

---

# THE ST. OLAF CHAMBER SINGERS

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*

*featuring*

James Bobb, *harpsichord*

Rachel Dumont, *soprano* • KrisAnne Weiss, *alto* • Wesley Dunnagan, *tenor* • Peter Hoffman, *bass*

The Bach Chamber Ensemble

---

## MAGNIFICENCE AND MYSTERY

---

Sunday, November 10, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

Boe Memorial Chapel

Our concert offerings celebrate and honor messages of mystery and majesty, magnificent faith and unconditional trust beyond one's own imagining – the dedication of a servant spirit that reflects the mystical power of mercy, humility, joy and courage. These magnifications of heart and soul echo from our ancient songs, and are also reflected and amplified in the works of more modern musical ideas and themes. The mystical Song of Mary is brought to life in these different forms of musical expression through Josquin to Bach to Memley, each emphasizing the qualities of serenity, humility, and meditation. Of pure joy and a lightness of being in the wonder and miracle of these remarkable stories – and as an example of true transformation and dedication of mind and body, voice and spirit to seek something greater than oneself, and sound its message out to our world.

# MAGNIFICENCE AND MYSTERY

---

## **Ave Maria, Virgo Serena**

Josquin des Prez (1450–1521)

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee, gentle Virgin.  
Hail, thou whose Conception,  
Full of solemn joy,  
Fills heaven and earth  
With new gladness.  
Hail, thou whose Nativity  
Became our great celebration,  
As the light-bringing rising light  
Coming before the true sun.

## **Ave Maria**

Kevin Memley (b.1971)

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen

## **Haste Thee Nymph**

George Frederic Handel (1685–1759)

from Part I, L'Allegro

Wesley Dunnagan, *tenor*

*solo*

Haste thee, nymph, and bring with thee

Jest and youthful jollity,  
Quips and cranks, and wanton wiles,  
Nods, and becks, and wreathed smiles  
Such as hang on Hebe's cheek,  
And love to live in dimple sleek,  
Sport, that wrinkled care derides,  
And laughter, holding both his sides.

*chorus*

Haste thee, nymph, and bring with thee  
Jest, and youthful jollity;  
Sport, that wrinkled care derides,  
And laughter holding both his sides.

## **Meine Seel erhebt den Herren, BWV 10**

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

### **I. Chor**

Magnify the Lord, my soul,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour;  
for he has looked upon his humble handmaiden.  
See, from now all children's children will forever call me blessed.

## II. Aria (Soprano)

Rachel Dumont, *soprano*

Lord, you who are strong and mighty,  
God, whose name is holy,  
how wonderful are your works!  
You look upon me in my wretchedness,  
you have done so much for me  
that I cannot count and realize all.

### My heart be brave

Marques L. A. Garrett (b. 1984)

My heart be brave, and do not falter so,  
Nor utter more that deep, despairing wail.  
Thy way is very dark and drear I know,  
But do not let thy strength and courage fail;  
For certain as the raven-winged night  
Is followed by the bright and blushing morn,  
Thy coming morrow will be clear and bright;  
'Tis darkest when the night is furthest worn.  
Look up, and out, beyond, surrounding clouds,  
And do not in thine own gross darkness grope,  
Rise up, and casting off thy hind'ring shrouds,  
Cling thou to this, and ever inspiring hope:  
Tho' thick the battle and tho' fierce the fight,  
There is [a] power [in] making for the right.  
*"Sonnet," James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938)*

## III. Recitativo (Tenore)

Wesley Dunnagan, *tenor*

The goodness and faithfulness of the most high God  
is new every morning  
and lasts always for ever and ever  
for those who here  
look to his help  
and trust him in sincere fear.  
On the other hand he also uses force  
with his own arm  
on those who are neither cold  
nor warm  
in faith and in loving;  
those people, naked, bare and blind,  
those who are full of pride and arrogance,  
his hand scatters like chaff.

### John 3:16

B. E. Boykin (b. 1989)

God so loved the world  
that He gave his only begotten son,  
that whosoever believeth in Him  
shall not perish but have everlasting life.

#### IV. Aria (Basso)

Peter Hoffman, *bass*

God thrusts the mighty from the seat  
down into the sulphurous pool;  
God is accustomed to raise the lowly  
so that they become like stars in heaven/in the sky  
God leaves the rich bare and empty,  
he fills the hungry with gifts  
so that on his sea of grace they  
always have riches and abundance.

#### Christus Factus Est

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Christ became obedient for us unto death,  
even to the death, death on the cross.  
Wherefore God also hath exalted Him,  
And hath given Him a name  
which is above every name.

#### V. Duetto (Alto, Tenore)

KrisAnne Weiss, *alto* and Wesley Dunnagan, *tenor*

He remembers his mercy  
and raises up his servant Israel.

#### VI. Recitativo (Tenore)

Wesley Dunnagan, *tenor*

What God to the fathers of old  
has spoken and promised  
he also accomplishes in act and deed.  
What God to Abraham,  
when he came to him in his huts,  
promised and swore.  
has happened, since the time was fulfilled.  
His seed had to spread out so very much  
like the sand in the sea  
and like the stars in the sky,  
the saviour was born,  
the eternal Word allowed himself to be seen in the flesh  
to free the human race from death and all evil  
and from Satan's slavery  
out of pure love;  
and so it remains  
that God's word is full of grace and truth.

#### Lux Aurumque

Eric Whitacre (1970)

Light,  
warm and heavy as pure gold  
and the angels sing softly  
to the new-born baby.

*Edward Esch*

*Latin translation by Charles Anthony Sylvestry*

## VII. Choral (Tutti)

Glory and praise be to God the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning, now and forever  
and from eternity to eternity. Amen.

---

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

---

**Rachel Dumont '24**, soprano, graduated from St. Olaf in 2024 with her bachelor's degree in vocal performance. During her time at St. Olaf, she participated in the St. Olaf Chamber Singers, the St. Olaf Chapel Choir, many of the St. Olaf Lyric Theater productions, and Agnes A Cappella. After graduating in May, Rachel spent her summer in Tuscany performing as Carolina in Domenico Cimarosa's *Il matrimonio segreto* with other young artists. She is now pursuing her master's degree in vocal performance at the University of Minnesota studying with Victoria Vargas. Rachel lives in Minneapolis and works as the soprano section leader at Wayzata Community Church. She spends her free time crocheting and playing with her cats and she is very happy to be back singing at St. Olaf.

A native of Wabash, Indiana, tenor **Wesley Dunnagan** has been fortunate to perform across the United States and abroad. He has been praised for his “unfailing eloquence” as the Evangelist in Bach’s St. Matthew Passion. Appearances as tenor soloist include numerous concert and staged works with the San Juan Symphony, South Bend Lyric Opera, South Bend Symphony, Kettle Moraine Symphony, Madison’s Just Bach, Wisconsin Chamber Choir (Bach’s Christmas Oratorio), Madison Bach Musicians, the University of Wisconsin’s annual Schubertiade, Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley, and Bach Collegium Fort Wayne. A passionate recitalist, he has presented diverse art song repertoire and chamber music from Medieval to contemporary works. Wesley received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice and Opera from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was also a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow in Italian. He holds a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction in German Studies and Music from Stanford University and a Master of Sacred Music from the University of Notre Dame. In addition, he spent a year as a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Scholar at the Berlin University of the Arts, where he studied under Berliner Kammersänger Peter Maus of the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Dr. Dunnagan currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music in Voice at St. Olaf College and Lecturer of Lyric Diction at the University of California, Irvine. Previously, he taught at Fort Lewis College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Peter Hoffman '23**, is so excited to be coming back to the hill for his first performance since he graduated. He has been living and singing in the twin cities with The Singers during their 20th season, and now in their 21st. He will also be performing with the Badlands Opera Company in their production of Amahl and The Night Visitors later in November, singing the part of Balthazar.

**KrisAnne Weiss** (she/her), mezzo-soprano, performs an eclectic array of music-theater and concert works, appearing with Skylark Opera Theatre, Lyric Opera of the North, Nautilus Music-Theater, Opera on the Lake, and Mixed Precipitation’s Pickup Truck Opera, among many others. Most recently, she played the role of Ruth in Dark Sisters with Journey North Opera, and multiple roles in An Opera Theatre’s production of Marc Blitzstein’s The Cradle Will Rock. She hosts and facilitates An Opera Theatre’s Voice Lab, a free monthly artistic development and community-building resource for Twin Cities singers at any point in their careers, and she is on the voice faculty at St. Olaf College.

---

## PERSONNEL

---

### **St. Olaf Chamber Singers**

Therees Tkach Hibbard, *conductor*

Henry Vermeer, *student assistant*

Aiden Kocian, *student manager*

Noah Carlson, *collaborative pianist*

#### **Sopranos**

Abby Carter

Ellsie Covert

Ella Douma

\*Emily Hagel

Ava Messinger

Sophie Smith

Ella Yarris

#### **Altos**

Abby Hilsman

Anna Lunstad

Giada Parigi

Joe Rutar

\*Natalie Robuck

Lauren Schilling

Zoe Vorbach

Julie Xiong

#### **Tenors**

Ian Carter

Harrison Do

\*Noah Hubbard

Wilson Lindberg

Finn Morrison-Miess

David Reed

#### **Basses**

Noah Carlson

Tyler Hansen

Ryan Hemingway

Aiden Kocian

Murali Meyer

Will Schroth-Douma

\*Henry Vermeer

\*section leader

### **The Bach Chamber Ensemble**

James Bobb, *harpsichord/continuo*

#### **Oboe**

Anna Rothfusz

Allison Tanabe

#### **Bassoon/Continuo**

Maggie Walker

#### **Trumpet**

Bella Marek

#### **Violin**

Avery Calhoon

Rachel Christensen

Claire Hughes

Jasmine Storck

Evan Olds

Josh Villanoy

#### **Viola**

Akseli Mendes

Ian Snider

#### **Cello/Continuo**

Alice Ryan

#### **Bass/Continuo**

Henry Specker

## **DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

Louis Epstein, *department chair*

Tracey Engleman, *department vice-chair*

Barbara Barth, *academic administrative assistant – Music*

Lisa McDermott, *academic administrative assistant – Music*

Faith Kimbrell, *instrument coordinator*

Brian Knox, *piano technician*

Charles Sadler, *assistant piano technician*

## **MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLEGE RELATIONS**

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*

Connor 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*

Veronica White '24, *coordinator of music organizations*

Amelia McNeil-Maddox, *ticketing manager*

## **BROADCAST/MEDIA SERVICES**

Jeffrey O'Donnell '02, *director of broadcast/media services*

Sean Tonko, *associate director of event operations*

Grant Furgiuele, *associate director of broadcast engineering*

Mia Pardo, *assistant director of production*

## **FINE ARTS ADMISSIONS**

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