



DAVID L. WALTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# A CAPPELLA CHOIR **ON TOUR**

Eliezer Yanson Jr., director  
Rachel Park, collaborative pianist



## **Feb. 27, 2024**

11:15 AM  
Spivey Hall  
Clayton State University  
2000 Clayton State Blvd  
Morrow, GA 30260

## **7:00 PM**

First Baptist Church  
7611 Nashville St  
Ringgold, GA 30736

## **Feb. 28, 2024**

9:00 AM  
Heritage High School  
3960 Poplar Springs Rd  
Ringgold, GA 30736

## **6:00 PM**

St Luke's Episcopal Church  
309 E Baltimore St  
Jackson, TN 38301

## **Feb. 29, 2024**

11:00 AM  
University of North Alabama  
- Music Bldg  
110 W Irvine Ave  
Florence, AL 35630

## **7:00 PM**

Parker Memorial Baptist  
Church  
1205 Quintard Ave,  
Anniston, AL 3620

# PROGRAM

*to be chosen from the following selections*

## I

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. - James 1:17, NASB

Exsultate Deo.....Alessandro Scarlatti (1660 - 1725)

*Rejoice greatly to God our helper,  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.*

God So Loved the World.....John Stainer (1840 - 1901)

The Gift to Sing.....Marianne Forman (b. 1981)

Royal Hudson.....Dave Baker (1945 - 2022)  
arr. Larry Nickel

## II

Like a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memories survive in time of sorrow.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

Come to Me, My Love.....Norman Dello Joio (1913 - 2008)

Newtown Psalm.....John F. Hudson (b. 1987)

Laura Nabholz, soloist

*Give peace, O Lord, in our time, because there is not one else  
who will fight for us if not you, our God. - The Book of Common Prayer*

*Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none. - Ezekiel 7:25  
We looked for peace, but no good came. - Jeremiah 8:15*

*For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." - Psalm 122:8*

Shalom.....Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Assisted by Alayna Endicott, violin

Jesus the Light of Gentiles (Amazing Grace & Arirang: Korean Folk Song)  
arr. Rachel Park

III

Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.

- Victor Hugo

Rosas Pandan.....Filipino Folk Song

arr. George Hernandez

Carley Brooks, soloist

*Here is Rosas Pandan just arrived from the mountains,  
To be with all of you, to celebrate the fiesta.  
This song is my livelihood, an inheritance from my parents,  
A most ancient song, the pride of our hill country.  
Hey!, my song. It is nice to dance to, like fog on a cold day,  
Look at Dodong (young man). He is looking at the young lady.  
He is drooling.*

Balleilakka.....A. R. Rahman (b. 1967)

arr. Ethan Sperry

Timmy Jones & Leila Acheson, soloists

Assisted by Noah Cook, Carson Gallman, Robert Parnell, and Mason Webb, percussion

*Is he the sun or the moon? Who is he? Tell me now!  
Is he the valorous Cheran or Pandiyan king? Tell me, tell me,  
tell me right now!  
Look at him, look at him, who is he?  
Is he the Sivan who scorches the wrong in an instant?  
("Aey Balleilakka" means nothing, the rest is a list of city names)  
For all the people from all of these places, if the  
respectful Annan comes, Tamil Nadu will become America itself.  
Can we ever forget the river Cauvery, and the hand-pounded rice?  
Will the girls in the traditional dhaavani and the eyes that  
transmit hundreds of messages ever be lost?  
Our ploughing fields and the woods on the side of the creek,  
and the rustic roads that shower red mud.  
The tree (trunk) around which we played sadugudu,  
the lush green of the grasslands that look as if the earth  
has been blanketed,  
The dew drop that breaks as you slightly touch it,  
the idli which is served hot, really hot,  
The railroads that shudder with the passing train,  
the river Cauvery which flows quickly, very quickly,  
The real fresh crisp betel leaves that are folded with vigor,  
The moustache that is curled with vivacity.  
These are all in my heart truly, truly, truly...*

I'll Be on My Way.....Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

Ethan Duce, Alex Frost, Christian Parker, soloists

Assisted by Alayna Endicott, violin

Fairest Lord Jesus.....Derek Hakes (b. 1976)

rev. Craig Courtney

**The A Cappella Choir** is Jacksonville State University's flagship choral ensemble performing a wide variety of standard choral literature from various musical periods, world music, folk music, spirituals, and contemporary works. Founded in the 1950s, the A Cappella Choir enjoys a rich history as a highly respected vocal ensemble. The choir tours annually and participates in events hosted by the Alabama American Choral Directors Association and Alabama Music Educators Association. The A Cappella Choir is an auditioned ensemble comprised of students from various disciplines across campus. Recently, the A Cappella Choir debuted at Carnegie Hall and was named a national finalist in the choral performance category – college/university division (smaller program) of **The American Prize**, the nation's most comprehensive series of contests in the performing arts.

## CONDUCTOR & PIANIST

**Eliezer Yanson Jr.** is professor of music and director of choral activities at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama where he conducts the A Cappella Choir, Chamber Singers, and Civic Chorale and teaches undergraduate and graduate music classes. Prior to his appointment to Jax State, Eliezer served on the music faculty at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. He earned a doctor of musical arts degree in choral conducting from the University of South Carolina, a master of music in church music (conducting) and a bachelor of music in piano performance from Bob Jones University. His main conducting mentors have been Larry Wyatt and Warren Cook. Eliezer has also worked and studied with André Thomas, Don Portnoy, Paul Vermel, Dian Tchobanov and Hilary Apfelstadt.

An active adjudicator, conference speaker, and clinician, Eliezer has conducted choirs and clinics in the United States, Thailand, Bulgaria, and in his native Philippines. He is a two-time 3rd prize winner (2015 and 2023) of The American Prize in Conducting: College/University Chorus Division and has appeared in Carnegie Hall as conductor in 2015, 2018, and 2023. While passionate about conducting and teaching, Eliezer's greatest role is being husband to Martha and father to Isabella and Andre.

**Rachel Park** is an assistant professor of piano at the Jacksonville State University. She has given more than a thousand concerts and recitals with various soloists, ensembles, and orchestras throughout the United States and overseas, including performing in Carnegie Hall, the Crystal Cathedral in California, and at the Embassy of Korea in Washington D.C. She dedicates herself to piano performance and music education with practical applications and insight gained through her wide performance experience. She has been a recipient of numerous awards throughout her career including the 2023 American Prize National Finalist in Professional Solo Piano Performance. Currently serving the Alabama Music Teachers Association as the First Vice President and the President-Elect, Park is also an active member of the MTNA, ASCAP, and Asian Society of Music in New York. She successfully presented her debut recital in Carnegie Hall in March 2023.

### Soprano

**Leila Acheson**, Oxford, Ala., *history*  
**Carley Brooks**, McDonough, Ga., *vocal music education*  
**Brie Dinkins**, Stockbridge, Ga., *vocal music education*  
**Alayna Endicott**, Valley, Ala., *vocal music education*  
**Isabella Escamillo**, Douglasville, Ga., *nursing*  
**Adria Hamilton**, Albertville, Ala., *vocal music education*  
**Tierra-Michael Harmon**, Cartersville, Ga., *vocal performance*  
**Lauren Kilgore**, Leeds, Ala., *vocal performance*  
**Alexa Lusk**, Bay Minette, Ala., *vocal music education*  
**Laura Nabholz**, Montgomery, Ala., *instrumental music education*  
**Grace Shelton**, Jacksonville, Ala., *English*

### Alto

**Paulina Dingler**, Baileytown, Ala., *vocal music education*  
**Hannah Kramer**, Anniston, Ala., *management*  
**Morgan Langley**, Albertville, Ala., *vocal music education*  
**Mary Elizabeth Maddox**, Albertville, Ala., *exercise science & wellness*  
**Celeste Owens**, Harvest, Ala., *exercise science & wellness*  
**Anna Smith**, Piedmont, Ala., *vocal music education*  
**Arinn Templin**, Wetumpka, Ala., *instrumental music education*  
**Ramsey Whitney**, Anniston, Ala., *vocal performance*

### Tenor

**Nicholas Frederick**, Sylacauga, Ala., *marketing*  
**Richard Guzman**, Horton, Ala., *instrumental music education*  
**Timothy Jones**, Jackson, Ga., *vocal music education*  
**Micah Kilgore**, Statham, Ga., *instrumental music education*  
**Dylan Mitchell**, Alexandria, Ala., *general music - piano*  
**Reid Nordan**, Anniston, Ala., *biology*  
**David Ritschard**, Papua New Guinea, *vocal music education*  
**Braydn Smith**, Anniston, Ala., *vocal music education*  
**Will Stafford**, Trussville, Ala., *instrumental music education*

### Bass

**Jerred Curvin**, Ohatchee, Ala., *tuba performance*  
**Ethan Duce**, Winston, Ga., *theatre*  
**Alex Frost**, Ringgold, Ga., *vocal music education*  
**Noah Gipson**, Huntsville, Ala., *graduate student, music education*  
**Mark Harris**, Ringgold, Ga., *instrumental music education*  
**Christian Parker**, Lineville, Ala., *vocal performance*  
**Jamey Smith**, Anniston, Ala., *vocal performance*