



2016
EMU CHOIR
CONCERT
TOUR



Brandon Johnson, Conductor

EASTERN
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Eastern Michigan University Choir proudly commit to an unwavering pursuit of artistry and excellence in choral music. We foster an environment of care for each musician and we value commitment, consistency and perseverance, all of which lead to artistic achievement. Beyond technical facility, we believe that transformative musical experiences require a connection of the poetry and the composer's expression to 21st century students.

The below factors significantly contribute to our mission.

- We seek to connect students and audiences to a diverse body of engaging choral literature.
- We are compelled to performance tours beyond the boundaries of our campus to engage the broader artistic community and to encourage collaborative artistry in our students.
- We acknowledge that excellence for ensembles require personal sacrifice and minimization of self-importance to focus on corporate goals.

THE EMU CHOIR

The Eastern Michigan University Choir is a 45-voice auditioned mixed ensemble whose membership embodies Eastern Michigan University's diversity with all majors invited. Whether performing a Renaissance mass setting, a Baroque motet or an African American spiritual, the choir delights in well-crafted choral music. We provide concerts filled with the diversity of the choral repertoire and frequently perform the major master works of the choral orchestral repertoire.

With a commitment to community engagement and performance beyond the boundaries of campus, the ensembles regularly travels. The ensemble has toured across Europe, Mexico and the United States. From Carnegie Hall to high school classrooms, the EMU Choir commits itself to the highest level of artistry.



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Here at Eastern Michigan University, we believe it is critical that all parts of your vocal training work cohesively together. The vocal arts faculty work together to provide a consistent approach to our student's vocal development. Healthy vocal production, musicianship, artistry, musician wellness and pedagogy are consistently discussed in lessons, ensembles and in weekly studio master-class settings. At EMU you will learn to be well-rounded fully developed musicians.

CHAMBER CHOIR

The Chamber Choir has performed across the country and abroad thrilling audiences with its diversity and flexibility. From Carnegie Hall to the Cathedrals of Europe this ensemble seeks the highest possible artistic achievement.

MEN'S CHOIR & WOMEN'S CHOIR

These ensembles are a place for exploration and musical growth. These ensembles are a wonderful opportunity for singing regardless of your major.

OPERA WORKSHOP

The opera workshop experience helps train students as singing actors and provides performance opportunities through scene work and full production.

CONDUCTOR'S CHOIR

This ensemble provides interested students the unique opportunity to gain conducting experiences on the podium. Receiving opportunities to conduct is at the heart of student development at EMU so this ensemble is open to first-year through graduate students.

ENSEMBLE CONDUCTORS

Brandon Johnson, DMA University of Arizona
Catherine Brodie, MA Eastern Michigan University
Liza Madiens, MM Westminster Choir College,
Rider University

CHAMBER VOCAL MUSIC

ANCIENT ECHOES

This ensemble will focus on vocal and instrumental music from chant to 1850. Of particular interest are the opportunities for choral and orchestral collaborations. Teaching modern musicians to perform music from ancient western tradition is our focus.

EMU EXPRESS

If you love A Cappella, Vocal Jazz, Barbershop or other more contemporary vocal forms, this ensemble is for you. Learning the basics of microphone and soundboard technique is also explored.

WORLD VOICES

This ensemble focuses on the folk and traditional world music.

MM IN CHORAL CONDUCTING

Committed to training the next generation of remarkable choral musicians, EMU is the development stages of an MM in Choral Conducting.

MASTER TEACHERS

At EMU you will study with world-class faculty, not graduate assistants. At Eastern Michigan University, voice students will be working with seasoned world-class pedagogues and performers. We believe that the undergraduate degree paves the way for a lifetime of success. We are committed to a student-centered approach to instruction that will help develop your artistry. Our faculty have recorded, performed, conducted and presented master classes all across the world. Recent projects can be found on the faculty biography pages.

VOICE FACULTY

Emily Benner, MM, University of Michigan
MeeAe Nam, DMA, University of Colorado
Robert Peavler, DMA, Florida State University
Amy Petrongelli, DMA, University of Michigan
(final semester of study)
Monica Swartout-Bebow, MM, University of Michigan

2016 UNITED KINGDOM TOUR

We are tremendously excited to announce that the Eastern Michigan University Choir will be able to share their music with a wider international audience, and be a testament to the great legacy of choral music at Eastern Michigan University. Under the renewed energy and excitement of the appointment of Dr. Brandon Johnson the choral program will offer international touring experiences to students every three years while they continue to tour domestically each academic year.

Here at Eastern Michigan University, we believe that a part of music making at the highest level is the sharing that musical experience with others. We are so excited to be taking members of the Eastern Michigan University Choir and a Chamber Orchestra for an extended tour of the United Kingdom.

April 28 – St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland

April 30 – St. Mary's Church, Ambleside, England

May 1 – Service Participation, St. Mary's Church, Conwy, Wales

May 2 – Holy Trinity Church, Conwy, Wales

May 5 – Church of St. Mary the Great, Cambridge, England

For the first time in decades, the EMU Choir will be able to share their musical efforts with a wider audience, and be a testament to the great legacy of choral music at Eastern Michigan University.

2016 TOUR REPERTOIRE

I SHALL KEEP SINGING

I. I'VE KNOWN A HEAVEN LIKE A TENT

Exultate
Lobet den Herrn
Venite Populi
Agnus Dei
Gloria from, *Mass in G Minor*

Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Frank Martin (1890-1974)
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

II. WE GROW ACCUSTOM TO THE DARK

Ballade to the Moon
Only In Sleep
Tryptich

Daniel Elder (b.1986)
Eriks Esenvalds (b.1977)
Tarik O'Regan (b.1978)

INTERMISSION

III. I SHALL KEEP SINGING

Water from, From Light to Light
Sure on this Shining Night
Alleluia

J. Aaron McDermid (b.1974)
Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)
Jake Runestad (b.1986)

IV. SIMPLE GIFTS

Danny Boy
Simple Gifts
Hold On
Way Over in Beulah Lan'
Ezekial

Joseph Flummerfelt (b.1937)
Rene Clausen (b.1953)
Moses Hogan (1957-2003)
Stacey Gibbs (b.1962)
Stacey Gibbs (b.1962)

TRANSLATIONS

EXULTATE DEO

Sing we merrily unto God our strength : make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob. Alleluia.

LOBET DEN HERRN

Praise the Lord, all nations,
praise him, all peoples,
for his mercy and truth
reign over us for ever.
Hallelujah!

VENITE POPULI

Come, O peoples, come;
come from afar,
and marvel, O races.
Come, O peoples, come;
is there any nation so great
that it has its gods so near to it
as our God is near to us,
whose true presence on his altar
we continually contemplate through living faith:
is there any nation so great?
O fate more blessed than all others,
O fate only of the faithful
for whom breaking bread
and sharing the cup
is a help
Therefore let us feast
on the unleavened bread of truth and sincerity,
Let us feast, therefore,
and become drunk with wine of eternal joy;
is there any nation so great?
Come, O peoples, come.

GLORIA

Glory be to God in the highest.
And on earth peace
to men of good will.
We praise Thee; we bless Thee;
we worship Thee; we glorify Thee.
We give thanks to Thee
for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, Heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have
mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, re-
ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy,
thou only art the Lord,
thou only art the most high, Jesus Christ.
Together with the Holy Ghost
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God,
Who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God,
Grant us peace.

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY CHOIR

MEET THE CONDUCTOR

SOPRANO

Clare Evett 2018, Ann Arbor, MI (vocal performance)
Jolene Green 2016, Dubuque, IA (MM vocal performance)
Kelsey Tate 2016, Goodrich, MI (vocal performance)
Jennifer O'Neal 2016, Ypsilanti, MI (music education)
Clarice Weiseman 2017, Saline, MI (vocal performance)
Claire Agresta 2017, Ann Arbor, MI (MM vocal performance)
Jocelyn Lavery 2019, Livonia, MI (music education)
Brynn Molin 2017, Troy, MI (music education)
Kaitlin Robackouski 2018, Livonia, MI (occupational therapy)
Haley Scott 2019, Woodhaven, MI (vocal performance)
Alissa Amell 2018, Plymouth, MI (music education)
Stephanie Miller-Allen 2016, Canton, MI (music)

ALTO

Katie Aubuchon 2019, Ferndale, MI (music therapy)
Allison Buttermore 2017, Howell, MI (music therapy)
Elizabeth Green 2017, South Lyon, MI (music education)
Rebecca Myers 2017, Cadillac, MI (vocal performance)
Samantha Steinbacher 2016, Ann Arbor, MI (music)
Courtney Nix 2017, Brighton, MI (Post-Bac music education)
Erin Jacobs 2019, Fraser, MI (music)
Devyn Mitchell 2019, Goodrich, MI (music education)
Meghan Newkirk 2018, Jackson, MI (music therapy)
Alexis Nicholson 2019, Ashland, OH (therapeutic recreation)
Katherine Hagar 2017, Canton, MI (MEDV vocal music education)

TENOR

Alexander Mirkovik 2019, Ann Arbor, MI (music)
Aaron Pollard 2018, Farmington Hills, MI (music education)
Maxwell Trombley 2018, Westland, MI (music education)
Austin Hadwick 2019, Ann Arbor, MI (exercise science)

Eric Parker 2016, Belleville, MI (music)
Simon Suboski 2017, Ann Arbor, MI (music education)
Kyle Tillman 2017, Dearborn, MI (history)
Aaron Kempa 2019, Hillsdale, MI (arts and entertainment management)
Nick Martin 2016, Mount Pleasant, MI (guitar performance)
Harry Bhogal 2018, Wixom, MI (computer information systems)

BASS

Andy Dobry 2018, Lake Orion, MI (music therapy)
Ryan Downing 2019, Ann Arbor, MI (music)
Joseph Perrotti 2017, Oil City, PA (MM vocal performance)
London Garrett 2018, Detroit, MI (music education)
Erik Doucette 2017, Burnsville, MN (MM vocal performance)
Armand Garnett 2018, Ypsilanti, MI (simulation, animation and gaming)
Landis Smith 2018, Detroit, MI (music education)
Geoffrey Kelm 2018, Canton, MI (music education)
Jacob Carroll 2018, Roseville, MI (music education)
Chris Brandt 2018, Brighton, MI (accounting systems)

INSPIRATI

Veinessa Kestner 2017, Jackson, MI (music education)
Cameron Tubbs 2017, Saline, MI (cello performance)
Samantha Bay 2018, Saline, MI (psychology)
Sarah Vaujin 2018, Saline, MI (music education)



Brandon Johnson, DMA is the Director of Choral Activities at Eastern Michigan University and the artistic director and conductor of the Detroit Concert Choir. Previously, he founded and was the Artistic Director of the emerging professional vocal ensemble Vox Lumine based in New York. He has conducted professional musicians across the United States while maintaining his extensive work with students of all ages. He has performed in venues across the country including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, and made his conducting debut at the renowned Carnegie Hall in March 2014 with the National Sacred Honor Choir.

He has studied with German conductor Helmuth Rilling and was selected to conduct the Grammy winning Oregon Bach Festival Chorus and Orchestra. In recent years, he has received invitations to conduct the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus, Buffalo Choral Artists, Rochester Oratorio Society, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Syracuse Symphony, Cordancia and The Southern Tier Symphony. In addition to working with musicians from across the United States, he has conducted singers from Austria, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Spain, and the Ukraine.

Choirs under his direction have been invited to perform, and he has been selected to present for state and regional American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and the National Association for Music Education (NAFME) conferences. As a conducting pedagogue his students have been invited to participate in the ACDA National Conducting Competition in both the undergraduate and graduate divisions. Respected by his colleagues at Houghton College, he was humbled to accept the Excellence in Teaching Award, and was the recipient of the first fully endowed chair of the college, the Horne-Blanchard.

Johnson has been named to the Michigan and New York American Choral Director Association Executive Committees. He has served in many capacities, including New York President. He works tirelessly as a guest conductor, lecturer and clinician for singers of all ages. His recent engagements include, among others, being named the conductor of the 2018 Michigan State Vocal Music Association Honor Choir Mixed Ensemble.

MEET THE CHOIR

JENNY O'NEAL

Why do you love singing in the EMU Choir?

It is such a dedicated group of singers, I wouldn't trade one moment of making music with these fine musicians. We see music as a powerful force, it brings people together, heals their hearts, fuels our souls, opens our minds, and teaches us that when you work hard, practice, and focus, you can do more than just be proficient, you can change people's lives.

SAMANTHA STEINBACHER

What do you love about the School of Music and Dance at EMU?

I love that the School of Music and Dance is a community and a family. I felt very intimidated coming into the music program, but was immediately welcomed by everyone. The professors are brilliant, kind, patient and genuinely care as well as invest in their students' success and well-being. I feel that I've grown immensely as a musician, all while being surrounded by close friends and happy laughter.

ERIK DOUCETTE

Why do you love singing in the EMU Choir?

I love singing in the EMU Choir more than any other choir that I have sung in, because the people in the choir are there to make music to the best of their abilities, and they are not afraid to let themselves be open in the music-making process. These are not just students studying to be professional musicians in some capacity, but students from diverse academic and experiential backgrounds, which adds a unique and authentic touch to the musical product. After I graduate from my Master's program, I plan to pursue a Doctorate in choral conducting. I believe that the work I do at Eastern every day, whether it is in rehearsal with one of the choirs, in my private voice or conducting lessons, or in a theory or musicology class, is preparing me well for those next educational and professional steps.

AARON POLLARD

Why EMU?

I chose to attend EMU because of the reputation of their teaching programs and many musical opportunities. I looked into many other schools, but found that EMU was one of the few that had a program that made it equal for all students. Anyone, from any major or background can be in EMU Choir, Men's Choir, Women's Choir, Opera Workshop, or any of the many other specialized music opportunities. Also, Dr. Brandon Johnson is one of the best choral conductors and educators in the country. His influence on the School of Music and Dance has created a truly caring and family atmosphere, which is essential for success in college.



2016 TOUR SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 7:30PM

Trinity Lutheran Church
1400 West Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor, MI

trinityaa.org

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 7:30PM

United Methodist Church
209 Washtenaw Ave. Ypsilanti, MI

fumcypsi.org

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 7:30 PM

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church
9601 Hubbard St, Livonia, MI

rosedalegardens.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 7:30PM

Lansing First Presbyterian Church
510 W Ottawa St, Lansing, MI

lansingfirstpres.org

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 7:30PM

Northview High School,
Performing Arts Center
5403 Silica Dr, Sylvania, OH

sylvanianorthview.org

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 7:30PM

Jenison Center for the Arts
8375 20th Ave, Georgetown Twp, MI

jpsarts.com

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 7:30PM

Sacred Heart Cathedral
422 E 10th St, Davenport, IA

shcdavenport.org

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 7:30PM

First Christian Church
218 N 9th St. Adel, Iowa

FirstChristianAdel.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 7:30PM

Plymouth First United Methodist Church
45201 N Territorial Rd, Plymouth, MI

pfumc.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 7:30PM

EMU Choir Home Tour Concert
Pease Auditorium, Ypsilanti, MI

emich.edu/musicdance/events

emich.edu/musicdance
Music & Dance | N101 Alexander Building | 734.487.4380

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