# ST. OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG - CONDUCTOR



**SPRING TOUR 2022** 

# ST. OLAF CHOIR 2021-22

ANTON ARMSTRONG | CONDUCTOR · JEAN PARISH | MANAGER

#### **SOPRANO I**

Emma Auby, *Monona, Wis.* music education

◆\* Elsa Buck, Rosemount, Minn. biology, music

Maren Hrivnak, *Madison, Miss.* music elective studies

Kayli Keim, Millersburg, Ohio economics, music

• Shae Lime, Treasure Island, Fla. music elective studies

Veronica McClennen, Atlanta, Ga. biology, music

Ileana Sanchez, Woodbury, Minn. Spanish

Meredith Wallace, New York, N.Y. music

#### **SOPRANO II**

India Bock, Seattle, Wash. history, political science, women's and gender studies,

Abigail Davis, Cordova, Tenn. music education

Taylor Dirks, *DeKalb*, *III. music* 

Abigail Engbrecht, *Faribault, Minn. mathematics* 

Caroline Flaten, *Prior Lake, Minn.* music performance, Norwegian

Olivia Inberg, Magnolia, Texas music education

Emma May, *Minneapolis, Minn. psychology* 

 Paige Romero, Frisco, Texas music education
 Lily Scott, Elgin, Okla. music

#### ALTO I

Laura Albrecht, San Jose, Calif. music performance

Josie Lynn, Mechanicsville, Va. music education

Hannah Paulson, Woodstock, Ill. music

Daaé Ransom, *Chicopee, Mass.* biology

Sarah Shapiro, Wilmette, Ill. music education

Emma Silvestri, *Lawrence, Kan. music* 

\* Maddie Smoot, Longmont, Colo. music education

Joanna Thuesen, *Indianapolis, Ind.* psychology

Sophie Vogel, *Stillwater, Minn.* music education

#### ALTO II

Caroline Allessi, *Stillwater, Minn. economics* 

Synneva Bratland, Northfield, Minn. mathematics, Norwegian

Maria Coughlan, St. Paul, Minn. music

Jessica Horst, Excelsior, Minn. English

Alexis Johnston, Wheaton, Ill. social work

Audrey Lane-Getaz, Northfield, Minn. music performance

Ashlyn May, Anza, Calif. music education

Mila New, *Eagan, Minn. Chinese, psychology* 

• Courtney Talken, *Pleasant Hill, Mo.* music education

#### **TENOR I**

Julian Colville, *Ipswich*, *Mass.* music

• Logan Combs, Haysville, Kan. church music

Logan Cyr, Minneapolis, Minn. chemistry

♦ Kyle Dacon, Garland, Texas music performance

William Fecko, State College, Pa. music

Cullen Hauck, Northfield, Minn. biology, environmental studies

Mark Jesmer, *DeKalb, III.* music performance

Noah Smith, Glasgow, Ky. music

#### **TENOR II**

\* Mason DeGrazia, lowa City, lowa gender and sexuality studies, psychology

Alexander Famous, *Princeton, N.J.* computer science, Latin

Caleb Griffiths, Minneapolis, Minn. mathematics

Aidan Kocur, Fort Worth, Texas music education

Aaron Looney, *Bridgewater, Va.* church music

Jake Olson, Lake Elmo, Minn.

musis

• Samuel Rivera, Windsor, Conn. music education

Richie Spahn, DeKalb, III.

Blake Wieseler, Yankton, S.D. education, music education, Spanish

#### **BASS I**

James Faulkner, Edgewood, K.Y. history, music

Nicholas Hinson, *Tampa, Fla.* music

Ethan Jones, Alna, Maine

computer science, Japanese, music

Christopher Kopits, *Pennington, N.J. music* 

Seng Lor, Maplewood, Minn. music education

Chris Martin, Berkeley, Calif. church music, music composition

William McIntyre, Faribault, Minn. sociology/anthropology, theater, race and ethnic studies

 Austin Meyer, Sioux Falls, S.D. music education

• \*\* Eugene Sandel, Browns Mills, N.J. music education

#### **BASS II**

Jayden Browne, Lancaster, Pa. music education

Peter Hoffman, Walla Walla, Wash. mathematics, music

Elijah Leer, Northfield, Minn. music education

David McGowan, Nichols, Iowa mathematics

Cees Postema, Fargo, N.D. English, music performance

Noah Root, Burnsville, Minn. biology, sociology/anthropology

Jack Slavik, Andover, Minn. music education

Evan Strong, Fairfax, Va. mathematics, physics

Aedan Thornton, *Maple Grove, Minn.* computer science

Nicholas Van Loh, *Duluth, Minn.* music education

- Officers and management
- ◊ Percussion
- ♦ Piano
- \* Section leader

#### COLLEGE RELATIONS AND MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS

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

Connor Boritzke Smith, assistant director of music organizations for audience development

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

Courtney Kleftis, associate librarian for ensembles & performing rights
Kiernan Bartlett '21, arts management intern for production &
concert management

Ella Harpstead '20, arts management intern for marketing & touring

#### FINE ARTS ADMISSIONS

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

# PROGRAM

### — SONGS OF INVITATION AND THANKSGIVING —

† Come, Ye That Love the Lord

arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)

(WITHOUT PAUSE)

AVE MARIA

R. Nathaniel Dett (1882–1943)

† Nun Danket Alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)

Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)

#### — SONGS OF ADORATION, LAMENT, AND PRAISE —

† Bogoróditse Dévo (Rejoice, O Virgin) Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

† Christus Natus Est (Christ is Born) Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

† In Silent Night Mitchell B. Southall (1922–1989)

CRUCIFIXION Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

THE OCEAN OF PEACE Ralph M. Johnson '78 (b. 1955)

† Praise to the Lord arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871–1955)

### - INTERMISSION -

### — SONGS OF JUSTICE AND COMPASSION —

JUSTICE, O GOD Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–1847)

When Thunder Comes Mari Esabel Valverde '10 (b. 1987)

WHEN MEMORY FADES Jayne Southwick Cool (b. 1947)

arr. Eric Nelson (b. 1959)

IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY

Alma Bazel Androzzo (1912–2001)

arr. André J. Thomas (b. 1952)

Thou Gracious God, Whose Mercy Lends arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

#### — FOLK AND SPIRITUAL SONGS —

† Shenandoah arr. James Erb (1926–2014)

What Wondrous Love arr. Robert Scholz '61 (1939–2021)

† Let Everything That Hath Breath Jeffery L. Ames (b. 1969)

† JESUS LOVES ME William B. Bradbury (1816–1868)

arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941)

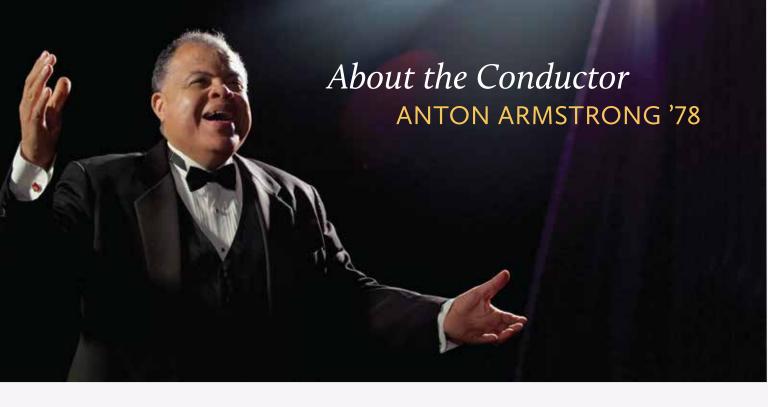
THE BATTLE OF JERICHO arr. Moses G. Hogan Jr. (1957–2003)

#### — OPTIONAL SELECTION —

† Mary's Little Boy Chile Jester Hairston (1901–2000)

† **BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR** arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871–1955)

† Available on St. Olaf Records



The 2022 season is Anton Armstrong's 32nd 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 32 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 110-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

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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. In February 20222, he served as conductor of the Kansas SATB All State Choir. 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. In June 2022, he assumes the position of Chair of the National Board of Chorus America.

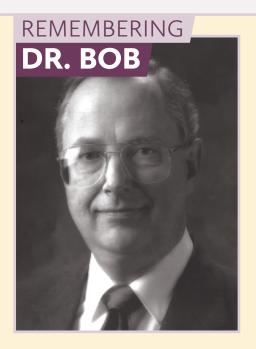
Armstrong's influence extends well beyond the United States. He has shared his choral knowledge and conducting

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 2021 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."

Robert Victor Scholz, Professor Emeritus of Music at St. Olaf College, passed away in February 2021. Scholz taught at St. Olaf for 37 years, and was the long-time conductor of the Viking Chorus and St. Olaf Chapel Choir. He was also the founding director of the Campus Choir, which would later become St. Olaf Cantorei. A graduate of St. Olaf, Scholz was a tenor in the St. Olaf Choir under Olaf Christiansen and earned a bachelor of arts *magna cum laude* with a music education major in 1961.

Dr. Bob, as he was affectionately called by his students, also taught voice lessons, choral conducting, and choral literature at St. Olaf, and was considered a pastoral figure in the music department by both students and faculty. Over the course of his tenure, he touched the lives of thousands of students — many of whom became members of the St. Olaf Choir and music teachers in their own right. He was also a prolific composer and arranger, and many of his works continue to be performed both at St. Olaf and around the country. The 2022 St. Olaf Choir tour program features his setting of "What Wondrous Love."



Anton Armstrong said this of the man he called his musical godfather: "When I returned to St. Olaf in 1990 as faculty member and conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, Bob was always a supportive colleague and friend. Bob was the exemplary servant-leader as he nurtured thousands of students who had the privilege and joy of singing with him in his choirs or studying with him during his years of faithful service to St. Olaf College."

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# I. SONGS OF INVITATION AND THANKSGIVING

COME, YE THAT LOVE THE LORD arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925) (Lawson-Gould/Alfred)

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

(WITHOUT PAUSE)

Ave Maria R. Nathaniel Dett (1882–1943) (Hinshaw Music)

SUNG IN LATIN

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Benedicta tu in mulieribus,

Blessed art thou among women,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,

pray for us sinners,
nunc et in hora mortis nostræ. Amen.

now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

— Luke 1:28, 40–42 and the Roman Breviary of 1568

**NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT** (Now Thank We All Our God) Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706) (Bärenreiter)

SUNG IN GERMAN

Nun danket alle Gott,
Now thank we all our God,
der große Dinge tut an allen Enden;
who wondrous things hath done for all living;
der uns von Mutter Leibe an lebendig erhält,
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us richly alway,
und tut uns alles Guts.
and still is ours today.

Er gebe uns ein fröhlich Herz
God make our hearts e'er joyful,
und verleihe immerdar Friede,
send us lasting peace alway,
Friede zu unsern Zeiten in Israel,
Peace, yea, lasting peace to God's people
und daß seine Gnade stets bei uns bleibe,
and grant that God's rich grace with us abideth.
und erlöse uns, solange wir leben.
Lord, redeem Thou us while here we do sojourn.

Nun danket alle Gott, Now thank we all our God, mit Herzen, Mund, und Händen, with heart and hands and voices, der große Dinge tut, who wondrous things hath done, an uns und allen Enden, in whom this world rejoices, der uns von Mutterleib who from our mother's arms und Kindesbeinen an hath blessed us on our way unzählig viel zugut with countless gifts of love und noch jetzund getan. and still is ours today.

> — Martin Rinkart Trans. Walter E. Buszin, Catherine Winkworth, alt.

English translations by Walter E. Buzsin (1899-1973) & Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878) © Bärenreiter Verlag Basel. All rights reserved.

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### II. SONGS OF ADORATION, LAMENT, AND PRAISE

BOGORÓDITSE DÉVO (Rejoice, O Virgin) FROM ALL-NIGHT VIGIL, OP. 37 Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943) (Musica Russica)

#### SUNG IN CHURCH SLAVONIC

Bogoróditse Dévo, ráduisya,
Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,
Blagodátnaya Maríye, Ghospód s Tobóyu.
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with You.
Blagoslovénna Ti v zhená<u>h</u>,
Blessed are You among women,
i blagoslovén Plod chréva Tvoyegó,
and blessed is the Fruit of Your womb,
yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshï<u>h</u>.
for You have borne the Savior of our souls.

— Based on Luke 1:28 & 40–42 Trans. Vladimir Morosan & Alexander Ruggieri Christus natus est.

Christ is born.

Who has no stitch for back or head?
Christus natus est.

Christ is born.

Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Hosanna! Christ is born.

Who wakes to weep, lies down to mourn? Who in his sleep withdraws from scorn? Ye outraged dust, on field and plain, To feed the lust of madmen slain; Hosanna! Christus natus est.

Hosanna! Christ is born.

The manger still outshines the throne; Christ must and will come to his own.

— Countee Cullen Adapt. Rosephanye Powell

**CHRISTUS NATUS EST** (*Christ Is Born*) *Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)* (Gentry Publications/Hal Leonard)

In Bethlehem on Christmas morn,
Christus natus est.

Christ is born.
The lowly gem of love was born,
Christus natus est.

Christ is born.

Bright in her crown of fiery star, Christus natus est. Christ is born. Judea's town shone from afar, Christus natus est. Christ is born. Hosanna! Christus natus est. Hosanna! Christ is born.

For bird and beast he did not come, Christus natus est. *Christ is born.*But for the least of mortal scum, Christus natus est. *Christ is born.* 

Who lies in ditch? Who begs his bread?

In SILENT NIGHT

Mitchell B. Southall (1922–1989)

(Ralph Jusko Publications/Hal Leonard)

In silent night, when all is calm and all is bright, In silent night, O holy night,
The Baby from heaven is born on this night.
The Child, innocent Child is born.

In silent night, as darkness flies and all is light, In silent night, O holy night,
The Baby in radiance lay sleep on this night.
The Child, the holy Child is born.

In silent night, this Son of God and son of man Shall one day cry and later die Upon a cross for you and me. The Child, the Prince of Peace, is born.

Mitchell B. Southall

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## CRUCIFIXION

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) (Theodore Presser)

They crucified my Lord and he never said a mumblin' word. Not a word, my Lord.

They nailed him to a tree, and he never said a mumblin' word, Not a word.

They pierced him in the side, and he never said a mumblin' word. My Lord, not a word.

He bowed his head and died, and he never said a mumblin' word. Oh my Lord, not a word.

— Traditional spiritual

# THE OCEAN OF PEACE Ralph M. Johnson '78 (b. 1955) (earthsongs)

The ocean of peace lies ahead of me.
Sail the boat, O pilot.
You are my constant companion now.
Take me in your lap.
Along our journey to the infinite the pole star alone will shine.
Giver of Freedom, set me free.
May your forgiveness and compassion be my eternal resources for the journey — may the mortal ties fall away.
May the vast universe hold me in embrace.
And with an undaunted heart may I come to know the Great Unknown.

— Rabindranath Tagore Trans. Krishna Dutta, Andrew Robinson

Text by Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), translated by Krishna Dutta and Andrew Robinson. © 2005 earthsongs Chora Music. Reprinted with permission 2022.

#### Note from the composer:

Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) was India's first Nobel laureate (1913, in literature), and a writer of plays, novels, music, and poetry. "The Ocean of Peace," written in the author's native Bengali and so beautifully translated into English by Krishna Dutta and Andrew Robinson, was originally intended to be sung as part of his play, *The Post Office.* Though the song never made it into a production of the play, Tagore in his final illness requested that it be sung at his own funeral. The text offers a profound and peaceful image of one standing at the threshold of the last voyage and, accompanied by a skilled and compassionate guide, setting forth on the journey into the "Great Unknown."

The musical setting of Tagore's poem was commissioned in 2005 for the Crimson Chorale of Maple Grove Senior High School, Maple Grove, Minnesota, in memory of Amery Milly, a tenor in the choir who died tragically in his senior year.

#### PRAISE TO THE LORD

Stralsund Gesangbuch arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871–1955) (Augsburg Fortress)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near, Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Wonder anew,
What the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with
praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him. Halleluja!

Joachim Neander
 Trans. Catherine Winkworth, alt.

— INTERMISSION —

#### III. SONGS OF JUSTICE AND COMPASSION

Justice, O God, Op. 78, No. 2
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–1847)
(Neil A. Kjos, Jr.)

Justice, O God! Defend my cause against a people of unrighteous ways, and deliver me from the hands of the evil doers.

For you are my God and my stronghold, why have you cast me aside? Must I walk like a mourner sorrowing, while the foe prevails?

Send forth your light and truth, Lord, that they shall lead me and be my guide to your holy hill, to your sacred dwelling place.

And then I will go to God's holy altar, to my God, who is my joy and delight and life, I will praise you with harp and thank you, my God.

O my soul, why be full of sorrow, and why remain deep in despair? Hope in the Lord! for I yet will sing God's praises; God is my redeemer and savior, and my Lord God.

> — Psalm 43 Trans. Kenneth Jennings

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WHEN THUNDER COMES

Mari Esabel Valverde '10 (b. 1987)

(www.marivalverde.com)

The poor and dispossessed take up the drums For civil rights — freedoms to think and speak, Petition, pray, and vote. When thunder comes, The civil righteous are finished being meek. Why Sylvia Mendez bet against long odds, How Harvey Milk turned hatred on its head, Why Helen Zia railed against tin gods, How Freedom Summer's soldiers faced the dread Are tales of thunder that I hope to tell From my thin bag of verse for you to hear In miniature, like ringing a small bell, And know a million bells can drown out fear. For history was mute witness when such crimes Discolored and discredited our times.

— J. Patrick Lewis

#### Note from the composer:

"When Thunder Comes" is a celebration of American civil rights heroes: Sylvia Méndez, who challenged California's justice system in a fight for racial desegregation of schools; Helen Zia, Chinese-American lesbian feminist author, journalist, Fulbright scholar, and activist for peace; Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in California's history, remembered as a vocal gay rights advocate; and Freedom Summer's "soldiers," who risked their lives in their movement to enfranchise black voters in Mississippi of the 1960s. Calling attention to our history's systemic erasure of the stories of marginalized human beings in the United States, Lewis's sonnet presents a powerful model for patriotism. The drums, a figurative representation of a grassroots revolution, provide thunder, and the singing relays the message that, once unified, our individual voices can come together and "drown out fear."

Text from When Thunder Comes © 2012 by J. Patrick Lewis. Used with Permission of the Author. Music © February 2016 by Mari Esabel Valverde (ASCAP). All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission 2022.

#### WHEN MEMORY FADES

Jayne Southwick Cool (b. 1947) arr. Eric Nelson (b. 1959) (Morningstar 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 the 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 mystery'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!

— Mary Louise Bringle

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#### IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY

Alma Bazel Androzzo (1912–2001) arr. André J. Thomas (b. 1952) (Boosey & Hawkes) This setting was dedicated to Dr. Anton Armstrong in celebration of his 30th year as conductor of the St. Olaf Choir.

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 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 Androzzo

# THOU GRACIOUS GOD, WHOSE MERCY LENDS arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955) (Oxford University Press)

Thou gracious God,
Whose mercy lends
The light of home, the smile of friends,
Our gathered flock
Thine arms enfold,
As in the peaceful days of old.

Wilt Thou not hear us while we raise, In sweet accord of solemn praise, The voices that have mingled long In joyous flow of mirth and song?

For all the blessings life has brought, For all the sorrowing hours have taught, For all we mourn, for all we keep, The hands we clasp, the loved that sleep.

The noontide sunshine of the past, These brief, bright moments fading fast, The stars that gild our dark'ning years, The twilight ray from holier spheres.

We thank Thee Father; let Thy grace Our loving circle still embrace, Thy mercy shed its heav'nly store, Thy peace be with us evermore.

Amen!

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— Oliver Wendell Holmes

#### IV. FOLK AND SPIRITUAL SONGS

#### **SHENANDOAH**

American folksong arr. James Erb (1926–2014) (Lawson-Gould)

O Shenando', I long to see you, And hear your rolling river, O Shenando', I long to see you, 'Way, we're bound away, Across the wide Missouri.

I long to see your smiling valley, And hear your rolling river, I long to see your smiling valley, 'Way, we're bound away, Across the wide Missouri.

'Tis sev'n long years since last I see you, And hear your rolling river, 'Tis sev'n long years since last I see you, 'Way, we're bound away, Across the wide Missouri.

O Shenando', I long to see you, And hear your rolling river, O Shenando', I long to see you, 'Way, we're bound away, Across the wide Missouri. O Shenando'.

— Traditional American folksong

#### WHAT WONDROUS LOVE

W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 arr. Robert Scholz (1939–2021) (Morningstar Publishers)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am, While millions join the theme, I will sing: What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

- American folk hymn, alt.

#### LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH

*Jeffery L. Ames (b. 1969)* (earthsongs)

Sing unto the Lord a new song.
Sing unto the Lord all the earth.
Declare God's glory among the nations.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

Magnify the Lord with me and exhalt God's name together. Hallelujah, bless God's name for God's worthy to be praised. Clap your hands all ye people. Shout with a voice of triumph! For the mighty Lord is great and greatly to be praised. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

Come on and praise the Lord.
Let's all praise God's name.
Give God the highest praise.
Praise God with the timbrel, praise God with the dance.
Stand up on your feet and just lift up holy hands.
Sing "Hallelujah," praise God's holy name.
For the Lord is worthy to be praised!

Let's praise the Lord. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. You oughta Praise God!

— Unknown

#### **Jesus Loves Me**

William B. Bradbury (1816–1868) arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941) (Augsburg Fortress)

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

#### Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, he who died heaven's gate to open wide; he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in.

### Refrain

Jesus loves me, he will stay close beside me all the way. He calls children to his side, saying, "Come with me abide."

Refrain

— Anna B. Warner; Stanza 3 adapt. John Ferguson

Jesus Loves Me text stanza 3 Copyright © 2004 Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced by permission.

#### THE BATTLE OF JERICHO

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

#### Refrain:

Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho, and the walls come tumbalin' down.

Talk about your kings of Gideon, talk about your men of Saul, but none like good old Joshua at the Battle of Jericho.

#### Refrain

Right up to the walls of Jericho, he marched with spear in hand. "Go blow that ram horn!" Joshua cried. 'Cause the battle am in my hand. God, almighty, then the lamb, ram, sheep horns begin to blow and the trumpet begins to sound. Joshua commanded the children to shout! and the walls come a tumbalin' down.

#### Refrain

— African American spiritual

#### OPTIONAL SELECTIONS —

# Mary's Little Boy Chile *Jester Hairston* (1901–2000) (Bourne Co.)

# **BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR** *arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871–1955)* (Augsburg Fortress)

SPRING TOUR 2022

# 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 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 32nd 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 32nd 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 108-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.

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.

The following funds support the St. Olaf Choir and its student members:

- » Sigrid and Robert "BJ" Johnson Endowed Fund
- » The Smith Endowed Scholarship for International Music Travel
- » Kjos Endowment
- » Oriet Fardal Thompson Endowment
- » St. Olaf Choir 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund
- » The St. Olaf Fund

To learn more about these endowed funds or make a gift in support of music ensembles at St. Olaf College, contact Rebecca Otten, Assistant Vice President for Advancement at <code>otten@stolaf.edu</code> or 800-776-6523. To make a one-time contribution to provide direct support for the St. Olaf Choir, please visit <code>go.stolaf.edu/giftofmusic</code>.

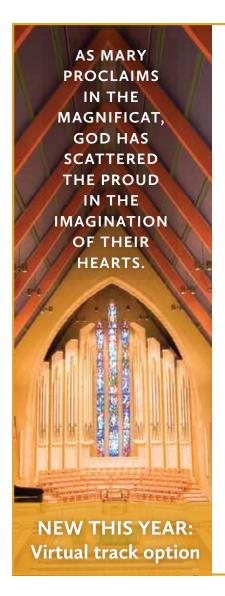
"International travel tours can be impossible for some students to afford, so scholarships secure the participation of all ensemble members on our tours. The scholarship I received certainly took a huge financial burden off my family's shoulders."

AARON MUSSER '19 Sioux Falls, South Dakota RELIGION AND MUSIC

"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





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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ST. OLAF CHOIR

Won two 2014 regional Emmy Awards for the PBS television

broadcast of Christmas in

Norway with the St. Olaf Choir

Toured Norway in 2019

Performed at Carnegie Hall in 2020

Ensembles regularly garner national recognition.



# **HOW YOU CAN HEAR US**

#### STREAM THIS CONCERT AND MORE

Go to *stolaf.edu/multimedia* to watch the archived concert stream of this program, recorded at the St. Olaf Choir's home concert on February 13. Archives of previous concerts are also available.

The St. Olaf Christmas Festival is broadcast live each year and free downloadable versions are available at *stolafchristmas.com*.

**80+** choral and instrumental concerts are streamed live and archived per year.

Recordings of the St. Olaf Choir are available to stream and download on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, and more!



Won the 2013 and 2018/19 American Prize in Orchestral Performance among colleges and universities

Toured Norway in 2019

Performed at Carnegie Hall with Sarah Chang in 2019

#### ST. OLAF BAND

Performed at the 2013 College Band Directors National Association national conference

Won the 2021 American Prize in Band/Wind Ensemble Performance in the college/university (smaller program) division

Toured Australia and New Zealand in 2018

#### ST. OLAF JAZZ

Awarded "Outstanding Performance by Large Undergraduate Jazz Ensemble" by *Downbeat* magazine in 2019

#### ST. OLAF COLLEGE MUSIC FACULTY

**Steven Amundson**, professor emeritus, orchestra; B.A., Luther College; M.M., Northwestern University

**Kathryn Ananda-Owens**, department chair, professor, piano, piano literature, chamber music; B.A., Oberlin College; B.M., Oberlin Conservatory; M.M., D.M.A., Peabody Institute

**Francesca Anderegg**, associate professor, violin, viola, chamber music; B.A., Harvard University; M.M., D.M.A., The Juilliard School

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

**Anton Armstrong**, Harry R. and Thora H. Tosdal Professor of Music, choir, conducting, voice, pedagogy for young voices; B.M., St. Olaf College; M.M., University of Illinois; D.M.A., Michigan State University

Christopher Atzinger, associate professor, piano, piano literature; B.M., University of Texas-Austin; M.M., University of Michigan; D.M.A., Peabody Institute

James Bobb, Elliot M. and Klara Stockdal Johnson Chair Associate Professor, church music, organ, choir, chapel cantor; B.M., Capital University; M.M., Eastman School of Music

Rachel Brandwein, adjunct assistant professor\*, harp, music theory; B.M., University of Michigan; M.M., The Juilliard School; D.M.A., Stony Brook University

**Catharine Bushman,** adjunct associate professor\*, band; B.M., Northwestern University; M.M. Ed., University of Illinois; D.M.A, University of Texas at Austin

**David Carter,** department vice chair, professor, cello, string techniques, string literature and pedagogy, music appreciation, chamber music; B.F.A., University of Minnesota; M.M., Indiana University; D.M.A., University of Illinois

**David Castro,** associate professor, music theory; B.M.E., Pacific Union College; M.M., University of Arizona; Ph.D., University of Oregon

**Kurt Claussen,** instructor\*, saxophone, chamber music; B.A., St. Olaf College; certificate, Conservatoire de Bordeaux Jacques Thibaud (France); M.M., University of Minnesota

**Anna Clift,** instructor\*, cello; B.M., Indiana University; M.M., SUNY-Stony Brook

**Dan Dressen,** associate provost, professor, voice; B.S., Bemidji State University; M.F.A., D.M.A., University of Minnesota

Julie Elhard, instructor\*, collegium musicum; B.M., Concordia College; Performance Certificate, Royal Conservatory of Music, The Netherlands

**Tracey Engleman,** associate professor, voice, vocal pedagogy; B.M., St. Olaf College; M.M., D.M.A., University of Minnesota

**Louis Epstein,** associate professor, musicology; B.A., Princeton University; Ph.D., Harvard University

**Alison Feldt,** professor, voice, vocal solo literature; B.A., Luther College; M.A., University of Iowa; D.M.A., University of Minnesota

**Daniel Fretland,** instructor\*, trumpet; B.A., University of Minnesota; M.A., Ed.S., University of

**Leigh Ann Garner**, assistant professor, music education; B.A., St. Olaf College; M.A. in Music Education, University of St. Thomas; Ed.D., University of St. Thomas

Charles Gray, professor, violin, viola, string literature and pedagogy, chamber music; B.M., Wheaton College; M.M., University of Michigan Thea Groth, adjunct assistant professor\*, bassoon; B.M., University of Hartford; M.M., Manhattan School of Music; D.M.A., University of Hartford Philip Hey, instructor\*, drum set; B.A., University of Minnesota

Therees Tkach Hibbard, visiting associate professor, voice, choir, conducting; B.M., Longwood University; M.M., Colorado State University; D.M.A., University of Oregon

**Martin Hodel,** professor, orchestra, trumpet, chamber music; B.A., Goshen College; M.M., University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; D.M.A., Eastman School of Music

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

**Timothy Mahr,** Robert Scholz Endowed Chair Professor of Music, band, conducting, composition, music education; B.M., B.A., St. Olaf College; M.A., D.M.A., University of Iowa

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

**Anna Mooy,** visiting assistant professor, voice, lyric diction; B.M., M.M., Brigham Young University **Olivia Moraczewski,** adjunct instructor\*, string techniques; B.M., St. Olaf College; M.A.M.E., St. Thomas

**Paul Ousley,** instructor\*, string bass; B.M., University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; M.M., Eastman School of Music

Nancy Paddleford, professor, piano; B.M., M.M., Indiana University; D.M.A., University of Minnesota Sarah Pradt, adjunct assistant professor of music\*, hardanger fiddle; B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Cornell University

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

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

**Mitra Sadeghpour,** adjunct assistant professor\*, voice; B.A., Luther College; M.M., D.M.A., Indiana University

JC Sanford, visiting assistant professor, jazz studies; B.A., University of Northern Iowa; M.M., D.M.A., New England Conservatory Ray Shows, instructor\*, violin, viola, chamber music; B.M., Florida State University; M.M., Boston University

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

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 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

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

**Luke Williams,** visiting assistant professor, voice; D.M.A., University of Colorado at Boulder **Tesfa Wondemagegnehu,** assistant professor, choir, voice; B.M., University of Memphis; M.M., Florida State University

\* part time

Maryland

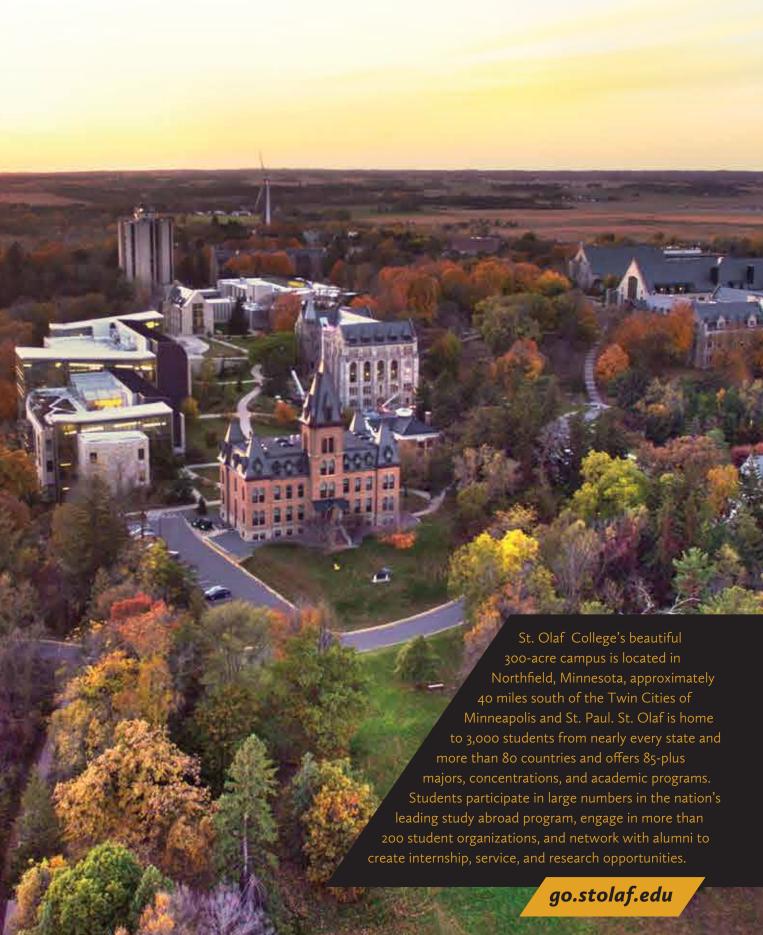
#### MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Kathryn Ananda-Owens, department chair David Carter, department vice chair Barbara Barth, academic administrative assistant - music

**Lisa McDermott,** academic administrative assistant – music

Lori Folland, collaborative pianist
Dennis Johnson, piano technician
Jason Bystrom, instrument repair technician
Paul Klitzke, assistant piano technician
Szu-Ling Wu, collaborative pianist





# ST. OLAF CHOIR SPRING TOUR 2022 ITINERARY PURCHASE TICKETS AT Stolaf.edu/tickets or 800-363-5487

SATURDAY, APRIL 30 • 7 P.M. First Presbyterian Church Salt Lake City, UT

SUNDAY, MAY 1 Guest Artist on "Music and the Spoken Word" with the Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square Salt Lake City, UT

> TUESDAY, MAY 31 • 7:30 P.M. Fourth Presbyterian Church Chicago, IL

> WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1 • 7 P.M. Fairchild Theatre Michigan State University East Lansing, MI

THURSDAY, JUNE 2 • 7:30 P.M. Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains Cincinnati, OH

> FRIDAY, JUNE 3 • 7:30 P.M. Covenant Presbyterian Church Nashville, TN

### St. Olaf Choir Centennial Tour Exhibit

The St. Olaf Choir, led by its founder and conductor F. Melius Christiansen, departed on its inaugural tour throughout the East Coast of the U.S. on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1920. This digital exhibition provides a tantalizing glimpse into both published and manuscript materials documenting this exciting series of concerts. Explore at stolaf.edu/virtualexhibits

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 • 8 P.M. First United Methodist Church Charlotte, NC

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 • 8 P.M. Duke University Chapel Durham, NC

MONDAY, JUNE 6 • 7 P.M. River Road Church, Baptist Richmond, VA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8 • 7:30 P.M. The Music Center at the Strathmore North Bethesda, MD



### **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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