ST. OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG · CONDUCTOR



ST. OLAF CHOIR 2023-24

ANTON ARMSTRONG | CONDUCTOR · JEAN PARISH | MANAGER

SOPRANO I

- Charlotte Buchman, Waupaca, Wis. music education
- ^ Cate Crockett, Rochester, Minn. nursing
- * Taylor Dirks, *Dekalb, III.* music
 - Rachel Du Four, Fair Oaks, Calif. psychology
- Ava Messinger, Edmonds, Wash.
- Δ Katie Nail, Ashburn, Va. church music
- Lilly Schneider, Bellevue, Wash. individual major, Norwegian
- -▲ Meredith Wallace, New York, N.Y. music education
 - Ella Yarris, Portland, Ore. music

SOPRANO II

- Claire Bouma, *Omaha, Neb. music education*
- Abigail Carter, Longmont, Colo. church music
- Ellsie Covert, St. Michael, Minn. music education
- Abby Engbrecht, *Faribault, Minn. mathematics*
- Emily Hagel, Parkers Prairie, Minn. music education
- Lydia Hill, Ankeny, Iowa French
- Sierra Penning, Stillwater, Minn. music
- Joanna Perez, Houston, Texas music
- Ilsa Weigel, Bellevue, Wash. nursing

ALTO I

- Jaclyn Duellman, *Downers Grove, Ill.* music education
- Grace Knowlan, Stillwater, Minn. biology, chemistry
- Abigail Lundeen, Golden, Colo. music
- Annalisa Nardiello, *Barrington, Ill.* music performance
- * Hannah Paulson, Woodstock, Ill. music education
 - Ella Pike, Lincoln, Neb. music performance
- Emma Silvestri, Lawrence, Kan. music education
- Zoe Vorbach, Marshall, Minn. music education
- Maria West, Ankeny, Iowa music, psychology
- Darby Wilson, Virginia Beach, Va. music education

ALTO II

- Jan-Rose Davis, Cold Spring, Minn. race and ethnic studies, sociology/anthropology
- Sabe Dunlap, Hamden, Conn. music performance
- Freya Gordon, North Mankato, Minn. chemistry, gender and sexuality studies Rachel Milt, Winchester, Mass. nursina
- Alexys Sayegh, Corona, Calif. music education
- Tove Trelstad-Larsen, *Tacoma, Wash. gender and sexuality studies, religion*
- Maleah Upton, *Tillamook, Ore.* sociology/anthropology
- Heather Wallace, New York, N.Y. music
- Julie Xiong, Stillwater, Minn. mathematics, music

TENOR I

- Kazmer Beaudry, St. Michael, Minn. music
- Zach Bushard, *Lincoln, Neb.* music
- ▲ William Fecko, State College, Pa. music education
 - Obsa Kedir, Minneapolis, Minn. music
- Thomas Krueger, Lakeville, Minn. music education
- Thomas McCarthy, Albuquerque, N.M. church music
- Elijah Ojo, St. Paul, Minn. psychology
- Liam Seaton, Weybridge, Vt. psychology, Spanish
- Jake Vidervol, Andover, Minn. music education

TENOR II

- Δ Julian Colville, *Ipswich*, *Mass.*
 - Huy (Harrison) Do, Rach Gia, Vietnam quantitative economics
 - Luke Goeddeke, Minneapolis, Minn. music
 - Noah Hubbard, *Elbow Lake, Minn. music*
 - Jakeb Hunter, Castlewood, S.D. creative writing
- ^Δ Aaron Looney, *Bridgewater, Va. church music*
 - Rand Matheson, *St. Michael, Minn. music education*
 - * Jake Olson, Lake Elmo, Minn. music education

BASS I

- Noah Carlson, *Marysville, Mich. music*
- Paul Freelove, *Pillager, Minn.* music
- Nolan Fuzzey, Minneapolis, Minn. music
- Tyler Hansen, Magnolia, Texas music education
- Kevin Kodalen, *Eagan, Minn.* music
- Henry Vermeer, Des Moines, Iowa music performance
- Devon West, Dallas, Texas music

BASS II

- Landon Davis, Springfield, Mo. music education
- * Aiden Kocian, League City, Texas music
 - Andrew Kramer, *Bloomington, Minn. music*
 - Murali Meyer, San Francisco, Calif. mathematics. music
 - Nicholas Rhodes, Kennett Square, Pa. music
 - Demitrius Urban, *Urbana*, *Ill.* music, psychology
 - Alden Wright, St. Paul, Minn. undeclared major
 - * Section leader
 - Officer
- ^ Manager
- Librarian
- Δ Pianist
- ▲ Handbells

Thanks to St. John's Lutheran Church (Northfield, MN) and Nathan Proctor for the use of their handbells.

COLLEGE RELATIONS AND MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS

Michael Kyle '85, vice president for enrollment and college relations Jean Parish '88, director of college relations for music organizations Terra Widdifield '95, associate director of music organizations

 ${\it Connor\ Boritzke\ Smith,}\ assistant\ director\ of\ music\ organizations \\ for\ audience\ development$

Sarah Gingerich '11, assistant director of music organizations for project management

Jonathan Kopplin, associate librarian for ensembles and performing rights Emma Jenks '22, coordinator of music organizations Gabbie Holtzman '21, ticketing coordinator

FINE ARTS ADMISSIONS

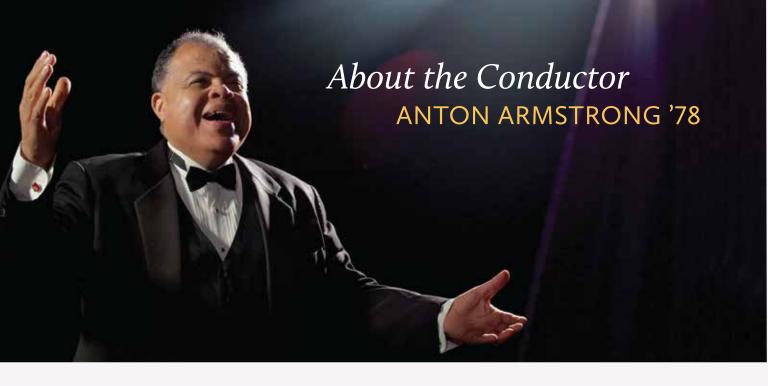
Molly Boes Ganza '08, associate dean of fine arts recruitment

— I. WE SING OF PRAISE AND SUPPLICATION —	
Come, Ye That Love the Lord	Robert Boyd (1771–1822)/arr. Alice Parker (1925–2023)
(WITHOUT PAUSE)	
Praise the Lord	Florence B. Price (1887–1953)
LORD HAVE MERCY	Undine Smith Moore (1904–1989)
REQUIEM MASS 1. Requiem aeternam 11. Kyrie eleison V1. Sanctus	José Maurícío Nuñes-García (1767–1830)
	ORGAN SOLO —
Praeludium in F	Fanny Hensel (nėe Mendelssohn) (1805–1847)
Catherine Rodland, <i>organ</i>	
— II. WE SING OF BIRTH, COMPASSION, AND REDEMPTION —	
† Summer in Winter Carol	Kenneth Jennings '50 (1925–2015)
† Corde Natus ex Parentis	Justin Merritt (b. 1975)
Prayer of St. Francis	Allen Pote (b. 1945)
When Memory Fades	Jayne Southwick Cool (b. 1947)/arr. Eric Nelson (b. 1959)
† Come, Ye Disconsolate	Samuel Webbe Sr. (1740–1816)/arr. Terre Johnson (b. 1959)
† When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	Lowell Mason (1792–1872)/arr. Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)
— INTERMISSION —	
— III. WE SING OF LOVE AND LIGHT —	
† When the Morning Stars Together	Setting John Ferguson (b. 1941)
Song in My Heart	Jocelyn Hagen '03 (b. 1980)
LISTEN	Ralph M. Johnson '78 (b. 1955)
HOLDING THE LIGHT	B.E. Boykin (b. 1989)
† GLORIFICATION (FROM CELESTIAL SPRING)	F. Melius Christiansen (1871–1955)
— IV. WE SING OF JOY, PEACE, AND UNITY —	
† Glory Hallelujah to the New Born Kii	NG African American Spiritual/arr. Mark Butler
† It Is Well With My Soul	Philip P. Bliss (1838–1876)/arr. Yu-Shan Tsai (b. 1968)
IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY	Alma Bazel Androzzo (1912–2001)/arr. André J. Thomas (b. 1952)
Walk Together, Children	African American Spiritual/arr. Moses G. Hogan Jr. (1957–2003)
— OPTIONAL SELECTION —	
† Beautiful Savior	arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871–1955)

† Available on St. Olaf Records

WINTER TOUR 2024

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The 2023–24 season is Anton Armstrong's 34th year with the St. Olaf Choir, marking him the longest-tenured conductor in the ensemble's storied history. Armstrong, who is the Tosdal Professor of Music and conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, has led the ensemble since 1990. Under his leadership and vision, the choir has remained a pacesetter in performing a varied program that remains committed to music of the sacred realm while welcoming new and multicultural perspectives from composers around the world.

"We present a program that is transformational to the listener," Armstrong says. "We achieve a very distinctive presentation of musical literature that goes beyond entertainment to challenge the listener in body, mind, spirit, and voice." He views music as a bridge to commonalities among people, regardless of language. "Music creates community for people — we have much more in common than divides us," he says.

Armstrong sees his conducting as a way to live the values of St. Olaf College, particularly those of excellence, inclusion, and global citizenship. "The past 34 years wouldn't have been possible without the strong support we've received from St. Olaf for our artistic vision," he says. He also credits the choir's continuity of leadership — having had only four conductors in its 112-year history — with laying the groundwork that has allowed him to "blow the door open" on the ensemble's repertoire by incorporating more music from Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific Rim.

In addition to conducting the St. Olaf Choir and the Collegiate Chorale, Armstrong teaches conducting, choral pedagogy, and vocal performance courses. He is the artistic director of the St. Olaf Christmas Festival, an event featuring more than 500 student musicians.

Armstrong previously taught at Calvin University and is a graduate of the American Boychoir School, St. Olaf College, the University of Illinois, and Michigan State University. His honors include the 2006 Robert Frost Cherry Award for Great Teaching from Baylor University, and a Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State. In June 2013, Armstrong received the Saltzman Award from the Oregon Bach Festival. The festival's highest honor, this award is bestowed upon individuals who have provided exceptional levels of leadership to the organization. In 2014, the St. Olaf Choir and Armstrong received a regional Emmy® Award for the 2013 PBS television program Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir. Anton Armstrong was named an Honorary Life Member of the National Collegiate Choral Organization in the fall of 2021. Honorary Life Members are recognized as members of the choral profession who have devoted their life to the enhancement and artistic growth of the choral art. The award recognizes those leaders in our profession who have mentored young conductors, inspired singers, supported music educators in the arts, and shared their talents and gifts in the United States and abroad.

Armstrong is committed to sharing the experience of making truly beautiful choral art with others, and his work has influenced thousands of singers. He leads choral workshops and festivals throughout the world and is a frequent guest conductor of choirs with singers ranging in age from young children to senior-aged choristers. He is the founding music director of the Oregon Bach Festival's Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy. He is editor of the Anton Armstrong Multicultural Series of Earthsong Publications and co-editor of the St. Olaf Choral Series, two endeavors that bring new music to choirs worldwide.

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In June 2022, he assumed the position of chair of the National Board of Chorus America and in 2023, he returned to the National Board of the Choristers Guild.

In September 2022, Dr. Armstrong received the Distinguished Legacy Award from the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the 2022 50 Over 50 Honoree in the Arts Award from AARP-Minnesota and the Pollen Midwest.

During the 2023–24 season, Anton Armstrong will lead choral festivals at Carnegie Hall (New York, NY) and Schermerhorn Symphony Center (Nashville, TN). He will also serve as a guest lecturer and clinician at the University of Illinois, Duke University, and Baylor University. In October 2023, he returned as President of the Jury of the Busan International Choral Festival in Busan, South Korea. Additional guest conducting appearances will take place in Charlotte, NC, Santa Fe, NM, and Manassas, VA. In June 2024, he will lead the St. Olaf Choir on their first tour to South Africa.

Armstrong's influence extends well beyond the United States. He has shared his choral knowledge and conducting prowess in locations from New Zealand to Israel and South America to Scandinavia and at such events as the World Symposium on Choral Music. Armstrong was the guest conductor of the Republic of Korea's 2018 Jeju Island International Choir Festival and Symposium and a member of the

Choral Jury for the first Tokyo International Choir Competition in Japan. Most recently, he conducted the Indonesia Youth Choir and was a member of the Choral Jury for the 8th Bali International Choir Festival in Bali, Indonesia. He also served as an adjudicator for the 2023 Busan International Choral Festival in Busan, South Korea.

These international experiences greatly shape the repertoire performed by the St. Olaf Choir, further expanding a world of music for the singers. "We are constantly examining repertoire from a global perspective, but the core of our being is still a proclamation of the Christian Gospel — a message of faith, love, and truth," Armstrong says. "I want the power of music — that Spirit — to transform those who perform and those who will hear the message. For me, that is a very powerful reason for doing what we do."

In many concerts on this tour, Dr. Armstrong is wearing a *hanbok*, which is a traditional formal dress from Korea. It was given as a gift by his colleague and friend, Dr. Shin-Hwa Park, professor of choral music at Ewha Womans University, South Korea, marking their friendship and appreciation for Dr. Armstrong's considerable work with the South Korean choral community since 2011. Dr. Armstrong wears this as a sign of respect and gratitude for Dr. Shin-Hwa Park and the wonderful South Korean singers who have impacted his life.

CATHERINE RODLAND '87, whose playing has been described as "transcendent" (The American Organist), is artist in residence at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She graduated cum laude with departmental distinction in organ performance from St. Olaf in 1987 and received both the MM and DMA from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where she was a student of Russell Saunders. At Eastman, Catherine received the prestigious Performer's Certificate and the Ann Anway Award for excellence in organ performance. She is a prizewinner in several competitions, including the 1994 and 1998 American Guild of Organists Young Artists Competition, the 1994 Calgary International Organ Competition, and the 1988 International Organ Competition at the University of Michigan for which she received first prize. Catherine has concertized extensively throughout the United States and Canada, and has been featured often on the syndicated radio program Pipedreams on National Public Radio. At St. Olaf College, Catherine teaches a full studio of organ students as well

CATHERINE RODLAND



as music theory and ear training classes. She performs regularly at St. Olaf, dedicating the Holtkamp organ in Boe Memorial Chapel in 2007. Catherine presented a series of recitals in Boe Chapel featuring the complete organ symphonies of Louis Vierne, after spending a sabbatical leave researching organs in Paris. Recently, Catherine has been developing a program of works by female and under-represented composers, publishing an article in *The American Organist* magazine about the research project "Discovering New Voices" done by St. Olaf organ students in the spring of 2022.

Dr. Rodland has recorded two CDs: *Dedication* on the Nichols and Simpson Organ at West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood, New Jersey and *American Weavings* with violist and duo partner Carol Rodland. The Rodland Duo is currently part of the Concert Artists Cooperative, and was featured at both the American Guild of Organists national convention in Houston, Texas, and the American Viola Congress in Oberlin, Ohio.

I. WE SING OF PRAISE AND SUPPLICATION

COME, YE THAT LOVE THE LORD

Robert Boyd (1771–1822) arr. Alice Parker (1925–2023) (Lawson-Gould/Alfred)

SUNG IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALICE PARKER

Come, ye that love the Lord, And let your love be known; Join in a song of sweet accord And thus surround the throne.

The sorrows of the mind Be banished from this place; Religion never was designed To make our pleasures less.

Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God; But favorites of the heav'nly King May speak their joys abroad.

Issac Watts

PRAISE THE LORD

Florence Price (1887–1953) (Classical Vocal Reprints)

Praise the Lord.
All ye nations, praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord all ye people.
Praise the Lord for God's merciful kindness is great toward us.
And the truth of the Lord endureth forever.
Praise the Lord.
All ye nations, praise the Lord.

— Psalm 117

LORD HAVE MERCY

Undine Smith Moore (1904–1989) (Augsburg Fortress)

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on-a-me. Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy on-a-me. Ev'ry evening, ev'ry morning. Christ, have mercy on me. Lord, have mercy on me.

— Traditional

REQUIEM MASS

José Maurício Nuñes-García (1767–1830) (Associated Music Publishers)

SUNG IN LATIN

I. Requiem aeternam
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
Et lux perpetua luceat eis.
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion,
A hymn befits thee, O God in Zion.
Et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.
and to thee a vow shall be fulfilled in Jerusalem.
Ex audi orationem meam,
Hear my prayer,
Ad te omnis caro veniet.
for unto thee all flesh shall come.

II. *Kyrie eleison*Kyrie eleison. *Lord have mercy.*Christe eleison. *Christ have mercy.*

VI. Sanctus
Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Hosanna in the highest.

Missa pro defunctis
 trans. Ron Jeffers
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ORGAN SOLO -

PRAELUDIUM IN F

Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn) (1805–1847)

II. WE SING OF BIRTH, COMPASSION, AND REDEMPTION

SUMMER IN WINTER CAROL

Kenneth Jennings '50 (1925–2015) (Curtis Music Press)

Welcome to our wond'ring sight; Eternity shut in a span! Summer in winter! Day in night! Heaven in earth! And God in man!

Great little One, whose glorious birth, Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Gloomy night embraced the place Where the noble infant lay: The Babe looked up, and showed His face. In spite of darkness, it was day!

Great little One, whose glorious birth, Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

We saw thee in thy balmy nest, Bright dawn of our eternal day; We saw thine eyes break from the east, And chase the trembling shades away:

Great little One, whose glorious birth, Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

— Richard Crashaw

CORDE NATUS EX PARENTIS

Justin Merritt (b. 1975) (MoonEast)

SUNG IN LATIN

Corde natus ex parentis ante mundi exordium

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
A et O cognominatus, ipse fons et clausula

He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Omnium quae sunt fuerunt quaeque post futura sunt.

Of the things that are, that have been, and that future

years shall see,

Saeculorum saeculis

Evermore and evermore!

O beatus ortus ille, virgo com puerpera O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace, Edidit nostram salutem, foeta sancto Spiritus By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race; Et puer Redemptor orbis os sacratum protulit And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,

Saeculorum saeculis *Evermore and evermore.*

Saeculorum saeculis

Evermore and evermore.

Corde natus

Love begotten

Ex parentis

Of the Father

Ante mundi exordium

Ere the worlds began to be

Saeculorum saeculis.

Evermore and evermore.

— Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius trans. composite

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PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Allen Pote (b. 1945) (Hinshaw Music)

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love. Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord. Where there is doubt, let there be faith.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there's despair, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, let there be light. Where there is sadness, let there be joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much Seek to be consoled as to console.

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love.

Oh, Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. For it is in giving that we receive, And it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Amen.

— St. Francis of Assisi

WHEN MEMORY FADES

Jayne Southwick Cool (b. 1947) arr. Eric Nelson (b. 1959) (Morningstar Music Publishers)

When mem'ry fades and recognition falters, when eyes we love grow dim, and minds confused, speak to our souls of love that never alters; speak to our hearts by pain and fear abused. O God of life and healing peace, empow'r us with patient courage, by your grace infused.

As frailness grows and youthful strengths diminish in weary arms which worked their earnest fill, your aging servants labor now to finish their earthly tasks as fits your myst'ry's will. We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.

Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading. The past and future mingle into one. All joys remain, unshadowed light pervading. No valued deed will ever be undone. Your mind enfolds all finite acts and off rings. Held in your heart, our deathless life is won!

When mem'ry faces and recognition falters, Your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.

— *Mary Louise Bringle*

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COME, YE DISCONSOLATE

Samuel Webbe Sr. (1740–1816) arr. Terre Johnson (b. 1959) (Morningstar Music Publishers)

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish. Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel. Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish; Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, light of the straying, Hope when all others die, fadeless and pure! Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying, "Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure."

Here see the Bread of Life, see waters flowing Forth from the throne of God, pure from above, Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing Earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove.

— Thomas Moore, alt. Thomas Hastings

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

Lowell Mason (1792–1872) arr. Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941) (Theodore Presser)

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love, so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

— Isaac Watts

INTERMISSION —

III. WE SING OF LOVE AND LIGHT

WHEN THE MORNING STARS TOGETHER

Setting by John Ferguson (b. 1941) (Mo

(Morningstar Music Publishers)



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IN MEMORY OF SIGRID JOHNSON



The following two compositions will be performed in memory of Sigrid Johnson. Sigrid Johnson was a nationally acclaimed choral conductor and 32-year member of the St. Olaf Music Department, where she served as conductor of the Manitou Singers and instructor of voice. She also served as the associate conductor of VocalEssence for nearly 25 years, and assistant conductor of the Dale Warland Singers for 10 years. Tragically, Sigrid passed away in March 2022 after a brief battle with cancer. "Song In My Heart" and "Listen" were written for a collaborative concert in October 2023, featuring the St. Olaf Choir and VocalEssence, which opened VocalEssence's 55th season.

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VocalEssence commissioned Jocelyn Hagen — a St. Olaf alumna and former student and pianist for the Manitou Singers under Sigrid Johnson — to compose "Song In My Heart." It was premiered by the soprano and alto sections of both the St. Olaf Choir and VocalEssence with the composer serving as pianist.

St. Olaf alumnus Ralph Johnson composed "Listen" for the St. Olaf Choir based on the poem that David Bengtson (long time family friend of BJ and Sigrid Johnson) created and read at the memorial service celebrating the life of Sigrid Johnson. These two compositions are sung in loving memory of a beloved colleague, pedagogue, mentor, and friend!

SONG IN MY HEART

Jocelyn Hagen '03 (b. 1980) (Graphite Publishing)

SUNG IN LOVING MEMORY OF SIGRID JOHNSON

Now is a moment between birth and death
That I must fill with song;
infinity trembles upon my lips with every breath
And must cry for beauty endlessly
Beauty that lies in small and simple things:
One note that breaks against the hearth's warm bars,
Joy on the rim of pain, the light that sings, the light that sings
In silver metaphysics of the stars.

There will be time for silence soft and deep When springtimes brimmed with blossoms shall go by Unheeded by the singer who will sleep With winds and robins under a wide sky

The tangle of songs in her heart no longer heard For beauty articulate in one infinite Word.

— Sister M. Thérèse Copyright 1944 by THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

LISTEN

Ralph M. Johnson '78 (b. 1955) (Gentry Publications)

Sung in Loving memory of Sigrid Johnson

Listen to the voices Peace, be still

Listen

I know the plans I have for you

Listen

for the still small voice

Listen to the voices; feel the warmth of the sun on your back the hand of someone you love gently touching your shoulder

Listen

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Where is your voice O God of future and hope Help us to hear

Listen to the voices
The songbirds are singing.
Their wide eyes follow
the dance of her eyes,
her arms, her hands.
And oh, such light in her face!

The music carries us to places of wonder we did not know were there.

Listen to the spirit-voices, their perfect unison and harmony singing the seasons of life.

God of love and light Lift our eyes Open our ears

Listen Listen for the voice of Love

— David Bengtson

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HOLDING THE LIGHT

B.E. Boykin (b. 1989) (Graphite Publishing)

Gather up whatever is glittering in the gutter, whatever has tumbled in the waves or fallen in flames out of the sky. Holding the light.

for it's not only our hearts that are broken, but the heart of the world as well. Stitch it back together. Light.

Make a place where the day speaks to the night and the earth speaks to the sky. Whether we created God or God created us. Holding the light.

It all comes down to this: In our imperfect world we are meant to repair and stitch together what beauty is there, stitch it

with compassion and wire. See how everything we have made gathers the light inside itself and overflows? A blessing.

— Stuart Kestenbaum

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GLORIFICATION (CELESTIAL SPRING)

F. Melius Christiansen (1871–1955) (Augsburg Publishing)

Hosanna, a new Hosanna, within is ringing, New glory bringing to God on high Who has exalted this lowly mortal To heaven's portal beyond the sky. Hosanna, a new Hosanna all life embraces, While growing praises to God arise; Soon my spirit shall sing, Shall sing victorious, With him, the glorious, in paradise. A new Hosanna shall arise. A new Hosanna now is ringing, and my heart is singing: Hallelujah.

— Oscar R. Overby, alt.

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IV. WE SING OF JOY, PEACE, AND UNITY

GLORY HALLELUJAH TO THE NEW BORN KING

African American spiritual arr. Mark Butler (Hinshaw Music)

O glory hallelujah, O glory hallelujah,
Who do you call that wonderful counselor,
Glory hallelujah to the newborn King.
Let me tell you He was born in a manger,
He was born in Bethlehem
The Son of the most high God.
Let me tell ya He's the King of all nations,
Savior and Lord of Lords;
He reigns forever and ever and Jesus is His name.
O glory hallelujah, wonderful counselor.
O glory hallelujah to the newborn King.

— African American spiritual

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

Philip P. Bliss (1838–1876) arr. Yu-Shan Tsai (b. 1968) (Augsburg Fortress)

When peace like a river attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll, Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

He lives — oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord O my soul! It is well, it is well with my soul.

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul.

— Horatio G. Spafford

IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY

Alma Bazel Androzzo (1912–2001) arr. André J. Thomas (b. 1952) (Boosey & Hawkes)

If I can help somebody as I pass along If I can cheer somebody with a word or song; If I can show somebody he is trav'ling wrong; Then my living shall not be in vain;

If I can do my duty as a Christian ought; If I can bring back beauty to a world up wrought; If I can spread Love's message that means the master taught; Then my living shall not be in vain;

If I can help somebody as I pass along; Then my living shall not be in vain!

— Alma Bazel Andorozzo

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WALK TOGETHER, CHILDREN

African American spiritual arr. Moses G. Hogan Jr. (1957–2003) (Hal Leonard)

There's a great camp meetin' in the promised lan'. Oh, walk together, children, don't you get weary. Walk on, my children, don't you get-a weary. Just-a walk together, children, don't you get weary. There's a great camp meetin' in the promised lan'.

Gonna walk an' never tire, There's a great camp meetin' in the promised lan'. Gonna sing an' never tire, There's a great camp meetin' in the promised lan'. Gonna shout an' never tire, There's a great camp meetin' in the promised lan'.

Oh, walk together, children, don't you get weary. Sing on, my children, don't you get weary. Just-a shout together, children, don't you get weary. There's a great camp meetin' in the promised lan'.

— African American spiritual

OPTIONAL SELECTION -

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

Silesian folk tune arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871–1955) (Augsburg Fortress)

About the St. Olaf Choir

The renowned St. Olaf Choir has brought its message of hope and faith to audiences around the world for more than a century.

F. MELIUS CHRISTIANSEN founded the St. Olaf Choir in 1912. He worked to establish the ensemble's standard of excellence and its tradition of bringing music to audiences beyond campus. Christiansen chose spiritually profound music and pushed students to perfect a disciplined, controlled tone that was free of excessive vibrato. That sound — securely in tune, controlled in pitch, smooth in delivery — became the choir's hallmark. Olaf Christiansen '25 succeeded his father as the choir's sole conductor in 1943 and remained deeply committed to retaining the ensemble's purity of tone while exploring new genres and interpretations of music. He added contemporary compositions, more Renaissance music, and American folk hymns to the repertoire of traditional church chorales. In 1953, Kenneth Jennings '50, an alumnus of the choir, joined the music faculty and later became the third conductor of the choir in 1968. Until then, the choir had largely performed a smaller, art-song-like repertoire of motets and anthems. Jennings programmed larger choral works, including oratorios, masses, and passions, as well as more 20th-century pieces, focusing on historically-informed renditions. He retained much of the choir's a cappella repertoire while introducing pieces with instrumental accompaniment, which opened the door for full orchestral collaborations. Jennings also changed the "shape" of the choir by turning students toward the



audience and using wider and deeper risers. One reviewer noted that the choir now had "a more vibrant, warm tone — a resonant, lively, brilliant sound that rings with vitality and conviction." The choir expanded its global reach with a tour of Asia in celebration of its 75th anniversary in 1986. In 1988, it was one of only five choirs in the world — and the only non-professional one — invited to participate in the Olympic Arts Festival in Seoul, South Korea. When Anton Armstrong '78 took the helm in 1990, his vast knowledge of music and his

ANTON Armstrong is in his 34th year as conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. Kenneth Jennings '50 led the choir for 22 years, from 1968 to 1990. Prior to Jennings, the renowned ensemble had only two other conductors: F. Melius Christiansen (1912–43) and Olaf Christiansen '25 (1941–68).

Each conductor has built upon the choir's foundational ideals of sharing choral music that stirs the souls of listeners. They've worked tirelessly to expand the ensemble's outreach and sound, both globally and culturally, striving to open new doors while respecting the choir's legacy.

Today, the St. Olaf Choir, which celebrated its centennial in 2012, is a leader in the United States and the international music community. The ensemble tours annually throughout the U.S. and extensively worldwide. They collaborate with numerous professional ensembles, and continue to set the pace in choral repertoire and pedagogy.

ability to articulate a vision to singers and audiences alike took the St. Olaf Choir to the next level, adding more flavor to its signature sound and further expanding its repertoire to include music of the Pacific Rim, Africa, and Latin America.

Anton Armstrong '78 is in his 34th year as conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. The renowned ensemble has had only three other conductors: Kenneth Jennings '50 (1968-90), Olaf Christiansen '25 (1941-68), and F. Melius Christiansen (1912-43). Each conductor has built upon the choir's foundational ideals of sharing choral music that stirs the souls of listeners. Over the course of the choir's 112-year history, its outreach and sound has expanded both globally and culturally, and today the St. Olaf Choir is a leader in the worldwide music community. The ensemble tours extensively throughout the United States and abroad, and collaborates with numerous professional ensembles while continuing to set the pace in choral repertoire and pedagogy.

"The choir's palate is broader and more colorful, retaining its characteristic sound while adding a lot of spice," says Armstrong, who notes that members will occasionally sway back and forth during certain pieces, bringing a sense of movement to the ensemble.

The St. Olaf Choir has toured 15 times internationally, engaging capacity audiences in major concert halls worldwide. In 2019, the choir embarked on its eighth tour of Norway, having first visited the country in 1913. In solo concerts and joint performances with the

St. Olaf Orchestra — the first of which was attended by King Harald V — the choir sang new pieces by Norwegian composers, as well as African American spirituals and beloved choral works from masters such as Bach, Mendelssohn, and Grieg. The St. Olaf Choir also recently traveled to Asia in 2017. The choir traveled throughout Japan and South Korea, presenting an eclectic program of regional folksongs, American music, and traditional pieces by Bach and Brahms. In June 2024, the St. Olaf Choir will embark on its first tour to South Africa.

The St. Olaf Choir's many honors include being chosen as American Public Media's sole American representative at the prestigious European Broadcasting Union's Choral Competition, at which it was named one of four finalists. The choir's 2013 PBS Christmas special, filmed in Norway, won two Upper Midwest Regional Emmy® Awards. In 2017, the St. Olaf Choir was among six St. Olaf ensembles invited to perform the St. Olaf Christmas Festival program at the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association, held at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

While Armstrong embraces the choir's rich legacy and tradition, his eyes are firmly fixed on the future. As technology advances and audiences connect with choral music in new ways, he's confident that the St. Olaf Choir will remain at the forefront of choral singing. "We seek to be a transforming force in society through choral performance, bringing understanding, mercy, justice, peace, and hope to a world that desperately cries out for these things."

SYMBOL OF A LIVING TRADITION

Many of the St. Olaf Choir's traditional purple robes, new in 2015–16 with a purple Norwegian cross insignia, are sponsored by friends of the college in celebration of the ensemble's legacy. The sponsorships represent a powerful connection across generations of singers.

Robe sponsorships are available for \$3,000 per robe, and sponsors can choose whom they'd like to honor or memorialize. Each gift is recognized with a personalized embroidered label sewn into the robe, and donors and honorees are listed on the choir's site at stolaf.edu/stolaf-choir.



F. Melius Christiansen 1912–43



Olaf Christiansen '25 1941–68



Kenneth Jennings '50 1968–90



Anton Armstrong '78 1990–present





THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Gifts in support of music ensembles at St. Olaf College have the power to transform lives.

St. Olaf College welcomes gifts to endowments and scholarships that support its renowned music ensembles for various activities including international touring, special projects, and recordings. Additionally, gifts to St. Olaf's annual giving program, the St. Olaf Fund, support faculty, staff, and students in their daily learning and living on the Hill. These gifts can be directed to the St. Olaf Choir for immediate needs, such as in support of new robes, travel, high school choral workshops, artistic collaborations, and performance opportunities.



To support music ensembles like the St. Olaf Choir, make your gift today.

Gifts through the St. Olaf Fund impact the student experience, including travel and performance opportunities, unique artistic collaborations, and fostering a strong community. To learn more about making an impact, please contact us at <code>development@stolaf.edu</code> or 800-775-6523.

COST-FREE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MUSIC TOURS FOR STUDENTS

St. Olaf College's music ensembles have a storied history of touring both domestically and internationally, dating back more than a century. St. Olaf was among the first American colleges to tour a college music organization overseas in 1906 when the St. Olaf Band first toured Norway.

Now, its three premier music ensembles — the St. Olaf Band, St. Olaf Choir, and St. Olaf Orchestra — tour domestically each year and internationally once every four years. This provides the 75 to 95 members in each ensemble an opportunity to perform abroad while studying at St. Olaf. Domestic tours span the continental United States and have long been cost-free for students, providing them with an opportunity to perform in stunning spaces, delve deeply into nightly music-making, and form close-knit bonds with their classmates.

In 2019, St. Olaf College received a \$4.2 million gift commitment to create a new endowed fund that supports student travel costs for international music ensemble tours. The gift will now enable members of the St. Olaf Band, St. Olaf Choir, and St. Olaf Orchestra to tour internationally at no expense to them. 2024 marks the second year this fund will be used, when members of the St. Olaf Choir will travel cost-free to South Africa.



"Singing in Nidaros Cathedral, eating waffles with my Norwegian relatives, singing for King Harald V in Oslo, and jumping into ice-cold fjords in Larvik were some of the most meaningful experiences of my life. Without receiving financial aid, I would not have been able to go on the Norway tour, or have any of these life-changing moments. I am eternally grateful for the scholarships St. Olaf offers its students, and for the opportunities St. Olaf provides to make music at a professional level."

ALDEN BOSTWICK '20
Northfield, Minnesota | MUSIC

CONFERENCE ON WORSHIP, THEOLOGY, AND THE ARTS:

NOURISHING VOCATION

JULY 29-31, 2024

Held at St. Olaf College, the Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts offers professional development, spiritual nourishment, and networking opportunities for persons engaged in congregational ministry.

Pastors, church musicians, artists, and lay leaders from many denominations and congregations of varying sizes participate in the conference.

Check our website for early-bird registration options (February 15)

stolaf.edu/cwta



CONFERENCE ON WORSHIP, THEOLOGY, AND THE ARTS



JUNE 16-22

The St. Olaf Summer Music Academy is back for another year! Join high school students from around the nation for an intense week of music-making under the direction of St. Olaf College's acclaimed music faculty. Registration open now!

For more information, please visit: stolaf.edu/conferences/summer-camps





learn more at stolaf.edu

HOW IS ORGAN STUDY AT ST. OLAF COLLEGE UNIQUE?

- Two undergraduate degrees in organ performance and church music with two full time professors
- Unparalleled choral ensembles
- Significant conducting experience in three levels of classes
- Daily chapel and area church positions and internships for supervised service playing
- Endowed fund for bi-annual international study tours
- St. Olaf's Skifter Hall houses seven acoustically-engineered organ practice rooms (four mechanical and three electro-pneumatic by Dobson, Wilhelm, Holtkamp, and Schliker). It also houses a recital hall designed especially for organ teaching, practice, and recitals.

CATHERINE RODLANDOrgan, Organ Literature,
Pedagogy



JAMES BOBB Organ, Church Music, Conductor



ST. OLAF COLLEGE MUSIC FACULTY

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Scott Anderson, associate professor, clarinet, chamber music; B.M., Eastman School of Music; M.M., Northwestern University

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Jill Mahr, instructor*, handbell ensembles, flute; B.M.E., B.M., University of Minnesota Duluth; M.M., Northwestern University

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Matthew McClung, visiting associate professor*, percussion, percussion techniques; B.S., University of Cincinnati; M.M., Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music; D.M., Shepherd School of Music at Rice University

Justin Merritt, professor, composition, theory, orchestration; B.M., Trinity University; M.M., D.M.A., Indiana University

Johnathan Moeller, adjunct instructor*, guitar; B.A., McNally Smith College of Music; M.M., Minnesota State University Mankato

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Catherine Ramirez, artist-in-residence, flute, chamber music; B.A., Occidental College; diploma with honors, Istituto Musicale "L. Boccherini"; M.M., Yale University; M.A., Queens College; D.M.A., Rice University

Adam Reinwald, adjunct instructor in music*, choir; B.M.V.Ed., St. Olaf College

Catherine Rodland, artist-in-residence, organ, theory; B.M., St. Olaf College; M.M., D.M.A., Eastman School of Music

Ray Shows, instructor*, violin, viola, chamber music; B.M., Florida State University; M.M., Boston University

Shari Speer, visiting instructor*, lyric diction, voice; B.M.E., Augustana College; M.M., Westminster Choir College

Emery Stephens, assistant professor, voice; B.A., Gordon College; M.M., Boston University; D.M.A., University of Michigan

Marita Stryker, assistant professor, voice; B.M., M.M., Oklahoma City University

Jason Tanksley, instructor*, tuba; B.M., Wayne State University; M.M., Cleveland Institute of Music

KrisAnne Weiss, adjunct assistant professor, voice; B.A., B.M., Lawrence University; M.M., D.M.A., University of Minnesota

Peter Whitman, instructor*, jazz ensembles, jazz saxophone; B.M., M.M., University of North Texas State

Karl Wiederwohl, visiting assistant professor*, trombone, euphonium, chamber music; B.M., Peabody Institute; M.M., D.M.A., University of Maryland

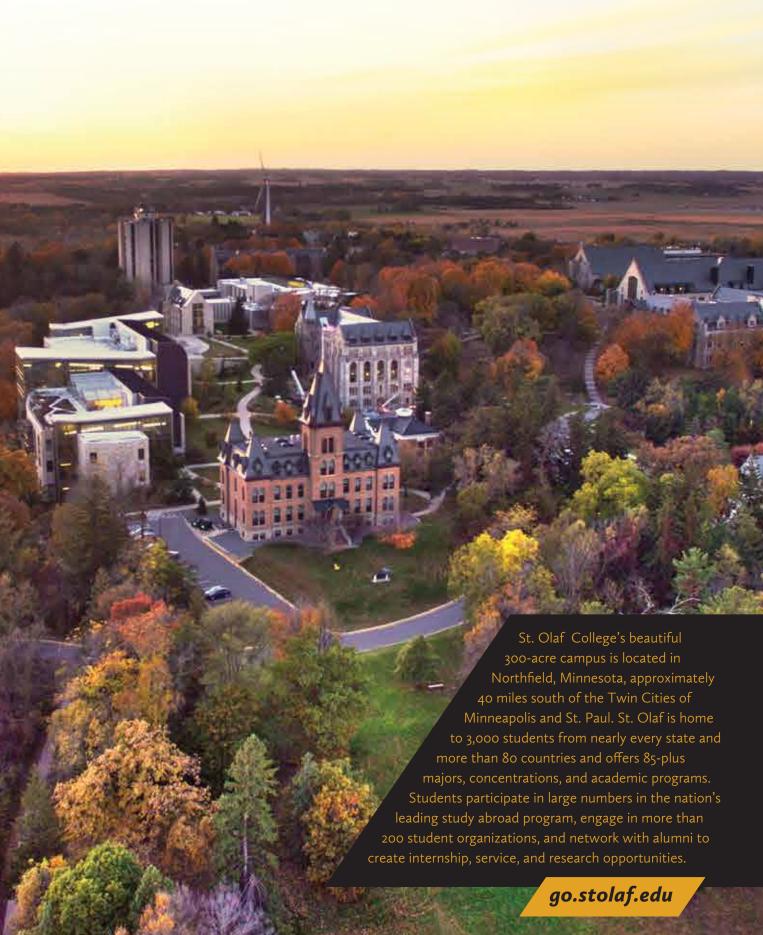
Karen Wilkerson, visiting instructor, voice; B.A., California State University-Northridge; M.M., Westminster Choir College

David Williamson, adjunct instructor*, string bass; B.M., Curtis Institute of Music

MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Kathryn Ananda-Owens, department chair David Carter, department vice chair Barbara Barth, academic administrative assistant Lori Folland, collaborative pianist [position vacant], piano technician Faith Kimbrell, instrument coordinator Lisa McDermott, academic administrative assistant Charles Sadler, assistant piano technician Szu-Ling Wu, collaborative pianist





ST. OLAF CHOIR WINTER TOUR 2024 ITINERARY PURCHASE TICKETS AT Stolaf.edu/tickets or 800-363-5487

JANUARY 27, 2024 • 7 P.M. Fort Collins First United Methodist Church Fort Collins, CO

JANUARY 28, 2024 • 2 P.M. Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church Denver, CO

JANUARY 31, 2024 • 7 P.M. Germantown United Methodist Church Germantown, TN (Memphis)

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 • 7:30 P.M. Callaway Auditorium at LaGrange College LaGrange, GA

> FEBRUARY 2, 2024 • 7 P.M. Trinity United Methodist Church Tallahassee, FL

FEBRUARY 3, 2024 • 7 P.M. First Presbyterian Church St. Petersburg, FL

FEBRUARY 4, 2024 • 3 P.M. Moorings Presbyterian Church Naples, FL

FEBRUARY 6, 2024 • 7 P.M. The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea Palm Beach, FL

LISTEN TO THE ST. OLAF CHOIR

Can't get enough of the St. Olaf Choir? Add them to your next playlist! More than 50 albums featuring music by the St. Olaf Choir are now available on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, Tidal, and more. Whether you're in the mood for uplifting hymns, traditional choral standards, rousing spirituals, or additions to your annual Christmas playlist, you'll be sure to find a recording for every occasion.







FEBRUARY 7, 2024 • 7 P.M. First United Methodist Church of Orlando Orlando, FL

FEBRUARY 8, 2024 • 8 P.M. Schwartz Center for Performing Arts at Emory University Atlanta, GA

> FEBRUARY 9, 2024 • 7 P.M. First Baptist Greenville Greenville, SC

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 • 4 P.M. Covenant Presbyterian Church Nashville, TN

FEBRUARY 12, 2024 • 7 P.M. First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood Kirkwood, MO (St. Louis)

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 • 3:30 P.M. Boe Memorial Chapel St. Olaf College Northfield, Minnesota



INTERESTED IN BEING AN OLE?

Hi there! I'm Molly, your go-to admissions person for St. Olaf's renowned music and fine arts program, as I oversee the fine arts scholarship process and music major applications. Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions about St. Olaf.

email boes1@stolaf.edu text or call (507) 786-3297

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