.
Sophia Walter '28	BS Choral Music Education	East Rochester, N.Y.


## ALTO 1

Kendra Breton '28	BS Instrumental Music Education	Gloversville, N.Y.
Esther Knappenberger '27 	BS Choral Music Education	Westfield, N.Y.
Miriam LaBarr '28	BS History & Special Education	Fredonia, N.Y.
Lydia Roselund '26	BS Choral Music Education	Pendleton, N.Y.
Dani Smith '27	BS Choral Music Education	Jefferson, Mass.
Julia Tones '26	BS Music Therapy	Rochester, N.Y.
Isabella Rose Wheeler '27	BS English to Speakers of Other Languages	Darien Center, N.Y.
Lindsey Zanghi '27	BS Choral Music Education	Batavia, N.Y.

## ALTO 2

Kathrine Buisch '28	BS Instrumental Music Education	Interlaken, N.Y.
Cecilia Guerra '25 	BS Vocal Performance	Portland, Maine
Lily Kasperkoski '28	BS Studio Art	Rochester, N.Y.
Kylee Russell '28	BS Choral Music Education	North Tonawanda, N.Y.
Emmaline Verratti '27	BS Choral Music Education	Gasport, N.Y.

## TENOR 1

Qasim Huzair '27	BS Choral Music Education	Waterport, N.Y.
John "Jack" Mitchell '25 	BS Instrumental Music Education	Greece, N.Y.


## TENOR 2

Jackson Doran '26	BS Music Therapy	Lockport, N.Y.
Jacob Mellott '27	BS English Education	Spencerport, N.Y.
Jackson Oliver '27 	BS Music Therapy	Avoca, N.Y.
Zachary Weiss '27	BS Marketing	Lockport, N.Y.

## BARITONE

Joshua Fugate '25 	BS Violin Performance	Rochester, N.Y.
LaVarr Fuller '27	BS Instrumental Music Education	Gates, N.Y.
Alaric J. Greene '28	BA Psychology	Rochester, N.Y.
Braden S. Hoyt '27	BA Music (Voice & Violin)	Greenville, R.I.
Dante Mergenthaler '26	BS Adolescent Education (Social Studies)	Herkimer, N.Y.
Connor Weyant '28	BS Adolescent Education (Social Studies)	Grahamsville, N.Y.

## BASS

Jason Anstey '28	BS Instrumental Music Education	Albion, N.Y.
David Douglass '26	BS Psychology	Cheektowaga, N.Y.
Jonathan Douglass '28	BS Choral Music Education	Cheektowaga, N.Y.
Zach Richard '27	BS Piano Performance	North Chili, N.Y.
Caleb Williams '27 	BS Instrumental Music Education	Syracuse, N.Y.

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## 2024–2025 CHORALE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Cecilia Guerra, *president* | Kennedy Pattison, *vice president*  
Lauryn Beyer, *secretary* | Zach Richard, *treasurer*  
Caleb Williams & Victoria Heffner, *chaplains*  
Zachary Weiss, *publicity chair* | Jackson Oliver, *social director*  
Dante Mergenthaler, *non-music major representative & librarian*  
Jonathan Douglass, *new member representative*

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## OUR CONDUCTOR

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**Adam Potter** is Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at Roberts Wesleyan University in Rochester, New York. At RWU, he conducts The Roberts Chorale, Coro di Voci Treble Choir, and Redhawk Voices Tenor–Bass Chorus, administers the university choral program, mentors choral music education majors, and teaches coursework in conducting, vocal music methods, and music education. He earned a Ph.D. in choral conducting and music education from the Florida State University College of Music. His choral music mentors include Judy Bowers, Kevin Fenton, Brandon Johnson, and André Thomas.

Prior to his appointment at Roberts, Dr. Potter enjoyed positions as Director of Choral Activities at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi and Director of Vocal Music at Dansville High School (N.Y.), overseeing thriving and growing vocal music curricula. He is also an active church musician, currently at Rochester Christian Reformed Church and having previously served Presbyterian congregations in Florida and Mississippi. During the summers, he conducts choirs and teaches voice and music theory at the Cseh Summer School of Music in Langhorne, Pennsylvania.



Dr. Potter is a sought-after guest conductor and clinician for honor choirs, choral-orchestral performances, and high schools and colleges, as well as an active adjudicator of choral performance festivals. He has guest-conducted and presented at professional conferences in a dozen states. He has also been a guest lecturer at the Kenya Conservatoire of Music and a guest artist with the Nairobi Chamber Chorus in conjunction with the AVoice4Peace worldwide peace awareness project. His research interests include sight-singing pedagogy and music literacy, voice building in the choral rehearsal, and applications of the servant-leadership model to conducting music ensembles.

As an active member of the American Choral Directors Association, Dr. Potter has served as a repertoire and resources chair at the state level in Mississippi and New York and served on the planning committee of the 2020 Eastern Region conference in Rochester. He maintains memberships in the National Association for Music Education and the New York State School Music Association. He is also a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society and Pi Kappa Lambda, the American honor society for musicians.

In addition to his professional activities, Dr. Potter hosts the podcast “We Should’ve Recorded That!” with his former student Phillip Woodard. Proud to be the son of dairy farmers from rural Pennsylvania, he was the first person in his family to attend college and remains grateful that God has blessed him with opportunities to learn the value of both hard work and educational advancement. He is passionate about travel, hiking, good food, and committed friendships. Learn more about Dr. Potter and his work at [www.AdamPotterMusic.com](http://www.AdamPotterMusic.com).  
S.D.G.

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## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

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The department offers four outstanding programs of study:

- Bachelor of Science in Music Education (vocal/piano/instrumental)
- Bachelor of Science in Music Therapy
- Bachelor of Science in Music Performance (vocal/piano/instrumental)
- Bachelor of Arts in Music

Minors in jazz, music, and theatre are also offered. All programs are fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

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## RWU VOICE & MUSIC EDUCATION FACULTY

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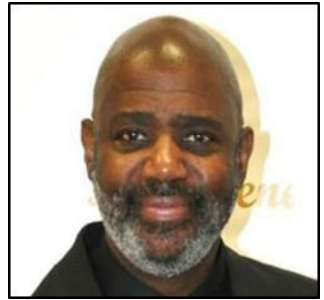
**Dr. Jeffrey McGhee**  
*Applied Voice, Vocal  
Pedagogy, Vocal Literature  
DMA University of  
Wisconsin – Madison*



**Dr. Adam Potter**  
*Director of Choral Activities  
PhD Florida State University*



**Prof. Julius Dicks**  
*Gospel Choir  
BA State University of  
New York, Brockport*



**Dr. Dina Alexander**  
*Coordinator of  
Music Education  
PhD Eastman School of Music*



**Prof. Julie Runion**  
*Class Piano, Piano Pedagogy,  
Accompanying  
MM University of  
South Carolina*



**Prof. Constance Fee**  
*Applied Voice, Diction, Opera  
MM Indiana University*

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## FACULTY & ADMINISTRATION ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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**Daniel Cooper, MM**  
*Music Theory, Composition*

**Megan Resig, LCAT, MT-BC**  
*Chair,  
Director of Music Therapy*

**Shanthi Kelley '01, BS**  
*Vocal Jazz Improvisation*

**Paul Shewan '82, DMA**  
*Instrumental Studies,  
Trumpet, Conducting*

**E-Na Song, DMA**  
*Piano, Accompanying*

**Marlene Collins-Blair, PhD**  
*Interim Chief  
Academic Officer*

**Elvera B. Berry, PhD**  
*Dean of the  
School of Arts & Humanities*

**Joseph Werner, MM**  
*Director of Piano Studies*

**Rupert A. Hayles, Jr., PhD**  
*President*



THE 2024-2025

# ROBERTS CHORALE

*Follow Your Calling. Pursue Your Passion.*



## Mission Statement of The Roberts Chorale

We are a family of diverse musicians united to sing for the glory of God. Striving to serve as God's instruments, we seek to enlighten others to the reality of God's love. Recognizing that our music is a gift from God, we express ourselves humbly and honestly through song.

### **Our purpose as an ensemble and as individuals is to**

- Return the beauty God has given us,
- Share the life-transforming power of musical and interpersonal harmony with our audiences,
- Celebrate how our differences empower us to contribute to the kingdom of God,
- Serve each other and those around us in ways beyond our music,
- Connect our heads to our hearts and engage our hands, and
- Find joy in all we do.



[www.roberts.edu/chorale](http://www.roberts.edu/chorale)