



Fall Choral Concert

SOAL and TEBA Chorales Schola Cantorum

Dr. Matt Taylor and Angela Tipps

Conductors

Delana Easley and Grace Thompson

Pianists

**Thursday, October 8, 2026
7:30 p.m.**

T. Earl Hinton Music Hall, Wright Music Building

Dr. Matt Taylor



This is Dr. Matt Taylor's first concert as Director of Choral Activities at the MTSU School of Music. He conducts the Schola Cantorum and the TEBA Chorale and teaches basic and choral conducting. He brings a strong record of work with singers at every level, along with a clear commitment to student growth and ensemble artistry. Before joining MTSU, Dr. Taylor served on the faculty at Lipscomb University in Nashville and spent five years as Associate Choral Director at Wando High School in Charleston, South Carolina.

He remains active across the region as a conductor of honor choirs and as a guest clinician for school and church ensembles. He also serves as director of the Governor's School Chorale for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts. Beyond the podium, he performs as a member of Vocal Arts Nashville and works as a double bassist in live and recording settings. His broad musicianship reflects a deep connection to both choral and instrumental traditions. Dr. Taylor holds degrees from Samford University, Louisiana State University, and the University of Georgia.

Angela Tipps



That is year 29 for Angela Tipps, Master Instructor in the MTSU School of Music. In addition to conducting the SOAL Chorale, she coordinates the Introduction to Music course and occasionally music directs for the Department of Theatre and Dance. Angela is also the Musical Director for the Middle Tennessee Choral Society, an 85-member choir that performs major works with orchestra. In November she will conduct the second annual Messiah Sing-Along co-hosted by the Choral Society and MTSU. Her choirs have performed for state and regional ACDA (American Choral

Directors Association) and for TMEA (Tennessee Music Educators Conference). She and her husband Dale, both MTSU alumni, have two grown children: Virginia, an MTSU and Carnegie-Mellon graduate who teaches stage and production management at Stanford University in California; and Sam, a senior civil engineering major at the University of Memphis.

Thotsholoza

South African Freedom Song
Arranged by Jeffery Ames
(b. 1969)

Camren Leslie and Rae Rowles, soloists

A Little Song of Life

Reginald Unterseher
(b. 1956)

*Glad that I live am I;
That the sky is blue;
Glad for the country lanes,
And the fall of dew.
After the sun the rain,
After the rain the sun;
This is the way of life,
Till the work be done.
All that we need to do,
Be we low or high,
Is to see that we grow
Nearer the sky.*
--Lizette Woodworth Reese (1856-1935)

The River

Susan La Barr
(b. 1981)

*I grew from boy to man along the river;
My roots grew tangled with the willow tree.
The rocks and sand and mud were my foundation.
I thought the water flowed only for me.*

*The old man always warned, "Don't fight the river.
If you just give her time, she'll bring you in."
But times when you're adrift you get real anxious,
And there's a chance you won't get home again.*

*The river holds the secrets of a lifetime.
Its depths and shallows swirl with mystery.
Through flood or drought the water follows one law—
"Flow on" into the everlasting sea.*

*Part of that river still pumps deep inside me.
But I need more to make my spirit whole.
Baptize me once again in river water.
Let river mud anoint my prodigal soles.*

--Bill Cairns (b. 1951)

II

Sing, My Child

Sarah Quartel
(b. 1982)

Abby Christian, soloist and Conrad Woodell, soloist

III

Jubilate Deo

Manolo Da Rold
(b. 1976)

Sung in Latin:

O be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

Serve the Lord with gladness and come before His presence.

Refuge

Elaine Hagenberg
(b. 1979)

*From my spirit's gray defeat,
From my pulse's flagging bet,
From my hopes that turned to sand
Sifting through my close-clenched hand,
From my own fault's slavery,
If I can sing, I still am free.*

*For with my singing I can make
A refuge for my spirit's sake,
A house of shining words, to be
My fragile immortality.*

---Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

Bellow

Maira Smiley
(b. 1976)

IV

We Are the Music Makers

Reginal Wright
(b. 1976)

*We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams,
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,
And sitting by desolate streams;
World-losers and world-forsakers,
On whom the pale moon gleams:
Yet we are the movers and shakers.*

--Arthur O'Shaughnessy (1844-1881)

IV (continued)

Underneath My Feet

Jennifer Lucy Cook
(b. 1988)

Still wie die Nacht

Karl Böhm
(1928-2014)
Arranged by Robert Sieving

Sung in German:

Calm as the night, deep as the sea, should be thy love for me!

Calm as the night, deep as the sea, could be thy love for me!

If love like mine glows in thy heart, I am forever thine.

Fervent as steel, and firm as the hills, should be thy love for me.

Steal Away

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Patrick Dupré Quigley
(b. 1977)

Diego Rivera Santos, soloist

Wander-Thirst

Florence Price
(1887-1953)

Beyond the East the sunrise, beyond the West the sea,

And East and West the wander-thirst that will not let me be;

It works in me like madness, dear, to bid me say good-bye;

For the seas call, and the stars call, and oh! The call of the sky!

I know not where the white road runs, nor what the blue hills are;

But a man can have the sun for a friend, and for his guide a star;

And there's no end of voyaging when once the voice is heard,

For the rivers call, and the roads call, and oh! The call of the bird!

Yonder the long horizon lies, and there by night and day

The old ships draw to home again, the young ships sail away;

And come I may, but go I must, and, if men ask you why,

*You may put the blame on the stars and the sun and the white road
and the sky.*

--Gerald Gould (1885-1936)

V

I Will Sing
Rosephanye Powell
(b. 1961)

Instrumentalists:
Wyatt Crabill, percussion
Dr. Chris Dye, marimba
Rafael Meira, guitar
James Orme, bass
Nathan Smith, cello

Schola Cantorum is designed for upper-division voice majors and graduate students. Repertoire includes choral works from the Renaissance to the present.

The **SOAL and TEBA Chorales** are ensembles that are made up of treble or tenor-bass voices from across the university. A majority of the students are not music majors, and they represent a wide variety of academic disciplines—from aerospace to audio production, biochemistry to mechatronics.

For more information about any of our choirs, contact matt.t.taylor@mtsu.edu or angela.tipps@mtsu.edu.

MTSU TEBA Chorale
Grace Thompson, pianist

David Baker
Damien Baker
Joseph Bridge
Luke Cook
Lee Espinoza
Gavin Hall
Scott Handy
Maverick Houston
Tyler Juergens

Jaden Keith
William Lankford
Camren Leslie
Dean Lofgren
Riley J. Madej
Jonas Marshall
Stephen Rachford
Joshua Riggan
Rae Rowles

Lukas Sharp
Jacob Shelton
William Sprayberry
Ellie Staples
Kenton Tracy
Jacob Wells
Conrad Woodell

MTSU SOAL Chorale
Delana Easley, pianist

Maya Albright
Brisa Barreto
Catherine Bolhuis
Sarah Bolus
Aiyanna Borrer
Lydia Burks
Alexandra Calor
Daisy Carter
Lulu Chandler
Abby Christian
Lydia Clark
Caitlin Clements
Emilie Coffey
Mable Craig
Maggie DeBien
Liz Faria

Eva Ford
Emily Girard
Cara Gray
Evelyn Habart
Rielly Harris
Abigale Hawkins
Dublyn Heath
Marissa Hendrickson
Lorien Hicks
Tishy Hornsby
Claira James
Laurel Jones
Katie Keeney
Olivia Lamb
Lindsey Landrum
Elia Manning

Alyssa Mcbroom
Caroline McNutt
Sarah Moore
Isabelle Motsenbocker
Stephanie Nava Corona
Rachel Oppmann
Samantha Pingsterhaus
Shelby Rabe
Elinor Ringheimer
Anna Drew Setser
Riley Shrout
Keeley Whitehead
Sofia Womack
Naomi Woodell

SCHOLA CANTORUM
Grace Thompson, pianist

Vivian Acevedo
Lydia Clark
Caitlin Clements
Angie Dominguez-Smith
Kai Earwood
Emily Girard
Zoe Grimes

Jamie Hiatt
Braylon Hill
Elaina Jones
Lane Kiser
Sky Lisowe
Alexandria Martin
Jordan Mathis

Gabe Miller
Sarah Moore
Diego Rivera Santos
Holt Solberg
Ellie Staples
Logan Taylor
Georgia Thompson

Middle Tennessee State University

School of Music

Dr. Leah Lyons, Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Jennifer Snodgrass, Director
Dr. Chris Combest, Associate Director
Dr. Will Perkins, Assistant Director
Dr. Jamila McWhirter, Graduate Studies Director
Mr. Mark Britt, Piano Technician

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Visit mtsu.edu/musiclivestream to watch live or recorded concerts.

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