



School of Music
University of Missouri

2025-2026 Series | Large Ensemble

Concert Chorale

presents

“The Earth Sings Back”

Dr. Adam Potter, conductor

Christine Jarquio, assistant conductor

Jade Leung, assistant conductor

Sabelo Mthembu, assistant conductor

Hanyu Zhang and Yuxiang “Betty” Zhang, pianists

April 25, 2026 | 3:00PM

First Presbyterian Church

Program

IDUMEA (“And am I born to die?”) **Ananais Davisson (1780–1857, U.S.)**
from *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816 *arr.* Richard Bjella (b. 1951, U.S.)

Alliance Music Publications, Inc. #AMP 0810 ©2010

Kasar mie la gaji **Alberto Grau**
b. 1937 (Venezuela)

Sung in Hausa:
The Earth is tired.

earthsongs ©1991

Insanae et vanae curae **Joseph Haydn**
Hob. XXI:1/13c 1732–1809 (Austria)

Sung in Latin:
*Vain and raging cares invade our minds;
Madness often fills our hearts, robbed of hope.
O mortal, what does it profit you to endeavor at worldly things,
if you should neglect the heavens?
If God is for you, all things are favorable for you.*

Public domain; performing edition by Adam Potter in manuscript ©2026

In stiller Nacht **Johannes Brahms**
WoO 33 1833–1897 (Germany)

Sung in German:
*In the still night, at first watch,
a voice began to lament.
The night wind sweetly and gently
carried the sound to me.
From bitter suffering and sadness
my heart has melted;
I have watered all the flowers
with my pure tears.*

*The beautiful moon wants to set and
may never rise again because of its pain.
The stars let their twinkle die;
they want to weep with me.
Neither a birdsong nor a sound of joy
can be heard in the air.
The wild animals also grieve with me
on the rocks and in the ravines.*

Stars I Shall Find **Victor C. Johnson**
b. 1978 (United States)

Heritage Music Press #14/2454H ©2008

Свете тихий (Gladsome Light) **Pavel Chesnokov**
from *All-Night Vigil*, Op. 44, No. 3 1877–1944 (Russia)

Sung in Church Slavonic:
*Gladsome light of holy glory—
The Immortal One, Father of Heaven,
holy and blessed—
Jesus Christ!
Coming to the west of the sun,
beholding the light of evening,
we sing to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—God.
You are worthy at every moment
to be praised by the voices of the reverent.
Son of God, Giver of Life,
behold, the world glorifies You!*

Musica Russica #MRSM CN 260

Time **Jennifer Lucy Cook**
b. 1988 (United States)

Hal Leonard #01157659 ©2023

Climbin' Up the Mountain **Traditional Spiritual**
arr. Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1962, U.S.)

Galaxy Music Corporation #1.3719 ©2024

Apple Tree **Aurora Aksnes, Odd Martin Skålnes, and Magnus Skylstad**
arr. Katerina Gimon (b. 1993, Canada)

Hal Leonard #01262467 ©2023

Flight **Craig Carnelia (b. 1949, U.S.)**
arr. Ryan Murphy (b. 1971, U.S.)

Walton Music Corporation #WW1869 ©2021

Stomp on the Fire **Andrea Ramsey**
b. 1977 (United States)

andreamramsey.com ©2018

Personnel

Soprano 1

Helen Austin '29	Political Science/Pre-Law	Holts Summit, Mo.
Melanie Cerrato Zavala '28	Political Science	Joplin, Mo.
Tara Garner '28	Music Education	Quincy, Ill.
Ella Hulse '29	Music Education	Ozark, Mo.
Anna Rohr '29	Undeclared	St. Louis, Mo.

Soprano 2

Ashlynn Alexander '29	Music Education	Moberly, Mo.
Tanishka Ashili '29	Psychological Sciences	St. Louis, Mo.
Maggie Brown '27	Biological Sciences	Columbia, Mo.
Alexandra Lappin '29	Journalism	St. Louis, Mo.
Jade Leung '27	MM Choral Conducting	Austin, Texas
Vivienna Madar '29	Undeclared	Springfield, Mo.
Shea McGraw '26	English	Kansas City, Mo.
Meghan Milligan '29	Health Sciences/Pre-Medicine	Lake Ozark, Mo.
Freya Rieken '28	Music	St. Louis, Mo.
Zoe Quinn Vorndran '29	Undeclared	Denver, Colo.

Alto 1

Lucy Baker '28	Elementary Education	Columbia, Mo.
Kate Carr '29	Journalism	Lee's Summit, Mo.
Ellie Cohen '29	Biological Sciences	Austin, Texas
Hazel Collins '29	Public Administration & Economics	Minneapolis, Minn.
Jaila Davis '29	Music & Business	Blue Springs, Mo.
Asia Ellingsworth '26	Psychology	Rolla, Mo.
Emilia Godwin '28	Music Education	Jefferson City, Mo.
Peyton Parrotte '26	Radiography	Worth, Ill.
Lanie Privett '28	Biological Sciences/Pre-Medicine	Hannibal, Mo.
Zoey Roberds '28	Music & Psychology	Liberty, Mo.
Elise Sebacher '29	Mathematics	Steedman, Mo.
Jadyn Tyler '29	Elementary Education	Overland Park, Mo.
Hannah VanLandingham '29	Journalism	Fishers, Ind.
Allie White '28	Health Sciences	Lawrence, Kan.
Grace Anne Williams '29	Undeclared	Moscow Mills, Mo.

Alto 2

Alyssa Allie '27	Animal Sciences	Columbia, Mo.
Heaven Chuta-Squic '29	Animal Sciences	Carthage, Mo.
Charlotte Elsensohn '29	Theatre	St. Louis, Mo.
Christine Jarquio '28	PhD Music Education (Choral Conducting)	Independence, Mo.
Lauren Ruoff '27	Biological Engineering	Imperial, Mo.
Elizabeth Strieker '29	Undeclared	Quincy, Ill.
Cheyenne Studer '29	Mathematics & Education	Fulton, Mo.
Kylie Tune '26	Accounting & Economics	Strafford, Mo.

Tenor 1

Owen Combs '29	Chemistry	Camdenton, Mo.
Lyla Forbes '26	Biochemistry	Washington, Ill.
Alexandra Hoff '29	Music Education	Ashland, Mo.

Tenor 2

Cameron Licata '28	Business	Ballwin, Mo.
Zander Mairet '28	Music Composition	Blue Springs, Mo.
Sabelo Mthembu '27	MM Choral Conducting	Johannesburg, South Africa
Brendyn VanHouten '29	Journalism & Sociology	Hudson, Wis.

Baritone

Hunter Garner '29	Music Education	Troy, Mo.
Kael Miranda '27	Business Management	Columbia, Mo.
Kamron Nikjeh '28	Biology & Education	Weston, Mo.
Nigel Turner, Jr. '28	Biochemistry	Raytown, Mo.

Bass

Noah Cerneka '29	Mechanical Engineering	Fulton, Mo.
Khagan G. Rice '29	Music Education	Columbia, Mo.
Garrett Tucker '28	Biology	Lee's Summit, Mo.
Parker Ryan Wolf '29	Biological Sciences	Lake Ozark, Mo.

Biographies

Adam Potter serves as Visiting Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at the University of Missouri School of Music. A recognized “teacher of teachers,” his approach blends musical excellence with holistic pedagogy, inspiring singers and conductors alike to approach music-making with both precision and humanity. He strives to unite singers from diverse backgrounds into cohesive, expressive communities whose performances reflect both their evolving strengths and the joy of shared artistry.

Passionate about nurturing the next generation of choral leaders, Dr. Potter provides individualized instruction and significant podium opportunities to aspiring conductors, guiding them toward careers marked by artistic excellence, rigorous pedagogy, and empathy-driven, relationship-based leadership. His students have consistently earned prestigious placements in American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) conducting masterclasses and secured graduate assistantships for advanced study in choral conducting. Many now serve as successful choral conductors and music educators across the country.

Dr. Potter’s own academic journey began under the guidance of Brandon Johnson at Houghton College and continued at Florida State University, where he earned a PhD in choral conducting and music education while studying with renowned educators Judy Bowers, Kevin Fenton, and André Thomas. Before coming to Mizzou, Dr. Potter was Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at Roberts Wesleyan University in Rochester, New York, where he conducted The Roberts Chorale, Coro di Voci Treble Choir, and Redhawk Voices Tenor–Bass Chorus, administered the university’s comprehensive choral program, mentored choral music education majors, and taught coursework in conducting, vocal methods, and music education. There, he revitalized the choral program, introducing innovative repertoire and performance designs structured around carefully crafted thematic arcs that enhanced student engagement and enthralled audiences at major conferences and on tour in the United States, Canada, France, and the Baltics. Earlier in his career, he distinguished himself as Director of Choral Activities at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi and developed thriving and growing vocal music curricula as Director of Vocal Music at Dansville High School in New York.

An active guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and presenter, Dr. Potter has led at honor choirs, choral-orchestral collaborations, choral competitions, and music education workshops across the United States. Internationally, he has conducted the LifePlus Fine Arts Festival Choir in Tianjin, China, served as visiting scholar at the Saint Petersburg State Conservatory in Russia, lectured at the Kenya Conservatoire of Music, and collaborated with the Nairobi Chamber Chorus. His dynamic presentations span diverse topics, including music literacy, ensemble vocal

technique, program building for emerging teachers, and the unique challenges and opportunities in rural music education.

His research agenda explores sight-singing pedagogy, voice building in the choral rehearsal, and the integration of servant-leadership principles to ensemble conducting. Situated at the intersection of pedagogy and leadership, his work seeks to empower conductors to foster ensembles where skilled musicianship, sound vocal technique, expansive repertoire, and interpersonal belonging are inseparably linked.

Deeply committed to professional service, Dr. Potter has held leadership roles with ACDA in both New York and Mississippi. Additionally, he holds memberships in the National Association for Music Education, the Golden Key International Honour Society, and Pi Kappa Lambda.

The first in his family to attend college, Dr. Potter proudly traces his roots to rural Pennsylvania, where his upbringing on a family dairy farm instilled values that continue to guide him: respect for the dignity of hard work, belief in the transformative power of education, and dedication to cultivating meaningful relationships. Outside his professional work, Dr. Potter remains an adventurer at heart. He treasures opportunities for global travel, hiking, exploring varied cuisines, visiting wineries, and fostering committed friendships—endeavors that reflect the same curiosity, joy, and love of community that he brings to his musical life. Learn more about Dr. Potter and his work at www.AdamPotterMusic.com.

Christine Jarquio is a conductor, collaborative artist, and educator who has been a vibrant fixture in the Columbia music community for two decades. A first-year PhD student in Music Education with a Choral Conducting emphasis at the University of Missouri, Christine serves as a graduate assistant conductor for Choral Union and Concert Chorale as well as a teacher of record.

In addition to her doctoral studies, Christine is the Director of Upper School Choirs and the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) at Columbia Independent School, where she uses music as a vehicle to foster compassion and highlight diverse lived experiences. Her advanced treble ensemble, Camerata, recently had the distinguished privilege of performing at the Missouri Music Educators Association conference in January.

An avid choral singer outside of academia, she is the co-founder and Executive Director of the professional choral ensemble Vox Nova and has performed for fourteen seasons with Prometheus: A Vocal Consort. Whether at the podium or the piano, Christine is a sought-after

collaborator across choral and musical theatre genres. When not in the classroom, she recharges by running on Columbia's beautiful trail system and traveling the world with her husband, Jay.

Sabelo Mthembu is a South African singer, conductor, composer, and Fulbright student currently pursuing a master's degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Missouri–Columbia. He immersed himself in local traditional choral culture from a young age, developing his skills as a conductor and composer. In 2008, he won 2nd prize in a South African choral composition competition, and in July 2018, he placed 3rd in the Busan Choral Festival Composition Competition in South Korea. He is the founder and conductor of Quava Vocal Group which has won numerous international titles, including the grand prize at the 2025 International Corpenicus Choir Competition in Poland. In 2022, he received the best conductor award at the World Choral Cup in Spain. His music has been performed by notable choirs such as the University of Johannesburg Choir, University of Pretoria Camerata, Delaware Choral Scholars, and St. Olaf Choir.

Jade Leung is a vocalist, conductor, and music educator from Austin, Texas. She is currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Missouri where she is pursuing a Master of Music in Choral Conducting with a Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy. At Mizzou, she conducts the Sankofa Chorale and Concert Chorale, and works as administrative assistant for the choral program, with particular responsibility for the Choral Union. She also had the privilege of serving as the Chorus Master for Show-Me Opera's 2026 production of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*.

She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of New Hampshire, where she served as the Chorus Master for the Vocal Arts Project and as a Conducting Fellow for the choral program. During her undergraduate studies, she pursued training in both classical and contemporary vocal performance which earned her a Second-Place title in the NATS College Commercial Music New England Regional Competition.

She also has presented on evidence-based, genre-expanding vocal pedagogy, including at the 2024 New Hampshire Music Educators Association October Conference and a subsequent university chapter session, and will present at the 2026 Missouri Choral Directors Association Summer Conference. Ms. Leung is committed to advancing music education through the integration of evidence-based vocal pedagogy in choral classrooms and looks forward to a career of lifelong learning and musicking.

Hanyu Zhang is a pianist whose performances have taken him to concert stages across China, Europe, and the United States. Currently pursuing a Master of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Missouri–Columbia under the guidance of Dr. Peter Miyamoto, Zhang also serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the program. He is the most recent prizewinner in both the University of Missouri Emerging Artist Competition and the University of Missouri Soloist Competition.

Yuxiang Zhang is a second-year doctoral student in Music Education at the University of Missouri–Columbia, where she also serves as a collaborative pianist for the Concert Chorale. A native of China, she began studying piano at the age of six and has since performed in numerous competitions, earning Gold Award and First Prize honors at the Changjiang Piano Scholarship Competition and the KAWAI Asia Piano Competition.

As a piano educator, she has received several teaching awards, including the Outstanding Guiding Teacher Award at the Asia (International) Music Competition (2019), as well as Best Instructor Awards at the Macau Piano Invitational Competition and the Xiamen International Youth Piano Music Week (2022). Her research focuses on the motivation of adult piano learners. Outside of academia, she enjoys spending time with her two cats, Snowie and Chubby.