

THE ST. OLAF DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS IN CONCERT

THE ST. OLAF HANDBELL CHOIR

Jill Mahr, *conductor*

PROGRAM

Catalyst	Matthew Compton (b.1994)
Sarabande	Henry Rye '25
Pastorale	Bob Burroughs (b.1937) Ellie Kosek '25, <i>French horn</i>
Prelude	George Gershwin (1898–1937) arr. Bill Mathis
Four Resonances	William Payn (b.1946)
Built on the Rock	Ludwig M. Lindeman (1812–1887) arr. Kevin McChesney Hannah Anderson '25, <i>bell tree</i>
Star of the County Down	Traditional Irish Tune, arr. Brian Childers Katie Nail '26, <i>flute</i>
Iditarod	Soon Hee Newbold (b.1974) arr. Stephanie Berryman
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893) arr Hyosang Park handbell quartet Katie Nail '26 Natalie Robuck '25 Hannah Anderson '25 Heather Wallace '26
Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child	Traditional Spiritual, arr. Mitchell Eithun Cole Monson '25, <i>alto saxophone</i>
Gopak	Modeste Moussorgsky (1839–1881) arr. Lee Afdahl
Late Night Blues	Scott Pfitzinger (b.1968)
Danza Festivo	Arnold Sherman (1948–2024)

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

A Minnesota native, Jill Mahr has been teaching at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, for 30 years, where she oversees a program of four handbell choirs and teaches flute. Jill founded and leads a youth program of four handbell choirs at her church, Bethel Lutheran, in Northfield. She is an active member of Handbell Musicians of America and a past secretary of Area VII. Mahr is principal flute in the Mankato Symphony Orchestra and has a private flute studio in her home. She holds a B.M. degree in flute performance and music education with a minor in jazz from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and a M.A. degree in flute performance from Northwestern University in Chicago.

ABOUT THE ST. OLAF HANDBELL CHOIR

The St. Olaf Handbell Choir was founded in 1983 under the direction of Robert Thompson, Professor of Organ. In 1985 the group was taken over by Norman Heitz who equipped the group with the five octaves of Malmark bells that are used today. In 1993 the group was handed over to Karl Zinsmeister. Since 1995, the program has been under the direction of Jill Mahr and has grown to include four handbell ensembles. Jill directs the St. Olaf Handbell Choir and the Chapel Ringers. The Manitou Handbell Choir and Valhalla Ringers are student-directed. The St. Olaf Handbell choir is the premier ensemble in the handbell program at St. Olaf College. The ensemble is an auditioned group that meets twice a week. On campus they perform for daily chapel and Sunday church services, student recitals, and an annual spring concert featuring all the handbell choirs. In addition, they regularly perform off campus at church services, retirement centers and various concerts. They performed their first Kid's Concert in 2007 and enjoyed it so much that they have made it an annual event. Seventeen years ago, the group began touring, performing in many cities in Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa and Illinois. They have participated in the critically acclaimed St. Olaf Christmas Festival, premiering *Glories Ring*, *Joyous Noel* and *Gladsome Bells* written for handbells and orchestra by former faculty member Steven Amundson. The choir has premiered over thirty pieces in Mahr's tenure. The St. Olaf bell program offers an ensemble ringing experience (duet, trios, quartets) during the month long January interim. This January over half the ringers in the program participated.

ST. OLAF HANDBELL CHOIR PERSONNEL

Nathan Alms, '26, *New York, NY*
Hannah Anderson '25, *Lino Lakes, MN*
Joel Dressler '28, *Ames, IA*
Shayla Gleason '27, *Stillwater, MN*
Ellie Kosek '25, *Middleton, WI*
Jeremiah Knudson '26, *Rapid City, SD*
Cole Monson '25, *East Bethel, MN*
Katie Nail '26, *Bambleton, VA*
Mary Phillips '26, *Huntsville, AL*
Ella Pribyl '26, *Northfield, MN*
Natalie Robuck '25, *Columbia, MO*
Henry Rye '26, *Naperville, IL*
Heather Wallace '26, *New York, NY*
Xinyuan Zhao '25, *Jinan Shi, China*

TOUR LOCATIONS

Friday, February 28 • 7:00 pm
Hosanna Lutheran Church
Forest Lake, MN

Saturday, March 1 • 7:00 pm
Grace United Methodist Church
Naperville, IL

Sunday, March 2 • 3:00 pm
Madison Mennonite Church
Madison, WI

Monday, March 3 • 8:15 pm
St. Olaf College • Urness Recital Hall
Northfield, MN

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*

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 coordinators*

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*

Unauthorized photography or video and audio recording is prohibited.
Please silence all personal communication devices.

For more information visit [stolaf.edu/music](https://www.stolaf.edu/music).

**Many St. Olaf events, including concerts and chapel services, are streamed live
and archived at: <https://www.stolaf.edu/multimedia>**
