



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

University Chorale

Standing at the Beam

David Rayl, conductor
Dan Baker, assistant conductor
Ryan Fellman, assistant conductor
Connie Gamage, piano
Anne Nispel, soprano

Saturday, April 2, 2022
Fairchild Theatre, 8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

8:00 p.m.
Introduction

8:05 p.m.
Fern Hill

John Corigliano
(b. 1938)
poem by Dylan Thomas
(1914-1953)

Anne Nispel, soprano
Solo quartet: Eliza Beutler, Kennedy Robinson,
Landon Black, Brayden Hunter

8:30 p.m.
De Profundis (Psalm 130)

Johann Georg Reutter
(1708-1772)

Dan Baker, conductor

Aus der Tiefe (Psalm 130), BWV 131

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Ryan Fellman, conductor

8:45 p.m.
Commentary

8:50 p.m.
Standing at the Beam*

Andrea Clearfield
poem by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Soloists: Claire Kaiser, Phoenix Miranda,
Paula Duva-Rodriguez, Jacqueline Conlon, Paige Heidrich,
Katy Green, Cera Babb, Maria Schoon

**Premiere performance*

*Commissioned by the Edward D. Anderson Choral Scholars Fund
in Honor of The University Chorale, David Rayl, conductor*

9:15 p.m.
Post-performance conversation (optional)

Charles Anthony Silvestri, poet
Andrea Clearfield, composer

Grace French, founder and president, *The Army of Survivors*
Moderator: Rebecca Campbell, MSU Professor of Psychology

ARTIST BIOS

Andrea Clearfield is an award-winning composer of music for opera, orchestra, chorus, chamber ensemble, dance and multimedia collaborations. Clearfield creates deep, emotive musical languages that build cultural and artistic bridges. She has been praised by the *New York Times* for her “graceful tracery and lively, rhythmically vital writing”, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for her “compositional wizardry” and “mastery with large choral and instrumental forces”, the *L.A. Times* for her “fluid and glistening orchestration” and by *Opera News* for her “vivid and galvanizing” music of “timeless beauty”. Her catalog of over 160 works includes fifteen large-scale cantatas including one for The Philadelphia Orchestra. Recent works are inspired by Tibetan music fieldwork that she conducted in the Nepalese Himalaya, including her opera, *MILA, Great Sorcerer*, on the life of the venerated Tibetan saint, Milarepa, with librettists Jean-Claude van Itallie and Lois Walden.

Passionate about building community around the arts, she is the founder and host of the renowned Salon featuring contemporary, classical, jazz, electronic, dance, and world music, now celebrating its 35th Year. She sits on the Grammy Board of Directors, Philadelphia Chapter, the Executive Board of Wildflower Composers. and the advisory board for the Women’s Sacred Music Project.

Poet, author, composer, and speaker **Charles Anthony Silvestri** has worked with other artists from all over the world to create texts tailor-made for their commissions and specific artistic needs. He enjoys the challenge of solving these creative problems and has provided custom choral texts, opera libretti, program notes and other writing for composers including Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo, Kim Arnesen, and Dan Forrest, and for ensembles ranging from high schools to the Houston Grand Opera, from The King’s Singers to the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, and from Westminster Choir College to Westminster Abbey

As a clinician, Silvestri speaks to choirs, classes, and concert audiences about his works, the creative process, the marriage of words and music, and about his collaborative relationships with composers. He is the author of three books, including *A Silver Thread* (GIA 2019), a retrospective of almost 20 years of his lyric poetry. He teaches Ancient and Medieval History at Washburn University and lives in Lawrence, KS.

UNIVERSITY CHORALE

David Rayl, conductor

Dan Baker and Ryan Fellman, assistant conductors

Connie Gamage, piano

Soprano

Cera Babb

Eliza Beutler

Shannon Crowley

Katy Green

Paige Heidrich

Mackenzie Jacobs

Claire Kaiser

Elary Mede

Taylor Mills

Phoenix Miranda

Jennifer Ribeiro

Maria Schoon

Melanie Walker

Alto

Grace Argyle

Colleen Chester

Jackie Conlon

Hailey Cunningham

Paula Duva-Rodriguez

Suzanna Feldkamp

Jennifer Heder

Riley Piazzon

Kennedy Robinson

Natalie Sweeney

Tenor

Dan Baker

Nic Bishop

Landon Black

Troy Forbush

Dalan Guthrie

Jackson Hall

Cole Harvey

Ben Kambs

Bass

Jack Bertrand

Jason Brown

Joey Cross

Jamie Eagle

Ryan Fellman

Brayden Hunter

Saleel Menon

Thomas Pettinato

David Simmons

Seth Tack

Instrumental Ensemble

Asako Furuoya, oboe

Emelyn Bashour, violin

Gerson Medina, violin

Yi-Pei Lin, viola

Imjeong Choi, cello

Shaun Rogers, bass

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

Fern Hill (Dylan Thomas)

Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs
About the lilting house and happy as the grass was green,

 The night above the dingle starry,
 Time let me hail and climb

 Golden in the heydays of his eyes,
And honoured among wagons I was prince of the apple towns
And once below a time I lordly had the trees and leaves

 Trail with daisies and barley
 Down the rivers of the windfall light.

And as I was green and carefree, famous among the barns
About the happy yard and singing as the farm was home,

 In the sun that is young once only,
 Time let me play and be

 Golden in the mercy of his means,
And green and golden I was huntsman and herdsman, the calves
Sang to my horn, the foxes on the hills barked clear and cold,

 And the sabbath rang slowly
 In the pebbles of the holy streams.

All the sun long it was running, it was lovely, the hay
Fields high as the house, the tunes from the chimneys, it was air

 And playing, lovely and watery
 And fire green as grass.

 And nightly under the simple stars
As I rode to sleep the owls were bearing the farm away,
All the moon long I heard, blessed among stables, the nightjars
Flying with the ricks, and the horses
 Flashing into the dark.

And then to awake, and the farm, like a wanderer white
With the dew, come back, the cock on his shoulder: it was all

 Shining, it was Adam and maiden,
 The sky gathered again

 And the sun grew round that very day.
So it must have been after the birth of the simple light
In the first, spinning place, the spellbound horses walking warm
 Out of the whinnying green stable
 On to the fields of praise.

And honoured among foxes and pheasants by the gay house
Under the new made clouds and happy as the heart was long,

 In the sun born over and over,
 I ran my heedless ways,
 My wishes raced through the house high hay

TEXT AND TRANSLATION (cont.)

And nothing I cared, at my sky blue trades, that time allows
In all his tuneful turning so few and such morning songs
 Before the children green and golden
 Follow him out of grace,

Nothing I cared, in the lamb white days, that time would take me
Up to the swallow thronged loft by the shadow of my hand,
 In the moon that is always rising,
 Nor that riding to sleep
 I should hear him fly with the high fields
And wake to the farm forever fled from the childless land.
Oh as I was young and easy in the mercy of his means,
 Time held me green and dying
 Though I sang in my chains like the sea.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice; let your ears be attentive to the voice of my
 pleading.
If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, that you should be feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than they who watch for the
 morning.
Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there I mercy, an with
 him there is plenteous redemption.
And he shall redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

Standing at the Beam (Charles Anthony Silvestri)

for Andrea Clearfield

Standing at the beam

All alone

Shaken still

shaken...

broken...

Standing on the edge

Seeking balance

Shifting equilibrium

shifting...

imbalance...

Rising into my routine

Trying not to fall

falling...

Facing all those faces fearing...

Who'll never know

hiding...

That not to fall

Requires all

The grit, the work, the strength

Even the strength of all my scars

To get back up again

TEXT AND TRANSLATION (cont.)

Standing at the beam	
A shadow at my side	shadow...
Weighing me down	inside...
	still...

This shadow is not my story
And nothing will take the glory
Of what I have accomplished

But I cannot balance alone
I must dance with the shadows
Until they fade
Until what's real shines through...

And I see you	I see you...
Standing together	together...
We shake this shadow	
And lift each other up	

The light of life is ours today
The world will hear what we must say
The light of truth drives shadows away
And reveals a bright new dawn

	lifting...
We stand at the beam	shifting...
In strength, together	together...
Where shadows cannot touch us.	

Edward D. Anderson Choral Scholars Fund

Edward D. Anderson (EDA) was a widely recognized music educator and church musician in northern Colorado and throughout the Midwest United States. During a career extending over seven decades, he influenced the lives and careers of countless young people through his focus on music education generally, and more specifically, spiritual enrichment through sacred music innovation and performance. To honor his legacy in the choral arts and music ministry, the Edward D. Anderson Choral Scholars Fund (EDACS) was established in 2011 at St Martin's Lutheran Church and the University of Texas in Austin. The Fund has since provided stipends to over 200 high school and college eligible musicians to support their participation in university and church choirs and other musical organizations. The program's long-term objectives include the training of a new generation of choristers and instrumentalists by encouraging exposure to excellent sacred or secular music and highly qualified mentoring musicians, and by the creation of new and lasting music literature through the commissioning of exceptionally credentialed composers in the USA and Europe.

Professor Anderson was thrilled to witness the growth of the Scholars concept in Austin as a unique blend of music excellence, education and performance in academic and liturgical settings. Prior to his death, he encouraged an expansion of the program to include community choirs, music camps and festivals. Since then, EDAC scholarship programs and associated commissioning projects have been established at Concordia College, Morehead, MN (his B.A. *Alma Mater*), The International Music Camp (Peace Garden USA - Canada), First Presbyterian Church linked to Colorado State University, Ft Collins, Colorado, St. Edwards' University and St. Theresa's Catholic Church linked to the Masterworks Chorus in Austin, Texas, The Rivertree Singers and Friends Choral Festival in Greenville, South Carolina, Michigan State University linked to St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, in East Lansing, Michigan, The Centennial Children's Chorus, in Ft. Collins, CO, and in 2022, an additional scholarship and commissioning project at Spelman College, Atlanta, GA. Funding of student scholars and compositional commissions is supported by proceeds from *Fidelity Charitable*SM, a 501(c)(3) Donor-Advised Charity Fund.

Edward D. Anderson

July 22, 1915 – July 5, 2014

Edward D. Anderson was born in North Dakota and graduated in 1938 with a baccalaureate degree from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. While at Concordia, he realized his passion for music and was inspired towards a career in music by Paul J. Christiansen, an internationally recognized member of Concordia's Music faculty. After graduation, he taught music in North Dakota high schools and directed the choir of a local Lutheran church. Following World War II, he earned his Master of Music degree from Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Michigan. In 1948, he moved his family to Ft. Collins, Colorado to join the faculty at Colorado State University (CSU) where he developed diverse choral music programs and taught for 37 years and later founded and developed community choirs in northern Colorado. He embraced the Rocky Mountains landscape and CSU programs with great energy and enthusiasm, never doubting his calling to "make music." His University Singers and Chamber Singers performed extensively at home and on tour throughout the United States. He was instrumental in the creation of the University Fine Arts Festival and the CSU Madrigal Singers. He received the "Oliver Pennock Teaching Award for Distinguished Service" and was named "Top Prof" by CSU students. The Colorado Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association named him a "Choral Music Legend." He was a regular guest conductor at the International Music Camp at the Peace Garden and led their touring choirs to Europe multiple times. As a tenor soloist, he specialized in singing the role of "the Evangelist" in the Bach St. John Passion.

His entire professional life included a focus on sacred music; his choral music ministry extending over seven decades. In Ft. Collins, he was Director of Choral Music at Trinity Lutheran Church (26 years) and later at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (21 years). He encouraged talented students to embrace church choirs of high quality and founded the annual Bach Festival at St Luke's Episcopal Church, featuring young musicians from regional school districts. As expressed in his own words, "The value of the festival was to share with the community one of the finest musicians of our European heritage." He was personally drawn to the Baroque composer because of Bach's dedication to church music and the worship of God. For him, Bach's music was "the epitome of worship music" in which one finds "solidity – an everlasting quality - Soli Deo Gloria!"

PRIVATE GIFTS play a vital role in our ability to maintain and enhance the quality of the programs we offer. Donations support student scholarships, fellowships, student travel and performance opportunities, instrument acquisitions, guest artists, outreach activities, operations, and other crucial areas that make the College of Music an exemplary place of learning. To learn more about concert sponsorships and giving to the college, please contact the Advancement Office at (517) 353-9872.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021-2022 SPONSORS

- **AgeAlive** (MSU Wind Symphony, March Forth! March 24, 2022)
- **Brenda and Floyd Akins, Jr.,** (MSU Professors of Jazz, September 10, 2021)
- **Commissioned by the Edward D. Anderson Choral Scholars Fund In Honor of the University Chorale, David Rayl, Conductor** (University Chorale Premiere: "Standing at the Beam", April 2, 2022)
- **Anonymous Donor Family** (MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, *Songs of Comfort and Joy*, December 4, 2021)
- **Arts Midwest Touring Fund** (Westerlies)
- **Sam and Mary Austin** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Reverón and Khemia Ensemble, Interconnected: Chamber Work Premieres, and Chamber Fusion: Jazz Meets Classical)
- **Lorie Seitz Barbieri and Chuck Barbieri, in loving memory of Midge Seitz (MSU '52)** (Alumni Chapel New Organ Dedication)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series and John Clayton Residency, April 21-23, 2022)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (MSU Symphony Orchestra, September 26, 2021, and Spring Opera)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series and Legends)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (Happy Birthday Mozart!)
- **Byron and Dee Cook** (Lift Every Voice)
- **Randolph Cōwen and Phyllis Green** (Jane Bunnell and Marc Embree, February 28, 2022)
- **Susan Davis** (Fall Opera)
- **Ed and Wanda Eichler** (Alumni Chapel New Organ Dedication)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Philip Sinder, January 19, 2022)
- **Thea Glicksman** (Richard Sherman, September 22, 2021, and Ralph Votapek, October 5, 2021)
- **Belle S. and Julius N. Harris Distinguished Visiting Artist Fund established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Dorothy DeLay Master Class Series)
- **Lauren Julius Harris** (MSU Symphony Orchestra, February 13, 2022)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (A Festival of Keys)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall Opera)
- **Doug and Brenda Jewell** (Piano Monster)
- **Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment established by Taylor Johnston** (Taylor Johnston Early Music Series)

- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Ralph Votapek and Friends, September 1, 2021)
- **Abby and Ann-Marie Lindley** (Gwen Dease and Yvonne Lam, October 13, 2021)
- **Ann-Marie and John Lindley in memory of Marian Braund** (Bach in the U.S.A. and Marc Embree, October 10, 2021)
- **Merritt Lutz** (150th Anniversary Celebration of Bands, April 30, 2022)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas and Jazz on the Grand)
- **Patrick McPharlin** (Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer, and Protest Concert)
- **Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the Crane Group** (Westerlies)
- **Dr. James M. Miller and Dr. Rebecca H. Lehto** (Fall Opera)
- **Mike and Midge Morrow** (Lift Every Voice)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series, Spartan Spectacular, and Music for Social Justice Video Series)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union Entrepreneurial Musical Artist-in-Residence Endowed Fund** (Westerlies)
- **Beth and the late Dr. Milton Muelder** (MSU Symphony Orchestra, October 24, 2021)
- **Liz and Tony Raduazo in honor of Andy Raduazo** (Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert, April 19, 2022)
- **George Orban and Rae H. Ramsdell** (Alumni Chapel New Organ Dedication)
- **Jim and Elaine Rauschert** (Richard Fracker, March 15, 2022)
- **Nancy and Charlie Seebeck** (A Night at The Movies and A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **Brenda Sternquist** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Annual Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Suren Bagratuni, November 14, 2021, and Dmitri Berlinsky, November 15, 2021)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox** (MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, *Verdi's Requiem*, April 28, 2022)
- **Provost Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. and Thomas V. O'Halloran, Ph.D.** (MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, *Songs of Comfort and Joy*, December 4, 2021, and *Verdi's Requiem*, April 28, 2022)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Barbara Wagner Chamber Music Competition Showcase)
- **Dr. Charles and Philippa Webb** (Beacon Hill Music Series)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Vox Humana)

SPONSORSHIPS AND RECOGNITION

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UPCOMING EVENTS

4/4 Monday

Joanne and Bill Church West Circle Series

Legends

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$

4/5 Tuesday

Ken and Sandy Beall Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival 20th Anniversary

A Night at the Movies

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$

4/7 Thursday

Ken and Sandy Beall Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival 20th Anniversary

Vox Humana

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$

4/9 Saturday

Ken and Sandy Beall Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival 20th Anniversary

A Festival of Keys

8:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$

4/10 Sunday

Red Cedar Organ Dedication Recital

3:00 & 7:00 p.m., Memorial Chapel \$

4/13 Wednesday

Percussion Ensemble

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

4/15 Friday

Wagner Chamber Music Competition Showcase Series

8:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

4/16 Saturday

MSUFCU Showcase Series

Wagner Chamber Music Competition Showcase

Two days, Multiple Groups

3:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

4/19 Tuesday

Viridis and Singing Spartans

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

TICKET PRICES

\$ \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

\$\$ \$17 Adults, \$15 Seniors, \$7 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.

\$\$\$ \$22 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$12 Students and those under age 18. Please note: *All events scheduled in Murray Hall are general admission seating.*