

USC | THORNTON
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

USC Thornton Choral Winter Gala

Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
University of Southern California
Bovard Auditorium

USC Thornton Concert Choir
Cristian Grases, conductor

USC Thornton Apollo Men's Chorus
E. Jason Armstrong, conductor
Christopher G. Gravis, conductor

USC Thornton Oriana Women's Choir
Coreen Duffy, conductor
Troy Quinn, conductor

USC Thornton Chamber Singers
Jo-Michael Scheibe, conductor

USC Thornton Scholarship Brass Quintet
Terry Cravens, coordinator

USC
UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

Conducted by

Jo-Michael Scheibe
Cristian Grases

Tammi Alderman
E. Jason Armstrong
Alex Benestelli
Coreen Duffy
Christopher G. Gravis
Christopher D. Haygood
Troy Quinn
Zanaida Robles

Accompanied by

Guk Hui Han
ChoEun Lee
Stephanie Ou
Grace Chung

Program

USC THORNTON SCHOLARSHIP BRASS QUINTET

Prelude of Carols

USC THORNTON CHORAL ARTISTS

Medieval Carol
arr. Lara Hoggard
(1915-2007)

Personent Hodie
Sidney Hopson, percussion
Andres Picardo, percussion

USC THORNTON CONCERT CHOIR

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

A Ceremony of Carols
Wolcum Yole!

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Christus
Say, where is he born?
Yohan Partan, tenor
Coleman Cuomo, baritone
Nick Volkert, bass
There shall a star come out of Jacob

John Rutter
(b. 1954)

Nativity Carol
Alex Benestelli, conductor

Israeli Folk Tune
arr. Maurice Goldman
(1910-1984)

Zum Gali

Traditional
arr. Kirby Shaw
(b. 1941)

Go Tell It on the Mountain

The use of flash cameras, video cameras, and other recording devices is not permitted. Please turn off all cell phones.

Due to safety considerations, members of the audience are not allowed backstage prior to or following performances.

USC THORNTON CHORAL ARTISTS

Trad. French Carol
arr. Mack Wilberg
(b. 1955)

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
Zanaida Robles, conductor
Sidney Hopson, percussion
Andres Picardo, percussion

USC THORNTON APOLLO CHOIR

Anonymous
(c. 1582)

Of the Father's Heart Begotten
Christopher G. Gravis, conductor

Bruce Sled
(b. 1975)

Jing-Ga-Lye-Ya
E. Jason Armstrong, conductor

Trad. French Carol
arr. David Wilcocks
(b. 1919)

Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing?
Christopher G. Gravis, conductor

Albert Hague
(1920-2001)
arr. Greg Volk

Mr. Grinch
E. Jason Armstrong, conductor

INTERMISSION

USC THORNTON SCHOLARSHIP BRASS QUINTET

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

USC THORNTON ORIANA CHOIR

Gene Grier
(1942-2009)
and **Lowell Everson**

This Child
Nicole Debbini, Ashley Luo, and Erika Price, soloists
Alexandra Wallin, flute

Coreen Duffy
(b. 1976)

Mizmor Shir Chanukat HaBayit

Coreen Duffy, conductor

Gustav Holst
(1874-1934)
arr. Charles Galeter

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Daniel Pinkham
(1923-2006)

Christmas Cantata
III. Gloria

Troy Quinn, conductor

USC THORNTON CHORAL ARTISTS

Jehan Tabourot
(1519-1593)
arr. Mack Willberg
(b. 1955)

Ding! dong! merrily on high
Tammi Alderman, conductor

USC THORNTON CHAMBER SINGERS

Malcolm Archer
(b. 1952)

Make We Joy Now in this Fest

Vasīl Barvinskīy
(1888-1963)

Shcho to za prevīo
Tammi Alderman, soprano

Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

A Spotless Rose
John Russell, tenor
Christopher D. Haygood, conductor

Abbie Betinis
(b. 1980)

In the Bleak Midwinter
Kimberly Hessler, soprano
Eleni Pantages, alto

Kenneth Leighton
(1929-1988)

A Hymn of the Nativity
Zanaida Robles, soprano

Trad. Spiritual
arr. Stacey V. Gibbs
(b. 1985)

See dat Babe

USC THORNTON CHORAL ARTISTS

Eric William Barnum
(b. 1979)

Sweeter Still: A Holiday Carol

Adolphe Adam
(1803-1856)
arr. Gary Fry

O Holy Night

Texts and Translations

Personent Hodie

Personent hodie
voces puerulae,
laudantes iucunde
qui nobis est natus,
summo Deo datus,
et de virgineo ventre procreatus.

On this day, earth shall ring
with the song children
sing to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.

In mundo nascitur,
pannis involvitur praesepi
ponitur stabulo brutorum,
rector supernorum. Perdidit
spolia princeps infernorum.

His the doom, ours the mirth;
when he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth;
ox and ass beside him
from the cold would hide him.

Magi tres venerunt,
munera offerunt, parvulum inquirunt,
stellulam sequendo,
ipsum adorando, aurum, thus,
et myrrham ei offerendo.

God's bright star, o'er his head,
Wise Men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adore him.

Omnes clericuli,
pariter pueri, cantent ut angeli:
advenisti mundo, laudes tibi fundo.
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.

On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.

- 16th-century Latin

- Jane M. Joseph

Wolcum Yole!

Wolcum, be thou hevenè king,
Wolcum, Yole!
Wolcum, born in one morning,
Wolcum for whom wesall sing!

Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon,
Wolcum, innocentes every one,
Wolcum, Thomas marter one,
Wolcum be ye good Newe Yere,
Wolcum, Twelfth Day both in fere,
Wolcum, sientes lefe and dere,
Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!

Candelmesse, Quene of bliss,
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.

Wolcum be ye that are here,
Wolcum alle and make good cheer.
Wolcum alle another yere,
Wolcum Yole. Wolcum!

- *anonymous*

Cristus

Say, where is He born, the King of Judea?

Say, where is He born, the King of Judea?
for we have seen His star, and are come to adore Him.

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob

There shall a star come out of Jacob,
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel,
With might destroying princes and cities!

As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams
Of light and consolation.
Thy Word, O Lord,
Radiance darting, Truth imparting,
Gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!

- *Numbers 24:17, Philipp Nicolai*

Nativity Carol

Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so.

Far away, silent lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair,
Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky.

Wise men from distant far land,
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare,
Hearts with his warmth he fills.

Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe,
Make me thy love to know.

- John Rutter

Zum Gali

Zum gali gali gali zum gali gali,
Dance the hora, dance.
Do the hora, it's a delight,
Oh, dance with all your might, dance.
Let's dance!

Night's descending, day is ending,
Sounds of laughter everywhere,
Dancing, singing, voices ringing,
Songs of joy now fill the air.

Crash the cymbal, circle 'round,
Beat the drum, let joy abound,
Sing out with voices loud and clear.

Ev'ryone with spirits gay,
Whirl and twirl the hours away,
Dance on, let sadness disappear.

Hora, la la la, merriment is flowing,
Hora, hora, dance the hora.
Gladness ev'rywhere, all together,
Do the hora, dance.
Wildly dance the hora, dance!

- Israeli folk tune, Maurice Goldman

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain.
Over the hills and ev'rywhere.
Children go and tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ was born!

The shepherds and the Wisemen
who journeyed from afar,
They heard the angels singin'
beneath the Bethl'hem star.

In a lowly manger
the baby Jesus lay.
And in the silent stillness
the world was changed that day.

Oh come, let us adore Him,
His love will draw us near.
The path is straight and narrow.
Let's keep the message clear!

Peace on earth, Good will to men.

- traditional, adapted by Kirby Shaw

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella!

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to Bethlehem run!
Tell the village of Christ in a manger,
Cradled in love and bathed in glory.
Ah, ah, beautiful is His mother!
Ah, ah, beautiful is her Son!
Ah, ah, beautiful holy family!
Ah ah, beautiful here begun!

Come, awaken, ye folk of the village!
Come, awaken from slumber and see
All is bright as a sapphire gleaming
Under the herald star of heaven!
Run, run, follow it to the stable!
Run, run, follow it fearlessly!
Run, run, follow the newborn shepherd!
Run, run, follow Him faithfully!

Bow before Him, ye mothers and children!
Bow before Him, ye shepherds and kings!
Hay of gold is the crown of His coming,

Swaddling clothes, His robe of glory,
Hush, hush, Joseph beholds the baby!
Hush, hush, angels begin to sing!
Peace, peace, cattle are softly lowing!
Peace, peace, heaven is caroling!
Ah, ah, Mary is sweetly sleeping!
Ah, ah, wise men their treasures bring!
Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, the journey is long!
Bring a drum and a timbrel for dancing!
Bring a drum and a lyre for song!
Bring a kettle for cooking and feasting!
Bring a kettle to feed the great throng!
Bring your voices, ye children of promise!
Bring your voices, come hurry and run!
Tell the world that Jesus, our Savior
Quickly will come again in glory,
Ah, ah, beautiful is the Christ child!
Ah, ah, beautiful is God's Son!
Ah, ah, beautiful day of Christmas!
Ah, ah, beautiful day to come!

Hasten onward, good folk of the manger!
Hasten onward, to ev'rywhere run!
Lift the flame of Jeanette, Isabella!
Lift the flame by those maidens begun!
Share the light of His love with the lowly!
Share the light of salvation to come!
Sing His tidings to all of the nations!
Sing His tidings in every tongue!
Wake the world now sleeping in darkness!
Wake the world awaiting the Son!

Bring a torch! Here, Jeanette! Isabelle!
Bring a torch! Go!
Hurry to Bethlehem run!

- traditional French carol

Of the Father's Heart Begotten

Of the father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha; from that fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and Evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.
This is he, whom seer and sybil
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the age of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Savior;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

- Prudentius, trans. by R. F. Davis

Jing-Ga-Lye-Ya

jing ga lye ya yum ba
my ya jing ga lye ya jum

hello hello marion
high up a na carion
hello hello marion
oh where oh did you go

hello hello marion
high up a na carion
fly up a ma harion

jing ga lye ya yum ba
my ya jing ga lye ya jum

- Bruce Sled

Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing?

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away?
Never the like did come a'blowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields in May,

What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes?
Never so bright, the day-star waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!

Bethlehem! There in manger laying,
Find your Redeemer, haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing!
Worship the Savior born today.

Praise to the Lord of all creation,
Glory to God the fount of grace;
May peace abide in ev'ry nation,
Goodwill in men of ev'ry race.

- traditional French carol, trans. by David Wilcocks

Mr. Grinch

You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch
You really are a heel
You're as cuddly as a cactus
You're as charming as an eel, Mr. Grinch
You're a bad banana with a greasy black peel!

You're a monster, Mr. Grinch
Your heart's an empty hole
Your brain is full of spiders
You've got garlic in your soul, Mr. Grinch
I wouldn't touch you with a thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole!

Then he slid down the chimney ... first things to go!
Then he slithered and slunk ... "And NOW!" grinned the Grinch,
"I will stuff up the tree!"

You're a foul one, Mr. Grinch
You're a nasty and wafty old skunk
Your heart is full of unwashed socks
Your soul is full o' gunk, mean old Mr. Grinch
The three words that best describe you are as follows and I quote ...
"STINK, STANK, STUNK!"

You're so bad, you're just too bad, Mr. Grinch!

- Dr. Seuss (*Theodor Seuss Geisel*)

This Child

This Child, lying in a manger bed,
Is crowned this day our newborn king.
See him now, sleeping, oh, so soundly
As shepherds gaze in wondering.
He rests, wrapped in only swaddling clothes,
This infant king, so meek and mild
While he sleeps, Mary sings her lullaby,
As Joseph guards his holy child.
And choirs of angels sing from heav'n on high,
Their praises for this Child of holy birth.
Behold, three wise men from the East draw nigh
To worship him, the Son of God on earth.

He rests in our hearts to bring us peace,
This Chirstmas child from heav'n above.
With his joy, everyone can Christmas keep,
Every day filled with Christmas love.
And all good people lift their voice in song,
To sing the glory of his Christmas praise.
For Christmas can be with us all year long.
This holy child is with us all our days.

- Gene Grier

Mizmor Shir Chanukat HaBayit

Mizmor Shir Chanukat
HaBayit l'David.
Aromim'cha Adonai
ki dilitani
V'lo simachta oy'vai li.
Adonai elohai shivati
eilecha
vatirpa'eini.

- Psalm 30

A psalm. A song. For the dedication of
the temple. Of David.
I will exalt You, O Lord,
for You lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
O Lord my God, I called to
You for help
and You healed me.

- John R. Kohlenberger III

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered round,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: Give Him my heart.

- *Christina Rossetti*

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.

Jubilate Deo omnis terra,
servite Dominum in laetitia.

Introite in conspectu ejus,
in exultatione, exultatione.

Scitote quoniam Dominus ipse est Deus:
Ipse fecit nos,
et non ipsi nos. Alleluia!

Glory to God in the Highest
and on earth peace to those
of good will.

O be joyful in the Lord,
all ye lands;

Serve the Lord with gladness,
And come before him with a song.

Be sure that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us
and not we ourselves. Alleluia!

- *Medieval Latin,*
adapt. Daniel Pinkham

- *Daniel Pinkham*

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

Ding dong merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing;
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And, "I-o, i-o, i-o!" by priest and people sungen. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

- George Ratcliffe Woodward

Make We Joy Now in This Fest

Make we joy now in this fest
In quo Christus natus est.
(In which Christ is born)

Eya, eya, eya!

A Patre Unigenitus
(the Only-begotten of the Father)
All through a maiden is come to us.
Sing we to her and say "Welcome!
Veni, Redemptor gentium."
(Come, Redeemer of the nations)

Refrain.

Agnoscat Unigenitus
(Let every age perceive)
A bright star maketh three kinges come
Him for to seek with their presents,
Verbum supernum prodiens.
(the high Word coming forth)

Refrain.

A solis ortus cardine
From the rising of the sun
So mighty a Lord was none as he,
For to our kind he hath given peace,
Adam parens quod polluit.
(Which our father Adam defiled)

Refrain.

Maria ventre concepit,
(Mary conceived in her womb)
The Holy Ghost was aye herewith;
In Bethlehem yborn he is,
Consors Paterni luminis.
(Sharing in the light of his Father)

Refrain.

O Lux beata Trinitas!
O Light of the Holy Trinity!
He lay between an ox ass,
Thou mother pure and maiden free:
Gloria tibi Domine!
(Glory be to thee, O Lord!)

Refrain.

- *Medieval text*

Shcho to za predivo

Shcho to za predivo,
v svty novina,
shcho Mariya Diva
Sina rodila,
todi Vona povidala:
"Susw, Sinu Miy!"

A Yosip starushok
v zholobi stoyit
ta na Susa Hrista
pelenki stroyit
A Mariya spovivaye,
do serdenka prighortaye;
Prechista Diva.

- *Ukrainian carol*

Oh, what a wonder!
The news has gone forth
that the Virgin Mary
has borne a Son.
And when she bore Him, she exclaimed:
"Jesus, my Son!"

Old man Joseph
stands in the cavern
and prepares swaddling clothes
for Jesus, the Christ;
then Mary wraps Him
and presses Him close to her heart.
Virgin most pure!

- *Vladimir Morosan*

A Spotless Rose

A spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing;
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its' sweet root springing
In love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's
Great love and might
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

-14th-century, unknown origin

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Christ a homeless stranger,
so the gospels say,
cradled in a manger
and a bed of hay;
in the bleak midwinter,
a stable place sufficed,
Mary and her baby,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
May have thronged the air,
Shepherds, beasts and wise men,
May have gathered there,
But only his mother
In her tender bliss
Blessed this new redeemer
With a kiss.

If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can give you,
Give you my heart.
I give my heart.

What I can I give you:
I give my heart.

- John Storey (v.2), Rosetti/Betinis (v.3,4)

A Hymn of the Nativity

We saw thee in thy balmy nest,
Young dawn of our eternal day;
We saw thine eyes break from the East,
And chase the trembling shades away:
We saw thee, and we blest the sight,
We saw thee by thine own sweet light.

I saw th'obsequious seraphim
Their rosy fleece of fire bestow,
For well they now can spare their wings,
Since Heaven itself lies here below.
Well done, said I;
But are you sure your down, so warm,
will pass for pure?

No, no, your King's not yet to seek
where to repose his royal head;
See, see how soon his newbloom'd cheek
'Twixt mother's breasts is gone to bed!
Sweet choice, said we: no way but so,
Not to lie cold,
yet sleep in the snow!

Welcome, to our wond'ring sight
Eternity shut in a span!
Summer in winter, day in night!
Heaven in earth! and God in man!
Summer in winter, day in night!
Heaven in earth! and God in man!

Great little one, whose glorious birth
Lifts earth to Heav'n, stoops Heav'n to earth.
To thee, meek Majesty, soft King
Of simple graces and sweet loves!
Each of us us lamb will bring,
Each his pair of silver doves!
At last, in fire of thy fair eyess
Ourselves become our own best sacrifice!

- *Richard Crashaw*

See dat Babe

See dat Babe in de lowly manguh,
He gon' take all my sin away,
He gon' reign wit my God in glory
one of dese days, one of dese days.

He was born of de Virgin Mary
to bring peace to a weary lan'.
He come down from de God in heaben,
oh behol' de Son of Man.

See dat Babe, oh, see dat Babe.
He was wrapped in swaddlin' clothes
an' He was born in a manguh hay.
See dat Babe, oh, see dat Baby Jesus,
See dat Babe, oh, see de King,.

See dat Baby, see dat Baby,
oh, see day Baby Jesus,
See dat Babe, oh, see de King.
See dat Babe, oh, see my Lawd.
yes, one of dese days,
O yes, He gon' reign one of dese days!

- *Christmas spiritual*

Sweeter Still: A Holiday Carol

The lights shine brightly all over the town
As Christmas bells toll for miles around;
 the wind blowing gently,
 snow falling softly,
The stars brightly shining for you and for me.

Silently children dream, hearts full of love
Until they hear footsteps from up above.
 They rush down the stairs
 hoping to see
The bright smile of Santa before he disappears.
And sweet is the sound of a
 carol sung by a choir,
And sweet is the warmth and the
 soft glow from a fire.
But sweeter still is the joy,
 when I see the fam'ly round the Christmas Tree.
Oh what joy it brings
 to me.

- Eric William Barnum

O Holy Night

O! Holy night! The stars, their gleams prolonging,
Watch o'er the Eve of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error, longing
For His appearance, then the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope; the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was Born;
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts we stand by the Babe adored.
O'er the world a star is sweetly gleaming,
And come now, Shepherds, from your flocks onboard.
The Son of God lay thus w'thin lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our Lord.

He knows our need, our weakness never lasting,
Behold your King! By Him, let Earth accord!
Behold your King! By Him, let Earth accord!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Long live His truth, and may it last forever,
For in His name all discordant noise shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

- Placide Cappeau

About the Artists

Tammi Alderman

GUEST CONDUCTOR, CHORAL ARTISTS

Tammi Alderman recently finished 10 years as a high school choral conductor and is currently a first year student in the USC Thornton DMA program in choral music. She teaches the choral repertoire courses at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSU Long Beach and is on the conducting faculty at Arrowbear Summer Music Camp. She holds a MA degree in choral conducting and music education from Washington State University. Additionally, Alderman is the new Youth and Student Activities chair for California ACDA and serves as chair of High School Honor Choirs for the Southern California Vocal Association.

E. Jason Armstrong

CO-CONDUCTOR, APOLLO CHOIR

E. Jason Armstrong is a third year doctoral student in choral music at the USC Thornton School, where he serves as co-conductor of the Apollo Men's Choir. Originally from Altus, Oklahoma, Armstrong received a bachelor of music education degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a master of music in choral conducting degree from the Florida State University. His principal conducting teachers include Jo-Michael Scheibe, André Thomas, and Rodney Eichenberger.

Prior to beginning his doctoral studies, Armstrong enjoyed a 15-year teaching career as director of choral activities at Eau Gallie High School in Melbourne, Florida. During this time, he developed and maintained a highly successful and award-winning choral music program. In 2002, his program was recognized as a Music Demonstration School by the Florida State Department of Education.

In addition to serving as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the Southeastern United States, Armstrong has held the offices of district chairman of the Florida Vocal Association, Florida State ACDA treasurer, and Southern Division ACDA High School Honor Choir coordinator.

Alex Benestelli

GUEST CONDUCTOR, CONCERT CHOIR

Alex Benestelli is a first year student in the master of music degree program in choral music at the USC Thornton School of Music. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he has spent the last four years at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey where he received his bachelor of music degree *cum laude*. While in Princeton, he sang with the Westminster Chapel Choir, Schola Cantorum,

and Symphonic Choir, touring the eastern United States and performing choral/orchestral repertoire with American and European orchestras in the major concert halls of Philadelphia and New York City.

Benestelli has been active as a church musician and organist, having served as director of music at The Lamington Presbyterian Church in Bedminster, New Jersey, and currently as assistant organist at Pasadena Presbyterian Church.

Coreen Duffy

CO-CONDUCTOR, ORIANA CHOIR

Coreen Duffy, co-conductor of the USC Thornton Oriana Choir, is pursuing the doctor of musical arts degree at the USC Thornton School of Music, where she studies with Jo-Michael Scheibe, Nick Strimple, Sharon Lavery, Larry Livingston, and Morten Lauridsen. She teaches introductory choral conducting at USC Thornton and assists Dr. Scheibe, president-elect of the American Choral Directors' Association (ACDA), in planning the 2011 National ACDA Conference in Chicago. In addition to her work and studies at USC, Duffy serves as conductor of the Temple Ramat Zion Choir in Northridge and as assistant conductor of the Los Angeles Zimriyah Chorale.

An active composer, Duffy has published choral music with ECS Publishing, and her compositions have been featured as recommended choral literature at various ACDA conventions nationally. She founded two Jewish choirs: the Miami Jewish Chorale in South Florida, and Shir Ba'lr, a Jewish cappella ensemble for young professionals in Los Angeles.

Duffy earned a master of music degree from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, where she co-conducted the Frost Women's Chorale. She also earned juris doctor, bachelor of musical arts, and bachelor of arts in English degrees, all from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. While at Michigan, Duffy studied piano with Arthur Greene, composition with William Bolcom and Michael Daugherty, and conducting with Jerry Blackstone.

Cristian Grases

CONDUCTOR, CONCERT CHOIR

Cristian Grases joined the USC Thornton Faculty in the fall 2010 semester as assistant professor of choral music and conductor of the USC Thornton Concert Choir. Born in Venezuela, he earned degrees from the Simón Bolívar University (MM), where his principal teachers were María Guinand and Alberto Grau, and the University of Miami (DMA). Dr. Grases currently serves as minister of music at St. James' Episcopal Church, South Pasadena, CA, chair of the Ethnic and Multicultural Repertoire and Standards Committee for the Western Division of the American Choral Directors Association, and is a member of the board of directors of the International Federation for Choral Music.

Grases has won many awards for his conducting and compositions. Among them is the prestigious award for the arts in Venezuela, Orden José Félix Ribas for artistic merit, first prize at the Emerging Composer Competition at Yale University for his work *Visiones del Llano—2. Amanecer*, and an invitation from Helmuth Rilling to study at the Sommerakademie in Stuttgart, Germany. This season, Grases will guest conduct in Belgium, France, and Denmark, and will present a session on Venezuelan choral music at the Ninth World Choral Symposium in Argentina.

Christopher G. Gravis

CO-CONDUCTOR, APOLLO CHOIR

Christopher G. Gravis is a second year doctoral student (DMA) in choral music at the USC Thornton School of Music, where he serves as co-conductor to the Apollo Men's Choir. He is active throughout the region as a professional conductor, most-notably as artistic director of the Orange County Choral Society, a large masterworks chorus. He has prepared choruses for such notable conductors as Keith Lockhart with the Boston Pops Orchestra, John Williams with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and John Mauceri with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. Gravis earned a bachelor of music degree in music studies from the University of Redlands and a master of music degree in choral conducting from Cal State University, Fullerton. Gravis is also the choirmaster at St. Wilfrid of York Episcopal Church in Huntington Beach.

Christopher D. Haygood

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR, CHAMBER SINGERS

Christopher D. Haygood currently teaches Choral Conducting I and is in his second year serving as senior teaching assistant for the department of choral and sacred music and assistant conductor of the USC Thornton Chamber Singers. Previously, Haygood was the research assistant to Dr. Nick Strimple and assistant conductor of the Apollo Men's Choir. While at USC Thornton he has conducted for masterclasses with Helmuth Rilling, Rodney Eichenberger, and Dale Warland. In August 2008, Haygood's article, "Using Music Research to Enhance Choral Programming," appeared in the *Bulletin of International Music*. Before arriving at USC, Haygood conducted the Frost Women's Chorale, served as dissertation editor for The Graduate School, and taught Secondary Choral Methods at the University of Miami. As a soloist, he appeared with the Los Angeles Zimryah Chorale in November 2009 and currently sings as bass section leader at Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church. In the 2008–09 season he sang as bass soloist with the choir of St. Alban's Episcopal Parish, performing Mozart's Requiem and the role of Pilate in J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion*. As a high school teacher in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Haygood was awarded the Mississippi Music Educators Outstanding Young Music Teacher in 2006.

Troy Quinn

CO-CONDUCTOR, ORIANA CHOIR

Troy Quinn is a first year doctoral student (DMA) in choral music at the USC Thornton School of Music. A native of Connecticut, Quinn pursued a bachelor of arts degree from Providence College, where he majored in vocal performance and graduated with honors. While at Providence, he studied voice with David Harper and took on a second concentration in conducting as a student of Michele Holt. There, Quinn was the recipient of the Leo S. Cannon Award for superior achievement in the music field. He went on to earn his master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music in classical voice performance, studying with highly acclaimed Metropolitan Opera singer Mark Oswald.

As a conductor, Quinn has performed in the U.S. and abroad, working with the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra at the Royal Academy of Music under the guidance of Boston Philharmonic maestro Benjamin Zander and with the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra under the tutelage of Helmuth Rilling. As the former director of Women's Chorus at Providence College, Quinn has led the college's ensembles at such notable venues as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and Southwark Cathedral in London. He has attended conducting institutes at the University of South Carolina and at Bard Conservatory of Music, where he was coached by conductors Paul Vermel, Donald Portnoy, and Leon Botstein. He is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association and currently serves as co-conductor of the USC Thornton Oriana Choir.

Zanaida Robles

GUEST CONDUCTOR, CHORAL ARTISTS

Zanaida Robles has been active as an acclaimed conductor, educator, vocalist, and composer since 1998. In addition to her position as director of the MusicUNTOLD Chorale, she teaches choral and solo vocal music at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. She has performed as a concert soprano soloist and ensemble member throughout the United States and parts of Europe and has sung professionally under the batons of such conductors as Esa-Pekka Salonen, John Alexander, Carl St.Clair, Pierre Boulez, John Mauceri, Gustavo Dudamel, Marin Alsop, and Leonard Slatkin. She holds a master of music degree in conducting from CSU Northridge where she was the choral studies graduate assistant for two years. She holds a bachelor of music degree in vocal performance from CSU Long Beach where she was the first recipient of the four-year Dean's Scholarship for Distinction in the Arts. Robles is in her first year as a choral music major in the doctor of music arts program at the USC Thornton School of Music.

Jo-Michael Scheibe

CONDUCTOR, CHAMBER SINGERS

Jo-Michael Scheibe chairs the USC Thornton School's department of choral and sacred music and is national president-elect of the American Choral Directors' Association (ACDA). Over the past two decades, he has conducted ensembles at six national

ACDA conventions and has collaborated with Luciano Pavarotti, José Carreras, Salvatore Licitra, Maria Guleghina, Helmuth Rilling, Sir Colin Davis (London Symphony Orchestra), Franz Welser-Möst (Cleveland Orchestra), and Michael Tilson Thomas (New World Symphony). Recordings of ensembles under Dr. Scheibe's direction have been released on the Albany, Cane, Naxos, and ANS labels. A champion of contemporary music, Scheibe's Choral Series is distributed internationally by several music publishers.

Scheibe's appointment at USC Thornton follows 15 years as director of choral studies at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and previous faculty appointments at Northern Arizona University, Long Beach City College, Vintage High School (Napa), and Huntington Beach High School. Scheibe received his DMA degree from USC Thornton and his BA and MM degrees from California State University at Long Beach, where he was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003.

Personnel

USC THORNTON CONCERT CHOIR

Cristian Grases, conductor

Seth Houston, assistant conductor

ChoEun Lee, accompanist

SOPRANO

Sarah Chang

Alexandra Corley

Sara Frondoni

Laura Gardiner

Katherine Goldman

Annika Linde

Grace Mackson

Cindy Taylor Lutz

Frances Wang

ALTO

Francesca Corley

Tara José

Emily Loynachan

Quinn Middleman

Carla Miller

Meriette Saglie

Lauren Scott

Anupama Tadanki

Nicole Wakabayashi

TENOR

Ryan Harper

Jodie Landau

Louis LeMesurier

Yohan Partan

Bryan Roach

Benjamin Rudolph

Jason Sabino

BASS

Alex Benestelli

Philip Cho

Coleman Cuomo

Seth Houston

Jonathon Naquin

Eugene Olea

Rei Tangko

Nick Volkert

USC THORNTON APOLLO CHOIR

E. Jason Armstrong, conductor
Christopher G. Gravis, conductor
Stephanie Ou, accompanist

TENOR

E. Jason Armstrong
Kenneth Chen
Nate Fulmer
Christopher G. Gravis
Joel Hensel
Aaron Lee
AJ Peacock
Pete Rosales
Kevin Stachelek
John Tarver

BASS

Troy Armstrong
Torin Borrowdale
Nick Cox
William Goldman
John Harrison
Jonathan Hopkins
Jack Li
Cooper Ottum
Colin Sullivan
Alex Talishinsky
Hector Velasquez

USC Thornton Oriana Choir

Coreen Duffy, conductor
Troy Quinn, conductor
Grace Chung, accompanist

SOPRANO

Nicole Debbini
Meagan Dooley
Haley Fletcher
Malika Franklin
Hannah Goodman
Soo Kang
Kaitlin Kelly
Haley Nelson
Fletcher Vidars
Emily Wang
Angela Wen
Antonia Zaferiou

ALTO

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Maggie Chen
Yichen He
Jane Hwang
Vicki Ju
Ana Lee
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Christopher D. Haygood, assistant conductor

Guk Hui Han, accompanist

SOPRANO

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Cara Zydor Fesjian

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Emily Schubert

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Faith Xue

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E. Jason Armstrong

Sam Barbara

Chris Bingham

Brian Hays

Daniel Newman Lessler

Jeffrey Parola

Troy Quinn

John Russell

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Nick Strimple, DMA
Cristian Grases, DMA
Donald Brinegar, visiting professor of choral music
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Department of Choral & Sacred Music Teaching Assistants

E. Jason Armstrong
Stephen M. Black
Coreen Duffy
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Please contact us at uschoral@usc.edu or 213.740.7416 if you would like more information on how to contribute to the USC Thornton department of choral and sacred music.

Upcoming Events

USC Thornton Wind Ensemble and Chamber Singers

Henze's *The Muses of Sicily*

Sunday, February 13, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

Bovard Auditorium

University Park Campus

University of Southern California

USC Thornton Concert Choir Spring Concert

Friday, April 1, 2011, 8:00 p.m.

Alfred Newman Recital Hall

University Park Campus

University of Southern California

USC Thornton Chamber Singers Spring Concert

Friday, April 8, 2011, 8:00 p.m.

Alfred Newman Recital Hall

University Park Campus

University of Southern California

USC Thornton Apollo Men's Chorus & Oriana Women's Choir

Sunday, April 10, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

Alfred Newman Recital Hall

University Park Campus

University of Southern California

USC Thornton Chamber Singers Spring Concert

Friday, April 15, 2011

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

1031 Bienvenida Avenue

Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-2314

USC Thornton University Chorus Spring Concert

Friday, April 29, 2011

United University Church

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