



The
Palmetto
Mastersingers

SOUTH CAROLINA'S MUSICAL AMBASSADORS

FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

Voices in Harmony

DR. BENJAMIN STOGNER
Artistic Director

GUEST GROUPS

Heart of Columbia Chorus
Ridge View High School Concert Choir

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025
7:30PM

Union United Methodist Church
7582 Woodrow St, Irmo, SC 29063



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Marti Bluestein

Tim Mercer

Clarke Newton

John Nichols

Allison Sullivan

Andrew Thibault

Stacy Thompson



Allison Sullivan is responsible for this content.



Meet our Mastersingers Musical Leaders

DR. BENJAMIN STOGNER

Artistic Director for The Palmetto Mastersingers



Dr. Benjamin Stogner holds a Doctorate in Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from the University of South Carolina, and a Master's in Music Education from Liberty University. With a passion for choral conducting and performance, Dr. Stogner has carved an impressive path in academia and the church.

Beginning as a rehearsal conductor at Court Street United Methodist Church in Lynchburg, VA, Dr. Stogner honed his skills in leading choral ensembles. This experience laid the foundation for the subsequent role as Director of Worship at Greenhill Baptist Church, where he not only led the choir but also conducted the accompanying orchestra, fostering a rich and harmonious worship experience.

Currently, Dr. Stogner serves as the Minister of Music at Florence Baptist Church in Forest City, North Carolina, where his leadership continues to inspire and uplift the congregation through music. His dedication to musical excellence is evident not only within the church walls but also throughout the community.

Beyond his church commitments, Dr. Stogner has showcased his talent on the operatic stage, portraying memorable roles such as the Count in "The Marriage of Figaro" at the University of South Carolina and the Police Sergeant in "The Pirates of Penzance" at Liberty University. His versatility as a performer is further demonstrated through his involvement in various musical events and recitals across the city, captivating audiences with his expressive and powerful voice.

As a member of the esteemed Palmetto Mastersingers, Dr. Stogner has contributed his talents to enriching the local choral landscape. Recently, he has taken on the role of Artistic Director of this great organization.

Driven by a deep love for music and a commitment to excellence, Dr. Stogner continues to make a profound impact on both the spiritual and artistic communities he serves.



ALLISON HUDSON HILBISH

Accompanist for The Palmetto Mastersingers



Having grown up in Columbia, Allison has spent her life at the heart of its local musical scene. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of South Carolina after obtaining an Associate of Arts Degree from Anderson Junior College. Allison is very passionate about the art of accompanying, has been the pianist for many choral groups in the area, and is currently the pianist for the Columbia Choral Society and the Palmetto Mastersingers. She was the staff accompanist at Columbia College for over 10 years and is currently the pianist for Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church and a staff accompanist at Newberry College.



ARPAD DARAZS

1922 – 1986



Arpad Darazs was a native of Hungary. From 1941 to 1947, he earned three degrees from the Royal Franz Liszt Music Conservatory in Budapest. He was conductor of the Hungarian State Radio Network. He emigrated to the United States and was a music instructor at Malloy College and Columbia University before coming to the University of South Carolina in 1966 as professor of music and director of choral activities. He earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1972.

Dr. Darazs was a protégé of renowned Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly and was an authority on the Kodaly method of choral instruction. While at USC, Darazs founded the Concert Choir and was conductor of the Columbia Philharmonic Orchestra. He organized the Palmetto Mastersingers in 1981 to promote the male choral repertoire beyond the college walls. In 1985, he was awarded the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner award for his contributions and achievement in and to the arts in South Carolina.

In recognition of this heritage, our concerts from time to time will feature compositions by Kodaly and arrangements by Darazs.

The Palmetto Mastersingers Members

FIRST TENOR

Landon Allison
Ben Cliatt
Ed Hynson
Kevin Moody
Richard Taylor

SECOND TENOR

Wayne Smith
Kurt Stevens
Michael Stroupe
Joey Tucker
Karl Weeks

BARITONE

Cliff Barrineau
David Deming
Jim Evans
Charlie Hill
Boyd Saunders
Claude Sykes
Bill Tolleson

BASS

Richard Allison
Ed Billings
Bob Curtis
Jay Hudson
Dale Jones
David Mitchell
Eric Robinson
Harry Smithson
Barry Stogner
Johnny Thomas



Thank you for joining the Palmetto Mastersingers for an inspiring evening of choral music featuring Ridgeview High School's Concert Choir and the Heart of Columbia Chorus. From the serene beauty of Ola Gjeilo's Ubi Caritas to the lively spirit of Tim Jones' Pirate Song, this program offers a diverse blend of musical styles and emotions. The evening culminates in a powerful collaboration on Joseph M. Martin's The Awakening. Celebrate the joy of community and the enduring power of song!

~Dr. Benjamin Stogner

*The Palmetto Mastersingers
gratefully acknowledge
support from our donors.*

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- Patricia C. Russell – *In memory
of Robert R. (Bob) Russell, Jr.*
- Marybeth Shelley
- Harry Smithson
- Lynn and Barry Stogner
- Ceylle and Michael Stroupe
- Kerry Stubbs
- Edna and Claude Sykes
- Corrina and Johnny Thomas, Jr.
- Stacy Thompson
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Dr. Benjamin Stogner, Artistic Director

Allison Hilbish, Accompanist

THE PALMETTO MASTERSINGERS

Pirate Song Tim Y. Jones

Loch Lomond R. Vaughan Williams

Ubi Caritas Text: Paulin d'Aquilée
Music: Ola Gjeilo

Salvation belongeth to our God Pavel Grigorevich Tchesnokov

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord Moses Hogan

Trio: Landon Allison, Kurt Stevens, Johnny Thomas

RIDGE VIEW CONCERT CHOIR

Alexandria Thompson *Director*

Dominus Vobiscum Jacob Narverud

Bloom Philip Silvey

Carry Me Home (Swing Low, Sweet Chariot) Susan Thrift

HEART OF COLUMBIA CHORUS

Jamy Claire Archer *Director*

Hey Soul Sister Elaine Gain

Lean On Me Joey Minshall

Ain't Misbehavin' Carole Prietto

In My Life Melody Hine

COMBINED CHOIRS

The Awakening Joseph M. Martin

RIDGE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR

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ALEXANDRIA THOMPSON

Hailing from Augusta, Georgia, Alexandria Thompson's musical journey took flight in South Carolina, where she pursued her passion as a music education major at the University of South Carolina (Go Gamecocks!). After earning her degree in 2020, Ms. Thompson embarked on a vibrant career as the choral director and piano instructor at Ridge View High School in Columbia, SC. Now in her fifth year of teaching, she has worked with some remarkable young vocalists, of whom she credits as instrumental to her growth and success as an educator. Grounded in her belief that "we cannot make music without you," Ms. Thompson cultivates a welcoming classroom where students are encouraged to find their voice, transform into musicians, and share their unique brilliance with the world.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Thompson is an active member of her musical community. She is a member of Limited Time Only, a chamber choir composed of fellow music educators led by Dr. Alicia Walker, and she serves as a chorister for Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia under the direction of Ms. Fredna Lee. She proudly holds professional memberships with the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association for Music Education and is a devoted member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.





HEART OF COLUMBIA CHORUS Heart of Columbia Chorus is a women's four-part harmony, a cappella show chorus; we are a chapter of Sweet Adelines International. We sing in the barbershop style building musicianship through musical/vocal education, enhancing leadership skills, promoting self-esteem, building relationships, and serving the community. Heart of Columbia is passionate about singing and learning together. We are a diverse and inclusive group of women from all backgrounds spanning six decades of life! We come together to create our unique harmonies while we fostering a strong sense of teamwork, building lasting bonds of friendship, and having a whole lot of fun! Music is our common bond and, while our love of music brings us together, our love for one another binds us together. The goal of Heart of Columbia Chorus is to empower singers one voice at a time.



JAMY CLAIRE ARCHER is a Speech-Language Pathologist and Clinical Instructor at the University of South Carolina specializing in voice disorders and hearing impairment as an internationally certified Auditory Verbal Therapist. She draws on her professional experience along with her experience as an instrumental and vocal musician to coach singers to healthy vocal habits. Jamy Claire has been inspiring and leading Heart of Columbia since May of 2015. During this time, she has become a Certified Director in Sweet Adelines. In May of 2019, the chorus scored 524 points and earned Jamy

Claire of a Harmony 500 Director. She currently holds the role of Educational Coordinator in Region 14 and serves on the International Faculty for Sweet Adelines International.

HEY, GUYS IN THE AUDIENCE.

Are you enjoying our music?

Do you like to sing? Are you saying to yourself,
“I can do that!”

**Good news! Our transfer portal is open and
you are invited to a try-out!**

You don't have to be a first-round draft pick, though we would consider a signing bonus for some first tenors. Our practices are on Tuesday evenings, from late August through early May. If you would like to check us out, then talk to any of the singers, or email director@palmettomastersingers.org.

The Palmetto Mastersingers is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and presentation of male choral music. We are dependent on our individual and commercial friends for financial support. We are grateful for those who enable us by providing sponsorships, purchasing advertisements in the playbill, and making contributions. We accept on-line donations via PayPal, debit, or credit card at www.palmettomastersingers.org.

*Thank you for attendance tonight and we hope
you enjoy our songs!*

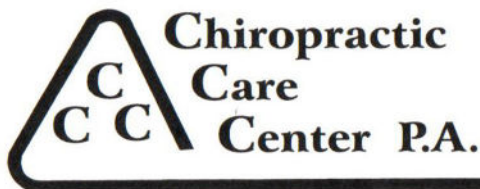


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Songs of Note

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. “Where charity and love are, God is there.” The text, which is related to the Eucharist, is known as the antiphon for the first communion, and the washing of the feet from the Mass for Maundy Thursday. The text is attributed to Paulinus of Aquileia in 796. The melody, reflective of the Gregorian chant tradition, also stems from the late 8th century.

“Salvation belongeth to our God” is the work of Pavel Tchesnokov (1877-1944), a Russian composer, conductor and teacher. His proliferation of sacred choral works came to a standstill at the time of the Russian revolution. In the Soviet era, religion was often under oppression. When the cathedral where he served as choirmaster was destroyed, he was so disturbed that he stopped writing music altogether. He died in 1944 of a heart attack caused by malnutrition while waiting in a Moscow bread line.

Moses Hogan (1957-2003) is well known for his settings of spirituals. “My Soul’s Been Anchored in the Lord” is one of many of his works in the Mastersingers’ repertoire. In his short lifetime, he published 88 arrangements for voice. Sadly, he died at the age of 46 from a brain tumor.



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of our member

Dean Owens
November 9, 2024



SOUTH CAROLINA'S MUSICAL AMBASSADORS



Palmetto
Mastersingers

We graciously appreciate your attendance in this our

44TH SEASON

We look forward to seeing you at our *Spring Concert*
at 7:30 pm on Friday, May 23, 2025 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church

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