
ST. OLAF HANDBELL CHOIR

JILL MAHR, *CONDUCTOR*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 | 2 P.M.

URNESS RECITAL HALL

PROGRAM

Bare Necessities Terry Gilkyson (1916–1999), John Debney (b. 1956)
arr. Kevin McChesney

Morgan Ely '26, *percussion*

City of Stars Justin Hurwitz (b. 1985), Benji Pasek (b. 1985), Justin Paul (b. 1985)
arr. Ron Mallory

Back to the Future Alan Silvestri (b. 1950)
arr. Ron Mallory

Morgan Ely '26, *percussion*

Prestidigitation Kurt Meyer

Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)
arr. Kathleen Wissinger

Katie Nail '26, *bell tree*

Henry Rye '26, *piano*

Defying Gravity Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948)
arr. Mitchell Eithun

Yellow Submarine John Lennon (1940–1980), Paul McCartney (b. 1942)
arr. Mareike Davis

We Don't Talk About Bruno Lin-Manuel Miranda (b. 1980)
arr. Andrew Hess '15

This is Halloween Danny Elfman (b. 1953)
arr. Andrew Hess '15

Noah Schomburg, Heron Mahr, *vocals*

Um Ya Ya arr. Timothy O'Grady '16

Pirates of the Caribbean Klaus Badelt (b. 1967), Hans Zimmer (b. 1957)
arr. Kevin McChesney

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

A Minnesota native, Jill Mahr has been teaching at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, for 31 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 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. Eighteen 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. They will be performing with the St. Olaf Orchestra at the St. Olaf Christmas Festival again this year. The choir has premiered over thirty pieces in Mahr's tenure.

PERSONNEL

Vienna Adler '27, *Minnetonka, MN*
Nathaniel Alms '26, *New York, NY*
Agnes Barthel '28, *Duluth, MN*
Joel Dressler '28, *Ames, IA*
Thea Freitag '28, *Ridgefield, WA*
Andrew Mortensen '26, *Urbana, IL*
Kaylee Mueller '28, *Rochester, MN*

Katie Nail '26, *Brambleton, VA*
Greta Olson '27, *Minneapolis, MN*
Mary Phillips '26, *Huntsville, AL*
Ella Pribyl '26, *Northfield, MN*
Henry Rye '26, *Naperville, IL*
Heather Wallace '26, *New York, NY*

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*
Aaron Looney '24, *coordinator of music organizations*
Jonathan Kopplin, *associate librarian for ensembles and performing rights*
Amelia McNeil-Maddox, *ticketing coordinator*

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>**
