

# Cornerstone

Rebekah Bridges

Colby Gochanour

Jacob Mandell

Joel Westberg

*graduate conductors*

Amy K. Voorhees, *faculty advisor*



## Des Moines Choral Festival 2023

# Cornerstone

**July 8, 2023**

**Amy K. Voorhees, *faculty advisor***

**Rebekah Bridges, Colby Gochanour,  
Jacob Mandell, & Joel Westberg, *graduate conductors***

***Vince Peterson, keyboard***

Всенощное бдение (All-Night Vigil), op. 37      Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 – 1943)  
VI. Богородице Дево (Rejoice, O Virgin)

Hodie, Christus Natus Est      Healey Willan (1880 – 1968)

Mass in Eb, Cantus Missae, op. 109      Josef Rheinberger (1839 – 1901)  
IV. Sanctus

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Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott TWV 8:7      Georg Phillipp Telemann (1681 – 1767)

Deutsche Messe, D872      Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)  
V. Heilig, Heilig, Heilig

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Fest und Gedenksprüche, op. 109      Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)  
I. Unsere hofften auf dich

The Deer's Cry      Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Now the Powers of Heaven      Grigori L'vovsky (1830 – 1894)

**INTERMISSION**



Light Beyond Shadow

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

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Vre Kalo, Sto Kalo

Katie Kring (b. 1983)

Lead Gently, Lord

Aldophus Hailstork (b. 1941)

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The Old Church

Stephen Paulus (1949 – 2014)

Nearer, Still Nearer

arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Now Our Meeting's Over

Jocelyn Hagen (b. 1980)

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Keep Watch Dear Lord

David Pegel (b. 1986)

Cornerstone

Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

Willa Albrecht, Andrew Schroeder, *soloists*  
Eliza Stucki, Ella Driver, Sabrina Del Angel, *trio*  
Kellie Motter, *descant*

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Make our Garden Grow *from* Candide

Bernstein, Leonard (1918 – 1990)

Drew Young, *Candide*  
Kristen Sullivan, *Cunegonde*  
Kaylee Parker, *Paquette*  
Noah Reinhuber, *Maximillian*  
Zachary Brecht, *Pangloss*



In this journey called life, we find ourselves cast about in an uncertain world. When it seems that chaos is around every turn, we struggle to find something stable to cling to. Those rocks we choose, those anchors we hold onto - those become our cornerstones.

For many, the idea of God has granted certainty and serenity in an ever-changing universe. Throughout this program, we'll seek to explore that idea. We invite you to consider what cornerstones are present in your life, and do they stand the test of time?

We begin our journey at Creation itself, giving praise to the Creator for all that He provides. We'll join the angels as we sing praises to our Redeemer. With reverence and grace we'll honor her who brought our Savior into this world.

Our journey will take us to God's interactions in our lives. Often, we find ourselves in need of rescue from our trials. When those moments come upon us, we take comfort in the knowledge that God does indeed prevail.

We seek blessing and guidance, but we also seek community. Not just a community of believers, but a community of beings who are sharing this journey with us. Together, we'll walk toward a brighter future.

We will rejoice as our journeys' intertwine, taking the ordinary moments and places of our lives and giving them special meaning. In those moments of commune, we'll feel a nearness to the Almighty that transcends understanding. It is upon that nearness we'll lean upon when our journeys inevitably part ways.

Not all are blessed with rocks upon which to cling. Next we'll invite ourselves to consider the less fortunate, the downtrodden. How can we become cornerstones for them in their times of trial? The answer lies not in ourselves, but in the ultimate Cornerstone: the one the builders rejected becomes the Rock this world needs.

As we end our journey together, we invite you to consider how that Cornerstone influences your life. Do you wait for it to make the world brighter, or do you participate in the betterment of others? We've been given a garden called Earth - and it is ours to tend. So let us go forth from this place, and make our garden grow.



Rebekah  
Bridges



Colby  
Gochanour



Jacob  
Mandell



Joel  
Westberg

**Богородице Дево**

Богородице Дево, радуйся,  
Благодатная Марие, Господь с Тобою;  
Благословена Ты в женах  
и благословен плод чрева Твоего,  
яко Спаса родила еси душ наших.

*Rejoice, O Virgin, Theotokos Mary,  
full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
for you have born the Savior of our souls.*  
-From the Eastern Orthodox Vigil Service

**Hodie, Christus Natus Est**

Hodie Christus natus est:  
Hodie Salvator apparuit:  
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,  
laetantur Archangeli  
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Alleluia.

*Today Christ is born:  
Today the Savior appeared:  
Today on Earth the Angels sing,  
Archangels rejoice:  
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest.  
Alleluia.*  
-Allen H. Simon (b. 1959)

**Sanctus**

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*  
-From the Roman Catholic Liturgy

**Ein feste Burg ist Unser Gott**

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,  
Ein gute Wehr und Waffen:  
Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not,  
Die uns jetzt hat betroffen.  
Der alte böse Feind  
Mit Ernst er's jetzt meint;  
Groß' Macht und veil.  
List sin grausam Rüstung ist,  
Erd' ist nicht seinsgleichen.

Mit unser Macht ist nichts getan,  
Wir sind gar bald verloren;  
Streit' für uns der rechte Mann,  
Den Gott selbst auserkoren  
Fragst du, wer er ist?  
Er heißt Jesus Christ,  
Der Herre Zebaoth,  
Und ist kein ander Gott,  
Das Feld muß er behalten.

Preis, Her' und Lob dem höchsten Gott,  
Dem Vater aller Gnaden  
Der uns aus Lieb gegeben hat  
sein' Sohn für unsre Schaden;  
Dem Tröster heiligen Geist,  
von Sünd'n er us reißt,  
Zum Reicher uns heißt,  
Weg zum Himmel weist,  
Der helf uns föhlich.  
Amen.  
-Martin Luther (1483 – 1586)

*A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing:  
Our helper He, amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work his woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
The Man of God's own choosing.  
Who asks Whom that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth is his name,  
From age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.*

*Praise, Lord, and praise to the highest God,  
The Father of all Graces  
He who gave his Son  
His Son for our harm, out of love;  
The comforter holy spirit,  
from sins he tears us,  
Zum Reicher beckons us,  
points the way to heaven,  
He will gladly help us.  
Amen.*

-Raphaela Behounek (b. 1994)

**Heilig, Heilig, Heilig**

Heilig, heilig, heilig ist der Herr!  
 Heilig, heilig, heilig ist nur Er!  
 Er, der nie begonnen, Er, der immer war,  
 Ewig ist und valtet, sein wird immer dar.  
 Allmacht Wunder, Liebe, alles ringsumher!  
 Heilig, heilig, heilig ist der Herr!

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!*  
*Holy, holy, only He is holy!*  
*He who had no beginning, who who always was,*  
*eternally is, and reigns, and will be evermore.*  
*Almighty wonder, omnipresent love!*  
*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!*  
 -Ron Jeffers

**Unsere hofften auf dich**

Unsere Väter hofften auf dich;  
 und da sie hofften, halfst du ihnen aus.  
 Zu dir schrieen sie und wurden errettet;  
 sie hofften auf dich und wurden nicht zu Schanden.  
 Der Herr wird seinem Volk Kraft geben;  
 der Herr wird sein Volk segnen mit Frieden.

*But thou art holy, Our fathers trusted in thee:*  
*they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.*  
*They cried unto thee, and were delivered:*  
*they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.*  
*The Lord will give strength unto his people;*  
*the Lord will bless his people with peace.*  
 -Psalm 22:4-5, 29:11, KJV

**The Deer's Cry**

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
 Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
 Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
 Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
 Christ in me, Christ when I arise,  
 Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
 Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
 Christ in every eye that sees me,  
 Christ in every ear that hears me.  
 Christ with me.  
 -Lorica of St. Patrick's Breastplate

**Now the Powers of Heaven**

Ныне силы небесныя с нами невидимо служат.  
 Се бо входит царь славы.  
 Се жертва тайная совершена дориносится.  
 Верою и любовью приступим,  
 да причастницы жизни вечныя будем.  
 Аллилуиа, Аллилуиа, Аллилуиа.

*Now the Powers of Heaven invisibly with us do serve.*  
*Lo, the King of Glory enters.*  
*Lo, the mystical sacrifice is upborne, fulfilled.*  
*Let us, with faith and love, draw near,*  
*And become communicants of life eternal.*  
*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*  
 -From the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**Light Beyond Shadow**

Light beyond shadow, joy beyond tears,  
 love that is greater when darkest our fears;  
 deeper the peace when the storm is around,  
 Nearer the Hope to the lost who is found.

Light of the World, ever Shining.  
 Hope in our pain and our dying.  
 In our darkness, there is light.  
 In our crying, there is love.  
 In the noise of life imparting  
 Peace that passes understanding.  
 -Paul Wigmore (1925 – 2014)

**Vre Kalo, Sto Kalo**

Vre kalo, sto kalo na hi,  
 Manna ke patera na hi.

*May you find goodness, be well,*  
*And remain with your mother and father.*  
 -Traditional Greek blessing



**Lead Gently, Lord**

Lead gently, Lord, and slow,  
For oh, my steps are weak,  
And ever as I go,  
Some soothing sentence speak;

That I may turn my face  
Through doubt's obscurity  
Toward thine abiding-place,  
E'en tho' I cannot see.

For lo, the way is dark;  
Through mist and cloud I grope,  
Save for that fitful spark,  
The little flame of hope.

Lead gently, Lord, and slow,  
For fear that I may fall;  
I know not where to go  
Unless I hear thy call.

My fainting soul doth yearn  
For thy green hills afar;  
So let thy mercy burn --  
My greater, guiding star!  
-Paul Lurance Dunbar (1872 – 1906)

**The Old Church**

The old church leans nearby a well-worn road,  
upon a hill that has no grass or tree,  
the winds from off the prairie now unload  
the dust they bring around it fitfully.

The path that leads up to the open door  
is worn and grayed by many toiling feet  
of us who listen to the Bible lore,  
and once again the old-time hymns repeat.

And ev'ry Sabbath morning  
we are still returning to the altar waiting there.  
A hush, a pray'r, a pause, and voices  
fill the Master's House  
with a triumphant air.

The old church leans awry and looks quite odd,  
but it is beautiful to us and God.  
-Della B. Vik (b.1959)

**Nearer, Still Nearer**

Nearer, still nearer, close to thy heart,  
Draw me, my Savior, so precious thou art.  
Fold me, O fold me close to thy breast;  
Shelter me safe in that haven of rest,  
Shelter me safe in that haven of rest.

Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,  
Naught as an off'ring to Jesus, my King--  
Only my sinful, now contrite heart;  
Grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart,  
Grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart.

Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last,  
Till safe in glory my anchor is cast;  
Through endless ages, ever to be  
Nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee,  
Nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee.  
-Lelia Morris (1862 – 1929)

**Now Our Meeting's Over**

Now fathers, now our meeting's over,  
now fathers, we must part,  
And if on earth we meet no more,  
I love you in my heart.  
Then we'll land on that shore  
and shout forevermore.

Now sisters, now our meeting's over,  
now sisters, we must part,  
And if on earth we meet no more,  
I love you in my heart.  
Then we'll land on that shore  
and shout forevermore.

Now mothers, now our meeting's over,  
now mothers, we must part,  
And if on earth we meet no more,  
I love you in my heart.  
Then we'll land on that shore  
and shout forevermore.

Now brothers, now our meeting's over,  
now brothers, we must part,  
And if on earth we meet no more,  
I love you in my heart.  
Then we'll land on that shore  
and shout forevermore.  
-American Folk Text



### Keep Watch Dear Lord

Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who work, or watch,  
or weep this night,  
and give your angels charge  
over those who sleep.  
Tend the sick, Lord Christ;  
give rest to the weary, bless the dying,  
soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted,  
shield the joyous;  
and all for your love's sake. Amen.  
-Book of Common Prayer

### Cornerstone

O the stone that the builders rejected  
Became the cornerstone of a whole new world.

A grain of wheat may be knocked to the ground  
And suffer through the winter's cold,  
Only to rise right up again  
And bear its seed a thousandfold.

Never can our journey fail;  
A little child will lead the way,  
Whose eyes are filled with a shining light,  
To whom the night is bright as day.

The love that rolls the stone away  
Gives us life and that we may sing  
"Grave where is thy victory?  
Death, o death, where is thy sting?"  
-Drawn from Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 11:6,  
John 12:24, 1 Corinthians 15:55

### CUNEGONDE

I thought the world  
Was sugar cake  
For so our master said.  
But, now I'll teach  
My hands to bake  
Our loaf of daily bread.

### CANDIDE AND CUNEGONDE

We're neither pure, nor wise, nor good  
We'll do the best we know.  
We'll build our house and chop our wood  
And make our garden grow...  
And make our garden grow.

### CANDIDE, CUNEGONDE, PAQUETTE, MAXIMILLIAN, & DR. PANGLOSS

Let dreamers dream  
What worlds they please  
Those Edens can't be found.  
The sweetest flowers,  
The fairest trees  
Are grown in solid ground.

### ENSEMBLE

We're neither pure, nor wise, nor good  
We'll do the best we know.  
We'll build our house and chop our wood  
And make our garden grow.  
And make our garden grow!  
-Richard Wilbur (1921 – 2017)

### Make Our Garden Grow

#### CANDIDE

You've been a fool  
And so have I,  
But come and be my wife.  
And let us try,  
Before we die,  
To make some sense of life.  
We're neither pure, nor wise, nor good  
We'll do the best we know.  
We'll build our house and chop our wood  
And make our garden grow...  
And make our garden grow.



**Rebekah Bridges** is a third-year grad student at Simpson College from Abilene, Texas. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Baylor University where she studied with Dr. Lynne Gackle. She currently lives in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband Zach, who plays in the United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own." As an educator, Rebekah has taught elementary music and middle school choir. Currently, she is the middle school choir director for The Norwood School in Bethesda, Maryland. Rebekah is also a member of The Washington Chorus led by Dr. Eugene Rogers and has performed with the National Philharmonic, National Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. Rebekah believes in the power of choral music as a vehicle to strengthen, uplift, and encourage every person and is honored to present this recital alongside such incredible colleagues and friends. When not teaching or singing, Rebekah enjoys spending time with her husband Zach, crocheting, reading, swing dancing, and cuddling with her two cats, Lafayette and Luna.

**Colby Gochanour**, is an Iowa native who received his undergraduate degree at Grand View University in the Spring of 2020. He has been working for First Baptist Church in Johnston, Iowa as their choir director since 2021. Colby is also an accompanist for Ankeny High School band soloists. Outside of music, Colby enjoys spending time in Clear Lake, Iowa with family and friends.

**Jacob Mandell** is the director of choirs and drama for the Curwensville Area School District, where he leads the junior-high and senior high choirs, teaches elementary instrumental lessons, and leads the district's annual theater production. There, he founded the Curwensville barbershop club, women's chorale, and select mixed choir, which has been invited to perform several concerts and participate in choir festivals across the state. Outside of Curwensville, Jacob serves as the director of the Clearfield Choral Society, based in Clearfield, PA, and the Orpheus Singers, based in State College, PA. He also serves as an instructor through the Orthodox Church in America's (OCA) music program, where he teaches courses in sight-singing and ear-training and conducting. Jacob is becoming an active guest conductor and clinician throughout Pennsylvania and beyond, having presented and conducted workshops for church choirs, conferences, and festivals through the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. Having received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Messiah University, he is now a candidate for the Masters of Music in Choral Conducting degree from Simpson College. Outside of choirs, Jacob enjoys time with family, friends, his dogs, cooking, and being involved with his church.

**Joel Westberg** received his Bachelor's of Music Education Degree, Vocal Emphasis from Southern Adventist University in 2016. While there, he served as Concertmaster of the University's Wind Symphony, President of its Handbell Ensemble, and Director of Music for the Dawnville United Methodist Church. His career took him West, where he currently serves as the Director of Music for Central Valley Christian Academy in Ceres, California. Joel's responsibilities include directing four concert bands, three concert choirs, and a handbell ensemble ranging from elementary to high school. When not in the classroom, Joel can be found performing clarinet with MoBand, one of the nation's oldest civic bands. He has greatly enjoyed his time with Simpson's Masters of Music in Choral Conducting, and is thrilled to see what musical adventures lie ahead.



**SOPRANO**

Willa Albrecht  
Ella Driver  
Kellie Motter  
Eliza Stucki  
Kristen Sullivan

**TENOR**

Tomas Galvan  
Will Kuethe  
Teryl Rice  
Zachary Shiraki  
Rob Speece  
Drew Young

**ALTO**

Joshua Boggs  
Karla Clemens  
Sabrina Del Angel  
Susan Falconer  
Kaylee Parker

**BASS**

Zachary Brecht  
Christopher Lottes  
Jonathan Margrave  
Noah Reinhuber  
Andrew Schroeder



**CORO** is inspired by the desire to foster the development and enhancement of choral music in ways that enrich and excite the souls of vocalists, audience members, and communities.

The CORO Vocal Artists are comprised of professional vocalists from around the United States. The Vocal Artists engage in live performances and recordings throughout the year. A major focus of the ensemble includes the summer residency with Simpson College and the Des Moines Choral Festival. During their residency, the Vocal Artists present full-length concerts led by our Artistic Director, Associate Director, additional guest conductors, and by graduate choral conductors currently pursuing their Master of Music through the unique 3-Summer MM in Choral Conducting program offered in partnership with Simpson College. Finally, the Vocal Artists are the core of the CORO Summer Festival Chorus, a multi-generational ensemble of local Des Moines musicians, brought together to present some of the larger choral repertoire during the festival.



[www.coroonline.org/coro-vocal-artists](http://www.coroonline.org/coro-vocal-artists)

Music at Simpson College and **CORO** are excited to partner and offer the Master of Music (M.M.) degree in Choral Conducting. Achieved over three consecutive summer terms, this NASM-accredited program allows choral educators or others working in the choral field an opportunity to complete the M.M. degree while continuing to teach and pursue their professional endeavors during the academic year.

The three-summer Master of Music in Choral Conducting program at Simpson College is a unique plan of study that combines the academic rigor of a traditional graduate program with generous podium time for each student in lab and performance settings with the CORO Vocal Artists, a professional vocal ensemble whose roster contains professional artists from across the United States.

Conducting experience during the summer consists of rehearsal and performance podium time each week. Students participate in rehearsals with the CORO Artists and conduct performances for the Des Moines Choral Festival. They explore new music in the Composer's Institute and sing in festival performances including a masterwork for chorus and orchestra.

*Graduate students receive extensive podium time with a highly-trained ensemble in rehearsal and concert settings.*

*The partnership with CORO allows all graduate students generous podium time in front of the CORO Vocal Artists in order to complete their conducting and recital requirements. Performances led by the graduate students take place during the Des Moines Choral Festival.*





# The Fifth Annual Choral Festival

Simpson College and CORO are pleased to present the fourth annual Des Moines Choral Festival! Vocalists from across the United States come together to sing concerts this July. The concerts are led by members of the Choral Faculty at Simpson College and graduate students studying in the College's 3-Summer MM in Choral Conducting.

## Artistic Staff



**Philip Moody**  
artistic director



**Matthew Oltman**  
associate director



**Timothy A. McMillin**  
conductor-in-residence



**Amy Voorhees**  
conductor-in-residence



**Vince Peterson**  
conductor-in-residence



**Kellie Motter**  
Vocal Pedagogy/Diction