

JAY STATE ACAPPELLA CHOIR ON TOUR 2026

Thursday, Feb. 26

11:00 AM

Carroll County Schools
Performing Arts Center
775 Old Newnan Rd, Carrollton, GA 30116

1:00 PM

South Cobb High School
1920 Clay Rd SW, Austell, GA 30326

7:00 PM

Decatur Presbyterian Church
205 Sycamore St., Decatur, GA 30030

Friday, Feb. 27

10:00 AM

Rock Springs Christian Academy
219 Rock Springs Rd, Milner, GA 30257

2:00 PM

Auburn University
Department of Music
320 W Samford Ave, Auburn, AL 36849

7:00 PM

Heritage Baptist Church
1405 S Fox Run Pkwy, Opelika, AL 36801

**JAY
STATE**

DAVID L. WALTERS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY





JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY A CAPPELLA CHOIR

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, folkmusic, spirituals, and contemporary works. Founded in 1960, the A Cappella Choir is an auditioned ensemble of students from diverse academic disciplines and has a long-standing reputation as a respected vocal ensemble, with performances at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Spivey Hall. Recently, the A Cappella Choir competed in the CantaRode International Choral Festival in the Netherlands and placed fourth out of ten choirs invited to perform from a pool of 22 auditioned ensembles. The choir was also 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.

SOPRANO I

Carley Brooks, *McDonough, Ga.*
vocal music education
Ola High School

Elizabeth Embrey, *Newnan, Ga.*
vocal music education
Newnan High School

Ashlyn Endicott, *Valley, Ala.*
vocal music education
Heritage Christian Academy

Shealee Griffith, *Talladega, Ala.*
piano performance
Homeschool

Tierra-Michael Harmon, *Atlanta, Ga.*
vocal performance
Cass High School

ALTO I

Julia Cuevas, *Argo, Ala.*
history
Springville High School

Mary Elizabeth Maddox, *Albertville Ala.*
vocal music education
Albertville High School

Lauren Kilgore, *Leeds, Ala.*
vocal performance
Moody High School

Kimora Linder, *Richlands, N.C.*
psychology
Gadsden City High School

Ramsey Whitney, *Anniston, Ala.*
theatre performance
The Donoho School

SOPRANO II

Meredith Barnes, *McDonough, Ga.*
vocal music education
Ola High School

Brie Dinkins, *Stockbridge, Ga.*
elementary education
Woodland High School

Maleah Hallmark, *Kimberly, Ala.*
vocal music education
Mortimer Jordan High School

Seagan Majchrzak, *Medina, N.Y.*
instrumental music education
Medina High School

Caroline Rogers, *Oxford, Ala.*
vocal performance
Oxford High School

TENOR I

Levi Benefield, *LaFayette, Ga.*
instrumental music education
LaFayette High School

Joelton Cox, *Buchanan, Ga.*
vocal music education
Haralson High School

Jalon Millholan, *Rockmart, Ga.*
political science
Rockmart High School

Ethan Nessler, *Gadsden, Ala.*
graduate student
vocal/choral music education
Gadsden City High School

TENOR II

Braden Acheson, *Oxford, Ala.*
history
Homeschool

Will Kelley, *Arab, Ala.*
vocal music education
Arab High School

Mason Holbrook, *Rome, Ga.*
business
Coosa High School

Hayden Medley, *Jacksonville, Ala.*
digital journalism
Jacksonville High School

Devonte Roszell, *Oxford, Ala.*
vocal music education
Oxford High School

ALTO II

Bethany Hallmark, *Kimberly, Ala.*
forensic investigation
Mortimer Jordan High School

Adria Hamilton, *Albertville Ala.*
graduate student
business administration
Albertville High School

Adyson Lowden, *Albertville, Ala.*
integrated studies
Albertville High School

Kari Gardner, *Marietta, Ga.*
instrumental music education
Walton High School

BASS I

Mitchell Coleman, *Rome, Ga.*
vocal music education
Model High School

Jeremiah Davidson, *Springville, Ala.*
pre-health biology
Springville High School

Ethan Duce, *Douglasville, Ga.*
theatre production
Alexander High School

Joshua Edge, *McDonough, Ga.*
vocal music education
Ola High School

Christian Parker, *Lineville, Ala.*
vocal performance
First Assembly Christian School

BASS II

Jonathan Crawford, *Alexandria, Ala.*
vocal music education
Alexandria High School

Alex Frost, *Ringgold, Ga.*
vocal music education
Heritage High School

Jamey Smith, *Anniston, Ala.*
graduate student
general music
Oxford Christian School

Silas Tankersley, *Anniston, Ala.*
graduate student
vocal/choral music education
Homeschool

ELIEZER YANSON JR. DIRECTOR



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 and Civic Chorale and teaches undergraduate and graduate music classes. Prior to his appointment at 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 primary 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 presented at conferences in the United States, Belgium, Bulgaria, South Korea, Thailand, Türkiye, and 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 three times. While passionate about conducting and teaching, Eliezer's greatest role is being husband to Martha and father to Isabella and Andre.



RACHEL PARK PIANIST

Rachel Park is associate professor of piano at Jacksonville State University, where she blends her extensive performance experience with a deep passion for music education. As an active soloist and collaborative pianist, Dr. Park has performed over a thousand concerts across the United States and internationally, collaborating with vocalists, instrumentalists, ensembles, and orchestras. She has had the honor of performing at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, the Crystal Cathedral in California, and the Embassy of Korea in Washington, D.C. Her Carnegie Hall debut recital in 2023 was met with critical acclaim from New York Concert Review, which praised her moving performance and impeccable pianism. An active member of MTNA, ASCAP, and the Asian Society of Music in New York, Dr. Park currently serves as president of the Alabama Music Teachers Association (AMTA), where she continues to support music educators and students across the state of Alabama.

PROGRAM

(to be selected)

I. Songs from the Bible

Wake Up, My Spirit Adolphus Hailstork

Psalm 57: 6 - 9

(b. 1941)

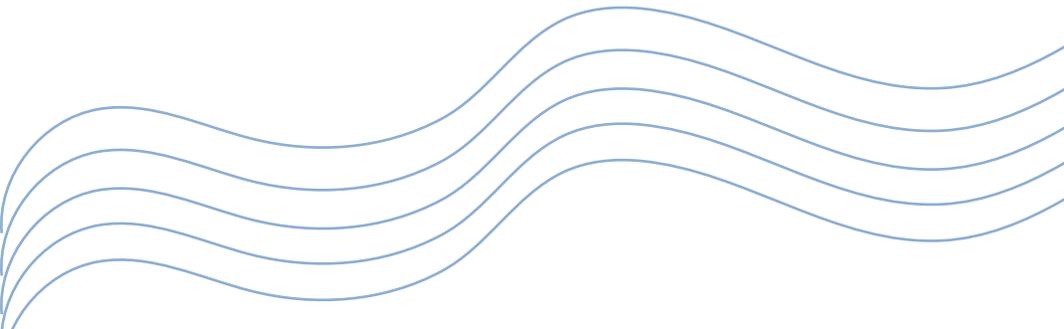
Wake up, my spirit!
I, myself, will waken the dawn.
Exalt Yourself above the heavens, O God,
And Your glory over all the earth.
Wake up, my spirit!
I will sing praise to You among the nations.
Awake, lute and harp;
I will sing melody.
I will sing alleluia.
Wake up, my spirit!

Entreat Me Not to Leave You Dan Forrest

Adapted from Ruth 1: 16 - 17

(b. 1978)

Entreat me not to leave you,
nor to turn back from following after you.
For where you go, I will go;
And where you live, I will live;
Your people shall be my people,
And your God, my God.
Where you die, I will die,
And there will I be buried.
The Lord do so to me, and more also,
If ought but death parts you and me.



II. Songs of the Poetic Voice

Sure on This Shining Night Samuel Barber

James Agee

(1910–1981)

Alex Frost, student conductor

Sure on this shining night
Of star-made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
Wandering far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine Eric Whitacre

Charles Anthony Silvestri

(b. 1970)

Italian fragments taken from the notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci

Assisted by Silas Tankersley, Alex Frost, Lauren Kilgore, *percussion*

Leonardo dreams of his flying machine.
Tormented by visions of flight and falling,
More wondrous and terrible each than the last,
Master Leonardo imagines an engine
To carry a man up into the sun...
And as he's dreaming the heavens call him,
softly whispering their siren-song:
“Leonardo. Leonardo, vieni á volare.”
(“Leonardo. Leonardo, come fly.”)
L'uomo colle sua congegiate e grandi ale,
(A Man with wings large enough, duly connected)
faciendo forza contro alla resistente aria.
(might learn to overcome the resistance of the air.)

As the candles burn low he paces and writes,
Releasing purchased pigeons one by one
Into the golden Tuscan sunrise...
And as he dreams, again the calling,
The very air itself gives voice:
“Leonardo. Leonardo, veni á volare.”
 (“Leonardo. Leonardo, come fly.”)
Vicina all’elemento del fuoco...
(Close to the sphere of elemental fire...)
Scratching quill on crumpled paper,
Rete, canna, filo, carta. (Net, cane, thread, paper.)
Images of wing and frame and fabric fastened tightly.
...sulla suprema sottile aria.
(...in the highest and rarest atmosphere.)

As the midnight watchtower tolls,
Over rooftop, stette and dome,
The triumph of a human being ascending
In the dreaming of a mortal man.
Leonardo steels himself,
Takes one last breath,
and leaps...
“Leonardo, Vieni á Volare! Leonardo, Sognare!”
 (“Leonardo, come fly! Leonardo, Dream!”)

III. Sacred Songs through the Ages

IDUMEA Ananias Davisson

Charles Wesley

(1780-1857)

arr. Richard Bjella

Assisted by Alayna Endicott, *violin I*; Ashlyn Endicott, *violin II*

And am I born to die?
To lay this body down?
And must my trembling spirit fly
Into a world unknown?
A land of deepest shade,
unpierced by human thought,
The dreary regions of the dead, Where all
things are forgot?



Soon as from earth I go,
What will become of me?
Eternal happiness or woe
Must then my portion be:
Waked by the trumpet's sound,
I from my grave shall rise,
And see the Judge, with glory crowned,
And see the flaming skies!

Precious Lord **Thomas Dorsey**

Thomas Dorsey

(1899-1993)

arr. Arnold Sevier

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
At the river, Lord, I stand,
Guide my feet and hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

Unclouded Day **J.K. Alwood**

J.K. Alwood

(1828-1909)

arr. Shawn Kirchner

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
They tell me of a home far away,
And they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise:
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O the land of cloudless days,
O the land of an unclouded sky,
O they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise:
O they tell me of an unclouded day.



O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,
They tell me of a land far away,
Where the Tree of Life in eternal bloom
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day.

O they tell me of a King in His beauty there,
They tell me that mine eyes shall behold
Where He sits on a throne that is bright as the sun,
In the city that is made of gold!

Fairest Lord Jesus Derek Hakes

Münster Gesangbuch (1677)

(b.1976)

rev. Craig Courtney

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nations,
O Thou of God and Man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be Thine!





DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



The David L. Walters Department of Music has over 300 undergraduate and graduate music majors. Students are led by 40 faculty members who are world-class teachers, scholars, conductors, composers, and performers. The music department offers its majors ample opportunities to develop their knowledge and musical skills to become professional educators and musicians. Key courses for all music majors and minors are Music History, Music Theory, Music Technology, Conducting, Applied Lessons, and Ensembles.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC

CONCENTRATIONS

- Music Education (Instrumental or Vocal)
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- Performance (Instrumental, Vocal, Piano, or Jazz)
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MINORS

- Music
- Music Technology
- Jazz Studies
- Musical Theatre

MASTER OF ARTS IN MUSIC

CONCENTRATIONS

- Music Education
- General Music

The David L. Walters Department of Music is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

Marching Southerners selected to perform at the Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA (2027)

A Cappella Choir performance at the CantaRode International Choral Festival in the Netherlands (2025) and national finalist for the American Prize in Choral Performance (2023)

Marching Southerners performance at the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France (2024)

Brass Band First Place at the North American Brass Band Association Championships (2023)

A Cappella Choir performance at Carnegie Hall (2023)

Jazz I winner of Downbeat Magazine's Outstanding Performance Award- Undergraduate Jazz Ensemble (2023 & 2015)

Marching Southerners recipient of the Sudler Trophy (2022)

Percussion Ensemble performance at the Percussive Arts Society International Conference (2022)

DAVID L. WALTERS DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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David L. Walters Department of Music
UNIVERSITY
Choirs

A CAPPELLA CHOIR

CIVIC CHORALE

COLLEGIATE CHOIR

ENCORE! (SHOW CHOIR)

GOSPEL CHOIR

VOCAL JAZZ

Choral, Vocal Music Education, and Voice Faculty

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QUESTIONS?

For more information, visit jsu.edu/music
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