

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

The Department of Music presents

University Chorale

Dr. Jason Dungee, conductor

Dr. Erin Palmer, pianist

Anne R. Belk Theater
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts
Saturday April 27, 2024 | 7:30 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

A Word from Dr. Dungee

“All things work together for the good of them that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose.”- Romans 8:28

It is with great heaviness that I am not there this evening to celebrate the musical accomplishments of this truly remarkable group of young people. This 2023-2024 class of the University Chorale has been, without question, the best ensemble that I have ever had the privilege of conducting in my 20 years of teaching. It is not simply because of the “embarrassment of riches” that they possess in terms of talent. They possess the heart and the spirit of what will make this program thrive for years to come. The upper division leadership of this ensemble led by example and with grace; and the lower division students followed and contributed with humility. Despite having to sacrifice time and energy, they always brought their best selves to the rehearsal room, and because of that, this ensemble achieved some remarkable things.

This Chorale is also special to me because it is the first ensemble that I’ve had at Charlotte where all the students have spent the majority of their time under my direction. For anyone who understands how choral programs function, this is a significant milestone because it means that whatever characteristics that the choir has, good or bad, reflect the current leadership and less so the past. So, this choir, more than any before it foreshadows what the program can and will be going forward. Because of that, like seeing a sign on the highway that tells you how many miles to your destination, this choir serves as an affirmation that we are most certainly headed in the right direction.

My regret is that my absence means we can’t truly show you the fullness of what this choir can do. But, as I stated before, we have an “embarrassment of riches” in talent. My absence affords you the opportunity to experience something that is wholly unique in terms of the Chorale’s history. Tonight’s concert will be completely led by students from the ensemble. Four of these students (Jasmine Keenan, Haley Wright, Corrine Collison, and Madison Hunter) are currently enrolled in my choral conducting class and have prepared Chorale music as part of that curriculum. The other two

students (Julia Charette and Melody Long) took on a challenge from me this year to learn, teach and lead a piece with chorale. As a teacher, this is incredibly exciting for me because I gave them full autonomy in teaching and leading these pieces. They were “given the keys to the Lamborghini” and charged with building this performance from the ground up. I can’t tell you how proud of them I am, and how excited I am for you to hear the results of their work.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for your thoughts and your prayers as I traverse through the health concerns that have prevented me from being with you this evening. I want to publicly thank Dr. Skillen for working with me and my AMAZING colleagues for their support. Of my colleagues, I want to make sure to shower appreciation on to my partner in crime, Dr. Erin Palmer (“DOCKTA PALMA!”) who is keeping the ship sailing this evening.

Thank you all for being here tonight and please enjoy this wonderful performance by this uniquely talented ensemble. I’ll see you in the Fall!

- Dr. J.A. Dungee

Program

Your Hand in Mine

Marques L.A. Garrett

Jasmine Keenan, student conductor

Senior Spotlight

Laurie's Song

Aaron Copland

Julia Charette, soprano

Going Across the Mountain

arr. Ellen Voth

Haley Wright, student conductor

Senior Spotlight

Les filles de Cadix

Léo Delibes

Shannon Dailey, soprano

Glow

Eric Whitacre

Corrine Collison, student conductor

We are the Ones

Marie-Claire Saindon

Julia Charette, student conductor

Senior Spotlight

Song to the Moon from *Rusalka*

Antonín Dvořák

DeLenn Rumbolo, soprano

Time

Jennifer Lucy Cook

Melody Long, director

Senior Spotlight

Love Went A-Riding

Frank Bridge

Christian Souza, tenor

The Heavens are Telling from *The Creation*

Joseph Haydn

Madison Hunter, student conductor
Abigail Roscoe, Seth Lamay, and Nick Matherly, trio

About the Conductor



Conductor, tenor, and music educator, **Dr. Jason A. Dungee** is the Director of Choral Activities at UNC Charlotte. He has earned degrees from the University of Arizona, Westminster Choir College and Hampton University.

Since arriving in the Charlotte region in 2021, Dungee has come in demand as a clinician and as guest conductor for several All-County Choral events, as well as serving as clinician for the NCMEA Eastern All-State Choir in the Fall of 2023.

Dungee's article "A Pedagogy for Living: Applying Restorative, Anti-Racist Pedagogy to the Choral Classroom" was published in *The Choral Journal* and has led to him being in demand as a presenter for organizations and Universities across the U.S. In March of 2020, Dungee was Co-Conductor of the first HBCU Tribute Choir for the Southern Division ACDA Conference.

Dr. Dungee has found success in popular music and entertainment as well. He was selected for 2 consecutive years to prepare choirs for the southeast leg of HBO's internationally acclaimed touring production of *The Game of Thrones Live Experience*, featuring music from the hit TV program. In February of 2022 and April of 2023, Dungee was asked to prepare an ensemble for the rock band the Eagles for their performances in Charlotte and Greensboro, respectively. In 2024 he served as choirmaster for the AWR Productions presentation of *Distant Worlds: Music from Final Fantasy* during their tour stop in Charlotte. He conducted sold out, critically acclaimed performances as guest conductor of the Charleston Gospel Choir and sang the tenor solo with the London Symphony Orchestra as they premiered Andre Thomas' *Mass*.

His pride and joy, however, is found in his wife Crysta, and their three children, Jordan, Andrew and Langston.

About our Collaborative Artist



Pianist **Dr. Erin Palmer** is based in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she is a Collaborative Pianist at UNC Charlotte and a freelance pianist and vocal coach in the Charlotte-metro area. During summers, she is a Repetitor for the American Institute for Musical Studies (AIMS) held in Graz, Austria.

Always open to new opportunities, Dr. Palmer has had a diverse career, which includes having taught at both the high school and collegiate level as well as performing in multiple genres. She has collaborated with organizations including the Marcello Giordani International Voice Competition, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Atlanta Opera, Charlotte Symphony, and Opera Carolina. Her training includes the Roger Vignoles Mentoring Program for Vocal Coaches, Alliance Française d'Atlanta, ActiLingua Academy (Vienna), SongFest, AIMS, and the Eastern Music Festival. Dr. Palmer holds two performance degrees from Valdosta State University and earned her doctoral degree from UNC Greensboro. Most recently, she was a member of the inaugural cohort of the 2022 Piano-Vocal Accompaniment Residency hosted by McGill University and Université de Montréal.

A native of Douglas, Georgia, she was a Torchbearer for the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. In addition to making music with others, her favorite things to do are travel and eat. Follow Dr. Palmer on Instagram @travelingpianist where she documents her travels and experiences. Please visit her website for more information. www.erinpalmerpiano.com

The University Chorale

Soprano

Amelia Andrews

Bria Bunch

Julia Charette

Ali Chrisley

Shannon Dailey**

Aryana Figueroa

Karissa Kimbrell

Melody Long*

Reem Nour

Mckeila Ortiz

Abby Roscoe*

DeLenn Rumbolo

Ruhshona Soledjonva

Jylian Taylor

Alto

Phylicia Butler

Gia Cagle

Corrine Collison

Ash Herail

Madison Hunter*

Keilah Jones

Jasmine Keenan

Ashlee Krok

Mazzy Spencer

Zaniya Ward

Jasmine White

Haley Wright

Tenor

Justin Childs

Tim Gawert

Colt Holshouser

Jason Khotsombath

Seth Lamay

Martin Mugunde

Jack Richardson*

Derrion Robinson

Bass

Nathaniel Corner*

Alex Dellinger

Nicholas Matherly

Jamison Moore

Brandon Shy

Christian Souza**

Andrew Williams

Brendon Worsham

James Yorton

*Section Leaders

**Choir Managers

About the Performers

The University Chorale is the flagship choral ensemble of the UNC Charlotte music department. Consisting of both music majors and non-majors, the Chorale proudly serves as ambassadors of the music department and the University at-large, frequently performing in the greater Charlotte area and various locations throughout the southeastern region of the United States. The Chorale has historically participated in several prestigious performances both domestically and abroad, including Madrid, Spain for the 25th Anniversary Gala of the Gredos San Diego schools, and Venice, Italy, at the historic St. Mark's Basilica.



Along with performances of such masterworks as Schubert's *Mass* in G, Haydn's *Missa Brevis* (at the North Carolina Music Educators Annual Conference), Vaughan Williams' *Fantasy on Christmas Carols* and *In Windsor Forest*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, the Chorale has also recently participated in several popular music oriented performances such as the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra's production of *Video Games Live*, AMR Productions presentation of *Distant Worlds: Music From Final Fantasy* (2024) and also served as the

background ensemble for the award-winning rock group The Eagles during their 2022 tour stop in Charlotte, and again in Greensboro in April 2023.

Despite several years of transition, the Chorale has proven itself a resilient ensemble. And under the leadership of Director of Choral Activities, Dr. Jason A. Dungee, the choir has found renewed vigor to engage in the thriving North Carolina choral community. No evidence of this is greater than the honor they received of being invited to perform for the 2022 North Carolina State conference of the American Choral Directors Association (NCACDA) and being featured on program during the Charlotte Master Chorale's presentation of R. Nathaniel Dett's *The Ordering of Moses* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*.

Membership in the chorale is open to all Charlotte students and auditions are held twice per academic year (early Fall, late Spring). Much more information is available at coaa.charlotte.edu/music/ensembles/choirs or by calling the choral office at 704-687-0252.

College of Arts + Architecture

Upcoming Events

APRIL

Percussion Ensemble

Mon Apr 29 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

CoA+A Performing Arts Services

Dean Adams, Senior Associate Dean for Performing Arts

Hali Hutchison-Houk, Production Manager

Liz Paradis, Audience Services Manager

Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator

Liz Wooley, Performing Arts Operations Manager

Meena Carr, Assistant Technical Director

Rachel Engstrom, Lecturer, Costume Lab Supervisor / Designer

Matthew B. Fraiser, Lecturer, Technical Director

Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Production Electrician

Gordon W. Olson, Senior Lecturer, Lighting Designer

Benjamin G. Stickels, Senior Lecturer, Audio Engineer, Asst. Production Manager

Rachel Swenson Watkins, Senior Lecturer, Stage Management

Rebekah Briles, Hazel Doherty, & Noah Tepper, Music Stage Managers

Tammy McNamara, Performing Arts House Manager

Sydney Moore, Performing Arts House Management Supervisor

Patron Services Representatives

Will Loyd, Alex Lozier, Avery Pack, Justin Spencer

Robinson Hall Technicians

Caleb Basham, Lucy Burch, Kayhe Duerson, Alex McLellan, Nick Mendlik,
Christian Souza, Renee Szeghy