Program Notes

While this afternoon's program appears to lack thematic consistency, it actually falls into three categories: spirituals, secular music of the late Renaissance, and famous pieces by American composers.

We’ll begin with three spirituals, all of which demonstrate the yearning of the African-American slaves for their promised reward through their adopted religion. The text of *Let me fly* and *There is a balm in Gilead* shows their hope of escaping a miserable existence by moving on to a better place, while Jester Hairston's picturesque ending to *Joshua fit de battle of Jericho* graphically describes the destruction of the walls surrounding them.

We’ll continue with three of the most widely-performed choral works of the 20th century. California-based composer Morten Lauridsen has had a series of major successes over the past twenty years with his choral music and today's piece, *O Magnum Mysterium*, is his single best-selling work. Based on the familiar chant (O great mystery), his setting does an exceptional job of matching luminous music to beautiful poetry.

Randall Thompson enjoyed a long career as a composer on the faculty of Harvard University and was particularly noted for his choral music. His best-selling work is *Alleluia*, written for the opening of the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood in 1940. It has since sold over 1,000,000 copies worldwide.

Norman Dello Joio was a Pulitzer Prize winning composer who wrote in many genres, but is probably best-known for his choral music. His musical style is eclectic, drawing on classical forms but incorporating jazz chords and rhythms, and this setting of a text by Walt Whitman, *A Jubilant Song*, is arguably his most widely-performed composition.

The Chamber Singers will be performing a variety of secular pieces from the late Renaissance period (just before and during Shakespeare's life in the late 16th century). These include a French chanson, an Italian madrigal, two English ballatas and two English madrigals. The English composers on this list are generally known just for their madrigals (although, in fairness, Thomas Morley was a highly respected musician, with compositions in a number of genres). The composer of the French and Italian pieces, Orlando di Lasso, was considerably more important, and was among the greatest of the international composers of the period.

The *Chichester Psalms* was composed in 1965, and we will perform the version for keyboard, harp, and percussion that the composer provided as an alternative to the full orchestral score. Bernstein described the Psalms as his “most B♭ majorish tonal piece,” but one should not infer from that that the piece sounds like something Mozart might have written: the *Chichester Psalms* includes liberal helpings of multi-meter and dissonant sonorities. Bernstein makes use of the percussive nature of the Hebrew language to create a work defined as much by its rhythm as by its melodies. The first movement, to the text “Make a joyful noise to the Lord,” is a rollicking dance in 7/4 time. In the second movement, Bernstein juxtaposes two vastly different texts: the women sing from Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,” while the men sing from Psalm 2, “why do the nations rage?” When the parts are sung together, the composer instructs the women to sing as if “blissfully unaware of the threat.” In the final movement the music begins in an orchestral Prelude, and continues in the chorus in a flowing 10/4 meter. The piece ends with the music from the beginning of mvt. 1 transformed into an acappella chorale.

Drexel's Department of Performing Arts presents

THE UNIVERSITY CHORUS
CHAMBER SINGERS

**Bernstein—Chichester Psalms**
and music by
Thompson, Lauridsen, Dello Joio

Sunday, December 8, 2013            3:00 p.m.            Main Auditorium
Program

Let me fly.......................................................... arr. Robert DeCormier
Corey Fedorowich, baritone

There is a balm in Gilead...............................arr. William L. Dawson
Kayla Speedy, soprano

Joshua fit de battle of Jericho...............................arr. Jester Hairston

O Magnum Mysterium...............................M morten Lauridsen (1943–)

Alleluia ............................................................Randall Thompson (1899–1984)

A Jubilant Song .............................................. Norman Dello Joio (1913–2008)
Meghan Cash, mezzo-soprano
Stephanie Abruzzo, piano

University Chorus

To be selected from the following:

Mon coeur se recommande à vous ................Orlando di Lasso (1532–1594)

Now is the month of maying ......................Thomas Morley (1557 or 8–1602)

Matona, mia cara........................................Orlando di Lasso (1532–1594)

Come away, sweet love ................................Thomas Greaves (fl. 1604)

Let go, why do you stay me?......................John Bennet (c. 1575–after 1614)

Come, shepherds, follow me ......................John Bennet (c. 1575–after 1614)

Lady, the silly flea ........................................Giles Farnaby (1565–1640)

Chamber Singers

(continued on next page)
Drexel Chorus
Dr. Steven Powell, director
Stephanie Abruzzo, accompanist

**Soprano**
Elizabeth Brayman ........................................... Chemistry
Olivia Cipriano.............................................. Architectural Engineering
Charlotte DiGiorgio ............................................ Architecture
Reeba Ivan .......................................................... Marketing
Juliana Quazi ................................................... Math
Julianne Scott ................................................. Culinary Arts
#Johanna Mikitka Simon ............. Architectural & Civil Engineering
Lauren Smith ................................................ Still Deciding
*Kayla Speedy .............................................. Fashion Design
Victoria Tielebein .................................................. Physics
Carrie Wang .................................................. Biological Sciences
Alexis Wolfer ................................................ Business Administration
#Nicole Zusman ................................................. Music Industry

**Alto**
#Laura Allan ............................... Materials Sci and Engineering
#Emily Barth ............................................. Chemical Engineering
*Meghan Cash ............................................. Environmental Engineering
Demi Ferker ................................................ Engineering
Emily Fister ................................................ Biological Sciences
Annia Jasper ................................................ Music Industry
#Jacquelyn Kane ................................. Business Administration
#Katie LaVoie ................................................. Music Industry
Taylor Nolan ................................................ Psychology
Pritika Ramesh ................................................. Music Industry
Cameryn Richards ........................................ Graphic Design
Jessica Williams ......................................... International Area Studies

**Tenor**
#Ben Anderson ............................................. Nursing
Miguel Calderon ............................................. Computer Science
Joshua Cohen ................................................ Civil Engineering
James Donnelly ......................................... Business and Engineering

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**Tenor**
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Miguel Calderon ............................................. Computer Science
Joshua Cohen ................................................ Civil Engineering
James Donnelly ......................................... Business and Engineering
Jacob Havens ---------------------------------------- Chemistry
Joseph Juhase ------------------------ Entertainment & Arts Management
Doug McCaskey ------------------------ Biological Sciences
Nick Nanfito ------------------------- Psychology
Jonas Newschaffer --------------------- Engineering Technology
*Brett Rodgers ------------------------ Music Industry
Michael Zimmermann ----------------- Business Administration

Bass
Michael Annucci ------------------------ Mechanical Engineering
Austin Dean -------------------------- Software Engineering
Chris Doblovosky ----------------------- Software Engineering
Corey Fedorowich ------------------------ Biological Sciences
Adam Nassani ------------------------- Mechanical Engineering
Sanjeev Oommen ------------------------ Mechanical Engineering
Matthew Prusinski ------------------- Biomedical Engineering
Alexander Ruth ------------------------ Mechanical Engineering
Larry Sedgwick ------------------------- Psychology
Jonathan Shoup ----------------------------- History
Ted Swanson ----------------------------- Graphic Design

• Section Leader       # Pi Nu Epsilon Member

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