

Villanova University presents

# *The Villanova Voices and Singers*

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 | 2:00 PM

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CHURCH





# THE PROGRAM

## The Villanova Voices CHRISTINE NASS, CONDUCTOR

### A Choral Flourish

Traditional Latin with additional text by the composer

Plaudite. Psallite.  
Jubilate Deo, omnes terra.

Linda Spevacek (b. 1945)

Clap your hands. Sing praises.  
Shout joyfully to God, all the earth.

### Cantate Domino

Traditional Latin

Cantate Domino canticum novum.  
Cantate et benedicite nomini ejus,  
Quia mirabilia fecit.  
  
Cantate et exultate et psallite  
in cythara et voce psalmi  
quia mirabilia fecit.

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

Arranged by Jill Gallina

Sing to the Lord a new song.  
Sing and bless his name,  
for he has done wonderful things.

Sing and rejoice and sing praises  
with the harp and the voice of a psalm  
for he has done wonderful things.

### Kyrie (excerpted for liturgical use from *Sanctum*)

Traditional Greek as used in the Latin Mass

Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)

Lord have mercy.  
Christ have mercy.  
Lord have mercy.

### Sing, my Child

Percussion: Brennan Meier

Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)

Text by the composer

### Aure Volanti

Text by Ferdinando Saracinelli (c.1590-c.1640)

Aure volanti, augei canori,  
fonti stillanti, grazie e amori,  
**Refrain:** Quinci d'intorno, fate più chiar'  
il sol, più lieto il giorno.  
  
Antri gelati, fulgido sole,  
erbosi prati, gigli e viole.  
**Refrain**

Francesca Caccini (1587 – c.1630)

Edited by Carolyn Raney

Flying airs, singing highs,  
dripping springs, graces and loves,  
**Refrain:** All around here, make more clear the sun,  
more happy the day.  
  
Frozen caves, bright sun,  
grassy meadows, lilies and violets,

Flute Trio: Caroline Johansen '28, Marigrace Murphy '27, Sabrina Sharafi '27

### Hold Me, Rock Me

Text by the composer, based on lyrics from traditional spirituals

Brian Tate (b. 1954)

**Ad Astra**

Text by the composer based on the State Motto of Kansas

Ad astra per aspera! Sursum.

Movere, deinceps,

Sine cura, post omnes.

To the stars through difficulties! Up.

Move, forward,

without any problem, after all.

**Will the Circle be Unbroken**

Text by Betsy Rose, Cathy Winter, and Marcia Taylor

**May the Road Rise to Meet You**

Traditional Irish Blessing

Jacob Narverud (b. 1986)

Soloists: Our Seniors

BRENNAN MEIER, REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST, PERCUSSION

EMILY BARTH, PERFORMANCE PIANIST &amp; ORGANIST

**The Villanova Singers**

DR. TED LATHAM, CONDUCTOR

**Brothers, Sing On!**

Edvard Grieg

Arr. Howard D. McKinney

**The Impossible Dream**

Joe Darion and Mitch Leigh

Arr. Marcel G. Frank

**Bridge over Troubled Water**

Paul Simon

Arr. Kirby Shaw

**Elijah Rock!**

Traditional Spiritual

Arr. Kirby Shaw

**A Selection from the Spires****For the Beauty of the Earth**

John Rutter

**Begin the Beguine**

Cole Porter

Arr. Wayne Howorth

**Ave Maria**

Jacques Arcadelt

Arr. Herbert Fiss

**Exsultate justi**

Lodovico da Viadana

Arr. R. Vené

CECILIA BEATTY, PIANIST



Ten Minute Intermission



# The Combined Choirs

CHRISTINE NASS, DR. TED LATHAM, & BRENNAN MEIER, CONDUCTORS

## **Sicut Cervus**

Psalm 42:1

Sicut cervus desiderat  
ad fontes aquarum  
ita desiderat anima mea  
ad te Deus.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)

Just as deer long  
for flowing streams  
thus desires my soul  
for you God.

## **Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)**

Transcribed for English by Christine Nass

Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944)

Excerpted from Op. 10, No. 4 – *Milost Mira*

## **Ubi Caritas**

Text attributed to Saint Paulinus II (c. 726-804)

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
The love of Christ has gathered us together.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Let us revere and love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.

## **Agnus Dei from *Mass of Radiance***

Traditional Mass Text - Adapted to Latin text by Elaine Zajano

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Dona nobis pacem.

Edward D. Latham (b. 1972)

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the  
world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the  
world, grant us peace.

## **O Christ, the Bridegroom**

Text from *The Lenten Triodion*, trans. by Benedict Sheehan

This piece was commissioned by Villanova University and was composed  
specifically for the Villanova Singers & Villanova Voices March 2025 tour to Italy.

Benedict Sheehan (b. 1980)

## **Give Me Jesus**

Traditional Spiritual  
Arr. Larry L. Fleming (1936-2003)

## **Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven**

Based on Matthew 6:19-34

Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)

## **Sleep**

Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

## **Tambur – Old Hungarian Dancing Song**

Text by Karoly Varga (1949)

Translated by Louis Munkachy

Folk Tune: *Ungaresca*  
From J. Paix' *Organ Book* (1583)  
Arr. Lajos Bárdos (1899-1986)

## **Ma Bella Bimba**

Italian Folk Song  
Arr. Donald Moore (b. 1946)

## **Villanova Alma Mater**

Text by Al Dubin (1891-1945)

Joe Burke (1884-1950)

With recognition of our Seniors

## Benedict Sheehan

Three-time GRAMMY® nominee and American Prize-winner **Benedict Sheehan** has been called “one of the leading voices in religious classical music in the 21st century” (*ConcertoNet*) and “a remarkable musician and composer” (*Choral Journal*). He is Artistic Director and founder of the GRAMMY®-nominated Artefact Ensemble and a full-time freelance composer. His compositions have been praised as “luminous and uplifting” (*Choir & Organ*), “evocative” (*Gramophone*), “hypnotically beautiful” (*MusicWeb International*), “fresh and vibrant” (*audiophile Audition*), “otherworldly” (*Boston Musical Intelligencer*), “monumental” (*The Arts Desk*, UK), and “simply breathtaking” (New York Concert Review). His performances as a conductor have likewise been described as “technically flawless” (*Musical America*), “choral singing at its most exquisite” (*HRAudio*), “extravagantly beautiful” (*The American Organist*), and “beyond praise for excellence” (*Fanfare Magazine*). Sheehan’s award-winning recordings include *Akathist* (2024) (GRAMMY® nominated), *Vespers* (2021) (American Prize Winner), *Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* (2020) (GRAMMY® nominated), as well as two acclaimed collaborations with Skylark Vocal Ensemble on *Once Upon A Time* (2020) (GRAMMY® nominated) and *A Christmas Carol* (2021). In 2021 Sheehan conducted Artefact Ensemble in the world premiere of Arvo Pärt’s newest work, *O Holy Father Nicholas*, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In the spring of 2026, Sheehan will be featured by Mid-America Productions as a headliner at Carnegie Hall, where he will conduct the premiere of his own new work, *You Are Not Alone*, with a festival chorus and the New England Symphonic Ensemble.

Sheehan’s music has been performed—and continues to be performed—by many of today’s leading choral ensembles, including a 2022 collaboration with *Conspirare* on a setting of the African-American manifesto *Credo* by W.E.B. DuBois, and the UK premiere of *A Christmas Carol* by the BBC Singers at the Barbican in London. *A Christmas Carol* was also featured on the *Voces8* “Live From London” webcast in December of 2023, and the work is fast becoming a seasonal favorite, getting performed on an annual basis by dozens of groups across North America. His *Ukrainian War Requiem*, honoring the victims of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, was premiered in April of 2024 by Axios Men’s Ensemble and Pro Coro Canada in Edmonton and Calgary, and the recording of it will be released in 2025 on the Cappella Records label. His music is published by Oxford University Press, Artefact Publications, Hal Leonard, and others, and is available wherever music is sold.

Sheehan is also a person who stutters. In recent years he has become an increasingly passionate advocate for people in the arts with disabilities and speech differences, and his projects and ensembles have become known within the choral community as welcoming, inclusive, and life-affirming spaces for

musicians and audiences alike. He lives and works in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley with his wife and longtime collaborator Talia Sheehan, and together they have seven daughters who range in age from seven to twenty-three.

## **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 SATB 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 singing mass at St. Peters Basilica in Rome during the spring of 2025.

## **Christine Nass**

CHRISTINE NASS is a professional singer based in Philadelphia, serving as the conductor of the Villanova Voices since 2007. Under her direction, the Voices have embarked on successful international tours to Spain, Brazil, Italy, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, and Austria. In 2011 and 2025, she had the distinct honor of conducting the Villanova Choirs for Mass at the St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Her extensive career includes solo performances with prestigious organizations such as The Philadelphia Orchestra, Des Moines Metro Opera, Brevard Music Center, Opera Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Singers, and the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia. Ms. Nass is a member of the professional roster of Opera Philadelphia and has appeared in over 50 productions at Philadelphia's historic Academy of Music. Favorite productions with Opera Philadelphia include *Margaret Garner* with stage director Kenny Leon, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Macbeth*, *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein*, *Ainadamar*, and *Don Giovanni* with designer Rafal Olbinski.

Ms. Nass's international engagements and those across the United States include ensemble membership at the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy, Bard Summerscape, and Opera Festival New Jersey. As a chorister, she has performed extensively with the Philadelphia Orchestra as a member of both the Philadelphia

Orchestra Symphonic Chorus and The Philadelphia Singers, working with esteemed conductors such as Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Riccardo Muti, and Wolfgang Sawallisch, as well as favorite guest conductors Jane Glover, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, and Stéphane Denève.

Her versatility is evident in crossover concerts, including appearances with Rod Stewart, Zucchero, Andrea Bocelli on multiple tours from 2017-2024, and the Sarah Brightman "Hymn" Tour. Ms. Nass can be heard on recordings of Menotti's *The Saint of Bleecker Street* and Menotti's Four Concerti recorded with Richard Hickox under the supervision of Maestro Menotti, and the world premiere recording of Randall Thompson's Requiem with The Philadelphia Singers.

### **Brennan Meier**

Brennan Meier is a sought-after singer, multi-instrumentalist and music educator in the greater Philadelphia area. Originally from Oakland, CA, he earned a B.M. in Vocal Music from Chapman University, and an M.M. from the Boston University Opera Institute. He has been featured as a soloist with the Los Angeles Verdi Chorus, Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Pacific Chorale. In addition, he has appeared as a resident artist and collaborator at Taos Opera Institute, the Seagle Festival, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Los Angeles SongFest, N.E.O. Voice Festival, and the Festival de Musique Sacree at Opera Nice. Also a seasoned conductor and chorusmaster, Brennan has served as the Music Director for a wide range of ensembles, including C3LA, Pacific Boy Choir Academy, the Antonio Charles Big Band, and at Union Congregational Church in Walpole, MA. He can still be seen performing regularly as both a chorister and a dueling pianist, and holds a residency at The Music Box in Atlantic City, NJ. Brennan has worked with the Villanova Chorale and Villanova Voices since January 2024.

### **Emily Barth**

EMILY BARTH is a sought-after accompanist and vocal coach in the Philadelphia area. She has performed at the Academy of Vocal Arts, Temple University, and West Chester University and has worked with Sister Cities Girlchoir, Opus One: Berks Chamber Choir, Opera on Tap, and the Russian Opera Workshop. She spent two summers in Skagway, Alaska performing in The Days of '98 Show, a long-running ragtime musical about the history of the Alaskan gold rush. Emily is also an active church musician and has served as music director at various churches across Delaware County and currently serves as organist for Media Presbyterian Church. She earned a B.M. in Piano Performance from the Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College and an M.M. in Collaborative Piano from Florida State University where she was awarded a graduate assistantship. Former teachers include Valerie Trujillo, Jocelyn Swigger, and Jan Jiracek von Armin. Emily has worked with the Villanova Singers and Villanova Voices since 2015.

## The Villanova Voices

### **Soprano I**

Liz Champagne  
Ollie Currier  
Katie Harrington  
Lily Holzinger\*  
Emily Jo  
Brianna Kirkpatrick  
Maria MacDonald  
Issie Russo\*  
Emily St. Pierre

### **Soprano II**

Sofia Broughman  
Bella DiFrancesca

Sophia Gunderson\*

Ava LaSasso\*  
MaryAnn Leshinskie  
Bailey Proctor-Madden\*  
Clare Vogt

### **Alto I**

Julia Anderson\*  
Mariana Diana  
Claire Donnelly  
Emerson Hinson  
Jane Huston\*  
Leena Krayyem  
Andrea Lutai

Caitlyn Ng

Camryn Schultz\*  
Nora Tiffen

### **Alto II**

Max Cabral\*  
Khabria Fisher-Dunbar\*  
Ali'i Gibbs  
Madeline Okenquist  
Ava Studivant\*  
Sophie Stevens\*  
Kasey Wood

**\* Denotes Senior**

## The Villanova Voices Board

### **President**

Nora Tiffen

### **Fundraising Coordinator**

Claire Donnelly

### **Alumnae Director**

Emily St. Pierre

### **Vice President**

Madeline Okenquist

### **Tour Director**

Emily Jo

### **Campus Involvement Coordinator**

MaryAnn Leshinskie

### **Secretary**

Maria MacDonald

### **Assistant Tour Director**

Brianna Kirkpatrick

### **Social Chair**

Andrea Lutai

### **Treasurer**

Clare Vogt

### **Social Media Director**

Ollie Currier

### **Music Librarian**

Caitlyn Ng

### **Publicity Director**

Bella DiFrancesca

## **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 Rio de Janeiro, 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, St. Katharine of Siena 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 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 both the Music Director of the 90-voice Main Line Singers and the Executive Director of the Women's Sacred Music Project, housed at Rosemont College. He was a Research Associate in the Department of Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies at Bryn Mawr College, where he directed the 20-voice Bryn Mawr Renaissance Choir for five years. 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. He is a Yale Whiffenpoof and sings locally with the all-male groups The Tonics and the Orpheus Club of Philadelphia. He has been the Director of the Villanova Singers since 2019.

## Cecilia Beatty

Cecilia Beatty teaches at Archbishop Carroll High School, where she is Director of Choirs. She 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. A seasoned Catholic church musician, she has extensive experience as an organist and choir director. She has also recently begun playing cello with the Rosetree Pops Orchestra, an exciting and fun new musical endeavor. This is Ms. Beatty's fourth 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**

Marco Klisch  
Jacob Long\*\*  
Ben Johnson  
Cole Joyce<sup>+</sup>  
**Tenor II**  
Zach Amos  
Alex Edmonds  
Nick Menendez  
Connor Fieck<sup>+</sup>  
Nick Leyesa<sup>+</sup>

### Ben Schmidt

Zachary Buxton  
**Bass I**  
Joseph Corigliano  
Derick Denecke  
Brent Thompson  
Carter Smith \*  
Stewart Tewksbury\*\*  
Aleko Zeppos<sup>+</sup>

### **Bass II**

Mark Faverzani\*  
Joey Klieman  
Ben Langenbach  
Justin Lescavage\*  
Carlos Schaver<sup>+</sup>  
Jacob Scotto<sup>+</sup>  
Eric Van Zele<sup>+</sup>  
Lucas Scotto<sup>+</sup>

\* Denotes Spire

<sup>+</sup> Denotes Senior

## The Villanova Singers 2024-2025 Board

### **President**

Jacob Scotto

### **Secretary**

Carter Smith

### **Publicity Director**

Ben Schmidt

### **Vice President**

Eric Van Zele

### **Fundraising Coordinator**

Mark Faverzani

### **Tour Director**

Marco Klisch

### **Treasurer**

Aleko Zeppos

### **Alumni Director**

Justin Lescavage

### **Librarian**

Joey Klieman

## Upcoming Spring Semester Performances

### Irish Dance Team Showcase

4/6

Experience the energy and rhythm of traditional and modern Irish dance as Irish Dance Team takes the stage! Our dynamic dancers bring fast footwork, captivating choreography, and the spirit of Ireland to life in every unforgettable performance. Sunday, April 6th, The Court Theatre, 7:30pm.

### Ablaze x Wazobia: A Celebration of Culture & Creativity

4/11

Join us for an electrifying fusion of talent, culture, and expression as Ablaze and Wazobia unite for a one-of-a-kind showcase! Experience dynamic performances, vibrant artistry, and the rich heritage of diverse communities coming together in a night of unforgettable entertainment. Friday, April 11th, The Court Theatre, 7:30pm.

### The Superlative Showcase

4/12

Don't miss your chance to witness the epitome of urban dance excellence - catch Superlative live and experience the hype for yourself! Saturday, April 12th, The Court Theatre, 7:30pm.

### Nova Noise Showcase

4/13

This sensational tap dance group captivates audiences with their precision, creativity, and infectious energy. From intricate footwork to edgy choreography, every performance is a symphony of sound and movement. Sunday, April 13th, The Court Theatre, 3pm.

### Dance Company & Ensemble Showcase

4/25

Join our talented Villanova Dancers in their semester end traditional dance showcase featuring large numbers, small ensembles, and solo numbers. There's something for everyone! Friday, April 25th, The Topper Theatre, 7:30pm.

### Villanova Band & Jazz Band Concert

4/26

Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon of musical magic as the Villanova Band and Jazz Band take the stage! From soulful jazz standards to electrifying concert band arrangements, our talented musicians will have you tapping your toes and swinging to the beat! Saturday, April 26th, The Topper Theatre, 2pm.

### Villanova Gospel Choir Spring Concert

4/26

Experience the uplifting power of music with the Villanova Gospel Choir! From traditional hymns to contemporary gospel hits, our choir delivers a transcendent musical experience that will leave you inspired and filled with joy. Driscoll Hall 132, Sunday, 4/26, 3pm.

### Villanova Chamber Strings Concert with the Main Line Symphony

4/27

Join the Villanova Chamber Strings for a delightful concert whose first half features light favorites and a special tribute to our graduating seniors. In the second half, we join forces with the Main Line Symphony for a powerful side-by-side performance of Sibelius' **Symphony No. 2**—a masterpiece of passion and grandeur. Don't miss this unforgettable evening of music! Sunday, April 27th, The Topper Theatre, 6pm.

## A Cappella Spring Showcases

From soulful ballads to upbeat pop hits, our talented a cappella students will captivate you with their incredible end of semester performances. Don't miss out on these exciting evenings filled with music, laughter, senior celebrations, and memories. Congrats to Spires & the Villanova Melodics who held their concert last night.

### Supernovas, Sirens, & Havener

Saturday 4/5, 7pm

Court Theatre

### Minor Problem, Measure Up, & Nothing But Treble

Sunday, 4/6, 3pm

Court Theatre

## Save the Dates – Choral & A Cappella Concerts 2025-2026!

Fall A Cappella Concerts – November 14 & 15, 2025  
Christmas Choral Concert – December 6, 2025, 2pm

Spring A Cappella Concerts – April 10-12, 2026  
Spring Choral Concert – April 11, 2026, 2pm