

KATZEN ARTS CENTER
ABRAMSON FAMILY RECITAL HALL

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS



Understanding a *cappella*

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 9, 2025, 3 p.m.

American University Chamber Singers
Daniel Abraham, Director

Dime a Dozen, On A Sensual Note,
Pitches Be Trippin', and Treble in Paradise

While a commonly understood term, the meaning of a *cappella* (IPA: , a kap' pel la; phonetic: ah kahp-pel-lah) has changed greatly throughout the history of Western music. Literally translated from Italian as “in the style of the chapel [church]”, its meaning has blossomed to include layers of music that span Renaissance polyphony, unaccompanied music of the nineteenth century, barber shop style, and contemporary *a cappella* close harmony groups often with added vocal percussion or beatboxing in a style that intersects pop, rock, and gospel sounds. We are delighted you have joined us for this broad exploration of a *cappella*.



Department of
Performing Arts

COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES • AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Program

Chamber Singers

Organa from *Musica enchiriadis* (c.850-890)

Tu patris sempiternus es filius

Sit Gloria Domini

Rex coeli Domine

If ye love me (c.1546)

Anon., previously attributed to
Hucbaldus (c.840–930)

Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)

Pitches Be Trippin'

Hit Em' Up Style

Soloist: Saedra Gurfinkel

Landslide

Soloists: Gigi Weislogel, Alex McGarry, Jaiden Buckhout

Blu Cantrell (b. 1976), arr. Alex McGarry

Fleetwood Mac (formed 1967), arr. Rebecca Morris

Chamber Singers

Ave Maria . . . Virgo serena (pub. 1502)

Tenebrae Responsoria V: Tenebrae factae sunt (1611)

In My Room

Josquin des Pres (c.1450/5–1521)

Carlo Gesualdo (c.1566–1613)

Brian Wilson (1942–2025), arr. Sean Doyle

On A Sensual Note

Stand By Your Beautiful Girl

Soloists: Joseph Albushies, Teddy Skye-Garcia and Samuel Shapira

Come on Eileen

Soloist: Ian Deyerle

Ben E. King (1938–2015) and Sean Kingston (b. 1990),
arr. Kaplan Evans

Kevin Rowland (b. 1953), Jim Paterson (b. 1959),
and Billy Adams (1940–2019)
arr. Teddy Skye-Garcia and Makulamy Alexander-Hills

INTERMISSION

Treble in Paradise

Betty

Soloist: Sarah Bennet

Taylor Swift (b. 1989), arr. Mary Claire Palmer

Chamber Singers

Ain'-a That Good News! (1937)

Keep the Whole World Singing (1947)

Quartet: Gracie Gilligan (S), Maddie Hodge (A), Alexander Jurado (T), Nathaniel Plumridge (B)

Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen, Op. 74/1 (1877)

William Dawson (1899–1990)

Willis Alcott Diekema (1892–1988)

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Dime a Dozen

House of the Rising Sun

Soloist: Gabrielle Poole

Wherever I go

Soloists: Audrey Mbwa-Mboma and Mary Cardamone

Trad. American Folk (1933); The Animals (1964),
arr. Alyssa Levin

Jacob Collier (b. 1994), arr. Audrey Mbwa-Mboma

Chamber Singers

Northern Lights (2007)

Valiant-for-Truth (1941)

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Combined Ensembles

Bridge Over Troubled Water

Soloists (Nov. 8): Gracie Gilligan and Audrey Mbwa-Mboma

Soloists (Nov. 9): Zoe Kazanzides and Audrey Mbwa-Mboma

Paul Simon (b. 1941), arr. Matt Villar

American University Chamber Singers

Daniel Abraham, director

Matthew van Hoose, collaborative pianist

Lulu Schmieta, choral ensembles manager

SOPRANO

Sara Carlson Cumberland, Maine • BA Environmental Studies & BS Public Health, 2026
Jacqueline Gibson Norwalk, Connecticut & Sarasota, Florida • BA Literature & History, 2028
Paisley Gibson Flower Mound, Texas • BA Environmental Studies, 2029
Gracie Gilligan* Maynard, Massachusetts • BA Political Science & Music, 2026
Rose Glennon Baltimore, Maryland • BA Music & Public Relations, 2027
Evelyn Pricco Chicago, Illinois • BA Musical Theatre, 2029
Elizabeth Szymanski North Huntington, Pennsylvania • BA Musical Theatre, 2027
Gigi Weislogel Ithaca, New York • BA Political Science & Women, Gender, and Sexuality, 2026

ALTO

Rachel Cervoni Arlington, Virginia • BA Elementary Education, 2028
Emily Combs Chicago, Illinois • MA International Affairs, 2026
Kyra Gentry Portales, New Mexico • BS Biochemistry, 2029
Maddie Hodge* New Cumberland, Pennsylvania • BA Graphic Design, 2028
Zoe Kazanzides Baltimore, Maryland • BA Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government, 2027
Alex McGarry* Chicago, Illinois • BA Popular Music Performance and Enterprise and BS Business and Entertainment, 2028
Gianna Milan Fort Lauderdale, Florida • MA Arts Management, 2027
Elizabeth Nagy Fairfield, Connecticut • BS Biology, 2027
Gabi Rutledge Bentonville, Arkansas • BA Justice, Law, and Criminology, 2026
Madelyn Ruyle Tampa, Florida • BA Musical Theater & Journalism, 2027
Naomi Wolfe Shelton, Connecticut • BA Psychology, 2029

TENOR

Benjamin Freiberg Madison, Wisconsin • BA International Studies, 2029
Alexander Jurado* Dallas, Texas • BA Music, 2028
Quinn Laubach Bethesda, Maryland • BA Elementary Education, 2027
Brennan Lein Austin, Texas • BA Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government & Musical Theatre, 2029
Moss Lempieri* Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • BA International Studies, 2026
Teo Nove Sacramento, California • BA Music & Political Science, 2025
Rian Russell Chevy Chase, Maryland • BS Data Sciences for Justice, Law, and Criminology, 2028

BASS

Lincoln Baldwin Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania • BA International Relations, 2028
Matthew Capel Genesco, New York • University Staff, Assistant Director of Admissions
Christopher Joseph Brooklyn, New York • BA Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government & Music, 2029
Luke Pinsky Ellicott City, Maryland • BA Psychology & Theatre Performance, 2027
Nathaniel Plumridge Sharon, Massachusetts • BA Psychology, 2028
Julián Rodríguez Boston, Massachusetts • Undecided, 2029
Ulysses Squitieri* Wilton, Connecticut & Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina • BA Music & Political Science, 2027
Robert Silverstein Farmingdale, New York, BA Political Sciences & Music, 2029

Dime a Dozen

María Agostini, President
Zoe Kazanzides, Music Director
Audrey Mbwa-Mboma, Music Director
Luke Batarseh
Mary Cardamone
Evan Dubuisson
Kaya Jansen
Griselda Jesse-Dodoo
Alexander Jurado
Alyssa Levin
Aidan Palmer
Jack Peterson
Gabrielle Poole
Xitlali Naegele Ramirez
Kiley Williams
Will Zimmerman

On A Sensual Note

Ian Deyerle, President
Kaplan Evans, Music Director
Nathaniel Plumridge, Secretary
Laurel Ashe-Darby, Business Manager
Teddy Skye-Garcia, Representation &
Inclusion Chair/Performance Director
Samuel Shapira, Communications Manager
Achyuth Sarath
Richard Young
Boden Sorom
Joseph Albushies
Reese Rehak
Ethan Kauffman

Pitches Be Trippin'

Pooja Badami
Jaiden Buckhout
Caroline Orisafuli-Vargas
Morgan Davidson, Manager
Hannah Elgart
Grace Foy
Lindsay Gold
Dhriti Goudar
Saedra Gurfinkel
Maggie Mancini
Alex McGarry
Rebecca Morris, Music Director
Logen Powell
Jocelyn Quinan
Arpitha Sistla
Gigi Weislogel
Maggie Woods

Treble in Paradise

Amelia Williams, President
Sydney Hart, Music Director
Malin Glazer, Treasurer
Mary Claire Palmer, Assistant Music Director
Anna Richardson, PR Manager
Maddy Stone
Sarah Bennett
Olivia Rodriguez
Nicole Eisner
Anya Kane
Adrienne Shields
Quinn Durso
Naomi Wolfe
Sophia Frid

Text Translations

Please keep your phone on silent during the performance.

Organa from *Musica enchiridis*

Tu patris sempiternus es filius
You are the eternal son of the Father.

Sit Gloria Domini, in saecula laetabitur Dominus in operibus suis.
Glory be to the Lord, the Lord will rejoice forever in his works.

Rex coeli Domine maris undisoni. Tytanis nitidi quelidique soli.
King of heaven, Lord of the sea, undulating, Titanist, and squalid, of the sun.

Tu humiles famuti modulis venerando piis
You are humble, famous, and pious, with reverent manners.

Ave Maria . . . Virgo serena

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
Dominus tecum, Virgo serena.
Ave, cuius Conceptio, Solemni plena gaudio,
Caelestia, Terrestria, Nova replet laetitia.
Ave, cuius Nativitas Nostra fuit solemnitas,
Ut Lucifer lux oriens Verum solem praeveniens.
Ave pia humilitas, Sine viro fecunditas,
Cuius Annuntiatio Nostra fuit salvatio.
Ave vera virginitas, Immaculata castitas,
Cuius Purificatio Nostra fuit purgatio.
Ave, praeclara omnibus Angelicis virtutibus,
Cuius fuit Assumptio Nostra fuit glorificatio.
O Mater Dei, Memento mei. Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee, serene Virgin.
Hail, thou whose Conception, Full of great joy,
Fills heaven and earth with new gladness.
Hail, thou whose Nativity Became our great celebration,
As the light-bearing Morning Star anticipates the true Sun.
Hail, faithful humility, Fruitful without man,
Whose Annunciation Was our salvation.
Hail, true virginity, Immaculate chastity,
Whose Purification Was our cleansing.
Hail, glorious one In all angelic virtues,
Whose Assumption Was our glorification.
O Mother of God, Remember me. Amen.*

Tenebrae Responsoria V

Tenebrae factae sunt,
dum crucifixissent Jesus Judaei:
et circa horam nonam exclamavit Jesus voce magna:
“Deus meus, ut quid me dereliquisti?”

*There was darkness over the earth
when the Jews crucified Jesus:
and about the ninth hour, Jesus cried loudly:
“My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”*

Et inclinato capite, emisit spiritum.

And he bowed his head and gave up the ghost.

[Versus:] Exclamans Jesus voce magna ait:
“Pater, in manus tuas commendo spiritum meum.”

*[Verse:] Jesus cried with a loud voice and said:
“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.”*

Et inclinato capite, emisit spiritum.

And he bowed his head and gave up the ghost.

Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen

I.

Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen,
und das Leben den betrübten Herzen,

Die des Todes warten und kommt nicht,
und grüben ihn wohl aus dem Verborgenen,

Die sich fast freuen und sind fröhlich,
daß sie das Grab bekommen,

Und dem Manne, deß Weg verborgen ist,
und Gott vor ihm denselben bedeckt?

—*Hiob 3:20-23*

*Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery,
and life unto the bitter in soul;*

*Which long for death, but it cometh not;
and dig for it more than for hid treasures;*

*Which rejoice exceedingly, and are glad,
when they can find the grave?*

*Why is light given to a man whose way is hid,
and whom God hath hedged in?*

—*Job 3:20-23*

II.

Lasset uns unser Herz
samt den Händen aufheben
zu Gott im Himmel.

—*Klagelieder Jeremias 3:41*

*Let us lift up our heart
with our hands
unto God in the heavens.*

—*Lamentations 3:41*

III.

Siehe, wir preisen selig,
die erduldet haben.
Die Geduld Hiob habt ihr gehört,
und das Ende des Herrn habt ihr gesehen;
denn der Herr ist barmherzig,
und ein Erbarmer.

—*Jakobus 5:11*

*Behold, we count them happy
which endure.
Ye have heard of the patience of Job,
and have seen the end of the Lord;
that the Lord is very pitiful,
and of tender mercy.*

—*James 5:11*

IV. Chorale

Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin,
in Gottes Willen,
getrost ist mir mein Herz und Sinn,
sanft und stille.

Wie Gott mir verheissen hat:
der Tod ist mir Schlaf worden.

—*Lutheran Nunc Dimittis*

*With peace and joy I travel to that place,
according to God's will;
my heart and soul are comforted,
gently and quietly.*

*As God has promised me,
death has become my sleep.*

—*Translation by Daniel Abraham*

Northern Lights

Pulchra es amica mea, suavis et decora
filia Jerusalem.

Pulchra es amica mea, suavis et decora sicut
Jerusalem.

Terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.
Averte oculos tuos a me, quia ipsi me
avolare fecerunt.

*Thou art beautiful, O my love, sweet and comely
daughter of Jerusalem.*

*Thou art beautiful, O my love, sweet and comely as
Jerusalem.*

Terrible as an army set in array.

*Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have made me
flee away.*

Up Next:

AU CHAMBER SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

The Displaced

April 18, 7:30 p.m. and April 19, 2 p.m.

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