

Cathedral Concerts

— AT ST. PAUL'S —

Baldwin Wallace University Men's Chorus

October 26, 2025, 4 pm



Devon Steve, conductor
Nate Zadzilka '26, student conductor
Michelle Massouh Makhoul, collaborative pianist
James Litteral, chorus coordinator

Baldwin Wallace University Men's Chorus



THE PROGRAM

I.

Personent Hodie.....Lara Hoggard

Excerpts from Gloria, RV 589.....Antonio Vivaldi

I. Gloria in excelsis Deo

II. Et in terra pax

Alle, Alleluia.....Bruce Tippette

Nate Zadzilka '26, *conductor*

II.

Bashana Haba'ah.....Nurit Hirsch, arr. John Leavitt

Peace [World Premiere].....Nathan Walker

This Is My Song (The Finlandia Hymn).....Jean Sibelius

III.

Come Ye Disconsolate.....arr. Terre Johnson

The Times They Are a-Changin'.....Bob Dylan, arr. Adam Podd

Cornerstone.....Shawn Kirschner

IV.

Beautiful Savior.....arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Brothers, Sing On!.....Edward Grieg, arr. Howard D. McKinney

TRANSLATIONS

Personent Hodie:

Sung in Latin.

Let youthful voices resound today, joyfully praising Him who is born for us,
Who is given to us by the most high God and brought forth from a virgin.

He is born in the world, is wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger
In a stable of beasts. He is ruler over all things.

Three wise men came bearing gifts, they have found the child following a little star.
Adoring the Lord they offer gold, incense and myrrh.

Let all choristers now sing as did the angels. Praising Him who has come into the world
Glory to God in the highest!

I. Gloria:

Sung in Latin.

II. Et in terra pax:

Glory to God in the highest

and on earth peace to people of good will

Bashana Haba'ah:

Sung in Hebrew.

Soon the day will arrive, when we will sing together, and the distance will just disappear.

And the children will smile, in a world that's gotten better.

Let's hold tight; the solution is near.

Wait and see, wait and see, what a world there can be

Bashana, Bashana Haba'ah.



MISSION

The mission of the BW Men's Chorus is to educate, entertain, uplift, and foster human connection through a commitment to high standards of choral excellence. We believe that music is a universal language transcending human difference. The Chorus is a shared expression of the unique talents and individual experiences of its members, creating an artistic connection that includes the integrity of the music, the director, the audience, and one another.

BIOGRAPHIES

Devon Steve (director) is a Cleveland-area conductor, music educator, and performer. In addition to his work with the Men's Chorus, he serves as the Director of Music at University School, where he conducts choir and orchestra, and is the Assistant Director of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Chorus. He further engages with the professional music community as the World Music and Cultures Repertoire & Resource Chair for the Ohio Choral Directors Association.

Prior to moving to Cleveland, Devon was the Assistant Director of Vocal Music & Theater Arts at Roosevelt High School (Des Moines, IA), conducting five co-curricular choirs, and assistant directing all theatrical productions. During this time, he prepared the award-winning Roosevelt Choirs for performances alongside a list of collaborators, including the Des Moines Symphony, TAKE 6, and the New England Symphonic Ensemble at Carnegie Hall. From 2019-2022, he led the Des Moines Diversity Chorus as Artistic Director, and was a baritone, board member, and guest conductor for the Des Moines Choral Society, conducted by Dr. James Rodde.

Mr. Steve has performed as a chorister with a number of ensembles including The Cleveland Orchestra & Chorus, The St. Olaf Choir, the American Boychoir, and has conducted a range of instrumental ensembles across the Midwest. He received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN), and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Simpson College (Indianola, IA).

Michelle Massouh Makhlof (collaborative pianist) is a Staff Accompanist with Baldwin Wallace. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Bowling Green State University and a Master's degree in Piano Performance with an emphasis in Accompanying from the University of Akron. Prior to earning her Master's degree, Michelle served as the Staff Accompanist at Kent State University-Stark Campus and the University of Akron for several years. Michelle joined the Baldwin Wallace Men's Chorus in August 2015 and the BW Singers in August 2016. She also accompanied the Baldwin Wallace Women's Chorus in 2015. Michelle is an accomplished accompanist. She accompanies The Cleveland Pops Chorus, and has served as the Staff Accompanist at Jackson High School since graduating from BGSU. Michelle has accompanied multiple productions at numerous local theaters, including Kent State University Lyric Theatre Ensemble, Solon Center for the Arts, Actors' Summit Theater, North Canton Playhouse, and Saint Thomas Aquinas High School. Michelle is also an accomplished bassoonist. She has played the bassoon with the True North Orchestra and the Cleveland Winds. She is also a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Michelle is the proud mother of four beautiful daughters.

The 2025-2026 season marks the 19th season of the **Baldwin Wallace Men's Chorus**. The Men's Chorus is an offering of the Community Arts School and is open to tenor and bass singers, high school age and up, from throughout the Greater Cleveland community including BW faculty, staff and students. This collaborative effort seeks to bring outstanding male chorus singing to Northeast Ohio and beyond. The group has performed to standing-room-only audiences, has collaborated in concert with several outstanding music organizations and has received rave reviews from throughout the Greater Cleveland Community.

The Chorus has presented live broadcasts of their concerts on WCLV (90.3 FM and wclv.org), the classical radio station and voice of the Cleveland Orchestra in Cleveland, Ohio. These programs were heard locally and around the world (via the internet). They have also appeared on programs of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, IMC National Convention, in concert with The Ohio State University Glee Club, at the University of Michigan National Male Chorus Symposium, at the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) State Conference and with several Baldwin Wallace performing ensembles. Clinicians Richard Mathey, Jerry Blackstone, Stacy Gibbs, Ethan Sperry, Jonathan Palant, David Morrow, Stacey Gibbs, Jeremy Jones, Bradley Naylor, Jami Lercher, and Rollo Dilworth have all worked with the Chorus. The Chorus has also commissioned works from internationally-acclaimed composers, including Elaine Hagenberg, Stacy Gibbs, Rollo Dillworth, and several others.

BALDWIN WALLACE MEN'S CHORUS MEMBERS

TENOR I

Dave Borovicka
Blake Campbell
Robert Kirschner
James Litteral
Greg Orloff
John Reagan
Mo Shafer
Michael Wetmore
Jake Weyrick

TENOR II

Frederick Assmus
George Bohnert
Chris Couch
Emerson Emser
Robin Greene
Tim Hirzel
Joe Hoffman
Jacob Kavc
Alex Lintner
Michael Mack
Rick Morscher
George Paidas
Greg Schwarten
Gordon Taylor
Nate Zadzilka
Walter Zielinski

BARITONE

Noah Cawrse
Adam Cawrse
Eric Coffelt
Kerry Davis
Zion Gamble
Joe Geldart
Scott Halm
Eric Hirzel
Henry Klasing
Kyle Lewis
Charlie Newell
Daniel O'Brien
Logan Orloff
Michael Revis
Sabastian Riccio
Benjamin Vacca
Chuck Valley
Nathan Walker
Jayson Zadzilka

BASS

Yale Bezak
Tom Burnett
John Franko
John Gruneich
Jacob Kamp
Charlie Kemp
Jacob LaMantia
Jerry Mason
Mark McCarthy
John Mercer
Tom Shaw
Jim Thomson
David Urbanic
Larry Wise

BW MEN'S CHORUS DONORS

Thank you to these generous donors who help to sustain the Chorus and secure the future of this wonderful community of singers through their generous donations. Without them and without you, we would not exist, as our sole operating expenses come from generous donations.

Dr. John Mercer and Mrs. Ruth Mercer
Ms. Lori Box-Gaydos '03
Debra Cukras
Mr. David Cuthbertson and Mrs. Patricia Cuthbertson
Mr. Jaret Gold '24
Mr. Donald Jackson
Ms. Janet Lyncha
Allen Porter
Dr. Paul Szalay Jr. '95 and Mrs. Shelley Amstutz-Szalay '96
Mr. Robert Thompson
Mr. Jake Weyrick
Mr. John Applegate
Ms. Elaine Fernwood
Ms. Linda Flinn '68
Mrs. Karin Hamrick and Mr. Dan Hamrick
Mrs. Heidi Urbanic and Mr. David Urbanic '17

Mrs. Cheryl Wiencek '85 and Mr. David Wiencek
Dr. Pierre David and Mrs. Beth Browning David '89
Mr. Ronald Mitchell and Mrs. Hope Mitchell
Mr. John Reagan and Mrs. Lorraine Reagan
Ms. Deborah Yandala
Ms. Mary Beth O'Neill
Mr. Ronald Warzel and Mrs. Mary Jane Warzel
Mr. Charles Erickson Jr.
Ms. Irene Dejak
Mr. Richard Hirzel
Ms. Alice Luddington-Cantor
Mrs. Laura Rushton '84 and Mr. Joseph Rushton
Ms. Cathleen Bush
Ms. Amy Claus
Mr. Richard Foote
Mr. Carl Massouh
John, Karen, and Elizabeth Franko
Mr. and Mrs. Jayson Zadzilka

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Michelle Massouh Makhlouf, Collaborative Pianist
Frank Bianchi, Director Emeritus & Founder
Administrative Staff: James Litteral (Chorus Coordinator), Nate Zadzilka (student conductor), Henry Klasing (librarian), Jacob Kavc (Brand Ambassador)
BWMC Interns: Yale Bezak, Joe Geldart, Jacob Kamp, Jacob Kavc, Henry Klasing, and Nate Zadzilka
BWMC Advisory Council, Joe Hoffman, Chairperson
Community Arts School: Erika Haskell, Director; Christine Varga, Music Program Coordinator
Susan Van Vorst, Dean, Conservatory of Music, Baldwin Wallace University
Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music: Music Education Department, Music Ensembles, and Teaching Faculty

2025-26 BW MEN'S CHORUS UPCOMING EVENTS

19th Annual Holiday Concert: "Gloria et Pax"

Sunday, December 7, 2pm
Gamble Auditorium (Berea, Ohio)
Tickets: bw.edu/tickets

19th Annual Holiday Concert: "Gloria et Pax"

Sunday, December 7, 5pm
Gamble Auditorium (Berea, Ohio)
Tickets: bw.edu/tickets

Spring Concert: "Earth, Mother"

Saturday, March 28, 6pm
St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Gates Mills, Ohio)
Freewill offering for this program

Spring Concert: Elaine Hagenberg's "Illuminare"

with the Baldwin Wallace Women's Chorus
Sunday, April 26, 2pm
Gamble Auditorium (Berea, Ohio)
Tickets: bw.edu/tickets

Upcoming Cathedral Concert: November 9 at 4:00 PM, OPUS 216



Thank you to the donors who are helping to make this season possible:

Conductor's Circle

Carol & Dwight Butler
John & Abigail Haake
Chris & Judy Hall
Greg & Lynda Klein
Rev. Mark & Veronica Kreemer
Bob & Patty Long

Jennifer and Craig Maurer
Dennis G. Morgan
Barb Palmer
Loren Veigel
The Ohio Arts Council

Beethoven Circle

A Chorus for a Cause
Mary Ann & Russ Poling

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Monte & Jan Geuy
Heidi Hall
Niall Slater

Barb & Jim Starrett
David Stoner
Lynn & La Shell Williamson

Thank you also to all the anonymous donors who contribute to the free will offering.
Today's free will offering will go to The Cathedral Concert Series.



Today's concert is made possible in part by an investment of public funds from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

2025-2026 Concert Series

Message from St. Paul's Director of Music:

Welcome to our second concert of the season in our beautifully renovated space! Irish singer and songwriter Bono once said that “music can change the world because it can change people,” and we are so glad you are here to connect with us through the gift of music.

We are fortunate to be able to offer these concerts to the community at no cost and are exceedingly grateful for all our donors whose financial support helps to make our series possible.

Please join us next month, on November 9 at 4:00 PM, when we host the OPUS 216, Cleveland's poly-genre string collaborative.

May God give us faith to sing always,
Dr. Abigail Haake



Message from St. Paul's Senior Pastor:

Good afternoon, and welcome to St Paul's Lutheran Church and to our Cathedral Concert Series. It is a joy to share this time of music with you in this sacred space. We believe that music has a way of lifting hearts, opening minds, and drawing us closer to the beauty of God's presence.

On behalf of our congregation, I want to extend a special word of gratitude for your being here tonight. Whether you are a longtime friend of this series or joining us for the very first time, we are glad you are part of this gathering.

As you enjoy the gifts of tonight's performance, I also want to invite you to return and join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Each week, we gather in this same space to celebrate God's grace, to be renewed in faith, and to share in the fellowship of Christ. You will find a warm welcome here, and we would be delighted to see you again.

Thank you for coming, and may this afternoon's music be a blessing to you.

With warm regards and anticipation,
Rev. Mark Kreemer

