

JAX STATE ACAPPELLA CHOIR

ELIEZER YANSON JR., DIRECTOR

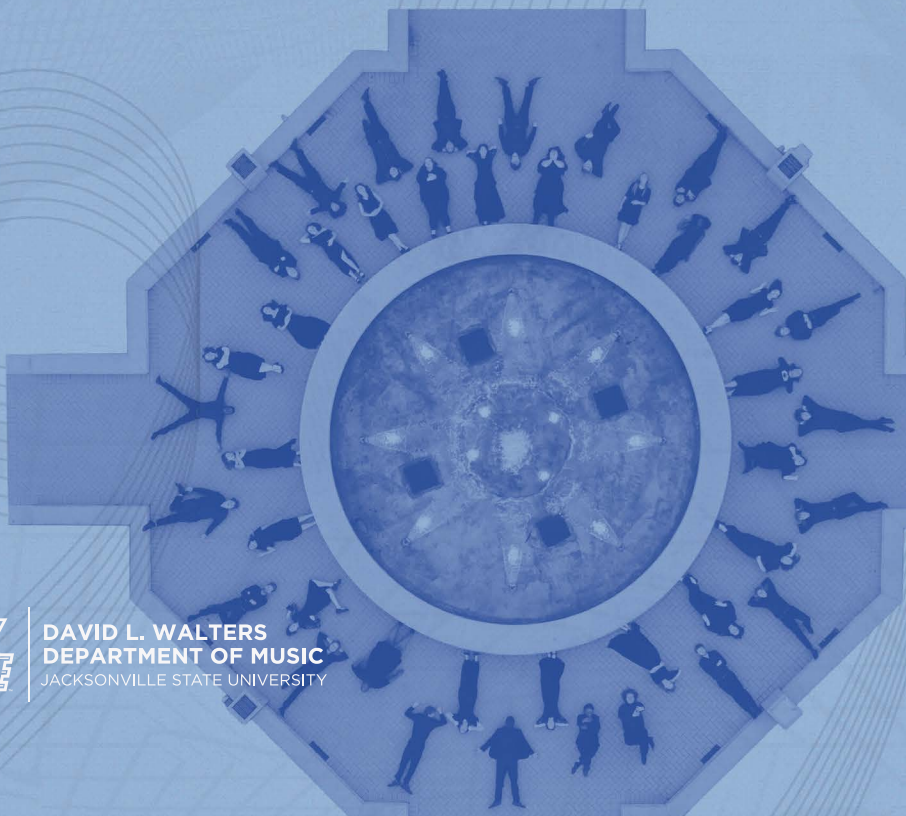
**Alabama American Choral Directors Association
Summer Conference**

**Monday, July 13, 2026
7:00 PM**

First United Methodist Church
800 Greensboro Ave
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401



DAVID L. WALTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY





JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

A CAPPELLA CHOIR

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. Founded in 1960, the A Cappella Choir is an auditioned ensemble of students from diverse academic disciplines and has a long-standing reputation as a respected vocal ensemble, with performances at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Spivey Hall. Recently, the A Cappella Choir competed in the CantaRode International Choral Festival in the Netherlands and placed fourth out of ten choirs invited to perform from a pool of 22 auditioned ensembles. The choir was recognized as a national finalist in choral performance—college/university division (smaller program) of The American Prize in 2023 and again in 2026.

SOPRANO I

Carley Brooks, *McDonough, Ga.*
vocal music education
Ola High School

Elizabeth Embrey, *Newnan, Ga.*
vocal music education
Newnan High School

Ashlyn Endicott, *Valley, Ala.*
vocal music education
Heritage Christian Academy

Shealee Griffith, *Talladega, Ala.*
piano performance
Homeschool

Tierra-Mishael Harmon, *Atlanta, Ga.*
vocal performance
Cass High School

ALTO I

Julia Cuevas, *Argo, Ala.*
history
Springville High School

Mary Elizabeth Maddox, *Albertville Ala.*
vocal music education
Albertville High School

Lauren Kilgore, *Leeds, Ala.*
vocal performance
Moody High School

Kimora Linder, *Richlands, N.C.*
psychology
Gadsden City High School

Ramsey Whitney, *Anniston, Ala.*
theatre performance
The Donoho School

SOPRANO II

Meredith Barnes, *McDonough, Ga.*
vocal music education
Ola High School

Brie Dinkins, *Stockbridge, Ga.*
elementary education
Woodland High School

Maleah Hallmark, *Kimberly, Ala.*
vocal music education
Mortimer Jordan High School

Seagan Majchrzak, *Medina, N.Y.*
instrumental music education
Medina High School

Caroline Rogers, *Oxford, Ala.*
vocal performance
Oxford High School

TENOR I

Levi Benefield, *LaFayette, Ga.*
instrumental music education
LaFayette High School

Joelton Cox, *Buchanan, Ga.*
vocal music education
Haralson High School

Jalon Millholan, *Rockmart, Ga.*
political science
Rockmart High School

Ethan Nessler, *Gadsden, Ala.*
graduate student
vocal/choral music education
Gadsden City High School

TENOR II

Braden Acheson, *Oxford, Ala.*
history
Homeschool

Will Kelley, *Arab, Ala.*
vocal music education
Arab High School

Mason Holbrook, *Rome, Ga.*
business
Coosa High School

Hayden Medley, *Jacksonville, Ala.*
digital journalism
Jacksonville High School

Devonte Roszell, *Oxford, Ala.*
vocal music education
Oxford High School

ALTO II

Bethany Hallmark, *Kimberly, Ala.*
forensic investigation
Mortimer Jordan High School

Adria Hamilton, *Albertville Ala.*
graduate student
business administration
Albertville High School

Adyson Lowden, *Albertville, Ala.*
integrated studies
Albertville High School

Kari Gardner, *Marietta, Ga.*
instrumental music education
Walton High School

BASS I

Mitchell Coleman, *Rome, Ga.*
vocal music education
Model High School

Jeremiah Davidson, *Springville, Ala.*
pre-health biology
Springville High School

Ethan Duce, *Douglasville, Ga.*
theatre production
Alexander High School

Joshua Edge, *McDonough, Ga.*
vocal music education
Ola High School

Christian Parker, *Lineville, Ala.*
vocal performance
First Assembly Christian School

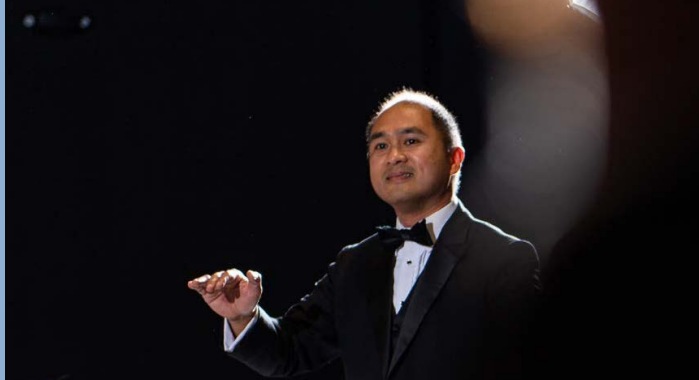
BASS II

Jonathan Crawford, *Alexandria, Ala.*
vocal music education
Alexandria High School

Alex Frost, *Ringgold, Ga.*
vocal music education
Heritage High School

Jamey Smith, *Anniston, Ala.*
graduate student
general music
Oxford Christian School

Silas Tankersley, *Anniston, Ala.*
graduate student
vocal/choral music education
Homeschool



ELIEZER YANSON JR. DIRECTOR

Eliezer Yanson Jr. is professor of music and director of choral activities at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama 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 primary 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 presented at conferences in the United States, Belgium, Bulgaria, South Korea, Thailand, Türkiye, and his native Philippines. He is a two-time 3rd prize winner (2015 and 2023) of The American Prize in Conducting: College/University Chorus Division and has appeared in Carnegie Hall as conductor four times. While passionate about conducting and teaching, Eliezer's greatest role is being husband to Martha and father to Isabella and Andre.

PROGRAM

AN AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Alleluia.....Elaine Hagenberg

Text: Saint Augustine

(b. 1979)

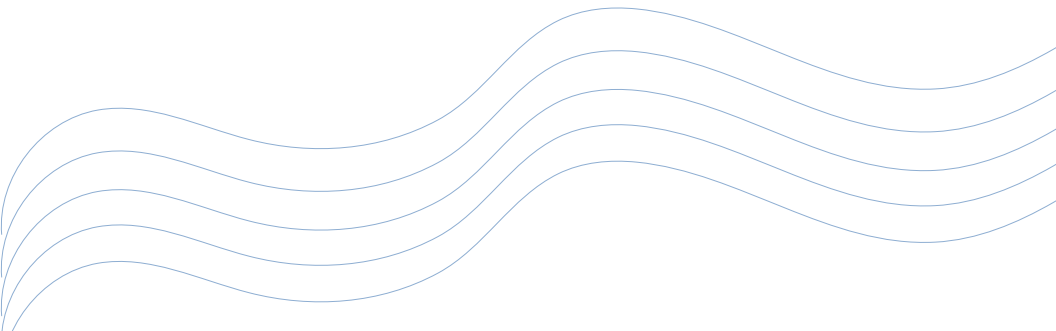
All shall be Amen and Alleluia. We shall rest and we shall see.
We shall see and we shall know. We shall know and we shall love.
Behold our end which is no end.

Entreat Me Not to Leave You.....Dan Forrest

Adapted from Ruth 1: 16 – 17

(b. 1978)

Entreat me not to leave you,
nor to turn back from following after you.
For where you go, I will go;
And where you live, I will live;
Your people shall be my people,
And your God, my God.
Where you die, I will die,
And there will I be buried.
The Lord do so to me, and more also,
If ought be death parts you and me.



Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine.....Eric Whitacre

Charles Anthony Silvestri

(b. 1970)

Italian fragments taken from the notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci

Assisted by Silas Tankersley, Alex Frost, Adria Hamilton, *percussion*

Leonardo dreams of his flying machine.
Tormented by visions of flight and falling,
More wondrous and terrible each than the last,
Master Leonardo imagines an engine
To carry a man up to the sun...
And as he's dreaming the heavens call him,
softly whispering their siren-song:
"Leonardo. Leonardo, vieni á volare."
("Leonardo. Leonardo, come fly.")
L'uomo colle sua congegiate e grandi ale,
(A Man with wings large enough, duly connected)
faciendo forza contro alla resistente aria.
(might learn to overcome the resistance of the air.)

As the candles burn low he paces and writes,
Releasing purchased pigeons one by one into
the golden Tuscan sunrise...
And as he dreams, again the calling,
The very air itself gives voice:
"Leonardo. Leonardo, vieni á volare."
("Leonardo. Leonardo, come fly.")
Vicina all'elemento del fuoco...
(Close to the sphere of elemental fire...)
Scratching quill on crumpled paper,
Rete, canna, filo, carta
(Net, cane, thread, paper.)
Images of wing and frame and fabric fastened tightly.
...sulla suprema sottile aria.
(...in the highest and rarest atmosphere.)

As the midnight watchtower tolls,
Over rooftop, stette and dome,
The triumph of a human being ascending
In the dreaming of a mortal man.
Leonardo steels himself,
Takes one last breath,
and leaps...
"Leonardo, Vieni á Volare! Leonardo, Sognare!"
(Leonardo, come fly! Leonardo, Dream!)

Precious Lord Thomas Dorsey

Thomas Dorsey

(1899-1993)

arr. Arnold Sevier

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
At the river, Lord, I stand,
Guide my feet and hold my hand;
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

Unclouded Day J.K. Alwood

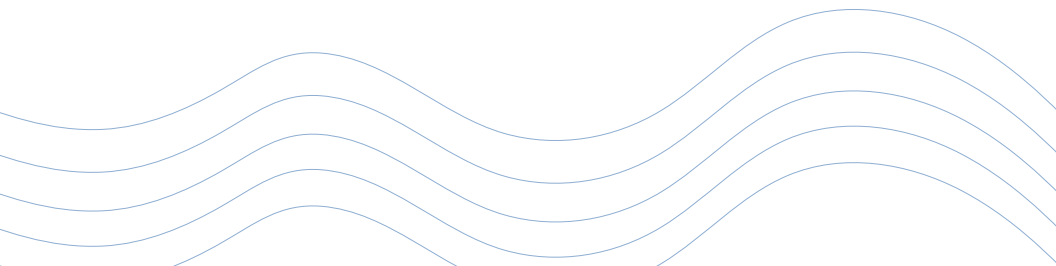
J.K. Alwood

(1828-1909)

arr. Shawn Kirchner

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
They tell me of a home far away,
And they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise;
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O the land of cloudless days,
O the land of an unclouded sky,
O they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise;
O they tell me of an unclouded day.





DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



The David L. Walters Department of Music has over 300 undergraduate and graduate music majors. Students are led by 40 faculty members who are world-class teachers, scholars, conductors, composers, and performers. The music department offers its majors ample opportunities to develop their knowledge and musical skills to become professional educators and musicians. Key courses for all music majors and minors are Music History, Music Theory, Music Technology, Conducting, Applied Lessons, and Ensembles.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC

CONCENTRATIONS

- Music Education (Instrumental or Vocal)
- General Music (Instrumental or Vocal)
- Performance (Instrumental, Vocal, Piano, or Jazz)
- Music Industry

MINORS

- Music
- Music Technology
- Jazz Studies
- Musical Theatre

MASTER OF ARTS IN MUSIC

CONCENTRATIONS

- Music Education
- General Music

The David L. Walters Department of Music is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Marching Southerners selected to perform at the Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA (2027)

A Cappella Choir performance at the CantaRode International Choral Festival in the Netherlands (2025) and national finalist for the American Prize in Choral Performance (2023)

Marching Southerners performance at the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France (2024)

Brass Band First Place at the North American Brass Band Association Championships (2023)

A Cappella Choir performance at Carnegie Hall (2023)

Jazz I winner of Downbeat Magazine's Outstanding Performance Award—Undergraduate Jazz Ensemble (2023 & 2015)

Marching Southerners recipient of the Sudler Trophy (2022)

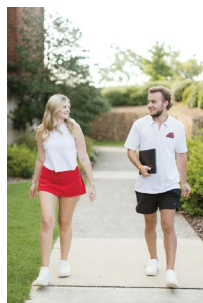
Percussion Ensemble performance at the Percussive Arts Society International Conference (2022)

DAVID L. WALTERS DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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David L. Walters Department of Music
UNIVERSITY
Choirs

A CAPPELLA CHOIR

CIVIC CHORALE

COLLEGIATE CHOIR

ENCORE! (SHOW CHOIR)

GOSPEL CHOIR

VOCAL JAZZ

Choral, Vocal Music Education, and Voice Faculty

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Alison Woodward**

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QUESTIONS?

For more information, visit jsu.edu/music
or scan the QR code above!