



**THE INAUGURATION OF**  
**SUSAN RUNDELL SINGER**  
Twelfth President of St. Olaf College

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11  
SKOGLUND CENTER AUDITORIUM  
ST. OLAF COLLEGE

## PROCESSIONAL

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Variations on an Original Theme,  
Op 36. Variation XIV, Finale, E.D.U

*Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*

St. Olaf Band

Henry Dorn, *Conductor*

### **Invocation and Land Acknowledgement**

Matthew Marohl, *College Pastor*

### **Welcome and Recognition/Introductions**

Matthew Marohl, *College Pastor*

### **Introduction of Former St. Olaf Presidents**

Matthew Marohl, *College Pastor*

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## **GREETINGS TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE COMMUNITY**

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### **On Behalf of the Board of Regents**

Susan Gunderson '79, *Chair of the St. Olaf Board of Regents*

### **On Behalf of the Student Body**

Sophia Pletcher '24, *President of the Student Government Association*

### **On Behalf of the Faculty**

Anthony Bateza, *Associate Professor of Religion*

### **On Behalf of the Staff**

Kirsten Cahoon '98, *Director of the Piper Center for Vocation and Career*

### **On Behalf of the Alumni**

Mazen Abusharkh '18, *Member of the St. Olaf Alumni Board*

### **On Behalf of the Northfield Community**

Rhonda Pownell '93, *Mayor of Northfield*

### **On Behalf of Carleton College**

Alison Byerly, *President of Carleton College*

HYMN

For the Splendor of Creation  
Catherine Rodland '87, Organist  
ALL SING

The image shows the musical notation for a hymn. It consists of six staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. Below each staff are two lines of lyrics, numbered 1 and 2. The lyrics are: 1. For the splen - dor of cre - a - tion that draws us to in - quire, 2. For the schol - ars past and pres - ent whose boun - ty we di - gest, for the mys - ter - ies of knowl - edge to which our hearts as - pire, for the teach - ers who in - spire us to sum - mon forth our best, for the deep and sub - tle beau - ties which de - light the eye and ear, for our ri - vals and com - pan - ions, some - times fool - ish, some - times wise, for the dis - ci - pline of log - ic, the strug - gle to be clear, for the hu - man web up - hold - ing this no - ble en - ter - prise, for the un - ex - plained re - main - der, the puz - zling and the odd: for the com - mon life that binds us through days that soar or plod: for the joy and pain of learn - ing, we give you thanks, O God. for this place and for these peo - ple, we give you thanks, O God.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)  
Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)  
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THAXTED  
13 13 13 13 13

ANTHEM

Praise the Lord  
Florence B. Price (1887-1953)  
St. Olaf Choir  
Anton Armstrong '78, Conductor  
Aaron Looney '24, Pianist

INVESTITURE

Presentation of the St. Olaf Presidential Medallion  
Sophia Pletcher '24, President of the Student Government Association  
Kirsten Cahoon '98, Director of the Piper Center for Vocation and Career  
Anthony Bateza, Associate Professor of Religion

Introduction of President Susan Rundell Singer  
Grant Cornwell, President of Rollins College

Inaugural Address  
Susan Rundell Singer, President of St. Olaf College  
"Solution Seekers"

COLLEGE HYMN

Fram! Fram! St. Olaf!

ALL SING

1. Krist - menn, Kross - menn in mis - sion blessed,  
2. Grant that spir - it to lead us still

Led by the spir - it of truth, Run - ning the race, pur -  
on - ward as a - ges un - roll, Caught by the Kross - menn

su - ing our quest, Filled with the song of youth.  
shrined on the hill, Steep - led to lift the soul.

Found - ed in faith to ren - der light,  
Give us a - gain the heart a - glow,

Ra - diant to - day it crowns the height,  
Stirred by the songs of Ma - ni - tou.

Ris - ing glor - ious and, un - der God, vic - to - rious,  
Ev - er glor - ious and, un - der God, vic - to - rious.

*Refrain*  
Fram! Fram! St. Ol - af! Im - pelled we sing, sing to thee.

Fram! Fram! St. Ol - af! The hill - tops ring: Fram! Fram! Free!

Text: Oscar R. Overby '21, alt. James E. Bobb  
Music: F. Melius Christiansen

BENEDICTION

Matthew Marohl, *College Pastor*

RECESSIONAL

Sigurd Jorsalfar, Three Orchestral Pieces, Op. 56 III. Homage March  
*Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)*

St. Olaf Band  
Henry Dorn, *Conductor*

*Please Note:*  
The audience should remain seated and follow the ushers for dismissal from the auditorium. Following the ceremony, there will be a reception on Buntrock Plaza and the opportunity to congratulate President Rundell Singer. All are warmly invited to attend.

## **SUSAN RUNDELL SINGER**

### **Twelfth President of St. Olaf College**

An experienced leader in higher education who has led national efforts to advance undergraduate teaching and learning, Susan Rundell Singer joined St. Olaf after serving as vice president for academic affairs and provost at Rollins College. She previously led the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and was the Laurence McKinley Gould Professor of Biology at Carleton College, where she directed the Perlman Center for Learning and Teaching.

Recruited to NSF, Rundell Singer was charged with implementing holistic, evidence-informed approaches to increase persistence and success of all undergraduates. She led 14 federal agencies in achieving the undergraduate goals of the first Federal STEM Education Five-Year Strategic Plan, including producing one million more STEM graduates by 2018.

Rundell Singer's scholarship focuses on partnerships and networks of organizations collaboratively advancing undergraduate STEM education, emphasizing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Equitable, excellent undergraduate education is a top focus in her leadership at St. Olaf and has been a signature element of her successes throughout her career.

Her disciplinary expertise in plant biology fuels her passion for sustainability. As part of an NSF-funded, national network on advancing education through campus and community farms, she is an advocate for experiential learning.

Rundell Singer is an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow, and a recipient of the American Society of Plant Biology teaching award and Botanical Society of America Charles Bessey Award. She is a past chair of the AAAS Education Section. She is an Association of American Universities Senior Scholar, chairs the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Board on Science Education, and serves on the Board on Life Sciences and the Roundtable on Systematic Change in Undergraduate STEM Education. She chaired several NASEM studies, including Discipline-Based Education Research. Rundell Singer earned her bachelor's degree, master's degree, and Ph.D. in biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York.

### **Academic Procession**

The traditional academic procession introduces many of the more formal and significant events at St. Olaf, as it does on most college and university campuses. Although the history of wearing distinctive apparel as an indication of scholarship and academic rank dates back to 1321, the practice was not adopted throughout the United States until about 1900.

The cap worn almost universally in academic processions is the Oxford cap, better known as the mortarboard. It is always black. A different style, called the Cambridge cap, resembles a large beret. The use of a dark robe in academic processions is thought to have arisen from the clerical practice of wearing a cape or mantle in religious processions in the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities arose from cathedral schools.

Traditionally, gowns are also black. However, a number of universities have adopted alternate gowns that use their traditional school color. The academic hoods, worn around the neck and down the back of the gown, are in the colors of the college or university conferring the degree. The binding or edging of the hood is usually distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains: economics, copper; education, light blue; fine arts, brown; humanities, white; law, purple; library science, lemon; medicine, green; music, pink; nursing, apricot; philosophy, dark blue; physical education, sage green; science, golden yellow; social science, cream; social work, citron; speech, silver gray; and theology, scarlet.

### **Insignia of the Office**

The Insignia of the Office of the Presidency of St. Olaf College is a large silver medallion suspended on a silver chain. On the front of the medallion is the college seal, depicting a lion on a shield, from the royal Norwegian coat of arms. The shield is encircled by the words "Fram Fram Kristmenn Krossmenn," a portion of the battle cry of Olaf, the 11th century king of Norway for whom the college is named. Those words, the college motto, are translated, "Forward, Forward, Men of Christ, Men of the Cross."

The reverse side of the medallion is inscribed with an exhortation from II Timothy 1: 14: "That good thing which was committed unto thee guard through the Holy Spirit which dwelleth in us." The edge of the medallion has in relief the words "President of the College." The presidential medallion was struck in 1963 and first used at the inauguration of St. Olaf President Sidney Rand. It is worn by the president at all ceremonial occasions.

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

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Retired Executive Vice President  
West Publishing Company  
St. Paul, Minnesota

# DELEGATES

- 1746 Princeton University, Steven Poskanzer, Alumnus
- 1793 Williams College, Stephen Lewis, Alumnus
- 1829 Rochester Institute of Technology, Carolyn Fleming, Visiting Professor, Department of Engineering
- 1834 Tulane University, Faye Tydlaska, Alumna
- 1837 Knox College, Sara Eldridge, Alumna
- 1842 University of Notre Dame, Joan Davison, Alumna
- 1846 Grinnell College, Trish Anderson, Alumna
- 1847 Carthage College, David Timmerman, Provost
- 1847 Lawrence University, Carol Korda, Alumna
- 1851 Florida State University, Ashley Kistler, Alumna
- 1851 Ripon College, Amy Bader Rachuba, Alumna
- 1852 Wartburg College, Justin Schedtler, Associate Professor of Religion
- 1853 Cornell College, RJ Holmes-Leopold, Alumnus
- 1854 Hamline University, Andy Rundquist, Interim Provost
- 1855 Michigan State University, Ann Austin, Interim Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Office for Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs
- 1856 St. Lawrence University, Dan Sullivan, President Emeritus
- 1857 St. John’s University, Brian Bruess, President
- 1862 Gustavus Adolphus College, Rebecca Bergman, President
- 1862 Saint Mary’s University, Robert Elmore, Dean of Academic Affairs
- 1866 Carleton College, Alison Byerly, President
- 1869 Augsburg University, Paul Pribbenow, President
- 1873 Vanderbilt University, Lorrie Kyle, Alumna
- 1874 Macalester College, Suzanne Rivera, President



- 1874** University of Wisconsin–River Falls, Sonja Maki, Associate Professor of Horticulture
- 1876** University of Illinois, Dexter Boniface, Alumnus
- 1885** Rollins College, Don Davison, Professor of Political Science
- 1887** Nebraskan Wesleyan University, Fred Ohles, President Emeritus
- 1893** Concordia University-St. Paul, Brian Friedrich, President
- 1905** St. Catherine University, Jean Guezmir, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer
- 1913** College of Saint Benedict, Brian Bruess, President
- 1948** Minnesota Private College Council, Paul Cerkenik, President
- 1959** California Lutheran University, Lori Varlotta, President
- 1993** Capella University, Nicole Franklin, Director of the Center for Site-Based Learning and Services

## **ST. OLAF MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Olaf College challenges students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged community nourished by Lutheran tradition.



ST. OLAF  
COLLEGE