

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY STUDENT PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

AMERICA



*Spring Choral Concert*

*An American Tapestry*

*The Villanova Singers  
and The Villanova Voices*

*Rotwitt Theater, Rosemont College*

*2pm, Sunday, March 29, 2026*

# THE PROGRAM

## The Villanova Voices

CHRISTINE NASS, CONDUCTOR

### Hashiat Kochcha (Sunrise)

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate (b. 1968)

Traditional Chickasaw, adapted by the composer

Misha pilla aashoppala' pisli...

I see a light shining far away...

Hatahoot ankana himitta?

Who is this new one who comes to me?

Sahaksibisha milinkaha chokkilimaat anompoholi,

He leans close & softly whispers in my ear,

Sachonkasha achokmalicho'sit imanompoli.

Speaking gently and kindly to my heart.

Pisa'! Hashiat powahaa!

Look! The sun is calling!

Pisa'! Shotiha ahambi!

Look! He is painting the sky!

Himmaka' poshki' alihaat hilha'chi.

Now our mothers will begin to dance.

Cello: Symone Atienza '26

### Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Tune: *Invitation*, Traditional American

Text attributed to Francis Russell Warren (1812-1874)

Arr. Alice Parker (1925-2023)

### Hold Fast to Dreams

Susan LaBarr (b. 1981)

Text by Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

Arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

### Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name

Traditional Spiritual

Traditional Text with additional lyrics by the arranger

Arr. Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)

### Slumber, My Darling

Stephen Foster (1826-1864)

Text by the composer

Arr. Maryanne Muglia (b. 1994)

### Landslide

Stevie Nicks (b. 1948)

Text by the composer

Arr. Maryanne Muglia (b. 1994)

### Will the Circle be Unbroken

Traditional Appalachian

Text by Betsy Rose, Cathy Winter, and Marcia Taylor

Arr. J. David Moore (b. 1962)

### Song for the Unsung Hero

Joseph M. Martin (b. 1959)

Text by Pamela Martin

### May the Road Rise to Meet You

David Hamilton (b. 1955)

Traditional Irish Blessing

Soloists: Our Seniors

RYAN FLEMING, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

# The Villanova Singers

DR. TED LATHAM, CONDUCTOR

## Brothers, Sing On!

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)  
Arr. Howard D. McKinney (1896-1990)

## This Land Is Your Land

Woody Guthrie (1912-1967)  
Arr. Jack Platt (1927-2015) and Aden Lewis (b. 1987)

## The Times They Are A-Changin'

Bob Dylan (b. 1941)  
Arr. Adam Podd (b. 1979)

## Beautiful City (*Godspell*)

Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948)  
Arr. Jay Althouse (b. 1951)

### A Selection from the Spires

## Wheels of a Dream (*Ragtime*)

Stephen Flaherty (b. 1960)  
Arr. John Leavitt (b. 1956)

## I Hear America Singing

André Thomas (b. 1952)

## It Is Well with My Soul

Philip Bliss (1838-1876)  
Arr. David P. Zimmerman

## Non nobis Domine

Non nobis, Domine,  
Tuo da gloriam.  
Sed nomini tuo da gloriam.

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

Not to us, O Lord,  
but give glory to You.  
Rather, give glory to Your name.

CECILIA BEATTY, PIANIST

∞ INTERMISSION ∞

## The Combined Choirs

**Liberty and Life: Voices in the American Promise**

### The Testament of Freedom

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

A Setting of Passages from the Writings of Thomas Jefferson

- I. The God who gave us life
- IV. I shall not die without a hope



Complete  
Texts

## **Credo**

Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)

Text by W.E.B. Du Bois

- I. I Believe in God
- II. Especially Do I Believe in the Negro Race
- VII. I Believe in Patience

Soloist: **Ruth Winslow**

## **All of Us**

Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

From *Considering Matthew Shepard*, text by the composer

Soloists/Solo Trio: **Bella Corigliano, Ale Durish, Maria MacDonald,  
Brianna Kirkpatrick, Leena Krayyem, Emily St. Pierre**

CECILIA BEATTY & RYAN FLEMING, COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

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## **Villanova Alma Mater**

Joe Burke (1884-1950)

Text by Al Dubin (1891-1945)

With recognition of our Seniors

## **Notes on the Program**

As the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, this program reflects on the American story as it has been told through many voices, musical languages, and lived experiences. The works heard this afternoon draw from varied moments in the cultural life of this land — from Indigenous song and folk hymnody to art song, spiritual tradition, and contemporary reflection. Together they suggest that the American experiment has never been a single narrative, but a tapestry continually imagined, contested, and renewed across generations. Through music shaped by diverse traditions, the program explores themes of freedom, resilience, faith, and shared responsibility, reminding us that the meaning of a nation emerges not from one voice alone, but from the ongoing dialogue of its people.

The Villanova Voices offer a collection of songs reflecting the many musical threads that shape the American choral tradition. The set opens with *Hashiat Kochcha (Sunrise)* by Chickasaw composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, whose work draws on Indigenous language and imagery to greet the new day. From there the program moves through American folk hymnody (*Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*), the poetry of Langston Hughes (*Hold Fast to Dreams*), spiritual tradition (*Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name*), and the 19th-century parlor song of Stephen Foster (*Slumber, My Darling*). A contemporary reflection on change

appears in Maryanne Muglia's arrangement of Stevie Nicks' *Landslide*, while *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* evokes the communal voice of American gospel and folk traditions. Joseph Martin's *Song for the Unsung Hero* offers a moment of gratitude and stands as the set's most outwardly patriotic tribute, before the ensemble closes with David Hamilton's setting of the Irish blessing and the Voices' Senior Song, *May the Road Rise to Meet You*.

The Villanova Singers continue weaving an American choral tapestry in the second set, opening with their signature song *Brothers, Sing On* in an arrangement by Howard McKinney, who served as Rutgers College Music Director in the 1920s. Focusing on the Villanova values of Veritas (Truth), Unitas (Unity), and Caritas (Service), they then paint an aspirational musical portrait of America past and future, with arrangements of Woody Guthrie's unifying anthem *This Land Is Your Land* from the 1940s, Bob Dylan's truthful call to action *The Times They Are A-Changin'* from the 1960s, Stephen Schwartz's visionary song *Beautiful City* from the 1970s, Stephen Flaherty's hopeful *Wheels of a Dream* from the 1990s, and André Thomas's 2015 setting of Walt Whitman's iconic and rousing poem *I Hear America Singing*. The set concludes with David P. Zimmerman's stunning arrangement of Chicago lawyer Horatio Spafford's moving hymn *It Is Well with My Soul* and Rosephanye Powell's stirring reminder to serve, *Non nobis Domine*.

Following the individual sets by the Villanova Voices and the Villanova Singers, the last part of this afternoon's program brings our ensembles together. These works invite us to reflect on the American story through voices drawn from different moments in the nation's history. From the founding ideals expressed in the words of Thomas Jefferson, to the powerful affirmation of faith and dignity written by W. E. B. Du Bois, to a contemporary call toward empathy and shared responsibility, the music that follows considers how the American experiment has been imagined, challenged, and renewed across generations.

Randall Thompson's *A Testament of Freedom*, composed in 1943, draws on writings by Thomas Jefferson to explore the ideals that shaped the early vision of the United States. Commissioned for the bicentennial of Jefferson's birth, the work assembles passages from Jefferson's letters and public writings that speak to liberty, self-government, and moral responsibility. One passage reflects Jefferson's conviction that "liberty and life" are inseparable, a phrase that echoes the language of the Declaration of Independence. Written during World War II, when democratic ideals were under global threat, Thompson's setting affirms the power of those founding aspirations while also inviting a question that has echoed through American history: liberty and life—for whom?

Margaret Bonds' *Credo*, composed from 1965-67, sets W. E. B. Du Bois's 1904 declaration of belief in the dignity, equality, and potential of all people. Written

during a period when the promises of American democracy remained painfully incomplete, the text expresses Du Bois's unwavering conviction in those ideals. It also reflects the language conventions of its time, including terminology widely used by Black Americans of the early twentieth century as a term of dignity and collective identity within their community. We preserve Du Bois's language in fidelity to the original text, recognizing the work as part of a broader American conversation about dignity, equality, and justice that continues across generations. Bonds, one of the most important Black composers of the twentieth century and a close collaborator of Langston Hughes, was deeply engaged with the literary and political voices of the Harlem Renaissance and the generations that followed. In *Credo*, she transforms Du Bois's words into music of profound conviction and hope, giving voice to the belief that the promises of liberty and life must extend to all. In this way, Du Bois's voice joins the ongoing American search for liberty and justice.

Craig Hella Johnson's *All of Us*, composed in 2016, turns the conversation toward the present moment. Originally written as the closing movement of Johnson's larger work *Considering Matthew Shepard*, which reflects on the tragic consequences of hatred and violence, the piece draws on poetic and reflective texts to explore empathy, community, and the responsibilities individuals share in shaping the world around them. Johnson's music often creates spaces for reflection and connection, pairing lyrical melodies with moments of quiet intimacy and collective affirmation. Where earlier voices in this program wrestle with the promises of liberty and equality, *All of Us* invites us to consider how those ideals are lived out today. As the nation approaches its 250th anniversary, the piece reminds us that the meaning of liberty, justice, and belonging continues to be shaped by the choices—and the voices—of all of us.

## **Ruth Winslow**

Ruth Winslow is a Philadelphia-based soprano, choir director, composer, and educator whose work is deeply rooted in the traditions of Gospel and African American sacred music. She has directed the Villanova University Gospel Choir for over 25 years and has been a mentor to generations of Villanova students, creating a musical community grounded in faith, cultural heritage, belonging, and mutual support. As a soloist and conductor, Ruth has presented workshops and performances throughout the United States and internationally, including appearances for Bishop Desmond Tutu and former President Bill Clinton, a sacred concert at the United States Supreme Court, and engagements in Switzerland, Australia, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Brazil, Austria, and Japan. She has also appeared featured as soprano soloist in the beloved Philadelphia holiday

tradition *A Soulful Christmas* in Marian Anderson Hall. In addition to her musical career, Ruth is a Registered Nurse with a respected and distinguished career in healthcare. She remains active in organizations dedicated to the preservation and advancement of Gospel Music.

## **The Villanova Voices**

THE VILLANOVA VOICES is the longest existing women's organization at Villanova University. Formerly known as the Women's Glee Club, the group was founded by twenty ambitious students from the University's College of Nursing in 1960, shortly after Villanova became coeducational. Voices has since evolved into the talented and diverse group with members hailing from all four colleges and a variety of majors joining together purely for the love of music and the strong community that develops as a result. Our repertoire spans a wide range, from sacred hymns and traditional treble pieces to contemporary hits and Broadway favorites. Throughout the year, the Voices showcase their musical talent at various on-campus events, including sporting events, Homecoming, Family Weekend, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, and our end-of-semester concerts alongside the Villanova Singers. In recent years, the Villanova Voices have embarked on many domestic and international tours, captivating audiences in Italy, Brazil, Costa Rica, Austria, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Montréal. A notable recent highlight was the combined choirs' privilege of participating by singing the Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican during our spring tour of 2025.

## **Christine Nass**

Christine Nass is a professional singer based in Philadelphia and has served as conductor of the Villanova Voices since 2007. Under her direction, the ensemble has toured internationally to Spain, Brazil, Italy, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, and Austria, and in both 2011 & 2025 she has had the distinct honor of conducting the Villanova Choirs for Mass at the Vatican. Her performing career includes solo appearances with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Des Moines Metro Opera, Brevard Music Center, The Philadelphia Singers, and the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia. A member of the professional roster of Opera Philadelphia, she has appeared in more than 50 productions at Philadelphia's historic Academy of Music, including favorite *Margaret Garner* with stage director Kenny

Leon, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Macbeth*, *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein*, *Ainadamar*, and *Don Giovanni* with designer Rafał Olbiński. Ms. Nass has also appeared at the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Bard Summerscape, and Opera Festival New Jersey, and has performed extensively with the Philadelphia Orchestra as a member of both the Philadelphia Orchestra Symphonic Chorus and The Philadelphia Singers, working with conductors including Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Riccardo Muti, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Jane Glover, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, and Stéphane Denève. Her crossover performances include appearances with Rod Stewart, Zucchero, Andrea Bocelli on multiple tours, and the Sarah Brightman *Hymn* Tour, and she can be heard on recordings of Menotti's *The Saint of Bleeker Street* and *Four Concerti* with Richard Hickox under the supervision of Maestro Menotti, as well as the world premiere recording of Randall Thompson's *Requiem* with The Philadelphia Singers.

## Ryan Fleming

This year we are delighted to welcome Ryan Fleming to Villanova for his first concert with us. Audiences and musicians alike are drawn to his warmth, kindness, and bright spirit. Ryan brings more than 30 years of experience as a music professional, including 28 years as Director of Music and Worship at Emilie United Methodist Church in Levittown, Pennsylvania, where he directed choirs, handbells, orchestras, and contemporary ensembles. He currently serves at Wayne Presbyterian Church, directing handbell and children's choirs and providing piano and organ support for a wide range of musical programming. A graduate of Westminster Choir College (Music Education), Ryan also maintains an active career as a voice instructor and professional singer. Since 2008 he has been a member of the multiple Grammy Award-winning choir The Crossing and has performed with Opera Philadelphia, the Spoleto Festival Chorus in Italy, Columbus Symphony Chorus, Westminster Symphonic Choir, and The College of New Jersey Chamber Choir. Outside of music, Ryan enjoys baking, fluid acrylic painting, and traveling to New Hampshire and Ohio to spend time with family.

## The Villanova Voices

### Soprano I

Alexandra Durish

Olivia Hill

Brianna Kirkpatrick

Maria MacDonald

Jenna Reisinger

Emily St. Pierre  
Katie Troyanovich  
Anna Willard

### **Soprano II**

Isabella Corigliano  
Bella DiFrancesca\*  
Maya Harner  
Sarah Hayevy  
Sarah Jackson  
Nora King  
MaryAnn Leshinskie  
Abby Meuse

Abbie Neiderer  
Amanda Swiecki  
Clare Vogt\*

### **Alto I**

Claire Costello  
Mariana Diana  
Camille Gross  
Finley Hood  
Leena Krayyem  
Sophia Parchuri  
Nora Tiffen\*  
Nebula Youakim

### **Alto II**

Peyton Benfield  
Kaitlyn Heimbach  
Sadie McCallum  
Madeline Okenquist  
Jenna Parker\*  
Eden Rosini  
Selena Smith  
Ava Taylor

**\* Denotes Senior**

## **The Villanova Voices Board**

### **President**

Maria McDonald

### **Vice President**

Brianna Kirkpatrick

### **Secretary**

Emily St. Pierre

### **Treasurer**

Sarah Hayevy

### **Publicity Director**

Leena Krayyem

### **Fundraising**

#### **Coordinator**

Mariana Diana

#### **Tour Director**

MaryAnn Leshinskie

#### **Assistant Tour**

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Amanda Swiecki

#### **Alumnae Director**

Claire Costello

### **Social Media**

#### **Director**

Nora King

### **Campus Involvement**

#### **Coordinator**

Katie Troyanovich

#### **Social Chair**

Anna Willard

#### **Music Librarian**

Abby Meuse

## **The Villanova Singers**

THE VILLANOVA SINGERS are a highly acclaimed and versatile men's chorus that dates back to 1953 when Harold Gill Reuschlein, Dean of Villanova's prestigious Law School, established the group to sing various types of music and to enrich the cultural life of the University. Dean Reuschlein began a tradition of "brotherhood in song" that has made the Singers one of the strongest and most active organizations on campus. Dean Reuschlein was known to say he was "as proud of the Villanova Singers as I am of what the Law School has become." Since 1963, the Singers have logged almost 200,000 miles, leaving behind a long and distinguished trail of accomplishments stretching as far west as California, as far north as

Canada, as far south as the Bahamas, and as far east as Poland. The Singers have an eclectic repertoire, ranging from sacred to patriotic, gospel to contemporary. They enjoy sharing their music with the Villanova Voices, with whom they sing together in concert in both the winter and the spring. “Brothers, Sing On” is the anthem and motto of the group. The past 70 years have helped strengthen our brotherhood to the point where, now, the members of the group are brothers in the truest sense of the word. Music has always come first, but the friendships and the brotherhood will be forever lasting.

### **Dr. Edward (Ted) Latham**

A graduate of Yale University (B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.), Dr. Latham is currently Director of Music at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish and Daylesford Abbey. Chair of Music Studies and Coordinator of the DMA in Music Performance at Temple University’s Esther Boyer College of Music and Dance in Philadelphia, Dr. Latham was the recipient of both the Lindback Award and the Teaching Academy Award for excellence in teaching. His book, *Tonality as Drama: Closure and Interruption in Four Twentieth-Century American Operas*, is available from the University of North Texas Press. He is the Music Director of the 100-voice Main Line Singers and the former Director of the Women’s Sacred Music Project and the Bryn Mawr Renaissance Choir. As a professional singer, he has performed with the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir (the resident choir of the Philadelphia Orchestra), the Philadelphia Heritage Chorale (with Aretha Franklin, Andrea Bocelli, and Juanes, for Pope Francis), the Philadelphia Singers, the Philadelphia Chamber Choir, the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, and the Minnesota Chorale, and has appeared locally in concerts and productions at the Kimmel Center, the Arden Theater, The Boyer College of Music and Dance, and the Philly Fringe Festival. In 2024, the Agnus Dei from his *Mass of Radiance* was prepared for performance at the Vatican by the Villanova Voices and Singers, as part of their Spring Tour. He is an alumni member of the Yale Whiffenpoofs and sings locally with the all-male group The Tonics. He has been the Director of the Villanova Singers since 2019.

### **Cecilia Beatty**

Cecilia Beatty began piano lessons at the age of seven and organ lessons at the age of nine. She has spent a lifetime playing both instruments in

church and substitutes regularly for a number of local parishes, including St. Denis, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Thomas of Villanova. She is the former Director of Music at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in West Grove, PA, and Mother of Divine Providence in King of Prussia, and is the former Director of Choirs at Archbishop Carroll High School. Cecilia has performed numerous times at Carnegie Hall, the Kimmel Center, and the Academy of Music, in benefits for Multiple Sclerosis research, and has also accompanied the Main Line Singers at concerts in the Greater Philadelphia area. This is Ms. Beatty's sixth year as the collaborative pianist for the Villanova Singers and she is thrilled to be working both with them and occasionally with the Voices this season!

## The Villanova Singers

### Tenor I

Connor Feick<sup>+</sup>  
 Brady Keane<sup>+</sup>  
 Marco Klisch\*  
 Roman Mastromatteo  
 Garrett Schultz\*  
 Spartan Walker  
 Aleko Zeppos\*\*

Nick Menendez\*  
 Dominic Piscopo  
 Joey Scerbo  
 Ben Schmidt  
 Nick Sherbondy<sup>+</sup>  
 Andrew Trueman<sup>+</sup>

Joshua Chung Jr.  
 Jimmy Ganosis  
 Ben Langenbach  
 Matthew Martinez  
 Mannan Pandey<sup>+</sup>  
 Brayden Santoli  
 Jacob Scotto\*\*

### Bass I

Joseph Corigliano\*  
 Derick Denecke  
 Emmett Greer  
 Joey Klieman\*

Lucas Scotto<sup>+</sup>  
 Ryan Stout  
 Eric Van Zele<sup>+</sup>

<sup>+</sup> Denotes Spire  
<sup>\*</sup> Denotes Senior

### Tenor II

Zachary Buxton  
 Quinn Chapman  
 Alex Edmonds\*  
 Cole Joyce<sup>+</sup>  
 Nick Leyesa<sup>+</sup>

### Bass II

Andy Boudo  
 Grayson Bucher<sup>+</sup>

## The Villanova Singers Board

### President

Marco Klisch

### Vice President

Jacob Scotto

### Treasurer

Aleko Zeppos

### Secretary

Joey Klieman

### Librarian

Quinn Chapman

### Publicity Director

Lucas Scotto

### Tour Director

Alex Edmonds

### Fundraising Coordinator

Nick Leyesa

### Alumni Relations

Connor Feick

# Villanova Spring Concerts & Performances

## *Spring A Cappella Showcases*

*April 10-12*

Our a cappella groups fill the Court Theater in a weekend of spectacular showcases!

Friday, 7pm: Minor Problem & Measure Up

Saturday, 7pm: Nothing But Treble, Sirens, Villanova Melodics

Sunday, 3pm: Belles, Haveners, & Supernovas

## *Gospel Choir Spring Concert*

*April 11*

Join us for an afternoon of joy and praise as the Villanova Gospel Choir, directed by Ruth Winslow, lifts the room with music of hope, faith, and celebration. Through powerful harmonies and spirit-filled songs, this concert honors traditions that continue to inspire generations. We welcome you to share in an afternoon of inspiration, community, and soulful sound. Court Theatre, 2pm.

## *Spires Reunion Weekend*

*April 17-18*

Spires Reunion Weekend welcomes all alumni and friends back to campus for a joyful weekend of connection, music, and reminiscing. The festivities culminate in a Saturday afternoon concert in the Villanova Room at 4pm.

## *Ablaze*

*April 24*

Ablaze presents an evening of dynamic choreography and expressive movement featuring dancers from across the university, including members of the Villanova Voices. Court Theatre, 7:30pm

## *NOVAnoise*

*April 25*

Villanova's tap ensemble brings the stage to life with intricate footwork, rhythm, and high-energy choreography. Court Theatre, 2pm

## *The Superlative*

*April 25*

This multicultural dance team blends hip-hop with styles including contemporary, Bollywood, West African dance, dancehall, and jazz. Court Theatre, 7:30pm

## *Chamber Strings*

*April 26*

Villanova Chamber Strings presents an afternoon of expressive and engaging repertoire for string ensemble. Featuring student musicians from across the university—including this afternoon's cello soloist—this concert highlights the beauty and versatility of chamber music in an intimate setting. Court Theatre, 3pm

## *Dance Company & Ensemble*

*May 1*

The Villanova Dance Company and Dance Ensemble showcase an evening of student choreography spanning contemporary, jazz, and modern dance. Topper Theatre, 7:30pm

## *Villanova Band & Jazz Band*

*May 3*

The Villanova Band and Jazz Band close the semester with an energetic concert of band classics and jazz favorites. Topper Theatre, 2pm