



# SCHOOL OF MUSIC

*Illinois State University*

The Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts  
and the School of Music

PRESENT:

***The Illinois State University Civic Chorale Spring Concert:  
Music of ISU Composers Past and Present***

Friday April 14, 2023

7:00 p.m.

John M. Koch, Director

Dr. Dennis Gotkowski, Pianist

Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall

*This is the one hundred and fiftieth program of the 2022-2023 season.*

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

*Feel free to take video but please no flash photography!*

*The Violet (2019)*

Mackenzie Ahlman  
(b. 1997)  
Text by Jane Taylor  
(1783-1824)

“Down in a green and shady bed  
A modest flower grew, its stalk was bent,  
It hung its head, as if to hide from view,  
And yet it was a lovely flow’r its colors bright and fair,  
It may have graced a rosy bow’r, instead of hiding there,  
Yet there it was content to bloom, in modest tints arrayed,  
And there diffused its sweet perfume, within the silent shade.  
Then let me to the valley to, this pretty flow’r to see,  
That I may also learn to grow in sweet humility,  
And yet it was a lovely flow’r, the violet.”

Em Mancillas, soloist

*when I was young (2022, World Premiere)*

Mackenzie Ahlman  
Text by Edna St.  
Vincent Millay  
(1892-1950)

“I shall go back again to the bleak shore,  
And build a little shanty on the sand,  
In such a way that the extremest band of brittle seaweed  
Will escape my door.

But by a yard or two; and never more shall I return,  
To take you by the hand, I shall be gone to what I understand,  
And happier than I ever was before.  
The love stood in your eyes; words lay upon your tongue,  
Are one with all that dies, little said and a little over sung,  
But I shall find again the sullen rocks and the skies,  
Unchanged from what they were when I was young.”

*dark harlem (2022, World Premiere)*

Ty Bloomfield  
(b. 2000)  
Text by  
Langston Hughes  
(1901-1967)

I would be simple again, simple and clean,  
Like the earth, like the rain,  
Nor ever know, dark harlem,  
The wild laughter of your mirth  
Nor the salt tears of your pain.  
Be kind to, oh, great dark city.  
Let me forget.  
I will not come to you again.

*My Beautiful One, Come with Me (2012)*

Jiyoun Chung  
(b. 1982)

Arise, my darling, my beautiful one  
Come with me.  
See! See! The winter is past  
See! The rains are over and gone.  
Flowers appear on the earth.  
The season of singing has come,  
The cooing of doves is heard in our land.  
The fig tree forms its early fruit;  
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.  
Arise, come, my darling;  
My beautiful one, come with me.

Luke Kirby & Jessica Bella, soloists

*The Military Wife (2022, World Premiere)*

Mackenzie Ahlman

*The Military Wife* (2022) is a mini opera for Tenor and Piano. Set in 1960's South Hampton, Bermuda, Mrs. Leslie DeMarco has discovered another love letter sent to her husband, Naval Captain Leslie "Les" DeMarco. Feeling angry, betrayed, and heartbroken, she responds to the woman's letter pleading with her to realize that this is not the first time he has cheated, nor will it be the last. When Mrs. DeMarco finishes her letter, the atmosphere suddenly changes and Captain DeMarco begins writing a letter to the other woman, Kathy, asking if he can visit her soon, as he has become newly single.

Zach Bodnar, soloist

from *Virginia and Vita* (2023, World Premiere)

Mackenzie Ahlman

*Your letter from Trieste*

*I am reduced*

*Virginia & Vita* (2023) is a one-act opera for three Treble voices and Piano, comprised of the letters and diaries of British poets and novelists, Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) and Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962).

Mackenzie Ahlman & Jessica Bella, soloists

*Sleep and Transition* (2016)

Cullyn D. Murphy

(b. 1993)

Texts by J. Dwyer

Murphy

I stare down the time. I rinse my last dreams off my face.  
I wake my house. I move through the day.  
I move through people. I move through the day.  
I move through the people, people, people.  
I wake up my house. I build my dreams through the day.  
And tuck them in my head.  
As I move through the people my day goes by.  
My house goes off to sleep.  
I wash my face and consider my dreams.  
The time stares me down stares me down to sleep.  
Time. Time. Time..

*Elegy* (2002)

Dennis Tobenski

(b. 1982)

Text by Mary Hines

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there I did not die.

*Spirit Song Over the Waters* (2002)

Dennis Tobenski

Text of Johann

Wolfgang von

Goethe (1749-1832)

Translated by E.A.

Bowring

(1826-1911)

The soul of man resembleth water:  
From Heaven it cometh, to heaven it soareth.  
And then again to earth descendeth. Changing ever.  
Down from the lofty rocky wall streams the bright flood,  
Then spreadeth gently in cloudy billows oe'r the smooth rock,  
And welcomed kindly, veiling, on roams it,  
Soft murmuring t'ward the abyss.  
Cliffs projecting oppose its progress, angrily foams it,  
Now, in flat channel, through then meadowland steals it,  
And in the polished lake each constellation joyously peepeth.  
Wind is the loving woo'r of waters,  
Wind blends together billows all foaming.  
Spirit of man, Thou art like unto water! Thou art like unto wind!

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### **ABOUT THE COMPOSERS...**

**Mackenzie Ahlman**, a native of Grand Island, Nebraska, is a current graduate student at Illinois State in Vocal Performance. She recently appeared in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* as Gretel. As a vocalist she specializes in contemporary works of Libby Larsen. "The only reason I started composing was because of the abhorrent lack of representation of queer/LGBTQAI+ people in classical music. My goal as a queer musician and composer is to bring this much-needed perspective to the foreground of modern music by setting text/poems by queer people to music."

**Ty Bloomfield** is a Chicago native looks towards simplicity for inspiration. Since his start in 2019, Bloomfield has written numerous works for winds, primarily focused on wind ensemble and miniature-based chamber works. His works have been commissioned from many of his peers and received performances at several festivals such as the International Clarinet Association's New Music Weekend and ISU's Red Note Festival. Currently, he is currently completing his BM in Music Composition at the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts at Illinois State University where he studied with Carl Schimmel and Roy Magnuson.

**Jiyoun Chung** received her Master of Music in Piano Performance and Composition at Illinois State studying with Carl Schimmel and Martha Horst. She received her DMA in composition at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Currently she is an Assistant Professor of Music at Central Washington University.

**Cullyn D. Murphy** is a composer, conductor, and reluctant vocalist, focusing on amplifying the already existent musical components of sight, taste, touch, and smell in order to gain access to different modes of storytelling through music. He received his BM at Illinois and recently finished his Doctorate in Composition and Theory from the University of Pittsburgh and is teaching at Beloit College.

**Dennis Marshall Tobenski**, a native of Kankakee, Illinois, received his BM in Vocal Performance and Music Theory & Composition in 2004 from Illinois State University, and his M. A. in Music Composition from The City College of New York in 2009. His principal teachers have included

David Del Tredici, Chester Biscardi, and David Feurzeig. He has received fellowships from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Prairie Center of the Arts, the Ucross Foundation, and the Staunton Music Festival. Dennis founded NewMusicShelf, an online marketplace for independently published composers to sell digital editions of their scores. In 2018, he expanded the scope of the business into publishing, and created the [NewMusicShelf Anthologies of New Music](#). The inaugural volumes are four voice type-specific collections of art songs: 80 songs by 63 composers from around the world. The mission of the Anthologies is to bring new and unknown composers and repertoire to the awareness of both student and professional performers, and to foster a stronger new music community through collaboration. In 2021, NewMusicShelf became the first publisher in the world to release a collection of vocal works specifically for trans and nonbinary singers.

### ***ISU CIVIC CHORALE MEMBERS***

Mackenzie Ahlman  
Chloe Baisa  
Jessica Bella  
Dominica Battaglia  
Jaimee Beyer  
Zach Bodnar  
Jackie Brigham  
Colleen Cavi  
Daniel Cavi  
Bev Collins  
Justin Cooper  
Lucas Dahmm  
Beau Darling  
Shannon Darling  
David Edmondson  
Grace Eom  
Char Fesler  
Ali Francisco  
Lewis Gadomsky  
Lawendy Gilmore  
Hannah Hembrough  
Tom Howe  
Li Huang  
Skylar Johnson  
James Kalmbach  
Alexandra Kanari  
Hannah Kang  
Yeim Kim  
Luke Kirby  
Sonja Larson-Streif

Kaitlyn Lay  
Somlee Lee  
Em Mancillas  
Bill Parli  
Cindy Parli  
Julie Prandi  
Lesley Price  
Jim Reid  
Tess Scott  
Marcus Scott  
Olivia Schickel  
Isaac Sitenga  
Shelley Spence  
Staton Strecker  
Tina Sipula  
Kristyn Szwajka  
Shem Villacarlos  
Jean Wallace

***THANK YOU!***

***Illinois State University Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts***

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Polly Bedford, *Director of Development*

Adriana Ransom, *Director, School of Music*

Nick Benson, *CPA Manager, Center for Performing Arts*

Sara Semonis, *Associate Dean of Research and Planning*

Janet Tulley, *Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Student Services*

Ann Haugo, *Director, School of Theatre and Dance*

Tyler Lotz, *Director, Wonsook Kim School of Art*

Rose Marshack, *Director, Creative Technologies*

Kendra Paitz, *Director and Chief Curator, University Galleries*

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Eric Yeager, *Director, CFAIT*

***Illinois State University School of Music***

Oforiwaa Aduonum, *Ethnomusicology*

Allison Alcorn, *Musicology*

Debra Austin, *Voice*

Mark Babbitt, *Trombone*

Emily Beinborn, *Music Therapy*

Glenn Block, *Orchestra and Conducting*

Andrew Bruhn, *Choir*

Renee Chernick, *Group Piano*

David Collier, *Percussion and Associate Director*

Andrea Crimmins, *Music Therapy*

Peggy Dehaven, *Office Support Specialist/Scheduling*

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Anne Dervin, *Clarinet and General Education*

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Geoffrey Duce, *Piano*  
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John Koch, *Voice & Civic Chorale*  
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Katherine J. Lewis, *Viola*  
TJ Mack, *Assistant Director of Bands*  
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Rose Marshack, *Music Business and Director of CTK\**  
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Anne McNamara, *Trumpet*  
Shawn McNamara, *Music Education*  
Thornton Miller, *Musicology*  
Paul Nolen, *Saxophone*  
Kim Risinger, *Flute*  
Cindy Ropp, *Music Therapy*  
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Midori Samson, *Bassoon*  
Carl Schimmel, *Theory and Composition*  
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Cora Swenson Lee, *Cello*  
Elizabeth Thompson, *Voice*  
Tuyen Tonnu, *Piano*  
Kaitlyn Tossie, *Business Administrative Associate*  
Matthew Vala, *Voice*  
Rick Valentin, *Creative Technologies*  
Justin Vickers, *Voice*

Michelle Vought, *Voice*  
Mack Wood, *Associate Director of Bands*

\*Creative Technologies Program (CTK)