



**DAVID L. WALTERS
DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC**

presents

A CAPPELLA CHOIR

Eliezer Yanson Jr., director
Rachel Park, collaborative pianist

2025 INTERNATIONAL TOUR PREVIEW CONCERT



Belgium - The Netherlands

Tuesday, April 29
7:00 PM
Sacred Heart of Jesus
Catholic Church
1301 Golden Springs Road
Anniston, Alabama

Tuesday, May 20
7:00 PM
First United
Methodist Church
115 S 5th Street
Gadsden, Alabama

Wednesday, May 21
6:30 PM
Golden Springs
Baptist Church
3 Robertson Road
Anniston, Alabama

PROGRAM

I

Hosanna to the Son of David Thomas Weelkes (c. 1576 – 1623)

Jagdlied Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

sung in German

*Through swaying treetops flickers a ray of gold,
The misty valley lies far beneath the summits,
The call of the hunting horn rings out from the
far castle,
The horses whinny into the air, into the air!*

*Soon lands and lakes, soon scudding clouds
Appear shimmering far off in the dizzying flight,
Soon darkness again veils rider and horse,
O love, O love, let me go!*

*The sounds push on further and further,
Through woods and over moors; where, O
where are they going?
Invigorating freshness, sweet, fearful desire!*

*The high foliage flutters, the heart beats freely.
And further and further the sounds echo on.
The high foliage flutters, the heart beats freely.*

Joseph von Eichendorff (1788-1857)

We Beheld Once Again the Stars (Riveder le stelle) Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)

sung in Italian and Latin

*But soon it will be night; [and we must rise to the stars]
Now is the time to depart this place,
For we have seen and experienced it all
Keep moving!
The wings of hell's monarch are heard nearby!
But soon it will be night;
I climbed toward paradise with no thought of looking back,
And finally saw heaven and the supreme light,
And beheld once again the stars.*

From the *Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri (c. 1265 – 1321)

Kaisa-isa Nyan Nilo Alcala (b. 1978)

sung in Maguindanaoan (a Philippine language)

*Just one, two, or three of that.
Four are alternating. Five: too noisy, it's disturbing.
Six: a sound so loud! Seven: a dragon...
Eight: pounds heavily on a puddle
Nine: a box, Ten: a drawer*

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord Traditional Spiritual
arr. Moses Hogan

II

Cum Sancto Spiritu Hyo-won Woo (b. 1974)
from *Gloria* sung in *Latin*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, Amen.*

Crucifixus Antonio Lotti (1667 – 1740)
..... sung in *Latin*

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, he suffered and was buried.

Indodana Traditional South African
..... sung in *Xhosa* arr. Michael Barrett and Ralf Schmidt

The Lord has taken His Son Who lived among us. The Son of the Lord God was crucified.

Pseaume 43 Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562 – 1621)
..... sung in *French*

*Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people,
from deceitful and unjust men, deliver me!*

Balleilakka A. R. Rahman (b. 1967)
..... sung in *Tamil (a language in India and Sri Lanka)* arr. Ethan Sperry

Timothy Jones and Leila Acheson, soloists

*Is he the sun or the moon? Who is he? Tell me now!
Is he the valorous Cheran or Pandiyan king? Tell me,
tell me,
tell me right now!
Look at him, look at him, who is he?
Is he the Sivan who scorches the wrong in an
instant?
("Aey Balleilakka" means nothing, the rest is a list of
city names)
For all the people from all of these places, if the
respectful Annan comes, Tamil Nadu will become
America itself.
Can we ever forget the river Cauvery, and the hand-
pounded rice?
Will the girls in the traditional dhaavani and the eyes
that transmit hundreds of messages ever be lost?*

*Our ploughing fields and the woods on the side of
the creek,
and the rustic roads that shower red mud.
The tree (trunk) around which we played sadugudu,
the lush green of the grasslands that look as if the
earth
has been blanketed,
The dew drop that breaks as you slightly touch it,
the idli which is served hot, really hot,
The railroads that shudder with the passing train,
the river Cauvery which flows quickly, very quickly,
The real fresh crisp betel leaves that are folded
with vigor,
The moustache that is curled with vivacity.
These are all in my heart truly, truly, truly...*

III

to be selected

Estampes Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

III. Jardins sous la pluie

Amazing Grace/Arirang Early American Hymn/Korean Folk Song
arr. Rachel Park

Etude Op. 10, No. 12 in C Minor Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Rachel Park, piano

IV

to be selected

Da Coconut Nut Ryan Cayabyab (b. 1954)

Alex Frost, Devonte Roszell, Nick Frederick, and Evan Tigue, soloists

For Good Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948)
from *Wicked* arr. Audrey Snyder

Adria Hamilton or Lauren Kilgore, soloist

Till There Was You Meredith Willson (1902 – 1984)
from *The Music Man*

I'll Be on My Way Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

Ethan Duce, Alex Frost, or Christian Parker, soloist

Assisted by Alayna Endicott, *violin*

Fairest Lord Jesus Derek Hakes (b. 1976)
rev. Craig Courtney



**COLLEGE OF ARTS,
HUMANITIES & SCIENCES**
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

PERSONNEL

SOPRANO

Leila Acheson, Oxford, Ala., *graduate student, history*
Blue Adams, Fort Payne, Ala., *instr.music education*
Carley Brooks, McDonough, Ga., *vocal music ed.*
Brie Dinkins, Stockbridge, Ga., *vocal music ed.*
Elizabeth Embrey, Newnan, Ga., *vocal music ed.*
Alayna Endicott, Valley, Ala., *vocal music education*
Ashlyn Endicott, Valley, Ala., *vocal music education*
Maleah Hallmark, Kimberly, Ala., *vocal music ed.*
Tierra-Mishael Harmon, Cartersville, Ala., *vocal perf.*
Kaya Knox, Pagosa Springs, Colo., *integrated studies*
Alexa Lusk, Bay Minette, Ala., *vocal music education*
Grace Shelton, Jacksonville, Ala., *English*



TENOR

Levi Benefield, LaFayette, Ga., *vocal music education*
Nicholas Frederick, Sylacauga, Ala., *marketing*
Timothy Jones, Jackson, Ga., *communication*
Hayden Medley, Anniston, Ala., *communication*
Dylan Mitchell, Weaver, Ala., *general music – piano*
Ethan Nessler, Gadsden, Ala., *graduate student, music ed.*
Reid Nordan, Oxford, Ala., *biology*
Devonte Roszell, Oxford, Ala., *vocal music education*
Evan Tigue, Gadsden, Ala., *jazz performance*



ALTO

Paulina Dingler, Balleyton, Ala., *vocal music ed.*
Bethany Hallmark, Kimberly, Ala., *forensic investigation*
Adria Hamilton, Albertville, Ala., *integrated studies*
Lauren Kilgore, Moody, Ala., *vocal performance*
Morgan Langley, Albertville, Ala., *integrated studies*
Kimora Linder, Wilmington, N.C., *psychology*
Adyson Lowden, Albertville, Ala., *vocal music education*
Mary Elizabeth Maddox, Albertville, Ala., *exercise science & wellness*
Anna Smith, Piedmont, Ala., *vocal music education*
Ramsey Whitney, Anniston, Ala., *integrated studies*



BASS

Mitchell Coleman, Rome, Ga., *vocal music education*
Ryan Dowis, Ringgold, Ga., *studio art*
Ethan Duce, Winston, Ga., *theatre*
Alex Frost, Ringgold, Ga., *vocal music education*
Mark Harris, Ringgold, Ga., *mathematics education*
Christian Parker, Lineville, Ala., *vocal performance*
Jamey Smith, Anniston, Ala., *graduate student, voice*
Kobe Smith, Opelika, Ala., *creative writing*
Jarod Sprayberry, Altoona, Ala., *vocal music education*
Silas Tankersley, Anniston, Ala., *vocal music education*



Eliezer Yanson Jr. is professor of music and director of choral activities at Jacksonville State University where he conducts the A Cappella Choir and Civic Chorale and teaches undergraduate and graduate music classes. Prior to his appointment at Jax State, Eliezer served on the music faculty at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. He earned a doctor of musical arts degree in choral conducting from the University of South Carolina, a master of music in church music (conducting) and a bachelor of music in piano performance from Bob Jones University. His main conducting mentors have been Larry Wyatt and Warren Cook. Eliezer has also worked and studied with André Thomas, Don Portnoy, Paul Vermel, Dian Tchobanov and Hilary Apfelstadt.

An active adjudicator, conference speaker, and clinician, Eliezer has conducted choirs and clinics and presented at conferences in the United States, Bulgaria, Canada, South Korea, Thailand, Türkiye, and in his native Philippines. He is a two-time 3rd prize winner (2015 and 2023) in conducting – college/university chorus division of *The American Prize* and has appeared in Carnegie Hall as conductor in 2015, 2018, and 2023. Additionally, Eliezer serves as interim worship pastor at Golden Springs Baptist Church in Anniston. While passionate about conducting and teaching, Eliezer's greatest role is being husband to Martha and father to Isabella and Andre.

Rachel Park is associate professor of piano at Jacksonville State University, where she blends her extensive performance experience with a deep passion for music education. As an active soloist and collaborative pianist, Dr. Park has performed over a thousand concerts across the United States and internationally, collaborating with vocalists, instrumentalists, ensembles, and orchestras. She has had the honor of performing at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, the Crystal Cathedral in California, and the Embassy of Korea in Washington, D.C. Her Carnegie Hall debut recital in 2023 was met with critical acclaim from *New York Concert Review*, which praised her moving performance and impeccable pianism.

Dr. Park is a dedicated advocate for both performance and research, with a particular focus on collaborative piano, musical arrangements, and the works of Korean composers. She has presented her research at national and state conferences, including the MTNA National Conference, the MTNA Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy National Conference (GP3), and the Alabama and Florida State Music Teachers Association Conferences. Her career has been marked by several notable honors, including being named a national finalist in the professional solo piano performance category of *The American Prize*. Dr. Park is currently serving as the President of the Alabama Music Teachers Association (AMTA), where she continues to support music educators and students across the state of Alabama. She is also an active member of MTNA, ASCAP, and the Asian Society of Music in New York.

The **A Cappella Choir** is Jacksonville State University's flagship choral ensemble performing a wide variety of standard choral literature from various musical periods, world music, folk music, spirituals, and contemporary works. The A Cappella Choir is an auditioned ensemble comprised of students from various disciplines across campus. Founded in 1960, the A Cappella Choir tours annually and participates in events hosted by the Alabama American Choral Directors Association and Alabama Music Educators Association. Recently, the A Cappella Choir debuted at Carnegie Hall and Spivey Hall and was named a national finalist in the choral performance category – college/university division (smaller program) of ***The American Prize***, the nation's most comprehensive series of contests in the performing arts. This summer, the choir will embark on a European tour of Belgium and the Netherlands, including an invitation (by audition) to compete at the CantaRode International Choir Festival in the Netherlands. This is a historic moment for the ensemble as it will be the first time the choir will have toured internationally as a group since its founding.

If you would like to contribute towards the A Cappella Choir's trip to Europe, please scan the QR code below or write a check payable to "**JSU Choirs**." All donations are tax deductible.



Checks may be mailed to the JSU Foundation, 700 Pelham Rd N., Jacksonville, AL 36207

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