

DAKOTA *Choral* UNION

Christmas at the Cathedral

KANTOREI

O Magnum Mysterium | William Byrd

*O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in a manger!*

Puer Natus in Bethlehem | Robert Franz | Tenor, Steven Linman

*A Child is born in Bethlehem;
Exult for joy, Jerusalem!
There, in a manger lowly, lies.
He who reigns above the skies.*

*Our feeble flesh and His the same.
Our sinless kinsman He became,
Come then, and on this natal day.
Rejoice before the Lord and pray.*

Hymn 146 | O Come All Ye Faithful

DAKOTA CHORAL UNION

Magnificat in D major, BWV 243 | Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Magnificat anima mea Dominum. | Chorus

My soul doth magnify the Lord

2. Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. | Soprano, Teresa Spiess

And my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

3. Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae; ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent. | Soprano, Gwen Hoops

For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden: for behold, from henceforth [all generations] shall call me blessed

4. Omnes generationes. | Chorus

All generations

6. Et misericordia a progenie in progenies timentibus eum. | Alto, Gina

Plooster & Tenor, Joshua Zabatta

And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.

7. Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, ispersit superbos mente cordis sui. |

Chorus

He hath showed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

8. Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles. | Tenor, Joshua Zabatta

He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and hath exalted the humble.

9. Esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes. | Alto, Lindsey Nielsen

He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.

10. Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus misericordiae suae. |

Marguerite Anderson, Gwen Hoops, Katie Zerbst

He hath holpen His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.

11. Sicut locutus est ad Patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

| Chorus

As He spoke to our forefathers, Abraham, and his seed forever.

12. Gloria Patri, Gloria Filio, Gloria et Spiritui Sancto! Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. | Chorus

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

INTERMISSION

Acknowledgments | Gina Plooster, DCU Board President

KANTOREI (Free-will Offering)

Huron Carol | Arr. Mark Sirett

Here, mid the ass and oxen mild | Arr. Alice Park/Robert Shaw | Alto, Lindsey Nielsen

So blest a sight | Arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw | Soprano, Gwen Hoops
Madonna and Child | Edwin Fissinger

DAKOTA CHORAL UNION

Messiah (HWV 56) | George Frederick Handel

1. Overture (Sinfonia)

2. Recitative: Comfort ye my people | Joshua Zabatta

3. Air: Ev'ry valley shall be exalted | Joshua Zabatta

4. Chorus: And the glory of the Lord

8. Recitative: Behold, a virgin shall conceive | Katie Zerbst

9. Air & Chorus: O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion | Katie Zerbst

12. Chorus: For unto us a child a born

14. Recitative: There were shepherds abiding in the fields | Marguerite Anderson

15. Recitative: And lo, the angel of the Lord | Marguerite Anderson

16. Recitative: And suddenly there was with the angel | Marguerite Anderson

17. Chorus: Glory to God in the highest

44. Chorus: Hallelujah

Silent Night | Shawn Kirchner

Hymn 159 | Joy to the World

DAKOTA *Choral* UNION

Soprano 1

Marguerite Anderson*
Nanci Bates
Leslie Cline*
Dakota Crocker
Karen Gundersen Olson
Teresa Spiess*
Julie Wurzbarger

Sheila Hoyer

Joy Martin*
Glenda Miller
Lindsey Nielsen*
Gina Plooster*
Sarah Ringheimer
Sherry Scudder
Lesa Walter

Soprano 2

Rebecca Anderson
Susan Anderson
Barbara Brackett
Gwen Hoops*
Jihye Lovelace
Vaudeth Oberlander
Barbara Rosner

Alto 2

Joice Halbert
Jean Harris
Christine Jones
Susan Kelts
Cat Kjar
Anne Kuecks
Martha Maron
Carol Pesek
Janet Petersen*
Katie Zerbst*

Alto 1

Cindy Begley
Julie Dodge

Tenor

Michael Brubaker
Hayes Chohon*
Brad Dighton*
Fred Hallstrom
Steven Linman*
Jim Olson
Noah Schaeftbauer
John Ter Beest*

Baritone

Dave Johnson
Bret Lingwall
Jonathan Nero*

Bass

Kenneth Dewell
William Merry*
Tim Wolber*

*Kantorei



Bruce Knowles, Artistic Director & Conductor
Kirsten Hollenbeck, Executive Director

Violin I

Elizabeth Knowles, Concertmaster
Meghan Knowles
Mariah Bush

Violin II

Marilyn Maxvold, Principal
Joe Berendse
Patrick Knowles

Viola

Charlie Savot, Principal
Cullen Knowles

Cello

Liz Benusis, Principal
Isabel MacLachlan

Bass

Carrie Orr, Principal

Flutes

Julie Anderson, Principal
Helen Van Dam

Oboe

Nancy Olney, Principal
Paige Werner

Trumpets

Chris Hahn, Principal
Rick Hamil
Nick Ries

Timpani

Andrew Simco



Sharing the passion of singing, Dakota Choral Union enlightens, enriches, and entertains our Black Hills community through the performance of significant choral works. DCU provides the opportunity for individuals to develop within a supportive family of non-auditioned singers. We strive to bridge boundaries and touch lives through our music.

Dr. Jonathan Nero joined Dakota Choral Union as our Artistic Director and Conductor in the fall of 2016. Dr. Nero earned his Doctorate in Choral Conducting from North Dakota State University. He joined the music faculty of Black Hills State University in 2007 as Director of Choral Activities. In this position, he conducts the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, the Community Chorale, and a newly formed Women's Ensemble. He also teaches applied voice and classes in music theory, conducting, and music methods. Before coming to BHSU, Dr. Nero taught at the elementary, secondary, and university levels in North Dakota and Minnesota. Dr. Nero is also an active singer and guest conductor in South Dakota, Wyoming, and North Dakota.

Hayes Chohon, Assistant Director, grew up in Ainsworth, Nebraska where he participated in numerous honor choirs as a student throughout the state. He then went on to attend Black Hills State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in Music Education. While at BHSU, Hayes also served on the executive board for South Dakota American Choral Director's Association as the student representative. Last year, Hayes taught choral music at Parkston, SD. He and his fiancé moved back to the Black Hills this summer where he now teaches middle and high school choral music for the Hot Springs School District. Outside of teaching, Hayes enjoys paddle boarding with his fiancé, Taryn, watching sports, hiking in the hills and is a member of the Hot Springs Community Band as well as South Dakota American Choral Director's Association. This is Hayes' first year with Dakota Choral Union and its select group Kantorei.

Emma McKirdy-Wilsey, Accompanist, has enjoyed playing for Dakota Choral Union since 2018. Previously, she acquired a Master of Music degree and taught piano throughout South Dakota, as well as performed with choirs and local ensembles through church and the South Dakota universities. She lives in Spearfish and works as the organ/pianist at Spearfish United Methodist Church. Her degrees don't get used as much as she likes, but she participates in what musical ensembles she can while wrangling a two year old at home.

DCU Board of Directors

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SOLOISTS

Joshua Zabatta, Tenor, never imagined that singing while driving a tractor on a Montana farm, where he grew up, would eventually lead to a promising music career. Although originally studying for a career in broadcasting, Joshua was lured into the world of opera when he was invited to participate in the Johanna Meier Opera Theatre Institute. Since emerging onto the professional scene, Mr. Zabatta has been praised for his dynamic storytelling and his full, warm voice described by audiences as “audible chocolate.” Joshua quickly received acclaim as a “terrific soloist” by Sarah Bryan Miller of the St. Louis Post Dispatch after singing engagements with the Bach Society of St. Louis, which whom he was an apprentice for 3 seasons. In addition to his multiple appearances with the Bach Society and Union Avenue Opera, Joshua Zabatta served as a soloist in Alban Berg’s *Wozzeck* with the St. Louis Symphony under the baton of David Robertson. After relocating to the Colorado, some of Mr. Zabatta’s concert performances in the region included: *Mass in G* by Carl Maria von Weber, *Oratorio de Noël* by Saint-Saëns, *Dvořák Mass in D*, and *Beethoven Mass in C*. During the 2016-2017 Season, Joshua made his debut with Opera Colorado singing *Harry* in Puccini’s *La Fanciulla del West*. Then, through engagements with Boulder Opera, Mr. Zabatta further expanded his repertoire, performing: *Don José* in *Carmen*, *Fernando* in *Goyescas* by Granados, and *Turridu* in *Cavalleria Rusticana*. More recently, Mr. Zabatta was seen performing the roles of *Harlekin* and *Ein Soldat* in *Viktor Ullmann’s Der Kaiser von Atlantis* with the People’s Theatre of Denver. This year Mr. Zabatta is pleased to work with opera companies as they begin to reopen, singing: *Count Barigoule* in *Viardot’s Cendrillon* (Loveland Opera) plus the roles of *Eduardo Jr.* and *Mr. Xoloti* in *Frida Kahlo* and the *Bravest Girl in the World* as part of a television production for *Opera Steamboat*. Joshua will reprise the roles from *Frida Kahlo* and *Bravest Girl in the World* with Central City Opera this season. An avid music education advocate, Mr. Zabatta teaches and mentors dozens of students in the Denver, CO area and around the country. Through piano tuning and repair work, he also helps ensure that families and teachers, especially in rural areas, can have access to working pianos. Joshua Zabatta currently serves as a touring and teaching artist with Central City Opera in addition to being faculty for Rushmore Music Festival. You can follow Joshua Zabatta’s career through his web site: www.joshuazabatta.com.

Marguerite Anderson, Soprano, has always been passionate about singing. She remembers being four years old and belting out “Tomorrow” from the musical *Annie*, while on the swings and singing *Willie Nelson’s “On the Road Again”* while riding her trike in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Marguerite began her music studies at Laramie County Community College under the leadership of Dr. Jane Iverson. In 2003 Marguerite graduated from the University of Wyoming with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. While attending, she earned awards from National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competitions and performed as *Venus* in *Offenbach’s Orpheus in the Underworld* and as *Gianetta* in *Gilbert and Sullivan’s The Gondoliers*. Her favorite choral works she’s been part of are *Bach’s St. Matthew Passion*, *Mendelsohn’s Elijah*, *Beethoven’s 9th Symphony Chorus*, *Mozart’s Requiem in D Minor* and of course, *Handel’s Messiah*. She also loves *John Rutter’s Gloria* and *John Rutter’s Requiem*. Marguerite is a Cheyenne native and was an active member of the Cheyenne Chamber Singers for over 10 years. She relocated to Rapid City in 2019 with her husband and two wonderful children. This is her first season singing with the Dakota Choral Union.

Gwen Hoops, Soprano, is a recent graduate of Black Hills State University in Spearfish, where she studied music. When they’re not singing (or working), Gwen enjoys playing trombone in the BHSU Jazz Ensemble, working on some new art piece, or simply spending time goofing off with their friends and family. This is the first chance she’s gotten to perform with Dakota Choral Union, and the first time she’s sung solos with an orchestra, an opportunity she is very grateful and excited for.

Lindsey Nielsen, Alto, a South Dakota native, grew up loving music. She sang in many different choirs in her youth and played the role of the narrator in *Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Joseph* and the *Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2016. During her time at Augustana University, Lindsey performed the college’s first-ever lecture recital that included 13 songs in German. She received first place at the SDMTA music competition in the fall of 2017 and was a finalist for the *Concerto Aria* competition in the spring of 2018. Lindsey teaches choral music at Central High School. Outside of teaching, she directs the choir at Trinity Lutheran Church, co-directs the Rapid City Children’s Chorus, and is a program director for the South Dakota Junior Honor Choir. Lindsey is an active member of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), the South Dakota Music Educators Association (SDMEA), and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). This is Lindsey’s first year singing with the Dakota Choral Union and its select group *Kantorei*.

Gina Plooster, Alto, joined DCU in 2017 upon returning to South Dakota after 14 years of living and working in Chicago. Prior to her move to Chicago, she studied voice with Dr. Lisa Grevlos at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, singing with the Augustana Choir and Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. James Johnson. Gina works as a leasing agent for KW Commercial and is thankful to have an opportunity like DCU to make music in her spare time.

Teresa Spiess, Soprano, is a Rapid City native and lifelong choral music enthusiast. She joined the DCU in 2010 and has performed solos with the DCU and *Kantorei*. She is a regular psalmist at Blessed Sacrament Church. This is her first solo with the BHSU. She and her husband Brian have two happily married sons and three exceptional grandchildren. Teresa works for the Catholic Diocese of Rapid City.

Katie Zerbst, Mezzo-Soprano, is excited to return to the stage and perform for her community after the long hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic. From Sturgis, Katie graduated with her Bachelor’s degree in Vocal Performance from Black Hills State University in 2018, where she performed in a number of musicals and opera scenes productions with the BHSU Music Department. She then went on to complete a Masters of Music degree in Vocal Performance from North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND, where she studied with Dr. Robert Jones and Dr. Mariane Lemieux. She graduated in 2020 in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. In Fargo she performed in the opera chorus of *Bizet’s Carmen* with the Fargo-Moorhead Opera; with NDSU Opera as *Lady Angela* in *Gilbert and Sullivan’s Patience*, as *Cornelia* in *Handel’s Giulio Cesare*, and in numerous opera scenes. She is currently teaching voice lessons in Spearfish and studying voice with Dr. Nancy Roberts.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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DAKOTA *Choral* **UNION**

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Want to join? Rehearsals for spring begin in January 2022!

Visit dakotachoralunion.org
or email us at dcurapidcity@gmail.com
to learn more.