

KU TREBLE CHOIR PERSONNEL

Isabel Alsum, Graduate Student
Organ & Church Music
Lakeville, MN

Peyton Aucoin, Freshman
Atmospheric Science
Shawnee, KS

Lyslah Babiera, Freshman
Vocal Performance
Topeka, KS

Alexis Brantley, Junior
Music Education
Topeka, KS

Gwyneth Brown, Freshman
Music Therapy
Overland Park, KS

Coria Chaloupecky, Freshman
Theatre & Journalism
West Des Moines, IA

Megan Chitwood, Sophomore
Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology
Olathe, KS

Kyla Cisneros, Sophomore
Elementary Education
Chicago, IL

Sarah Coleman, Freshman
Music Education
Shawnee, KS

Elena Cressy, Graduate Student
Choral Conducting
St. Paul, MN

Ansley DeWitt, Freshman
Music Education

Lansing, KS

Zoey Dinkel, Senior
Music Education
Philipsburg, KS

Avery Dunlap, Junior
Speech Language Hearing
Germantown, WI

Riley Ellis, Junior
Psychology
Perry, KS

Asa Esparza, Sophomore
Business
Shawnee, KS

Susannah Flory, Freshman
Community Health, Pre-OT
Lawrence, KS

Kylie Gangwish, Sophomore
Music Therapy
Grand Island, NE

Kiersten Grant, Senior
Music Therapy
Raymore, MO

Mary Green, Junior
Media Arts and Production Journalism
Lawrence, KS

Addison Gnuthake, Freshman
Exercise Science
Lansing, KS

Molly Handelman, Senior
Vocal Performance
Chicago, IL

Tehya Harvey, Sophomore
Human Biology, Pre-Med

Louisburg, KS

Éan Haynes, Sophomore
Biology
Rossville, KS

Ashley Hunt, Freshman
Journalism
Merriam, KS

Addy Hurtig, Junior
History & Classics
Wichita, KS

Emma Joers, Sophomore
Exercise Science, Pre-PA
Lee's Summit, MO

Mia Keene, Sophomore
Political Science & Mathematics
Denver, CO

Gia Kelker, Sophomore
Music Therapy
Shawnee, KS

Lindsay Kellogg, Junior
Music Therapy
Shawnee, KS

Celine Khalife, Senior
Chemistry
Wichita, KS

Kate Kirby, Sophomore
Microbiology & Japanese Language
Overland Park, KS

McKenna Liles, Senior
Music Therapy
Maryville, MO

Liora McCoy, Junior
Violin Performance

Olathe, KS

Natalie Meyer, Freshman
Communication Studies
Meriden, KS

Cassandra Mojica, Freshman
Business Marketing
Overland Park, KS

Emma Molteni, Freshman
Vocal Performance
Overland Park, KS

Andrew Morris, Graduate Student
Organ Performance
Shawnee, KS

Evie Ossenkop, Junior
Psychology
Edmond, OK

Audrey Pickering, Graduate Student
Organ Performance
Manhattan, KS

Linnaea Radley, Junior
History
Lawrence, KS

Heidi Ray, Junior
Mathematics
Lawrence, KS

Hayley Riddle, Sophomore
Elementary Education
Overland Park, KS

Olivia Romero, Sophomore
Pre-Nursing & Spanish
Lawrence, KS

Alaina Rossell, Freshman
Theatre & Pre-Law

Kenosha, WI

Ana Sallman, Sophomore
Behavioral Neuroscience
Olathe, KS

Grace Schlueter, Freshman
Elementary Education
Overland Park, KS

Lilly Schmidt, Sophomore
Chemical Engineering
Overland Park, KS

Gretchen Schultz, Senior
English
Overland Park, KS

Christiane Short, Sophomore
Elementary Education
Wichita, KS

Lake Sowles, Freshman
Vocal Music
Olathe, KS

Morgan Spencer, Freshman
Behavioral Neuroscience
Eudora, KS

Vanessa Tessereau, Junior
Vocal Performance
Belleville, IL

Ava Thompson, Freshman
Political Science
Ottawa, KS

Ki'Arra Thornton, Sophomore
Pre-Nursing
Lansing, KS

Emory Thurmond, Junior
Music Education

Estes Park, CO

Denalyn Vasquez, Sophomore
Journalism & Film
Salina, KS

Aliyah Visser, Freshman
Music Therapy
Zeeland, MI

Ella Widen, Junior
Vocal Music & Speech Language Hearing
Topeka, KS

Elena Cressy is pursuing a Master of Music in Choral Conducting at the University of Kansas under the mentorship of Dr. Eduardo Garcia-Novelli. She earned her undergraduate degree in music education from Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, before teaching elementary music and high school choir in the greater Milwaukee area.

As the choir and music theatre director at the Kettle Moraine School for Arts and Performance, Elena was a multiple-time nominee for Outstanding Musical Direction and led an award-winning jazz choir. Now based in Lawrence, KS, she serves as the Minister of Music at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, assists with the Treble Choir and Chamber Choir at KU, and is the Associate Director of the Lawrence Children's Choir Tour Choir. She is an active clinician at music and education conferences in the region.

Elena has performed as a chorister and section leader with ensembles such as the Cathedral Choir at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Chant Claire Chamber Choir, and the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus. She is also featured on numerous studio recordings of Catholic liturgical music.

Alongside her conducting studies, Elena is passionate about the intersections of choir and social justice. She conducts a choir at the Women's Correctional Facility in Topeka, KS, and enjoys fostering musical expression in communities with limited access to choral opportunities.

Andrew Morris began his piano studies at the age of 8 in the studio of Dr. Cameron Dibble at the UMKC Conservatory Academy. He then started his organ studies in 2009 with Ted Stewart in the Kansas City area. In 2013, he was admitted to the organ class of Drs. James Higdon and Michael Bauer at the University of Kansas, where he obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degree in 2021. Over the course of his studies, he has participated in many organ competitions, notably the Canadian International Organ Competition, the International

Organ Competition in Biarritz, and the St. Albans International Organ Competition. In 2019 he won 3rd place in the Mikael Tariverdiev International Organ Competition in Kaliningrad, Russia. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Musical Arts at the University of Kansas, over the course of which he studied at the Paris Conservatoire in the organ class of Olivier Latry and Thomas Ospital for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Eduardo García-Novelli is the Director of Choral Studies at the University of Kansas, in Lawrence, KS, where he directs the graduate program in choral conducting and guides the university choral program. He comes to KU from Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, where he served as Director of Choral Activities and as Chair of the Music Department. During his tenure at Carthage, he led Carthage Choir to perform in five state conventions (WMEA and WCDA), three national tours, five European tours (concertizing in Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, the Vatican, Spain, Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland), a solo debut concert at Carnegie Hall, and multiple concerts at Chicago Orchestra Hall. In July of 2019, Dr. García-Novelli led Carthage Choir to a coveted international recognition, winning both categories at the prestigious *Spittal International Choir Competition* in Spittal, Austria. In addition, he served for 10 years as Artistic Director of the Master Singers of Milwaukee.

Prior to his time at Carthage, Dr. García-Novelli served for six years as Director of Choral Activities at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX, where he earned the Faculty Merit Award. During his time at the helm of the choral program, Lamar University A Cappella Choir was selected to perform at the prestigious annual TMEA Convention, an honor the institution received for the first time in 40 years. The choir was also selected to perform for the National Conference of NCCO (National Collegiate Choral Organization) in Cincinnati, OH; this was the first time a choral ensemble from Lamar University was recognized at the national level. Finally, the choir was the only American ensemble invited to perform for the *IV International Choral Festival: Central America and the Caribbean Sing!* in Panama City, Panama.

A runner-up for the National ACDA Graduate Conducting Competition, Dr. García-Novelli is the former chorus director for the Symphony of Southeast Texas and served for five seasons as Assistant Director of the Houston Symphony Chorus, helping to prepare choral-orchestral repertoire for world-renowned conductors. Finally, he served for six seasons as the Assistant Conductor of the *Coro Nacional de Jóvenes* (National Young People Choir) of Argentina. In March of 2015, he conducted Schubert's Mass in G at Carnegie Hall, with a large festival choir, orchestra, and professional soloists. Dr. García-Novelli returned to that historic concert hall in March of 2017, this time conducting Mozart's *Coronation Mass*. He conducted Mozart's *Missa brevis* in F, K192 at *Peterskirche* in Vienna in June of 2016, as part of the MidAm International Festival, and had his debut at the newest professional concert hall in Buenos Aires, the CCK, in July of 2017.

As a church musician, Dr. García-Novelli has served churches in NJ, TX and WI, and he is currently the Choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Cathedral in Topeka, KS. He has held several offices for WCDA and NCACDA, and is a member of the National Board of the NCCO. He is active as a clinician and adjudicator in the US, Europe, China and South America. Recently Dr

Garcia-Novelli was in residence for two weeks at the *Tamara Brooks Summer Music Course* in Tui, in Spain; offered a presentation for the World Choral Expo in Lisbon, Portugal; was a guest faculty member at the school of music in Banská Bystrica in Slovakia and served twice on the jury panel for the Voce Magna International Choral Competition in Žilina, Slovakia.

In July of 2023 he led the University of Kansas Chamber Choir to a triumph at the Preveza International Choir Competition in Preveza, Greece, earning first prize at the Mixed Choir Category, first prize at the Free Program category, a special prize from the jury for “Best Program” and a special prize from the jury for “Best Conductor.”

Born in Argentina, Dr. García-Novelli is a graduate of the *Conservatorio Juan José Castro* with an undergraduate degree in Choral Conducting, and from the *Conservatorio Manuel de Falla*, with another undergraduate degree in Music Education. After moving to the United States, he earned a Master's degree in Choral Conducting with distinction from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, and received his D.M.A. from the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, where he was a Moores Scholar.

Eduardo and his wife María Fernanda Fiocchi are the proud parents of two grown children, Mateo and Camila.

PROGRAM NOTES

The concert opens with a vibrant setting of Gloria in excelsis Deo, a Latin phrase meaning “Glory to God in the Highest.” This setting, which alternates between Latin and English, features the joyful exclamation “Alleluia.” The composer, Jackson Berkey (b. 1942), is a classically trained musician and a virtuoso pianist. Notably, Berkey co-founded the musical group Mannheim Steamroller in 1974, blending his classical expertise with contemporary influences.

The spiritual “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” is rooted in both biblical and historical significance. The phrase originates from the Gospel of Matthew’s parable of the wise and foolish virgins, symbolizing vigilance and spiritual readiness. However, within the context of African American spirituals, it also carries an additional layer of meaning. Spirituals often served as coded messages among enslaved people, and the call to “keep your lamps trimmed” could also signify hope for freedom. This arrangement is by Rosephanye Powell, a highly regarded and prolific African American composer known for her contributions to choral music.

“Sólo mi corazón sabe (Only My Heart Knows)” is a piece arranged by Argentinian composer Fernanda Lalloz. This arrangement, which receives its premiere performance today, is based on a traditional **vidala**, a folk melody from the northwest region of Argentina. The text conveys a sense of longing and sorrow, reflecting on lost love with the poignant refrain: “It seems that you no longer remember me.” Through its melancholic lyricism and expressive harmonies, this setting captures the emotional depth and introspective nature of the **vidala** tradition.

Kevin Memley's *There Will Be Rest* is a luminous choral setting of a poem by Sara Teasdale, an early 20th-century American poet known for her evocative and lyrical writing. The text speaks of peace, renewal, and transcendence, and uses celestial imagery to convey a sense of serenity and hope. Memley's composition enhances these themes through rich harmonies and flowing lines, creating an atmosphere of quiet reflection. The work exemplifies Memley's signature style—lyrical, expressive, and deeply moving—offering both singers and listeners a moment of stillness and beauty.

There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,
The music of stillness holy and low.
I will make this world of my devising
Out of a dream in my lonely mind.
I shall find the crystal of peace, – above me
Stars I shall find.

Ave Regina Caelorum – Chiara Margarita Cozzolani

Chiara Margarita Cozzolani (1602–c.1677) was a Benedictine nun and composer active in 17th-century Milan. As one of the most prominent female composers of the Italian Baroque, her sacred works display a remarkable sense of expressivity and contrapuntal elegance. “*Ave Regina Caelorum*” is a setting of one of the four traditional Marian antiphons, a hymn of praise to the Virgin Mary. Cozzolani's setting is both reverent and exuberant, featuring intricate vocal lines and rich harmonic textures that reflect the text's sense of devotion and joy. Her music, though long overlooked, stands as a testament to the artistry and innovation of women composers in the Baroque era.

“*Ave Regina Caelorum*” by living composer and conductor Joni Jensen is another setting of the Marian antiphon. Jensen takes a minimalist approach by using the original chant tone and building upon that eight note phrase. Jensen utilizes contrasting dynamics, dissonant chords, and compound meter to incorporate early music with contemporary choral textures.

*Ave Regina caelorum,
Ave Domina Angelorum,
Salve radix, salve porta,
Ex qua mundo lux est orta.*

*Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,
Super omnes speciosa,
Vale, O valde decora!
Et pro nobis Christum exora.*

Hail, Queen of Heaven.
Hail, Lady of Angels

Hail, thou root, hail, thou gate
From whom into the world, a light has arisen:

Rejoice, glorious Virgin,
Lovely above all others,
Farewell, most beautiful maiden,
And pray for us to Christ.

Itken Pois – Anna-Mari Kähärä

Anna-Mari Kähärä's "Itken Pois (I Weep Away)" is a deeply expressive work that blends contemporary choral textures with Finnish folk influences. Kähärä, a Finnish composer and singer known for her genre-crossing compositions, crafts a setting that is both harmonically rich and rhythmically compelling. Shifting meters and dynamic contrasts enhance the piece's raw emotionality, which mirrors the text's themes of sorrow and healing.

Itku silmähän tulevi,
Itku vieraalla vuotehella.
Olen joutunu jonnekki
Kurja junnekki kulkenunna.

Itken pois ihanat silmät
Vieritän pois verevät kasvot,
Kasvot kaunihit kaotan
Itken itseni ikäni kaiken.

Itken saavit, itken saunat,
Itken metsät itken vuoret
Itken järvet, itken joet,
Itken itseni ikäni kaiken

Jo tuosta joki tulevi
Itkemistäni vesistä
Jo tuosta meri tulevi

Tears are coming to my eyes,
I'm crying in a strange bed.
I've got somewhere to go-
What misery.

I cry for these lovely eyes,
I roll away the bleeding face.
I'm losing your beautiful face.
I cry all my life.

I'm crying- crying saunas,
I cry forests, I cry mountains,
I cry lakes, I cry rivers
I cry all my life.

That's where the river came from,
from the waters of my weeping.
Even from that came the sea.