Dynamic Duos: The Greatest Musical Partnerships

Friday, April 5, 2019, 8:00 pm
Wentz Concert Hall
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
on the campus of North Central College

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8:00 pm
Nichols Concert Hall
1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston

Sunday, April 7, 2019, 4:00 pm
Pilgrim Congregational Church
460 Lake St., Oak Park

Sunday, April 14, 2019, 7:30 pm
Lincoln Hall
2424 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago

Chicago a cappella

Kathryn Kamp, Soprano
Kristin Lem, Soprano
Cari Plachy, Soprano
Sarah Ponder, Mezzo-soprano
Emily Price, Mezzo-soprano

Ace Gangoso, Tenor
Garrett Johannsen, Tenor
Carl Frank, Bass
Joe Labozetta, Bass
Woo Chan (Chaz) Lee, Bass

Guest Music Director
Paul Langford

Founder and Artistic Director
Jonathan Miller

Executive Director
Matt Greenberg

Chicago a cappella is supported in part by the MacArthur Funds for Arts & Culture at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation; The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; the Illinois Arts Council Agency; a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; and the Oak Park Area Arts Council, in partnership with the Village of Oak Park and the National Endowment for the Arts.
¡Cantaré! Chicago

Join us for a free community concert celebrating Mexican culture. Students from Hanson Park Elementary, Erie Elementary, Golder College Prep High School, and Solorio Academy High School, plus our High School Apprentice Ensemble, and Chicago a cappella will all perform works from Mexico, including new works by our ¡Cantaré! Chicago composer-in-residence, Julio Morales.

Friday, May 3, 7:00 pm
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL

Free tickets will be available at the door beginning at 6:30 PM.

¡Cantaré! Chicago is a partner program of VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This program is fully accessible. For any accessibility requests, please contact Chicago a cappella at (773)281-7820
Hollywood a cappella
Gala 2019

Friday, May 17, 2019
Venue West
221 N. Paulina St., Chicago, IL

Chicago a cappella pays homage to award-winning Hollywood music from the Golden Age and beyond. Our gala concert features dinner, a silent auction and raffle, and a heartfelt tribute to our honorees. Songs include “Moon River,” “The Way We Were,” “I’ve Had the Time of My Life,” “Skyfall,” and more! The evening is hosted by the legendary Radio Hall of Famer Terri Hemmert, of WXRT.

Guest Emcee: Terri Hemmert
WXRT Radio Personality

Christopher Bell
Tribute Award

Ann Cole
Friend of the Year

Tickets and tables available at bidpal.net/hollywoodacappella
PROGRAM

Rodgers & Hammerstein: Dames Medley.............................................................Rodgers/Hammerstein
arr. Sinozich

Mozart & DaPonte: Soave Sia Il Vento (from Così fan Tutte)........................Mozart/DaPonte
arr. Jonathan Miller

Simon & Garfunkel: Scarborough Fair..........................................................Traditional English folk tune
arr. Langford

Lennon & McCartney:
Can’t Buy Me Love .........................................................................................Lennon/McCartney
arr. Keith Abbs

Yesterday...........................................................................................................Lennon/McCartney
arr. Gene Puerling

Carpenters:
Close To You..................................................................................................Bacharach/David
arr. Langford

For All We Know.............................................................................................Karlin/Wilson/James
arr. Chinn

Lucy & Desi: Theme from “I Love Lucy” ..........................................................Daniel/Adamson
arr. Langford

Lerner & Loewe: How to Handle a Woman (from Camelot)..............................Loewe/Lerner
arr. Langford

Elton John & Bernie Taupin: Goodbye Yellow Brick Road..............................John/Taupin
arr. Langford

Captain & Tennille: Love Will Keep Us Together ..................................................Neil Sedaka
arr. Langford

INTERMISSION

Steely Dan: Reelin’ in the Years.........................................................................Becker/Fagen
arr. Patrick Sinozich

Stan Getz & Astrud Gilberto: The Girl From Ipanema .........................................Jobim/Gimbel,
arr. Langford

Romeo & Juliet: Romeo and Juliet/A Time for Us..............................................Tchaikovsky, Rota/Kusic/Snyder,
arr. Langford

Hall & Oates: I Can’t Go For That .......................................................................Hall/Oates
arr. Langford

George & Ira Gershwin: They All Laughed.......................................................G. & I. Gershwin
arr. Langford

Rodgers & Hammerstein: We Kiss in a Shadow
(from The King and I) ......................................................................................Rodgers/Hammerstein
arr. Marsh

Gilbert and Sullivan Medley ................................................................................Gilbert & Sullivan
arr. Paul Langford

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the front of house staff.
Unauthorized photography or sound recording of any kind are strictly prohibited.
Smoking is prohibited in all venues. Outside food and beverage are not permitted in
the audience seating area. Thank you for your cooperation.
Dynamic Duos: The Greatest Musical Partnerships

FROM THE FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

When Paul Langford told me and Matt that the singers had come up with the “Dynamic Duos” concert idea over drinks, we all thought it was really cool. The musicologist part of me got pretty excited at this program concept. The show, after all, is a chance to celebrate a certain kind of creativity, that of working in pairs.

We tend as a culture to over-emphasize the “solitary genius” figure, a concept created during the Romantic era (around 1800, when Beethoven was working). The truth is that people rarely do creative work in isolation, especially in music, and we all have been influenced by someone or something that inspires us. Creative groups and leaders in the business and nonprofit worlds already know that you can’t beat a good team. And when you find a true partner/muse, as I was fortunate to do with the late poet Peter Watson Jenkins in my own choral writing, it can be a deeply rewarding relationship of friends as well as a creative flourishing.

Mozart and his opera librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte, are one of the earliest “hit factories” on the historical record. Another duo, not included in this program, are Georg Frideric Handel and Charles Jennens, who teamed up to create the oratorio Messiah in 1741 and at least three other oratorios. In the 20th century, the American musical theatre was fortunate to have the Gershwins, Rodgers/Hart and Rodgers/Hammerstein, Lerner & Loewe, and many other creative teams. From the pop world of the 1960s and ‘70s, we have on today’s show, among others, Elton John and Bernie Taupin (some of my own earliest creative heroes), Lennon and McCartney (whom I discovered in Bangladesh when I was 12, thanks to a Norwegian classmate), and the Steely Dan duo of Donald Fagen and Walter Becker.

The above “dynamic duos” are songwriting pairs. The idea also stretches to include performing duos, such as Simon & Garfunkel, Hall & Oates, Astrud Gilberto and Stan Getz, some of whom also wrote their own material. If you were listening to Top 40 radio in the ‘70s, you’ll also recognize the teams of The Carpenters and the Captain and (Toni) Tennille, also represented here.

Enjoy the creative output of these musical pairs! Thanks for being here.

—Jonathan Miller

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

This program is the result of a 5 minute brainstorm by the singers of Chicago a cappella. Over drinks. After a rehearsal. About 2 years ago. They actually generated over a hundred song/artist ideas that fit this theme, and it was difficult to narrow down our favorites that would fit in a reasonably-lengthed show. Truthfully, we could have come up with 10 more great shows, all with different content, under the same theme. What we have here though, is our best attempt at variety and a cross representation of all the great “Dynamic Duos” in music history: writing partners, performing partners, recording partners, musicians and lyricist, TV stars, you name it. What a privilege to gather arrangements and to write new ones, and to spend time with these great minds. We hope you’ll find it as dynamic as we do!

—Paul Langford, Guest Music Director
NOTES ON THE MUSIC

Rodgers & Hammerstein, arr. Patrick Sinozich: *Dames Medley*
Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II are Broadway songwriting royalty. Rodgers wrote the music and Hammerstein the lyrics to hit shows in the 1940s and ‘50s including *Oklahoma*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *Cinderella*, and *The Sound Of Music*. Among their many awards are included thirty-four Tony Awards, fifteen Academy Awards, the Pulitzer Prize and two Grammy Awards. Their musical theater writing partnership has been called the greatest of the 20th century.

Mozart, arr. Jonathan Miller: *Soave sia il vento*
Lorenzo Da Ponte was an Italian opera librettist, poet, and Catholic priest who wrote the librettos for three of Mozart’s most celebrated operas: *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *Così Fan Tutte* (and our selection comes from the latter). Though he collaborated with 10 other composers in the world of opera, his work with Mozart moves him into the “dynamic” category in our view. Arranged by our own Jonathan Miller, “Soave Sia Il Vento” depicts the two heroines, Dorabella and Fiordiligi, as they bid a bittersweet farewell to their lovers departing by sea.

Soave sia il vento, Gentle is the wind,
Tranquilla sia l’onda, Calm is the wave,
Ed ogni elemento And every one of the elements
Benigno risponda Answer warmly
Ai nostri (vostrri) desir. To our (your) desire.
—Lorenzo Da Ponte —trans. J. Miller
reprinted with permission

Traditional English Folk, arr. Paul Langford: *Scarborough Fair*
We included this song because it was made famous by the dynamic duo of Simon and Garfunkel in 1966. Their version was combined with the anti-war song “Canticle” in a sort of contrapuntal form, while our version is a new setting created especially for this program. The song talks of a man who instructs a third party to tell his lover to perform a series of impossible tasks as proof of her devotion. The haunting melody and lyric have their origins as a traditional English folk song, having gone through countless lyric variations over the centuries.

Lennon & McCartney, arr. Keith Abbs: *Can’t Buy Me Love*
Much has been written about the great songwriting duo of John Lennon and Paul McCartney, who collaborated on an estimated 180 songs. The list of other famous artists who have recorded their own versions of these songs is staggering, belied by the humble, blue-collar Liverpudlian origins of the writers and the neighborhood homes where the songs were birthed. Unique to their partnership was the fact that they both contributed both lyrics and music to their creations, and shared credit on all collaborations, regardless of exactly “how much” either one contributed on a particular song

Lennon & McCartney, arr. Gene Puerling: *Yesterday*
Hailed as the most recorded pop song in history (boasting some 2,200 cover versions), Lennon and McCartney’s “Yesterday” has been lovingly re-set here by legendary vocal jazz arranger Gene Puerling, originally for his iconic group The Singers Unlimited. The original version featured McCartney’s solo vocal and acoustic guitar accompanied by string quartet.
The song is the fourth most successful song of all time in terms of royalties paid, having amassed a total of 19.5 million pounds.

**Bacharach & David, arr. Paul Langford: (They Long To Be) Close To You**

Written by the dynamic duo of Burt Bacharach and Hal David, and recorded by the dynamic duo of Richard and Karen Carpenter, this song seems like no-brainer for our show. The great songwriting duo had many top 40 hits during the ‘60s and ‘70s, primarily with Dionne Warwick but with a host of other artists, too. The Carpenters’ version of the song has become the best known and is signature to their sound and style, including the pair’s multi-tracked group vocals.

**Wilson & Griffin, arr. Teena Chinn: For All We Know**

Karen and Richard Carpenter had 32 top 40 hits in the 1970s and ‘80s, including this song in 1971. Karen’s one-of-a-kind voice, combined with Richard’s arranging and orchestrating, and their flawless multi-tracked group vocals became the duo’s signature sound and captured the hearts of pop music listeners at the time.

**Daniel & Adamson, arr. Paul Langford: I Love Lucy**

The theme song to the beloved TV sitcom that ran from 1951 to 1957 was written by the duo of Eliot Daniel (music) and Harold Adamson (lyrics). The duo of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz was certainly dynamic and produced as much as heat as they did light. Their tumultuous 20-year relationship is well documented but also produced some of the greatest and most memorable comedic moments in television history.

**Lerner & Loewe, arr. Paul Langford: How To Handle A Woman**

This elegant song comes, of course, from the great musical *Camelot*, one of many Broadway smashes by the dynamic duo of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe. Lerner wrote the words and Loewe the music, and their masterful creations also include the musicals *My Fair Lady* and *Brigadoon* and a string of hit songs from those and other shows, recorded by countless artists. The two met “by chance” in 1942 when Loewe took a wrong turn at a restaurant on the way to the men’s room, and happened by Lerner’s table instead. A conversation ensued and the rest is, as they say, history.

**John & Taupin, arr. Paul Langford: Goodbye Yellow Brick Road**

Elton John (music) and Bernie Taupin (lyrics) met in 1967 through an ad posted in a London music industry magazine, and they have been writing together for nearly 50 years. Their collective body of work is one of the most impressive and long lasting in pop music history, with their song creations being veritable household names. The pair generally write in separate locations at separate times, with Taupin creating lyrics first and then John setting them. They have collaborated on 31 albums and one Broadway musical, sold more than 300 million records, and had more than 50 top 40 hits.

**Sedaka, arr. Paul Langford: Love Will Keep Us Together**

Penned by Neil Sedaka and Howard Greenfield and popularized by the great duo of Captain and Tennille, the backing track of this hit record was performed entirely by “Captain” Daryl Dragon, with the exception of the drums, which were played by legendary Wrecking Crew drummer Hal Blaine. The title cut of the duo’s debut album, the song became a number one hit for them in 1975 and also earned Sedaka and Greenfield a Grammy nomination. Captain and Tennille also released a Spanish version of the song, entitled “Por Amor Viviremos.”
NOTES ON THE MUSIC cont.

That version rose to number 49 on the Billboard Top 100 and gave the duo the distinction of having two songs on the list at the same time, in different languages.

INTERMISSION

Fagen & Becker, arr. Patrick Sinozich: *Reelin’ In the Years*
Released as the second single from their 1972 album *Can’t Buy A Thrill*, this hit song from the jazz rock band Steely Dan hit number 11 on the Billboard charts. Steely Dan is really Donald Fagen and Walter Becker of course, along with a host of studio musicians guesting on different songs. If you have the necessary sound system equipment at home, you can purchase the quadraphonic mix and hear extra lead guitar fills not heard on the standard, stereo version!

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**2019 Gala Raffle**

![Hollywood A Cappella Logo]

**May 17, 2019**

Raffle Grand Prize: **$1,500 in cash!**

Raffle tickets are $20 or three for $50.

The winner will be drawn at the Hollywood *a cappella* gala on May 17; winner need not be present to win.

Tickets are available in the lobby or at bidpal.net/hollywoodacappella.
NOTES ON THE MUSIC cont.

**Jobim & Gimbel, arr. Paul Langford: The Girl From Ipanema**
Written by the duo of Antonio Carlos Jobim (music) and Norman Gimbel (English lyrics), and made famous by the duo of Stan Getz and Astrud Gilberto, this gem forever stands as the iconic Brazilian Bossa Nova song, and it won a Grammy in 1965. It is believed to be the second most recorded song in history, after the Lennon-McCartney hit “Yesterday,” which is also on our program.

**Tchaikovsky, Rota, Kuzik, & Snyder, arr. Paul Langford: Romeo and Juliet/A Time For Us**
Based on the famous play by Shakespeare, Tchaikovsky’s now legendary orchestral ballet premiered in 1870 to lukewarm reception. The love theme from the 1968 movie *Romeo and Juliet* was composed by Nino Rota with English lyrics by Larry Kusik and Eddie Snyder, and it was Jonathan Miller’s brilliant idea to combine the two for this show.

**Hall & Oates, arr. Paul Langford: I Can’t Go For That**
It is with a certain amount of tongue-in-cheek that we include Darryl Hall and John Oates on a program of dynamic duos with the likes of the other greats featured here. In truth, the duo have sold an estimated 40 million records and had a string of hits in the 1970s and ‘80s, including “Rich Girl,” “Kiss On My List,” “Private Eyes,” and “Maneater.” In total they had 34 hits on the Billboard Top 100. The two met in Philadelphia in 1967 at a battle of the bands when gunfire broke out between rival gangs and they both hid in the same service elevator!

**Gershwin & Gershwin, arr. Paul Langford: They All Laughed**
This song was composed by the dynamic Gershwin brothers duo for the 1937 film *Shall We Dance*, featuring the dynamic Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers duo. The list of notable recordings of the song by the legendary American songwriting team reads like a who’s-who of great American singers, including Carmen McRae, Bing Crosby, Mel Torme, Ella Fitzgerald, Chet Baker, Patti Page, Sarah Vaughan, Dick Van Dyke, Bobby Darin, Tony Bennett, Rosemary Clooney and Frank Sinatra. This arrangement is one of many CAC debuts on the program.

**Rodgers & Hammerstein, arr. Kerry March: We Kiss In A Shadow**
Another Rodgers and Hammerstein masterpiece, this time from the great Broadway musical and movie *The King and I*, has been beautifully treated by master vocal jazz arranger Kerry Marsh. In the story, the song conveys the agony and beauty of the hidden love between Tuptim and Lun Tha.

**Gilbert & Sullivan, arr. Paul Langford: Gilbert and Sullivan Medley**
The two men collaborated on fourteen comic operas between 1871 and 1896, of which *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *The Mikado* are among the best known. Gilbert wrote the words and Sullivan the music, and their self-deprecations, humor, and innovative departures from “real” opera have influenced musical theater ever since. Our epic medley serves as a vehicle to display some of their most memorable melodies and to give each of our fine singers a chance to shine as soloists.

—Program notes by Paul Langford
Chicago a cappella Outreach

Chicago a cappella’s Educational Outreach Programs strive to promote and improve the life-long performance, understanding and appreciation of a cappella vocal music through programming, mentorship and collaboration with schools and community organizations in Chicago and beyond.

Youth Choral Festival
The Youth Choral Festival is a day of workshops, rehearsals, discussions, and mentoring for area high school ensembles. The students work with Chicago a cappella’s artists, and the festival culminates in a concert featuring all the groups and Chicago a cappella.

¡Cantaré! Chicago
Now in its third year, ¡Cantaré! Chicago is an educational program that combines Mexican heritage with choral singing. Julio Morales, esteemed Mexican composer, will work throughout the school year with two high schools and two elementary schools in Chicago. Morales will compose new music for each school, and the four schools, along with our High School Apprentice ensemble and our Chicago a cappella singers will come together for a final performance on Friday, May 3, 2019.

¡Cantaré! Chicago is a partner program of VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

High School Apprenticeship Program
Our High School Apprenticeship Program gives students a full year of musical and administrative training and mentoring with Chicago a cappella’s singers, directors, board members, and arts administrators. Selected through a comprehensive audition process, nine talented and motivated students are serving as Chicago a cappella High School Apprentices in 2018-19, forming their own a cappella ensemble and gaining skills to further their musical ambitions.

Customized Outreach
Other programs, such as master classes, choral residencies, and youth concerts, are presented by artists from Chicago a cappella’s professional roster of singers and directors, and are customized for the specific needs of each organization.

Learn more at chicagoacappella.org/outreach
ABOUT CHICAGO A CAPPELLA

Founded in 1993 by artistic director Jonathan Miller, Chicago a cappella presents an annual series of concerts, performs on tour and in special engagements, creates recordings and broadcasts, and produces educational programs, all with an ensemble of the area's finest professional singers. The group is heard frequently on radio, including appearances on Performance Today and BBC's The Choir, and the ensemble's own syndicated special A Chanukah Celebration with Chicago a cappella. Chicago a cappella has recorded nine CDs, including releases on the Centaur, Cedille, and Gothic labels, and has commissioned new works from acclaimed composers including Chen Yi, Rollo Dilworth, Tania León, and Joseph Jennings. The ensemble has performed on tour in 13 American states and in Mexico and has made appearances at The Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Humanities Festival, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Staff

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**BIOGRAPHIES**

Baritone **Carl Frank** received praise for his “compelling,” “spirited” and “charming” performances of a wide range of repertoire spanning opera and oratorio. Mr. Frank has appeared with the Florentine Opera Company and Arbor Opera Theater, and been a featured soloist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Elgin Symphony, the Community Chorus of Detroit, and the Lakeview Symphony. Favorite operatic roles include: Count Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Doncairo (*Carmen*), Sid (*Albert Herring*), Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), John Brooke (*Little Women*), and Gianni Schicchi (*Gianni Schicchi*). Also an active ensemble singer, Mr. Frank performs with Chicago *a cappella*, Music of the Baroque, Bach Collegium-Ft. Wayne, The William Ferris Chorale, Bella Voce, Schola Antiqua of Chicago, and Musik Ekklesia. Mr. Frank received his Master’s degree from the University of Michigan and his Bachelor’s degree from DePauw University. He currently resides in Chicago with his wife, mezzo-soprano, Lindsey Adams and their dog Fiona.
Tenor Ace Gangoso is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas. He has been a Chicagoan since 2010 and currently resides in the Lakeview neighborhood. Ace joined Chicago *a cappella* in early 2014, and is honored to be a part of the group's 25th Anniversary season. In 2017, he became the Program Director for the High School Apprenticeship, a unique program within Chicago *a cappella*’s rich Educational Outreach offerings. Ace also adds his voice to the tenor sections of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and Grant Park Chorus. He is the Director of Music Ministry at St. Nicholas Parish in Evanston, and serves as the staff pianist for the Chicago Black Catholics Choir. Additionally, Ace is a private voice instructor at Highland Park High School. Ace holds Bachelor’s Degrees in Music Education and Voice Performance from the University of Central Arkansas, and a Master’s Degree in Voice Performance from Northwestern University. He is a proud alumni member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the world’s oldest and largest fraternal society in music.

Tenor Garrett Johannsen is proud to be singing in his eighth season with Chicago *a cappella!* He is originally from Schiller Park, Illinois and now resides in Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood. His career performance highlights include multiple international tours with Chamber Opera Chicago performing Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*, *Carmina Burana* at Carnegie Hall with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and being a featured singer in a Nederlander Centennial medley performance for one of Broadway in Chicago’s Summer Concerts at Jay Pritzker Pavilion. He has performed with the Lyric Opera, Chicago Symphony and Grant Park Choruses as well as chamber choirs, Bella Voce and The William Ferris Chorale. Next, you can catch Garrett in the chorus of Jake Heggie’s *Moby-Dick* with Chicago Opera Theater. Garrett is a member of the Actors’ Equity Association and the American Guild of Musical Artists. Follow Garrett at www.garrettjohannsen.com

From the stages of Chicago’s Pritzker Pavilion and Chicago Shakespeare Theater to Frank Lloyd Wright’s concert hall at Taliesien East, soprano and guest programmer Kathryn Kamp has created a career spanning oratorio, opera, operetta and musical theater. She has appeared as a soloist with orchestras throughout the Midwest including the Peninsula Music Festival, Grant Park Music Festival, and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Concert appearances include works by Bach, Brahms, Haydn, Mozart, Corigliano, Poulenc and Tippett, among others. Favorite roles include G & S’s Mabel and Yum-Yum; Sondheim’s Anne Egerman and Mrs. Segstrom (A Little Night Music); Kathie (The Student Prince); Fresquita (Carmen); and Despina (Cosi fan tutte). Kathryn’s first concert with Chicago *a cappella* was in 2003. She served as Guest Programmer for A Night at The Opera (2017) and Silver Bells (2018). Reading, cooking, and bicycle touring are among Kathryn’s favorite ways to spend free time, and she can’t imagine her life without a regular yoga practice.

Since joining Chicago *a cappella*’s roster in 2011, baritone Joe Labozetta has taken great pleasure in singing with such esteemed colleagues. A career ensemble musician, he also has an instrumental background. Although perfectly content at a keyboard or holding a guitar or bass, small-ensemble choral music is
what Joe most enjoys. Beginning as a boy soprano with the Grammy-recognized Ragazzi Boys’ Chorus in northern California, he has continued to pursue every choral niche, no matter how obscure or exotic. Some of his stylistic interests are: vocal jazz, Renaissance polyphony, overtone-singing, vocal percussion, and traditional Georgian folksong. A graduate of DePaul University’s School of Music, Joe currently holds the position of Director of Music at St. Josaphat Church in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago. When not directing church choirs or ensembles, composing hymnody, or flailing away on the pipe organ, he regularly sings with Chicago-based performing ensembles. He has appeared with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Grant Park Chorus, Bella Voce, William Ferris Chorale, Ensemble Alioni, The Rookery, and Schola Antiqua.

Woo Chan (Chaz) Lee, bass, is a Korea-born and US-educated bass-baritone. He is a proud resident of Hyde Park, where he is also pursuing a graduate degree in Music History at the University of Chicago. When not enjoying a pint with friends or strolling around Promontory Point with Chloe, he splits his time between writing, teaching, organizing for his graduate employee union (#YesGSU), and singing with various ensembles in the Chicago area.

Soprano Kristin Lelm received her Masters of Music Degree in Vocal Performance at DePaul University. She currently is a tenured member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and has also performed with the Grant Park Chorus, Ravinia Music Festival, events such Ronald McDonald House Charities, TCW Magazine Foundation, LOFT Recital series, both in Chicago and Minneapolis. She makes her third appearance with Chicago a cappella. Kristin has been a featured soprano soloist for Peoria’s “Sing-It-Yourself Messiah,” Peoria’s Annual Bach Festival, Peoria Municipal Band, and with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra. She has recently been known to sing as “The Lady in White” for John Phillip Sousa based concerts, which has led her to sing with the Danish military brass band Slesvigske Musikkorps, and the Queen’s Royal Guard Band, Den Kongelige Livgarde, in Denmark.

Soprano Cari Plachy is a highly respected singer in Chicago. She has been seen throughout the Midwest with Opera for the Young, DuPage Opera Theater, Light Opera Works, and Bowen Park Opera. Favorite roles include Mabel (Pirates of Penzance), Yum-Yum (The Mikado), Gretel (Hansel and Gretel), and Rosina (The Barber of Seville). She is proud to be kicking off her 12th season with Chicago a cappella and 15th season with the Chicago Symphony Chorus. She was a featured soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s Beyond the Score Concert Things Our Fathers Loved and as Ancilla in Bach’s St. John Passion. The Chicago Sun-Times described her solo in Bruckner’s Psalm 150 with the CSO as “sparkling.” Cari received her Bachelor’s degree in music education from DePaul University. Since then, she has been working with the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, bringing music to children all over Chicago. In addition to her work in Chicago, Cari runs a home studio teaching Musikgarten classes to babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.
Sarah Ponder, mezzo-soprano enjoys a busy career as a soloist and ensemble singer in Chicago, performing in genres from opera and oratorio to contemporary and a cappella. Hailed as “Deeply expressive” (Chicago Sun Times) and a “first-class soloist” (Chicago Classical Review), some of Sarah’s recent favorite performances include a special concert of love songs with Bella Voce Camerata, starring as Julia Child in Lee Hoiby’s one-woman opera, Bon Appétit! and a rousing trio rendition of “Row, Row Your Boat” with Yo-Yo Ma at Children’s Memorial Hospital as part of her work with the Citizen Musician Initiative. Through her outreach at Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Sarah has also “beguilingly” (Chicago Tribune) performed several solo concerts with famed Maestro Riccardo Muti at the piano. A passionate educator, Sarah holds a teaching position at Loyola University and maintains a large private studio. She also recently finished recording a 4th season of works from Carnegie Hall’s Lullaby Project partnered with the CSO, assisting young mothers to create original lullabies.

Mezzo-soprano Emily Price is a graduate of Northwestern University and enjoys performing in opera, choral and musical theater productions. In addition to Chicago a cappella, she sings with the Lyric Opera, Grant Park Music Festival Chorus and Chicago Symphony Chorus. Internationally, she has performed in over 35 countries as a soloist with the Voices of Bahá at Carnegie Hall, RESPECT! The Original Cast Album, and a solo album entitled Songs of the Nightingale with the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Warsaw Philharmonic. Favorite theater productions include the premiere of RESPECT! A Musical Journey of Women (Cuillo Center/CCPA) and Rona in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Drury Lane Watertower). She can be heard on a number of recordings, including The Voices of Bahá at Carnegie Hall, RESPECT! The Original Cast Album, and a solo album entitled Songs of the Nightingale with the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Chicago singer, composer, arranger, orchestrator, conductor, and keyboard player Paul Langford has been creating a more musical world for over 25 years. His published works (Hal Leonard, Shawnee Press, Oxford University Press, Alfred Music) have been performed by The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicagoland Pops, West Michigan Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Voices of Liberty, GLAD, Willow Creek, multiple Disney parks, and many orchestras around the nation including the San Antonio, Charleston (SC), West Michigan, Ashland (OH), Pensacola, Grand Rapids, La Crosse (WI), Anderson (IN), Dubuque, Las Cruces (NM), Mobile, and Southwest Michigan Symphonies. Paul has been a vocal and piano guest artist in studio and live performance with headline and Grammy Award-winning artists David Foster, Yolanda Adams, Kenny Rogers, Heather Headley, Abraham Laboriel, Michael Bublé, Josh Groban, and Celine Dion, and he’s been honored to perform for Presidents Bush and Clinton and First Lady Michelle Obama. As owner and creative director of Paul Langford Studios, a state-of-the-art Chicagoland recording facility, Paul produces, engineers, composes, and plays for a variety of leading artists, corporate clients, and television/film projects. On the road, Paul is an in-demand music educator, guest conductor, respected band and vocal.
ensemble leader, and invited singer with orchestras and a cappella groups across America and around the globe. For more information, visit www.paullangfordmusic.com and www.penningandlangford.com.

Jonathan Miller has been the leader of Chicago a cappella’s artistic team since he founded the group in 1993. He is the group's original low bass and music director. His work with CAC has been recognized with Chorus America’s Louis Botto Award for Innovative Action and Entrepreneurial Zeal. Jonathan’s international program research has resulted in several went to Mexico in 2014 on a MacArthur International Connections exchange grant for program research that has led to several concerts by Chicago a cappella, including next season’s Fiesta Coral Mexicana. In 2017 he did original research in Poland for CAC’s Polish Splendor program and served as faculty for the China (Qiandongnan) International Folk Song Choral Festival and IFMC World Voices Conference in Kaili, China. A passionate communicator about the power of choral music, Jonathan is also Artistic Director & CEO of the Sounds Good Choir (formerly Encore Illinois), which provides choral-music education and performance opportunities to older adults age 55 and up. He directs five daytime Sounds Good Choirs and manages the organization, which currently serves roughly 400 singers in 7 non-auditioned choirs throughout the city and suburbs. As part of the Sounds Good organization, Jonathan and his wife Sandy also lead the Good Memories Choir, a new program for people with early-stage memory loss and their care partners, singing together. Good Memories has been featured recently in the Washington Post and on NBC Nightly News. Jon got his start in choral music with ten years in the Chicago Children’s Choir in Hyde Park. After studying mathematics at the University of Chicago, he earned his doctorate in historical musicology at UNC-Chapel Hill. He started composing choral music in 1998; his works have been sung at major American venues including St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Pentagon. His ongoing series of Wacky Christmas Carols continues to mix words and tunes in new combinations. A leader in Jewish choral music, Jon manages the Max Janowski catalogue, serves as high-holiday cantor at Congregation Rodfei Zedek in Hyde Park, and is part of the davening team at West Suburban Temple Har Zion in River Forest. A former board member of Chorus America, Jon is an enthusiastic auctioneer for charity events. He enjoys travel, cooking, and learning new languages and is crazy about his wife, family, friends, and dogs.

A founding ensemble member of Chicago a cappella, Matt Greenberg has led the organization as Executive Director since 1995. Under his leadership, Chicago a cappella has grown from a founder-based startup to a well-recognized and highly-respected arts organization with broad community support, robust educational outreach programs, a loyal audience base, a strategic plan, and a solid infrastructure. He is a champion of consistent branding and a high level of professionalism in all areas of operations, and he has guided Chicago a cappella to be regarded as a leader among organizations in the Chicago choral community. Among his key accomplishments include successful gala fundraisers, the establishment of two cash reserves, a multi-year pledge program, and marketing campaigns which increased the ensemble’s subscription base and overall audiences. Matt has led workshops for Chorus America and the Arts and Business Council of Chicago and has served as a panelist for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs granting
Soprano Megan Bell is performing with the St. Charles Singers on their April performances of “Victorian Flourish” in Wheaton and St Charles, IL. stcharlessingers.com

In addition to his conducting and worship leading at First Congregational Church of LaGrange, bass-baritone Ryan Cox will be performing songs by Gerald Rizzer and Douglas Fisk with the Chicago Ensemble on its “Discover America” concert series. thechicagoensemble.org

Soprano Katelyn Lee is touring throughout the Midwest with Opera for the Young in April. She recently began rehearsing with Music of the Baroque for an upcoming concert. This summer, she will sing with the Grant Park Festival Chorus.

Tenor Trevor Mitchell has a busy spring with the following performances as tenor soloist: Orff’s Carmina Burana on April 6, Haydn’s Missa Sancti Bernardi of Offida (Heiligmesse) on April 21, and Telemann’s Ich weiss, dass mein Erlöser lebt, on May 4 and 5.
Chicago a cappella is a creative enterprise devoted to furthering the art of singing together without instruments. Founded in 1993, our classical vocal ensemble of professional singers moves the heart and spirit with fun, innovative concerts. Through our Chicago-area subscription series, guest appearances both locally and on tour, CD recordings and broadcast appearances, and educational and community outreach programming, we strive to enrich lives through music.

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Make a gift today! Ticket sales cover only a portion of our costs. In fact, as a nonprofit organization, our single largest source of revenue is the generosity of individual donors like you! Your tax-deductible gift supports our educational and artistic work and allows it to thrive and grow. Join our family of supporters by donating in the lobby, or online at chicagoacappella.org/support.

VOLUNTEER
Give the gift of time and talent! We often seek volunteers for office work and events, as well as for specialized skills such as music librarian, photography and videography, and more. To receive periodic emails about volunteer opportunities, contact at info@chicagoacappella.org.

BOARD SERVICE
Our Board members are passionate individuals committed to guiding Chicago a cappella to its next stage of success. Each brings a unique skill, professional expertise, and personal and professional network, and all are deeply supportive of our mission. To learn more contact Matt Greenberg at mgreenberg@chicagoacappella.org.

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You can help ensure the ongoing success of our musical and educational programs by including Chicago a cappella as part of your estate plan. Your commitment provides an opportunity for continued financial support without a current cost. Including Chicago a cappella in your estate planning can be done through any number of vehicles, including bequests, retirement plans, and life insurance. For more information contact Matt Greenberg at (773) 281-7820 or visit chicagoacappella.org/support.
We offer our deep gratitude to our contributors who made gifts to the Chicago *a cappella* since January 1, 2018. We regret that we are unable to list the many thoughtful contributors who made gifts under $50. If this list contains an error, please accept our apologies and kindly let us know so that we may correct it.

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Auditions held May 19 and June 1, 2019
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Chicago a cappella High School Apprentices gain valuable skills to further their musical ambitions, including how to rehearse collaboratively, how to sing at a high level in a small a cappella ensemble, and how such activities are supported behind the scenes by a nonprofit organization.

The apprentices meet regularly and rehearse as an ensemble, attend Chicago a cappella rehearsals, receive mentorship from staff members and other professionals, and assist at Chicago a cappella concerts.

To reserve an audition spot or to get more information, contact Ace Gangoso at agangoso@chicagoacappella.org or visit chicagoacappella.org/outreach.

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