

Choral Union
April 20, 2023 | 7:00pm | Missouri Theatre

Performing Artists

Tonight will be Mizzou's **R. Paul Crabb**'s final concert as MU's Director of Choral Activities after 20 years of service and 40 Choral Union concerts. His ensembles have sung at the state, regional and national conventions. He was the first American Visiting Professor at the Liszt Academy of Music in Hungary, and first American lecturer at the choral department at Vienna's *Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst*, and has taught eighteenth-century music in London. He was resident conductor at the Russian/American Symposium at the Moscow Conservatory, Visiting Professor in Salzburg, Austria, Music Director for the "Dante Arts Festival" in Nagoya, Japan, and served on the faculties at the International Music Festival in Taiwan and the Academy of Music in Gdansk, Poland.

After retiring from MU, he will remain active with other musical activities, including continuing his position as conductor and Artistic Director of the professional choral ensemble, *Voices of Prometheus*.

Prior to his position at MU, **Dr. Sam Griffith** was a member of the music faculty at the University of California-Davis, Santa Clara University, and American River College. A native of Monterey, California, Dr. Griffith was a participant in the Monterey Jazz Festival's youth education programs and was inspired to become a musician by the mentoring he received through these programs. Dr. Griffith holds degrees from The New School (B.A. Jazz Studies), California State University, Sacramento (M.M. Music Performance), and the University of Colorado, Boulder (D.M.A. Jazz Studies).

As a performer, he has shared the stage with a notable list of jazz greats and has performed in clubs and venues across the United States, Europe, and Japan. In addition to performing, Dr. Griffith is also a composer and arranger whose works have been premiered across the US and in Brazil. An active clinician and festival judge, Dr. Griffith has adjudicated the Reno Jazz Festival, CSU-Stanislaus Jazz Festival, Gold Mine Country Jazz Fest, and the Elk Grove Jazz Festival, among others.

Missouri-born tenor, **Andrew Flanagin** is a versatile singing actor who is equally at home in opera, musical theater, and concert works. Flanagin made his professional debut in May of 2022 as Pong with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra (Evansville, Indiana) in a semi-staged production of Puccini's *Turandot* under the direction of Maestro Alfred Savia. Recent stage credits include Don Curzio in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* (Jacobs School of Music Opera and Ballet Theatre, 2019), Street Singer in Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* (Jacobs School of Music Opera and Ballet Theatre, 2019), Uncle Billy Bailey in the collegiate premiere of Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer's *It's a Wonderful Life* (Jacobs School of Music Opera and Ballet Theatre, 2017). Flanagin is a professional chorister with Lyric Opera of Kansas City and was recently in their production of Bizet's *Carmen*. He will join the chorus again at Lyric Opera of Kansas

City for Paul Moravec's *The Shining* in March 2023. Other chorus credits include *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Donizetti), *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Poulenc), and *Parsifal* (Wagner) with the Jacobs School of Music Opera Theatre at Indiana University. In 2023, Flanagin will compete in the Arkansas district round of the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition. Flanagin is a proud alumnus of the University of Missouri School of Music and Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. He is currently based out of Kansas City, Missouri.

Brandon Brown has a passion for music that shines throughout his performances. He has been a featured soloist and conductor with the Celestial Evangel Choir in Kumasi and Accra, Ghana, and Prague. In addition to opera roles, Mr. Brown has performed the baritone solos in Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, and *Mass in C Major*, Parker's *A Sermon from the Mountain*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Brahms' *Requiem*, Dubois' *Seven Last Words*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Linda Twine's *Changed My Name*, Fauré's *Requiem*, and Mechem's *Songs of the Slave*. Brandon has performed with the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Modern Orchestra Project, College of DuPage, the South Shore Opera Company of Chicago, American Chamber Opera, Main Street Opera, Katydid Opera Productions, and chorusmaster for Show-Me Opera. He served as the Music Director and Project Manager of the Chicago Community Chorus, and is currently President of the Chicago Music Association, Br. No. 1 of the National Association of Negro Musicians, Secretary of the United Church of Christ Musicians' Association, and Music Coordinator at Columbia United Church of Christ. Brandon has studied and coached with R. Paul Crabb, Brandon Boyd, Keith Hampton, Jonita Lattimore, David Holloway, Scott Gilmore, Dana Brown, and Giulio Favario. Brandon is pursuing a Master's in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri, and earned his degree as a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Eastern Illinois University and his Master's in Voice Performance from CCPA at Roosevelt University. He is also a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

L. Amelia Lufkin, soprano, is from Knoxville, Tennessee. She has recently completed a dual Masters in Choral Conducting and Voice Performance from the University of Missouri. Her previous studies were done at Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelors in Voice Performance. Her collegiate voice instructors include Dr. Christine Isley-Farmer from 2015-2019 at MTSU and studied with Dr. Steven Jepson at the University of Missouri. She currently studies with Professor Kyle Stegall.

Amelia worked and studied as a Graduate Teachers Assistant at the University of Missouri under Dr. R. Paul Crabb and Professor Emily Edgington-Andrews. She helped organize and direct in University Singers, University Treble choir, Concert Chorale, and Choral Union. She also works as a Conservatory Singer at Missouri United Methodist Church, she often solos and assists in rehearsals as a section leader.

As a professional singer her previous operatic roles include: Phyllis in *Iolanthe*, covered the role of Alice in *Falstaff*, Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and most recently sang the role of Micäela in *Carmen* with the Vocal Academy of Opera in Bodrum Turkey Summer 2022. Lufkin's love and talent in the choral arts placed her as Choral Union's soprano understudy in their Verdi's Requiem Concert in Fall 2022 and was the soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with

Columbia's Civic Orchestra in Winter 2022.

Most recently, Amelia has been accepted as Landlocked Opera's Soprano Young Artist for their 2023 season. She will be performing the role of Julianne in the world premiere of *The Murderess*, an opera composed by Allie McIntosh in the Summer of 2023. Amelia will also be reprising the role of Susanna and playing the role of Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro* in their production this Fall..

Madelyn Munsell is a crossover coloratura soprano, music producer, composer, and software engineer. Munsell graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts in Voice, and continued her studies at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music, where she received her Masters of Music in Opera Performance. With a keen interest in the intersections of music and technology, specifically artificially intelligent post-production assistance, Munsell has spent the years following her formal education composing and songwriting for many household names, including Louis Vuitton, Giorgio Armani and Harley-Davidson. One of her most recent compositions can be heard as part of the marketing materials for Crunchyroll's English dub of "Attack on Titan."

Dr. Cat Sandstedt, Coloratura Soprano, is a New York based musician with her Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) in Vocal Performance from Stony Brook University, where she began her studies with soprano, Brenda Harris. Dr. Sandstedt has performed many operatic roles, including *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Blanche), *Impressions de Pelléas* (Mélisande), *Il re pastore* (Elisa), and *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Susanna). Dr. Sandstedt has sung in several choral ensembles, including NYC's Marble Collegiate Choir, as well as Vox Nova and Prometheus, both based in Columbia, MO. Additionally, Dr. Sandstedt loves to teach as an adjunct professor at Suffolk County Community College, as well as privately. Dr. Sandstedt has competed in many competitions and was a 1st place winner and soloist for the North Shore Choir (2019); placed top 10 in the Kentucky Bach Choir Competition (2016); and placed 2nd in the Senior Women division at the 2015 National level of National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Saint Louis native, **Dr. Philip A. Woodmore** has been an active member of the St. Louis music community for many years. Phil received his bachelors from Saint Louis University in Business Marketing and Music Vocal Performance, his masters from Webster University in Music Education, and his PhD in Music Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. His research interests are the changing voice, voice pedagogy, and the transformative power of music. His dissertation is on the transformative power of music in the choral setting using the auditioned choir in the Off-Broadway run of *Antigone in Ferguson*. In August 2016 Phil was asked to compose an original score of a version of Antigone translated by Bryan Doerries called *Antigone in Ferguson* which has been traveling the country for the past four years and premiered internationally in Athens, Greece in June 2016. For more information on Dr. Woodmore please visit www.philipawoodmore.com

Samuel Wright, Baritone, hails from St. Louis, Missouri, and regularly performs with companies and organizations in Missouri and its neighbors, including the Show-Me Opera,

Columbia Civic Orchestra, Opera in the Ozarks, Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, Union Avenue Opera, Missouri Symphony, Jefferson City Symphony Orchestra, Napa Valley College, and The Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri. Wright began his career in 2015, making his professional debut with Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre performing the role of Masetto in *Don Giovanni*. His other highlights include fifteen different roles from masterpieces in the operatic repertoire by composers such as Verdi, Puccini, Mozart, and Bizet. He has also premiered a number of new operatic works by Missouri composers. Wright is also a regular performer of concert works including Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.