



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MEMPHIS.**

Rudi E. Scheidt  
School of Music

# UNIVERSITY **SINGERS**



*PRESENTS:*

# THE FIVE **LOVE LANGUAGES**

*Francis Cathlina, D.M.A., conductor*  
*Amy Nguyen, collaborative pianist*

# WHO ARE THE **UNIVERSITY SINGERS?**

The University Singers is the flagship SATB ensemble at the University of Memphis, led by Dr. Francis Cathlina, Director of Choral Activities.

Housed in the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, the ensemble includes graduate choral students and undergraduates from across the campus.

The musicians possess an unwavering commitment to excellence and expression. Through conceptual programming and diverse repertoire, University Singers engages audiences in thought-provoking performances.

The ensemble maintains a robust schedule that empowers its members to grow as artists and citizens. Recent engagements include an invitation to perform at the 2024 National CMS conference, 2024 TnMEA conference, a 2023 international tour to Greece, and tours throughout the United States. Invitation into this ensemble is earned through an audition.



# PERFORMANCES



- **Saint John's Episcopal Church Concert Series**  
Monday, February 23, 2026 | 7:00 PM  
Saint John's Episcopal Church (Memphis, TN)
- **Southern ACDA Preview Concert**  
Friday, February 27, 2026 | 7:00 PM  
Scheidt Family Performing Arts Center (Memphis, TN)
- **Southern ACDA Performance**  
Thursday, March 5, 2026 | 11:15 AM  
Cannon Center For The Performing Arts (Memphis, TN)
- **Album Recording Session**  
Monday, March 16, 2026 | 1:45 PM  
Scheidt Family Performing Arts Center (Memphis, TN)
- **Association of Mississippi Community College Choral Music**  
Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 7:00 PM  
Northwest Mississippi Community College (Senatobia, MS)

# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Love is rarely expressed in a single form. For some, it lives in time freely given. For others, it emerges through touch, in words spoken aloud, in unseen acts that ease another's burden, or in gifts shaped with care. Drawing inspiration from Gary Chapman's 1992 book *The Five Love Languages*, the UofM University Singers' performance explores these expressions, revealing how love's multifaceted forms shape the human experience.

**Quality Time** opens the program with *in your company*.

This commissioned work offers the gift of unhurried time: two people pause inside a bruising world simply to remain together. Here, time is not something to manage, but something shared. That impulse turns toward the divine in *Better is One Day*. The protagonist's longing to dwell in the beloved's presence becomes an act of devotion. McLaughlin's setting stretches that desire, allowing a single day to feel expansive.

**Physical Touch** emerges in *Miracles*, where connection begins with contact. The opening image—"I hold within my hand... infinities"—grounds the vast in the tangible. A clover leaf, a bit of bark, a bug are each cradled with care, reminding us that physical contact is reverent. In *Miracles*, the fingertips become the first act of understanding.

**Words of Affirmation** drives Bach's *Hallelujah* from *Lobet den Herrn, BWV 230*. Through masterful polyphony, affirmation becomes communal. Each line builds a proclamation of joy.

**Acts of Service** unfolds in Imogen Heap's iconic *Hide and Seek*, where care is rendered quietly. Service here is not heroic. It is sustaining—holding space and tending what has been left behind. The music's transparency mirrors that labor, revealing a selfless devotion that asks for nothing in return.

**Gifts** conclude the program with Hagenberg's *Swifter than Flame*, where giving is framed as inheritance. The text traces human ingenuity—structures lifted skyward—as offerings passed from one generation to the next. As the imagery ascends toward the unknown, the gift shifts from inheritance to permission to imagine further. In this program, *Swifter than Flame* becomes the final act of love: the offering of possibility itself.

Together, these works reveal the many ways love takes shape. Across its five languages, love's personal imprint defines the human experience.

Welcome to Five Love Languages.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Cathlina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Francis Cathlina, D.M.A.**  
*Director of Choral Activities*

# WHAT ARE THE **FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES?**



## QUALITY **TIME**

Offering your full, focused presence. Shared moments, deep conversations, and uninterrupted attention strengthen trust and emotional alignment.



## PHYSICAL **TOUCH**

Conveying warmth, reassurance, and closeness through physical connection. From a simple hand on the shoulder to a heartfelt embrace, touch grounds relationships in comfort and belonging.



## WORDS OF **AFFIRMATION**

Expressing care through intentional, uplifting language. Compliments, encouragement, and genuine recognition create emotional clarity and reinforce connection.



## ACTS OF **SERVICE**

Demonstrating love through meaningful action. Thoughtful follow-through, support, and stepping in when needed communicate commitment more powerfully than words alone.



## GIVING + RECEIVING **GIFTS**

Honoring relationships through symbolic, intentional items. The value isn't the cost — it's the meaning, the memory, and the sense of being thoughtfully seen.

# PROGRAM



## QUALITY TIME

**in your company** ..... **Patrick Vu (b. 1998)**

*Original text by Audrey Burchfield*

*Commissioned for the UofM University Singers' 2026 Southern ACDA Performance*

**Better is One Day** ..... **Matt Redman (b. 1974)**

*Arr. Trey McLaughlin (b. 1984)*

Cassie Gonzalez and Cardarius Moore, soloists  
Trey McLaughlin, piano



## PHYSICAL TOUCH

**Miracles** ..... **J.D. Frizzell (b. 1983)**

*Text: Elizabeth B. Rooney*

*Arranged for the UofM University Singers' 2026 Southern ACDA Performance*



## WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

**Hallelujah** ..... **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**

*from Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden,  
BWV 230*

Sebastian Gaviria and Sofia Ramirez, violin  
Andrew McGuire, viola  
Ruby Thurman, cello



## ACTS OF SERVICE

**Hide and Seek** ..... **Imogen Heap (b. 1977)**



## GIVING + RECEIVING GIFTS

**Swifter than Flame** ..... **Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)**

*Text by Carl John Bostelmann*

# TEXT + TRANSLATION



## QUALITY TIME

**in your company** ..... **Patrick Vu (b. 1998)**

*Original text by Audrey Burchfield*

I see you Here with me, with weary eyes Like a child fighting sleep, Find your rest.  
Come, lay your head on my shoulder, Come, lay your burdens down.  
Time will pass, But for a moment, just for a moment, Stay with me.

The world has left me breathless and bruised, but in your company, I find my peace.

So stay with me, A moment longer, just a moment longer, And another after that,  
Until all that is left are moments Spent, no longer alone.

**Better is One Day** ..... **Matt Redman (b. 1974)**

*Arr. Trey McLaughlin (b. 1984)*

Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere



## PHYSICAL TOUCH

**Miracles** ..... **J.D. Frizzell (b. 1983)**

*Text: Elizabeth B. Rooney*

I hold within my hand infinities I cannot comprehend,  
Worlds within wonder worlds.  
Again, a clover leaf, a bit of bark, a bug minute and unidentifiable.  
I touch them reverently. And wonder how God made it all.  
Our world, our universe, so huge, so small.



## WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

**Hallelujah** ..... **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**

*from Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden,  
BWV 230*

Hallelujah!

# TEXT + TRANSLATION



## ACTS OF SERVICE

### **Hide and Seek** ..... **Imogen Heap (b. 1977)**

Where are we?  
What the hell is going on?  
The dust has only just begun to fall  
Crop circles in the carpet  
Sinking, feeling

Spin me 'round again and rub my eyes  
This can't be happening  
When busy streets a mess with people  
Would stop to hold their heads heavy

Hide and seek  
Trains and sewing machines  
All those years  
They were here first

Oily marks appear on walls  
Where pleasure moments hung before  
The takeover, the sweeping insensitivity of this  
Still life

Hide and seek  
Trains and sewing machines  
Blood and tears  
They were here first  
Mm, what'd ya say?  
Oh, that you only meant well?  
Well, of course, you did  
Mm, what'd ya say?  
Mm, that it's all for the best?  
Of course, it is  
Mm, what'd ya say?  
Oh, that it's just what we need  
And you decided this?  
Mm, what'd ya say?  
Oh, what did you say?

Ransom notes keep fallin' out your mouth  
Mid-sweet talk, newspaper word cut-outs

Speak no feeling, no, I don't believe you  
You don't care a bit, you don't care a bit



## GIVING + RECEIVING GIFTS

### **Swifter than Flame** ..... **Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)**

*Text by Carl John Bostelmann*

Swifter than flame, prevailing tempests race  
Along the lifted steel that bars their way.  
From solid street up to the shore of space,  
Each granite edifice transcends the day.  
Tower on tower reach a final rung  
From which winged feet step upward out of night—  
To find again forgotten planets hung  
In orbits measuring a timeless flight.



# DR. FRANCIS CATHLINA Conductor

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Francis Cathlina, D.M.A. (he/him) is a Vietnamese-American conductor and educator whose concerts invite audiences into a world where choral artistry becomes a powerful storytelling medium.

Dr. Cathlina serves as Director of Choral Activities at the University of Memphis, where he oversees the Choral Area, leads the MM/DMA Choral Conducting program, and conducts the University Singers. His creative work was recognized with the 2025 Dean's Award for Creative Achievement.

A Yamaha "40 Under 40" educator, Dr. Cathlina maintains an active international profile. In 2025, he served as Choral Conducting Faculty for Brazil's FIMUS Festival and worked in the Philippines as part of ACDA's International Conductors Exchange Program. His work consistently bridges pedagogy with cultural exchange.

Cathlina's teaching develops masterful technicians, expressive communicators, and thoughtful citizens. Under his direction, the University of Memphis University Singers have been invited to perform at national conferences. His students lead prominent programs as university Directors of Choral Activities and symphony chorus directors.

Upcoming engagements include All-State choirs in New Jersey, Arkansas, and Kentucky, presentations in Macau, and residencies in London and Portugal. Among these, conducting honor choirs remains his most cherished creative work.

An authority on vocal pedagogy, Dr. Cathlina's research focuses on choral tone and conducting gesture. He has presented over 77 sessions worldwide and is published in international journals. Recent highlights include headlining the Alabama and Ohio choral conferences and co-leading Conducting Masterclasses in Greece with the University of Macedonia (Thessaloniki) and Ionian University (Corfu).

Dr. Cathlina earned a DMA in Conducting with a Vocal Pedagogy cognate from the University of North Texas, an MM from Michigan State University, and a BME from Baylor University. Prior to his doctoral studies, he taught in Texas public schools. In concert, Cathlina wears an áo dài, traditional Vietnamese formalwear. As one of the few Vietnamese conductors in the field, he proudly dons it as a tribute to his heritage. Beyond the podium, he is an 11six24 and UDRIPPIN pickleball athlete/coach. He lives in Memphis, Tennessee, with his husband Kyle and their dog, Coco.

[www.franciscathlina.com](http://www.franciscathlina.com)

# JOSEPH POWELL

Assistant Conductor + D.M.A.  
Choral Conducting Student

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Originally from Mobile, AL, Joseph Powell is a conductor and tenor from Memphis, TN. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in Choral Conducting from The University of Southern Mississippi. Currently, he is pursuing his DMA in Choral Conducting with a Vocal Pedagogy cognate from the University of Memphis and serves as conductor of Mazi, the artistic director of Memphis ChoralArts and interim director of the Memphis Symphony Chorus.

From 2014 to 2024, he was Director of Choirs at White Station High School in Memphis, TN. Powell is a 2022 recipient of the Country Music Association's "Music Teachers of Excellence" award, and has twice been a nominee for Memphis-Shelby County Schools Teacher of the Year. In addition to his teaching career, Powell is an active performer, appearing with Opera Memphis and the Memphis Symphony Chorus. Powell is also the handbell choir director and a staff singer at Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis.

# AMY NGUYEN

Collaborative Pianist

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Amy Nguyen currently serves as the collaborative artist for the University of Memphis Choral Arts Department. She regularly performs with students, faculty, and guest artists at the University of Memphis. She works throughout the Mid-South, performing at area high schools, colleges, and churches. Nguyen has performed throughout the country, including performances with the Independence Symphony, the Kansas City Symphony, and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. She has played for the West TN Youth Chorus and the Collegiate School of Memphis.

Nguyen started her piano studies at the age of five. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors from Graceland University where she studied with Charles Schmidt. Under the tutelage of Richard Smith, she earned a Master of Music Degree from Central Missouri State University. She also studied with Betty Mallard at the University of Texas at Austin.

# MEET THE UNIVERSITY SINGERS

*\*\*denotes Section Leader*

*\*denotes Assistant Section Leader*

## SOPRANO

Lauren Charves	BS Biology	Memphis, TN
Serafina Cid Ross	BM Comm. Music Performance	Memphis, TN
Lynette Davis	BM Choral Music Education + Vocal Perf.	Memphis, TN
*Amy Enlow	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Kayla Jones	BM Recording Technology	Richmond, VA
Annie McGinly	BM Choral Music Education	New Orleans, LA
Raegan McNutt	BA Hospitality Industry	Collierville, TN
**April Mendiola	DMA Choral Conducting	Alhambra, CA
Ava Shatley	BM Music Business	Jonesboro, AR
Hope Tillman	BM Choral Music Education	Memphis, TN
Hannah Warta	BM Vocal Performance	Memphis, TN

## ALTO

Alexa Bustillo	BM Music Therapy	Memphis, TN
**Sarah Enoch	BM Choral Music Edu. + Violin Perf.	Memphis, TN
Cassie Gonzalez	BM Music Therapy	Walls, MS
Mya Hawkins	BS Health + Exercise Science	Horn Lake, MS
Cymalia Johnson	BS Psychology	Memphis, TN
Elis Jones	DMA Composition	Lux, FL
Kaja Kelson	BM Choral Music Education	Horn Lake, MS
Hailey Morano	BM Music Business	Southaven, MS
Jeniya Parker	BS ASL + Deaf Culture	Raeford, NC
Amanda Randolph	BM Choral Music Education	Cookeville, TN
*Katie Sann	BM Commercial Music Performance	Memphis, TN
Mae Sittrunk	BM Commercial Music Performance	Memphis, TN
Rachel Young	BS Nursing	Memphis, TN

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**CHOIR IS MY BIGGEST ESCAPE FROM ALL MY WORRIES.**

IT'S A PLACE WHERE I CAN  
POUR MYSELF INTO MUSIC

**WITHOUT FEAR OF CONSEQUENCE.”**

—RECCO SARGEANT, BFA MUSICAL THEATRE

# MEET THE UNIVERSITY SINGERS

“ University Singers is...  
A **COMMUNITY** and **CULTURE** of strong  
**BONDS AND FRIENDSHIPS**  
while maintaining a standard of  
**EXCELLENCE THAT'S**  
**UNIQUE AND INSPIRING.**”

—Gregory Thomas, MM Vocal Performance

## TENOR

Calvin Barnes  
Luke Brandon  
Noah Canny  
Derrick Dotson  
Bryce Goodson  
Ryan Cashon  
Cade Jett  
Joshua Johnson  
Cardarius Moore  
\*\*Joseph Powell  
Recco Sargeant  
\*Terry Walker

BA Communications, Music Minor  
BS Computer Science  
BA Recording Technology  
BM Choral Music Education  
BM Choral Music Education  
BS Nursing  
BFA Musical Theater  
BM Commercial Music Performance  
BM Vocal Performance  
DMA Choral Conducting  
BFA Musical Theater  
DMA Choral Conducting

Cordova, TN  
Memphis, TN  
Memphis, TN  
Memphis, TN  
Bartlett, TN  
Coeur d'Alene, ID  
Jackson, MS  
Memphis, TN  
Meridian, MS  
Mobile, AL  
Magnolia, AR  
Tupelo, MS

## BASS

Ethan Davis  
Merritt Hanemann  
Matthew Heathcock  
Hezekiah Howze  
Liam Komulainen  
West McElhany  
\*Alex Perez-Afanador  
Jeffrey Peters  
Dylan Swinger  
Gregory Thomas  
Liam Tubbs  
Anthony Valle  
\*\*Kalen Wilson

BM Choral Music Education  
BM Choral Music Education  
BS Biology  
BA Stage Tech and Design  
BA Academic Focus- Arts  
BM Choral Music Education  
BM Vocal Performance  
BA History  
BM Music Business  
BM Vocal Performance  
BM Recording Technology  
BM Vocal Performance  
BM Choral Music Education

Olive Branch, MS  
Franklin, TN  
Ypsilanti, MS  
Memphis, TN  
Bartlett, TN  
Kansas City, MO  
Plano, TX  
Memphis, TN  
Bartlett, TN  
Memphis, TN  
Jackson, TN  
Miami, FL  
Greenwood, MS

# SPECIAL THANKS

## OUR 2026 SOUTHERN ACDA CONCERT SPONSOR

Saint John Episcopal Church  
*Dr. Vernon Snyder, organist-choirmaster*

### CHORAL AREA

**Dr. Emily Frizzell -**

Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education, Conductor of Tigerchor (TTBB)

**Terry Walker**

3rd Year DMA Choral Conducting student, conductor of Collegiate Choir (SATB)

**Joseph Powell**

2nd Year DMA Choral Conducting student, conductor of Mazi (SSAA)

**April Mendiola**

1st Year DMA Choral Conducting student, assistant conductor of Tigerchor (TTBB)

### VOCAL ARTS FACULTY

**Matthew Burns**

Assistant Professor of Voice

**Josaphat Contreras**

Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice

**Dr. Megan Grey**

Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice

**Dr. Stephen Karr**

Opera Music Director

**Benjamin Smith**

Opera Stage Director

**Mary Wilson**

Professor of Voice

### COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND FINE ARTS + RUDI E. SCHEIDT SCHOOL OF MUSIC ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Debra Burns**

Dean

**Dr. Jacob Allen**

Interim Director

**Dr. Albert Nguyen**

Director of Bands + Conducting Area Chair

**Corinthian Scott**

Marketing + Communications Officer

**Brianne Miller**

Business Officer

**Kaleb Ritchie**

Assistant Director of Operations

**Caleb Pepperman**

Scheduling + Event Coordinator

**Kim Marston**

Administrative Associate to the Director

**Finally, THANK YOU to all the former Music Educators, parents, family, and friends who have invested in these musicians' lives.**

“ ‘SING not to impress, but to  
**INSPIRE!** ’

A simple phrase that Dr. Cathlina says to us before our concerts.

I used to not think much of it,  
**BUT NOW IT LINGERS ON MY MIND EVERYWHERE I GO.**

Dr. Cathlina does not ask for perfection.

HE ASKS FOR OUR FULL EFFORT IN THE PURSUIT OF **GREATNESS!**

To treat each rehearsal as its own concert—  
**WITH EXCELLENCE, PROFESSIONALISM, AND CARE.**

*UNIVERSITY SINGERS IS MORE THAN A CHOIR. IT'S A FAMILY.  
A FAMILY THAT ENCOURAGES CHANGE. A FAMILY THAT HOLDS EACH OTHER  
**ACCOUNTABLE.***

**IT HAS BEEN A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR ME.** ”

—Ryan Cashon, BS Nursing



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