Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) was one of the great “conservative” Romantic-period composers, maintaining ties with the earlier Classical period and its transparent textures and traditional forms. He wrote in all genres and his best-known choral works are his oratorios, Elijah and St. Paul. At the end of his life he began work on a third oratorio to be called Christus but completed only 13 movements. Today’s piece, There Shall a Star come out of Jacob, is the movement of this work that has most firmly entered the choral repertoire. It combines a lovely opening melody with a dramatic B section, concluding with Philipp Nicolai’s 16th century hymn, As bright the star of morning gleams (Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern).

The great international composer of the late Baroque period was George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) and Judas Maccabaeus was Handel’s most famous oratorio during his lifetime (of course, Messiah is the one we perform most often now). The first of the three choruses we’ll perform today is from Act One of the oratorio, just after the Israelites have been conquered; the other two both come from the final Act after they have regained their freedom.

We follow with three spirituals in somewhat different styles: Witness is a popular arrangement in a traditional setting; Gimme yo’ hand evokes a gospel style with swung eighths throughout; and Great Day is a complex arrangement with seven fully independent parts in its final section.

The Chamber Singers come on stage next with a variety of madrigals, chansons, and lute songs from the Renaissance period (c. 1600, when Shakespeare was writing his plays).

The Chorus then returns with our largest work of this afternoon’s concert: Vaughan Williams’ In Windsor Forest.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) was the preeminent composer of his generation in Great Britain. He was a late bloomer, writing nothing of significance before the age of 40, but once he found his voice, following a stint studying with Maurice Ravel, his work helped revitalize the British musical scene. He wrote in all genres, but is particularly known for his 9 remarkable symphonies, his numerous choral/orchestral works, his songs and several movie scores written in the 1940’s. While some have tried to deride him as a “folk-song” composer, his predominant influence is actually the early Tudor sacred music of the Elizabethan period, with its modal harmonies and flexible treatment of rhythms.

One genre in which Vaughan Williams did not have much success was opera. It was not, however, for lack of trying. This cantata is excerpted from his first full-length opera, Sir John in Love, based on Shakespeare’s Merry Wives of Windsor. It obviously didn’t help Vaughan Williams that he was writing an opera to the same story as Verdi’s Falstaff, one of the great works in the operatic literature. But where Verdi emphasized the comedy, Vaughan Williams tried to emphasize the love story and wound up with some beautiful music and some lovely scenes, but without much dramatic tension or momentum. In Windsor Forest contains some of the most beautiful music from the opera, and the missing libretto shouldn’t affect our enjoyment.
Program

There Shall a Star come out of Jacob............................Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Three from “Judas Maccabaeus”.................................G. F. Handel (1685 - 1759)
For Sion Lamentation Make
Sing unto God

Laura Allan, alto     Doug McCaskey, tenor

Hallelujah, Amen

Witness...........................................................................arr. Jack Halloran

Gimme Yo’ Hand ................................................................arr. Steven Powell

Corey Fedorowich, baritone     Matthew Prusinsky, baritone

Great Day ........................................................................arr. Warren Martin

Julianna Quazi, soprano     Bradley Shaw, tenor

University Chorus

Music to be selected from the following:

April is in my mistress face .............................................Thomas Morley (c. 1557–1602)
Rest, sweet nymphs .....................................................Francis Pilkington (?–1638)
Those dainty daffadillies .............................................Thomas Morley
Il est bel et bon ..........................................................Pierre Passereau (1509?-1547?)
Arise awake ...............................................................Thomas Morley
I fall and then I rise again .........................................Michael East (1585–1620)
I saw my lovely Phyllis ..............................................Thomas Morley
Fyer, fyer ....................................................................Thomas Morley

Chamber Singers

In Windsor Forest.........................................................Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)
I. “The Conspiracy”     Emily Barth, alto

II. “Drinking Song”     Alexis Wolfer, soprano

III. “Falstaff and the Fairies”

IV. “Wedding Chorus”

V. “Epilogue”     Stephanie Abruzzo, Keyboard

University Chorus

Translation

Il est bel et bon
He is beautiful and good, my husband,
They were two women from the same country.
He is beautiful and good, my husband,
He doesn’t make me angry, he doesn’t beat me,
He does the housework, he feeds the chickens, And I enjoy myself,
He makes me laugh; when the hens cluck they seem to flirt with him,
He is beautiful and good, my husband.

Plan now to join us for

the 25th Annual Madrigal Dinner

Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28, 2015

Tickets go on sale January 12.

Call the Department of Performing Arts, 215-895-1275, to order, or order online:
type “Drexel Madrigal Dinner” into Google and click on the top link.
Drexel Chorus
Dr. Steven Powell, director
Stephanie Abruzzo, accompanist

**Soprano**
Elizabeth Brayman ------------------------------- Chemistry
Emily Fister ----------------------------------- Biological Sciences
Jada Gossett ----------------------------------- Psychology
Mikaila Gray ----------------------------------- Psychology
Rachel Jones ------------------------------- General Hum & Soc Science
Emily Lantz ----------------------------------- Entertainment & Arts Management
Julianna Quazi ----------------------------------- Math
#Julianne Scott ----------------------------------- Culinary Arts
Lauren Smith ----------------------------------- Biology
Erin Williamson ----------------------------------- Music Industry
•Alexis Wolfer ---------------------------------- Marketing

**Alto**
#Laura Allan ----------------------------------- Materials Science and Engineering
•#Emily Barth ---------------------------------- Chemical Engineering
Demi Ferker ----------------------------------- Electrical Engineering
Jacquelyn Kane ----------------------------------- General Business
#Katie LaVoie ----------------------------------- Music Industry
Gabrielle Lewis ----------------------------------- Biological Sciences & Psychology
#Cameryn Richards ------------------------------- Graphic Design
Sarah Ritter ----------------------------------- Biological Sciences
Jenna Snyder ----------------------------------- International Area Studies
Jessica Williams ----------------------------------- Nursing

**Tenor**
#Ben Anderson ----------------------------------- Nursing
Miguel Calderon ----------------------------------- Computer Science
Joseph Canuso ----------------------------------- Music Industry
Joshua Cohen ----------------------------------- Civil Engineering
William Kocher ----------------------------------- Civil Engineering
Mari Ma ----------------------------------- Entertainment & Arts Management
•#Doug McCaskey ----------------------------------- Biological Sciences
Bass
Braxton Borine ------------------------------ Music Industry
Daniel Carrion ----------------------------- International Area Studies
Austin Dean ------------------------------- Software Engineering
Chris Doblovosky -------------------------- Software Engineering
#Corey Fedorowich -------------------------- Biological Sciences
Jordan Irvin ------------------------------- Biological Sciences
•Adam Nassani ----------------------------- Mechanical Engineering
Matthew Prusinski -------------------------- Health Sciences
Zachary Renner ----------------------------- Engineering Still Deciding
Jonathan Shoup ----------------------------- History
Ted Swanson ------------------------------- Graphic Design

• Section Leader   # Pi Nu Epsilon Member

Chamber Singers

Soprano
Elizabeth Brayman
Lauren Smith
Alexis Wolfer

Alto
Laura Allan
Emily Barth
Demi Ferker
Jessica Williams

Tenor
Joseph Canuso
Joshua Cohen
Mari Ma
Doug McCaskey

Bass
Chris Doblovosky
Corey Fedorowich
Matthew Prusinski
Jonathan Shoup
Ted Swanson

Chamber Singers

Soprano
Elizabeth Brayman
Lauren Smith
Alexis Wolfer

Alto
Laura Allan
Emily Barth
Demi Ferker
Jessica Williams

Tenor
Joseph Canuso
Joshua Cohen
Mari Ma
Doug McCaskey

Bass
Chris Doblovosky
Corey Fedorowich
Matthew Prusinski
Jonathan Shoup
Ted Swanson