

University of Missouri School of Music

2025-2026 Series • Large Ensemble

Mizzou's Sankofa Chorale

“Look and Live”

Dr. Brandon A. Boyd, conductor

Jade Leung and Sabelo Mthembu, assistant conductors

Dr. Brandon Waddles, guest pianist

Joe Kingsbury, percussion

April 7, 2026 • 7:30PM

Sheryl Crow Hall

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Program Order

God Be Praised **Kevin Bond**

There's Power **Gale Jones Murphy**
Soloists: Emily Flagg, Daryus Shurn, Jade Leung, Omolara Ogunmola

You Are The Living Word **Fred Hammond**
Soloists: Brock Bordenkircher, Riley Simmonds, Sabelo Mthembu

Ngothando **Mbuso Ndlovu**
Speaker: Carsyn McPheeters

Look And Live **Thomas Whitfield**
arr. **Brandon Waddles**

I Shall Wear A Crown **Thomas Whitfield**
arr. **Brandon Waddles**
Soloists: Mia Henry, Omolara Ogunmola

Ngikhumbula Wena **Philasande Malevu**
Soloist: Patrick Meyers

The Blood Still Works **Malcolm Williams**

How I Got Over **(Traditional)**
Soloist: NaKeesha Long

Biography - Brandon Waddles



Brandon's choral compositions and arrangements have been performed by vocal ensembles the world over. In addition to professionally recorded interpretations by the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers and Sacra/Profana, most recent performers include the Harvard Glee Club, London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, the King's Singers and Voces8. Aside from his original work and arranging, Dr. Waddles is a sought-after transcriber of Black gospel music. He served as a contributing editor for the *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism* hymnal published by GIA Publications, Inc. His release of *Just In Case You've Forgotten* is the first selected compendium of works

by the late Thomas Whitfield, the subject of his dissertation. Dr. Waddles' scholarship on Black sacred music has been experienced in the halls of Harvard, Yale, Morehouse and Hampton, and most recently on *American Black Journal* as seen on PBS.

Beyond the classical realm, as Music Director for Grammy award-winning recording artist Ledisi, Brandon has collaborated with the celebrated singer on multiple occasions, venturing from Carnegie Hall to the White House. The *Ledisi Sings Nina* concert series has witnessed performances with major national orchestras such as the LA Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Cincinnati Pops, among others. He recently experienced his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in concert with Ravi Coltrane and other luminaries of the jazz genre, celebrating the orchestral works of Alice Coltrane.

Dr. Waddles holds degrees from Morehouse College, Westminster Choir College of Rider University and Florida State University. He currently serves as co-editor of the *Rock My Soul Choral Series* with Gentry Publications.

Sankofa Choral Spring 2026 Roster

Soprano

Victoria Barnette
Angela Danso Gyane
Tara Garner
Olivia Haskamp
Emma Harper
Mia Henry
Annabelle Moore
Ruth Opoku
Jayla Parsons
Riley Simmons
Carlee Strauss
Jessica Tuncel
Krystiana Valelo
Liana Willis

Alto

Diana Firsova
Emily Flagg
Faith Glasgow
Nadia Gresham
Rachel Griffin
Lydia Helldoerfer
Jade Leung
Melissa Montoya
Carsyn McPheeters
Omolara Ogunmola
Kaitlin Oliver
Dulcina Rahn
Shalina Reed
Susan Worstell

Tenor

Andrew Alka
Brock Bordenkircher
Abbri-elle Fox
Braden Konick
Daryus Shurn
Ediri Viegbesie

Bass

Elijah Andrews
Sam Conley
Grant Lee
Patrick Meyers
Sabelo Mthembu
Henry Rusten
Noah Symes
Garrett Tucker

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