

# SCHOOL of MUSIC

Where PASSION is *heard*

## Kennesaw State University Choral Ensembles

Women's Choir

Men's Ensemble

Chamber Singers

Dr. Melissa Arasi, *conductor*

Dr. Reid Masters, *conductor*

Brenda Brent, *piano*

Sherri Barrett, *piano*

Thursday, October 29, 2020 | 7:30 PM

Presented virtually from Morgan Concert Hall of the Bailey Performance Center

### PROGRAM

Women's Choir

STEPHEN SONDHEIM (b. 1930), arr. Mark Brymer

*Children Will Listen* from ***Into the Woods***

DAVID L. BRUNNER (b. 1953)

*Hold Fast Your Dreams*

Men's Ensemble

JOEL THOMPSON (b. 1988)

**Selections from *Seven Last Words of the Unarmed***

IV. Michael Brown: "*I don't have a gun! Stop shooting!*"

III. Amadou Diallo: "*Mom, I'm going to college.*"

Chamber Singers

ARVO PÄRT (b. 1935)

*Magnificat*

HEINRICH SCHÜTZ (1585-1672)

*Selig sind die Toten*

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)

*Der Gang zum Liebchen*



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## PROGRAM NOTES

### Women's Choir

The first selection, *Children Will Listen*, comes from the Broadway musical ***Into the Woods*** and urges everyone to be mindful of the things you say and do around children...even when you think they aren't listening or understanding.

- Melissa Arasi

*Hold Fast Your Dreams*, text by Louise Driscoll, is an inspirational message to be sung from the heart.

- Melissa Arasi

### Men's Ensemble

It is said that Jesus uttered seven last words on the cross before he died. For centuries, composers such as Schütz, Haydn, and Dubois have set these seven last words to music so that each phrase is given its own movement. For many Christians, the sobering message is revisited each year during Holy Week. Joel Thompson (b. 1988) is an Atlanta-based composer who has adapted this formal structure in his work, ***Seven Last Words of the Unarmed***. Instead of setting Jesus's last words, he sets the final words of seven unarmed black men whose lives were lost at the hands of police brutality. Each movement is titled with the name of a victim: Kenneth Chamberlain, Trayvon Martin, Amadou Diallo, Michael Brown, Oscar Grant, John Crawford, and Eric Garner. While this work premiered in 2016, we need not look far to see its relevance in 2020.

- Reid Masters



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## TEXT & TRANSLATIONS

*Children Will Listen* - Sondheim / Brymer

How do you say to a child in the night,  
"Nothing's all black, but then nothing's all white?"  
How do you say "It will all be all right?" When you know that it mightn't be true?  
What do you do?  
What do you leave to your child when you're dead?  
Only whatever you put in its head.  
Things that your father and mother had said, which were left to them too.  
Careful what you say.  
Careful the things you say  
Children will listen  
Careful the things you do  
Children will see and learn  
Children may not obey, but children will listen  
Children will look to you for which way to turn  
And learn what to be  
Careful before you say "Listen to me"  
Children will listen  
Careful the wish you make  
Wishes are children  
Careful the path they take  
Wishes come true, not free  
Careful the spell you cast  
Not just on children  
Sometimes the spell may last  
Past what you can see  
And turn against you  
Careful the tale you tell  
That is the spell  
Children will listen

*Hold Fast Your Dreams* - Brunner / Driscoll

Hold fast your dreams! Within your heart keep one, still, secret spot  
Where dreams may go and sheltered so, may thrive and grow  
Where doubt and fear are not  
O, keep a place apart, within your heart, for little dreams to go!  
Hold fast your dreams!



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## *Magnificat - Pärt*

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum;*

*Et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,*

*Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae;*

*Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.*

*Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est, et sanctum  
nomen ejus,*

*Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies timentibus  
eum.*

*Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;*

*Dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.*

*Deposuit potentes de sede, et exaltavit humiles.*

*Esurientes implevit bonis, et divites dimisit inanes.*

*Suscepit Israel, puerum suum, recordatus misericordiae  
suae,*

*Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini  
ejus in saecula.*

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his  
handmaiden:

For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall  
call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is  
his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout  
all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:

He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of  
their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and  
hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the  
rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant  
Israel:

As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his  
seed forever.

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

## *Selig sind die Toten - Schütz*

*Selig sind die Toten,*

*die in dem Herren sterben, von nun an.*

*Ja, der Geist spricht:*

*Sie ruhen von ihrer Arbeit,*

*und ihre werke folgen ihnen nach*

Blessed are the dead

Which die in the Lord, from henceforth:

Yea, the Spirit says:

That they may rest from their labors,

And their works follow after them.



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## *Der Gang zum Liebchen* - Brahms

*Es glänzt der Mond nieder,  
ich sollte doch wieder  
Zu meinem Liebchen,  
Wie mag es ihr geh'n?*

The moon shines down,  
I should set out again  
to my love.  
How is she doing?

*Ach weh', sie verzaget  
Und klaget, und klaget,  
Daß sie mich nimmer  
Im Leben wird seh'n!*

Alas, she's despairing,  
and lamenting and lamenting,  
that she'll never  
see me again in her life!

*Es ging der Mond unter,  
Ich eilte doch munter,  
Und eilte daß keiner  
Mein Liebchen entführt.*

The moon sinks down,  
I hurried off happily,  
and hurried so that no one  
would steal my love.

*Ihr Täubchen, o girret,  
Ihr Lüftchen, o schwirret,  
Daß keiner mein Liebchen,  
Mein Liebchen entführt!*

Keep cooing, you doves,  
Keep whispering, you breezes,  
So that no one  
should steal my love.

## PERSONNEL

### Women's Choir

#### **Soprano I**

Destiny Avery  
Rebekah Lecesne  
Camille Roty  
Auriyan Tillman

Dr. Melissa Arasi, *conductor*

#### **Soprano II**

Bailey Day  
Hope Englert  
Emily France  
Emily Graffius

#### **Alto**

Lb Huisman  
Melissa Lopez  
Kate Newman  
Rebecca Smith  
Mahlet Worku



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## Men's Ensemble

Dr. Reid Masters, *conductor*

### Tenor 1

Andrew Hughes  
Malachi Norton  
Noah Whitaker

### Tenor 2

Nash Hickam  
Christopher Hodges  
Frankie Moore  
Riley Whited

### Baritone

Matthew Bailey  
Jackson Garrison  
Joshua Jenkins  
William Woodward

### Bass

Terrance Calder  
Morgan Kenney

## Chamber Singers

Dr. Reid Masters, *conductor*

### Group 1

Elaine Brown, *soprano*  
Sarah Hayes, *soprano*  
Molly Jennings, *soprano*  
Katie Kosowski, *soprano*  
Morgan Potts, *soprano*  
Chloe Roney, *soprano*  
Morgan Blacksmith, *alto*  
Lauryn Davis, *alto*  
Sydnee Goode, *alto*

Hannah Norton, *alto*  
Abby Snyder, *alto*  
Jonathan Boyett, *tenor*  
Alek Hansen, *tenor*  
Ryan Valley, *tenor*  
Noah Whitaker, *tenor*  
Kaelan Harris-Patrick,  
*bass*  
Morgan Kenney, *bass*  
Trevor Walker, *bass*

### Group 2

Destiny Avery, *soprano*  
Rylee Barkley, *soprano*  
Allie Eller, *soprano*  
Tobia Nosiri, *soprano*  
Brianna Powers, *soprano*  
Lindsey Sanders, *soprano*  
Camille Core, *alto*  
Sammy Fodroczi, *alto*  
Emily Patterson, *alto*

Jamie Lynn Sparkman,  
*alto*  
Jenna Wagner, *alto*  
Asa Bradley, *tenor*  
Brandon Cali, *tenor*  
Coleman Hand, *tenor*  
Sam Wilder, *tenor*  
Peter Ho, *bass*  
Ryan Kingsley, *bass*  
Chris Nguyen, *bass*

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Women's Choir

KSU Women's Choir, typically under the direction of Alison Mann, is being conducted by Melissa Arasi. This unique semester, with Covid restrictions, has been a special time to make music in any way possible. The members of the women's choir, as music majors and non-majors from across the campus, have worked to bring joy through song to our rehearsals and hopefully your lives.



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## KSU Men's Ensemble

Formed in 1998, the KSU Men's Ensemble sings a variety of a cappella works in a pop and jazz vocal style as well as standard repertoire for men's voices. The Men's Ensemble performs on all major concerts and regularly performs for schools and civic organizations. The Men's Ensemble is fast becoming the most well-known and sought after vocal group on campus.

## Chamber Singers

KSU Chamber Singers is the premiere auditioned choral ensemble at Kennesaw State University comprised of all undergraduate students, primarily music majors. The KSU Chamber Singers have performed at National, Regional, and State Conferences of NCCO, ACDA, and GMEA. The choir sang at the ACDA Southern Division Conference, presenting music of South America, 2010. In 2013, the KSU Chamber Singers were selected to perform at the NCCO 5th National Conference performing David Maslanka's masterwork *A Litany for Courage and the Seasons*. Recently, they performed their fifth invitation to the GMEA State Conference in January, 2018 and were honored to be selected to perform at the ACDA Southern Division Conference, March 2020.

## Dr. Melissa Arasi

As founding conductor and Artistic Director of the Atlanta Women's Chorus, Melissa Arasi has benefitted from a deeply meaningful musical experience. Through engaging musical endeavors with diverse women, her life has been informed and improved.

In addition to her work with the AWC, Dr. Arasi recently served as Assistant Professor of Music Education and Coordinator of Music Education Programs at Reinhardt University.

Dr. Arasi previously served as the Supervisor of Performing Arts: General/Choral Music, Theatre, and Dance for the Cobb County School District in Marietta, Georgia. Prior to this supervisory role, she was the Choral Director and Fine Arts Department Chair at Walton High School in Cobb County for fourteen years. Additionally, Dr. Arasi previously served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at the Georgia Institute of Technology Choral Program, where she founded and conducted the Women's Choir. Dr. Arasi has taught private voice, elementary general music, and conducted children's choirs in several Atlanta area churches.

Dr. Arasi received a Bachelor of Music Education from Shorter College in Rome, Georgia; a Master of Music Education and a Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning in Music Education with a concentration in choral music and a cognate in leadership from Georgia State University. Dr. Arasi was a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, primarily under the direction of Robert Shaw, for five seasons. She maintains active memberships in National Association of Music Education, Georgia Music Educators Association, and American Choral Directors Association and has held leadership roles in both the state of Georgia and the Southern Region of ACDA.



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## Dr. Reid Masters

Acclaimed for his “infectious passion”, Dr. Reid Masters is proud to join the faculty at Kennesaw State University as Assistant Director of Choral Activities. For the past 11 years, he was the Artistic Director of the New Jersey Chamber Singers, which recently released a commercial album of Mozart’s Requiem with Affetto Records, distributed internationally by Naxos. Dr. Masters is also the Co-founder and Assistant Director of the professional chamber choir Kinnara Ensemble, working alongside JD Burnett. He studied choral conducting with Joseph Flummerfelt, Andrew Megill, Joe Miller, and Patrick Gardner in addition to working with Helmuth Rilling.

As a professional countertenor, Masters is also active as a soloist and choral singer. He has made solo appearances around NY & NJ and has performed with some of the Northeast’s finest baroque ensembles such as the Brandywine Baroque Band and The Sebastians. In choral settings, he has sung with the New York Philharmonic under the direction of conductors such as Maestros Lorin Maazel, Kurt Mazur, Alan Gilbert, Nicholas McGegan, and Jaap van Zweden.

Dr. Masters was named a Rider scholar and graduated Summa cum Laude from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ with Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Sacred Music. Most recently, he was awarded a Mortensen Fellowship and earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from Mason Gross School of the Arts where he also directed the Rutgers University Choir and taught undergraduate conducting.

