

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

MCINTIRE DEPARTMENT of **music**

presents

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
**CHAMBER
SINGERS**
CONDUCTED BY MICHAEL SLON

Fall Concert 2024

Folk Songs from around the World

Sunday, November 24, 2024

3:30 pm

Old Cabell Hall

Program

Early One Morning

English folk song
arr. Thomas F. Dunhill

The Dark-Eyed Sailor

English folk song
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lao Yœ Wung

Chinese folk song

Pobreng Alindahaw

Visayas region (Philippines) folk song
arr. Tomas Villaflores

Maya Pattison, *soloist*

Pala, Pala Pulpero

Argentinian folk song
arr. Alberto Ginastera

Shenandoah

American folk song
arr. Marshall Bartholomew

At the River

from *Old American Songs*
arr. Aaron Copland

Luke Watson, *soloist*

Simple Gifts

Quaker song
arr. Aaron Copland

~ Brief Pause ~

Túrót eszik a cigány

Hungarian folk song
arr. Zoltán Kodály

Tancuj

Czech folk song
arr. Vaclav Kalik

To Bio (“ویب و ت”)

Bakhtiari (Iran) folk song

Ava Ghods, *soloist*

Danny Boy

Irish folk song
lyrics by Frederic Weatherly

James Good, *soloist*

Deep River

American spiritual
arr. René Clausen

My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose

Scottish folk song
Text: Robert Burns
arr. John Cameron

Curtis Lawson, *soloist*



Translations

Lao Yoe Wung (Feelings from a Wooden Bridge)

An old fisherman holding a rod
Under the cliff, in the bay,
Sails in his light boat where he wills.
Meanwhile seagulls afar chase the light waves.
The day grows cold; winds shake the reeds;
The sun sets as I sing my song.
Suddenly the sunlight shatters on the golden waves.
And lo, the moon is on the eastern hill!

Pala, Pala Pulpero

The raven, a grocer
The chuña [bird], a bachelor
The frog, a box-vendor
The fox, a guitarist

Túrót eszik a cigány

See the gypsy* eating curded cheese, “duba”
After that he becomes quarrelsome, “leba”
He’s saying he’s going to slap your face, “duba”
Why, he’ll slap his own grandfather, “leba.”
The buds of the briar hang over the road,
“Rida, rida, bom, bom, bom.”
Little Janos went that way and picked one of them.

*This is an historical translation of the Kodály text. Contemporaries in this group prefer to be referred to as the Roma people.

Tancuj

Dance, strut along,
but don’t ruin my oven;
an oven is good in winter;
not everyone has a featherbed.

UVA Chamber Singers

Michael Slon, Director

Deke Polifka, Accompanist

Miles Jackson, Assistant Conductor

Karen Dalton, Choral Administrator

Niamh Kierans & Maya Pattison, Student Managers

Sopranos

Rachel Bohannon

Kathryn Geoffroy

Ava Ghods

Amanda Hellwig

Claire Huchthausen

Maya Pattison

Skylar Raynor

Anna Russell

Altos

Grace Blake

Abigail Dodd

Lauren Kim

Niamh Kierans

Caroline Lingle

Gina Vicari

Julia Wall

Mags Worden

Tenors

Henry Brown

Jordan Fulayter

Miles Jackson

Curtis Lawson

Josh Mazher

Godwin Mensah

Keshav Tarafdar

Luke Watson

Basses

Taylor Colaizzi

Sebastian Condyles

Kevin Duan

Andrew Heil

Nathan Hershberger

Kaile Maske

Jack Wallace

Camron Williams

UVA Chamber Singers

The UVA Chamber Singers is a select ensemble drawn from the University Singers (UVA's flagship chorus), and committed to broad programming perspectives, performs a wide variety of repertoire ranging from early music to contemporary compositions. In addition to a performance for the Governor and other distinguished guests at UVA's 2017 Bicentennial Cornerstone Celebration, and a 2024 Campaign Songs collaboration with the UVA Center for Politics where students sang with Martin Luther King III, recent performances have included: Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* (with Three Notch'd Road Baroque ensemble), programs of Latin American choral music, choral music from film and Broadway, and new music by Meredith Monk (with the Meredith Monk Vocal Ensemble.) Other collaborations include concerts with the Staunton Music Festival, Victory Hall Opera (in pioneering presentations of Poulenc and Gluck operas with deaf actors), the Charlottesville Chamber Music Festival, and a 2022 presentation of *Defiant Requiem* (honoring the prisoners at Terezin who performed the *Verdi Requiem*) at the Strathmore Music Center with five other universities. They've sung in workshop with Peter Phillips and members of the Tallis Scholars, and in 2014, were honored to perform for composer Philip Glass. They've also been heard in major works, at VMEA, and on tour in the U.S. and Europe with the University Singers. Founded in 2005, the ensemble is led by Michael Slon, Professor and Director of Choral Music at UVA.

Auditions: held at the beginning of each semester

For more information: visit music.virginia.edu/chamber-singers
music.virginia.edu/usingers

To make a gift to the UVA Choral Ensembles:
write the choral ensembles at: university-singers@virginia.edu
or scan the following QR code:



Michael Slon



Michael Slon is Director of Choral Music and Professor at the University of Virginia, where he leads the University Singers, UVA Chamber Singers, and also guest conducts the Charlottesville Symphony. He also serves as Music Director of the Oratorio Society of Virginia, and as conductor and chorusmaster with Charlottesville Opera. Having led the University Singers and Charlottesville Symphony in a gala performance for UVA's 2017 Bicentennial Launch Celebration (which included Copland's *Appalachian Spring* with the Martha Graham Dance Company), he and the Singers presented the regional premiere of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* at UVA in 2018. His UVA ensembles have also performed for composer Philip Glass and the creators of *Les Misérables*, toured Europe, Canada, and the United States, and received more than half a million views on social media platforms. Also active as a composer and writer, his first book – *Songs from the Hill* – has been cited in a variety of other publications, and his work on Leonard Bernstein has appeared in the *Choral Journal*, won the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Julius Herford Prize, and appeared in *Bernstein in Context* (2024) from Cambridge University Press. He holds degrees from Cornell University and the Indiana University School of Music.



Deke Prolifka



Deke Prolifka is Director of Music at St. Paul's Memorial Church (Episcopal) on The Corner, where his duties include directing choirs for children and adults, serving as principal organist, and overseeing all aspects of the parish's music. Deke accompanies the University Singers and Chamber Choir at UVA, and

has enjoyed recent collaborations with The Oratorio Society of Virginia and The Virginia Consort. Previously, Deke served for eleven years as Organist and Choirmaster at Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, and was Assistant Conductor and accompanist for The Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble.

An active performer, he has presented organ recitals in venues such as the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and has appeared with orchestra for performances of Barber's Toccata Festiva, the Poulenc Concerto and organ symphonies by Widor and Guilmant. Deke holds degrees in piano performance from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and earned an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance from The University of Denver. In 2013, he spent a summer sabbatical in France, playing many of the significant instruments in and around Paris and studying French organ repertoire with Marie-Louise Langlais. Deke is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists (AAGO) and has served in various leadership positions for that organization. He and his wife Joyce have three children and very much like spending time outdoors, cooking, and making music together.

Special Thanks To:

The Department of Music, President Jim Ryan, Provost Ian Baucom, Vice Provost Jody Kielbasa and the Office of the Vice Provost for the Arts, Dean Christa Acampora, Associate Dean Sarah Betzer, Gene Schutt, and the College of Arts and Sciences; the UVA Parents Program, the Joseph & Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, and our Alumni, Friends, and Family supporters.

Upcoming Choral Events

Family Holiday Concerts

With the Charlottesville Symphony and UVA University Singers
Saturday, December 7, 7:30 pm & Sunday December 8, 3:30 pm,
Old Cabell Hall

Messiah Sing-In

Tuesday, December 10, 8:00 pm
Old Cabell Hall

For tickets, visit:
artsboxoffice.virginia.edu | (434) 924-3376



THE OPPORTUNITY

Plans are underway for the University Singers to tour Eastern Europe in May 2025. A unique educational and cultural opportunity, the tour will feature 10-12 days of traveling and performing in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, a corner of the world steeped in musical tradition and history. In addition to being an unparalleled experience for the students, the tour will allow the U-Singers to build upon the relationship established with Latvian composer Eriks Ešenvalds last spring, when he visited UVA for the North American premiere of his *St. Luke's Passion*, performed by U-Singers. The tour will also include other collaborations and spread the word about the university and its flourishing music program.

THE NEED

To make this journey possible, we are seeking to raise at least \$100,000 to reduce the costs of the tour for all, and to allow partial or full scholarships for students in need. Your contribution will allow the University Singers to make this unparalleled experience a reality. It will also engage and strengthen ties with the family of UVA alumni and friends abroad, whom the students will be engaging at every opportunity. Make your gift today and help us in supporting the U-Singers' first international tour in 10 years.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Led by Director Michael Slon, the University Singers is the flagship choral ensemble at the University of Virginia. The U-Singers perform a cappella and accompanied choral literature, including major works with orchestra. Founded in 1957, the group has performed for hundreds of thousands in venues throughout the world, from Old Cabell Hall to the Washington National Cathedral, and concerts in London, Prague, Krakow, and Vienna. Together, members enjoy an *esprit de corps* that arises from the pursuit of musical excellence and the camaraderie the singers develop offstage.

To make a gift, please visit this site and choose Tour Projects, or use the QR code:

www.givecampus.com/campaigns/21729/donations/new

For more information, email: university-singers@virginia.edu

