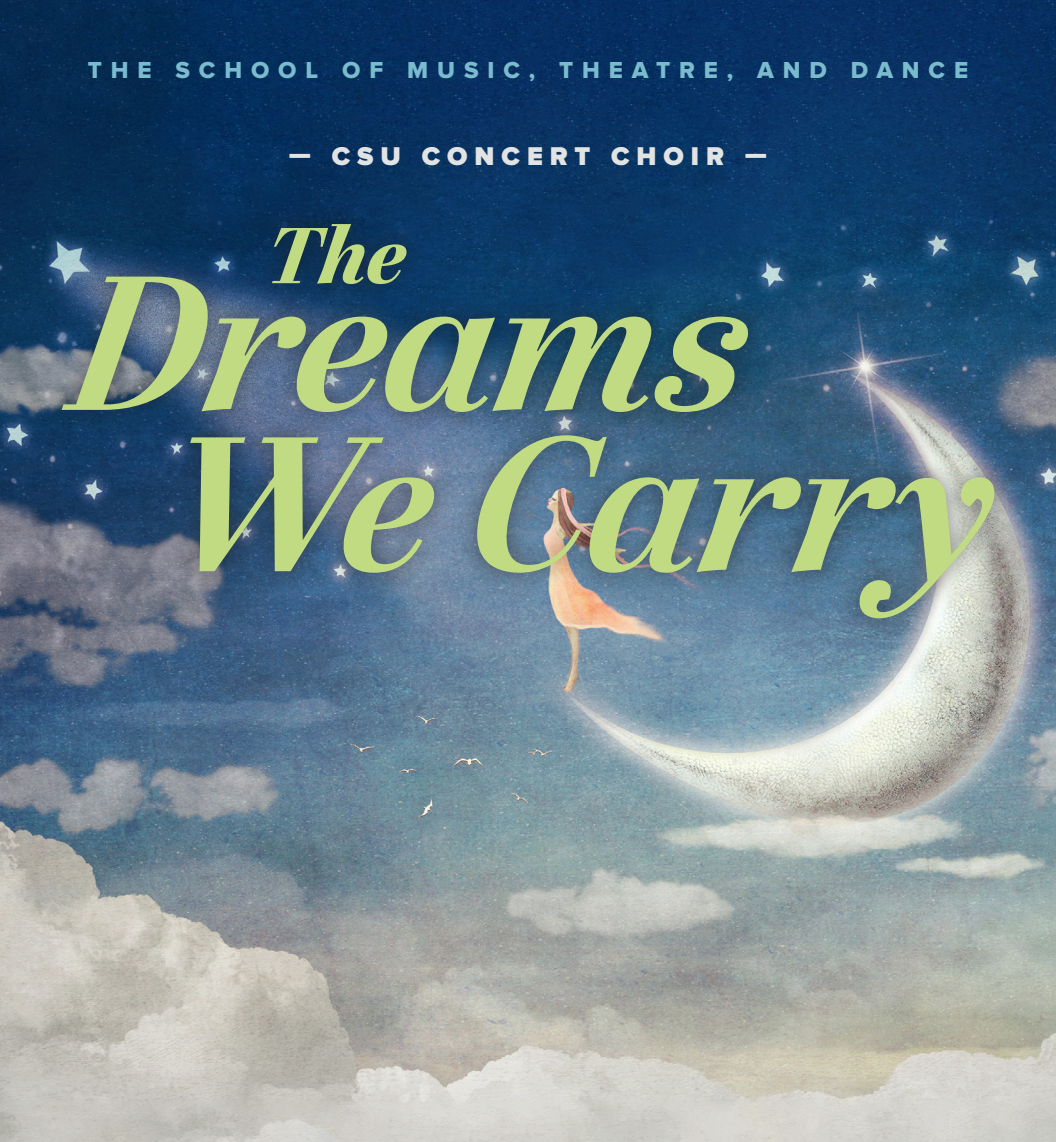


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— CSU CONCERT CHOIR —



The Dreams We Carry

DR. NATHAN PAYANT, CONDUCTOR

DR. HSIN-HSUAN LIN, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

COLORADO MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2026

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 • 4 P.M. | ROCKY MOUNTAIN BALLROOM



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CSU CONCERT CHOIR

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THE DREAMS WE CARRY

Psalm 150 (from *Hallelu Yah: Three Psalms of Praise*)

Dan Forrest

Prayer

Morten Lauridsen

For You I Will Be An Island

Jennifer Lucy Cook

Elsa Baker, Hanna LeMay, Cecily Mash, Evany Miguel, Emma Rieger,
Alex Rood, Sophie Smith, Maya Sonnier, and Freya Underwood, *solī*

Regina coeli, KV 276

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–91)

Dr. Tiffany Blake, *soprano*
Dr. Nicole Asel, *mezzo-soprano*
Professor John Lindsey, *tenor*
Dr. Stuart Dameron, *bass*

The Dreams That Remain

Thomas LaVoy

1. Song of a Dream
2. In the Forest
3. Transience

Grace Before Sleep

Susan LaBarr

John the Revelator

arr. Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

Emma Rieger, Soren Gulsrud, Serena Flanigan, Hanna LeMay,
Mia Rasheed, and Cecily Mash, *soloists*



PERSONNEL

Soprano 1

Elsa Baker – Music Therapy
Elisabeth Beckerink – Social Work
Eliza Domingos – Musical Theatre
Kailey Kinney – Psychology & Sociology
Camden Krumholz – Environmental Engineering
Evany Miguel – Music Therapy
Eris Price – Music Therapy
Sophie Smith – Forest & Rangeland Stewardship
Maya Sonnier – English
Robin Wilson – Choral Music Education

Soprano 2

Grace Asiala – Choral Music Education
Sydney Boucher Robertson – Music Therapy
Jessie Dean – Political Science & Sociology
Chloe Iverson – Apparel Design & Production
Sydney Leiker – Business Administration
Hanna LeMay – Music Therapy
Emma Rieger – Psychology
Alex Rood – Ecosystem Science & Sustainability
Eli Roust – Music Therapy
Freya Underwood – Choral Music Education

Alto 1

Quinn Campbell – Civil Engineering
Natalie Della Giustina – Theatre Performance
Audrey Farrar – Choral Music Education
Annabella Juarez – Music Therapy
Sophia Marshall – Clinical Psychology
Louisa Mitchell – Choral Music Education
Taylor Morris – Choral Music Education
Malia Muller – Choral Music Education
Halley Peecher – Communication Studies
Mia Rasheed – Music Therapy
McKenna Selby – Human Development & Family Studies
Aurora Toland – Music Therapy
Sophia Winter – Psychology

Alto 2

Kennedy Ader – Musical Theatre
Serena Flanigan – Psychology & Spanish
Isabelle Howard – Biology
Laura Kohler – Piano Performance
Eleanor Lee – Economics
Cecily Mash – Vocal Performance & Music Composition
Faythe Payant – Biomedical Sciences: Anatomy & Physiology
Gemma Petrucci – Choral Music Education
Michaela Quinn - Biomedical Sciences: Anatomy & Physiology
Audrey Sarra – Early Childhood Education
Emma Simpkins – History

Tenor 1

Jake Fredericks – Pre-Construction Management
Hunter Luedtke – Instrumental Music Education
PJ Muhich – Psychology
Trevor Renfro – Environmental Horticulture

Tenor 2

Nathan Crane – Computer Science
Christopher Lopez Hernandez – Business Management
Benjamin Monroe – Exploratory Studies
Mateo Novoa – Instrumental Music Education
Grantland Rice – Mechanical Engineering
Samuel Wendt – Music BM

Bass 1

Devy Ballard – Computer Science
Jackson Carlson – Psychology
Soren Gulsrud – Political Science
David Klimiuk – Theatre Performance
David Reeder – Choral Music Education
Andrew Ressetar – Choral Music Education
Gabriel Weldon – Biology

Bass 2

Peter Koenig – Choral Music Education
Oliver Mueller – Biomedical Sciences: Anatomy & Physiology
Alex Strobel – Instrumental Music Education
SeungHyuk Yeom – MM Choral Conducting

Graduate Assistant

Carly Neumann – MM Choral Conducting

BIOGRAPHIES

CSU CONCERT CHOIR

CSU CONCERT CHOIR is a vibrant, auditioned ensemble of 60–70 undergraduate and graduate singers drawn from across the Colorado State University campus, who share a love of choral singing and a commitment to making music at a high artistic level. With students representing a wide range of academic majors—more than half from outside the School of Music—the choir reflects the diverse voices and perspectives of the CSU community.

The ensemble performs a wide variety of choral repertoire, from enduring choral masterworks to music by today's most compelling living composers. Concert Choir values community: building meaningful relationships, singing with purpose, and creating performances that resonate with both singers and audiences.

Concert Choir regularly performs in concert on campus in our beautiful Griffin Concert Hall, as well as in other Fort Collins and Northern Colorado venues. Members of the ensemble have toured nationally and internationally, with past destinations including New York City, Italy, Germany, Austria, and London—experiences that deepen musical growth while fostering lasting connections.

DR. NATHAN PAYANT is a devoted conductor, educator, and professional singer who strives to cultivate long-lasting connections with others through the choral arts. He has choral teaching and conducting experience at the middle school, high school, college, community, and professional levels. Nathan is an Assistant Professor of Practice at Colorado State University, where he directs the Concert Choir, teaches conducting, as well as music education and music therapy courses. He is also the Director of Music and Arts at First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins, leading the Sanctuary Choir, Church Orchestra, and Handbell Choir. Groups under his direction have toured nationally, as well as internationally, and have performed in world-famous venues such as Carnegie Hall and St. Peter's Basilica.

A dedicated advocate for choral music education, Nathan is involved in NAFME, CMEA, ACDA, and CoACDA, placing special emphasis on encouraging lifelong singing. He is frequently invited to present lectures and reading sessions at state conferences, as well as visit and clinic at local high schools throughout the Front Range in Colorado. He has served on the Colorado All-State Choir Board, the Vocal Music Council of CMEA, and the Colorado ACDA Council as the Treble Choir R&R Chair. He fully believes in promoting standards of the choral repertoire, as well as discovering and supporting newly composed works.

Nathan is also an active member of the professional choral community in Colorado. In addition to his work with *Laudamus Chamber Chorale*, he was a Co-Founder and Artistic Director of *Anima Chamber Ensemble*, as well as the Chorus Personnel Manager and singer in *Colorado Bach Ensemble*. He also has a passion for composing/arranging and has several choral arrangements published through Hal Leonard Publishing.

A native of South Dakota, Nathan is a proud alumnus of Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, where he earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree. He received his Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Colorado State University and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting and Literature from University of Colorado, Boulder. Outside of his professional responsibilities, Nathan enjoys coffee, traveling, and spending time with his beautiful wife, Natalie, and three daughters, Faythe, Ava, and Lilian.

DR. HSIN-HSUAN LIN, a Taiwanese-born collaborative pianist, whose work spans chamber music, opera, choral, and large ensemble repertoire. Known for her versatility and musical sensitivity, she has built a career performing with a wide range of instrumentalists and vocalists, including winds, strings, choirs, bands, and symphonies.

Her commitment to collaborative music began at an early age. At twelve, she became the pianist for the choir at the Pace Institute in Taiwan, where she first discovered the artistic depth and joy of making music with others. This formative experience shaped her musical path. During her undergraduate and graduate studies, she worked extensively as a collaborative pianist with colleagues across disciplines and served as choir pianist and rehearsal pianist for Verdi's *Falstaff* in collaboration with the voice faculty at Tunghai University.

Her performance career encompasses appearances at a wide range of national and international festivals, professional conferences, and educational gatherings. These include the 2023 International Clarinet Association Conference, the 56th International Horn Symposium, the National Flute Association, the Colorado Cello Intensive, Colorado Flute Fair, Castleman Quartet Program, Texas String Camp and Festival, Longhorn Music Camp, and University Interscholastic League contests throughout Texas, in addition to numerous regional competitions. Recent performance highlights include recitals by the *Lin and Chang Piano Duo*, which was invited for its first international appearance in Jeju, South Korea, in the summer of 2025. She has also appeared with the Fort Collins Symphony and collaborated in chamber settings with distinguished artists such as hornist Anneke Scott, clarinetist Alan Kay, and flutist Wenzel Fuchs. Since 2023, she has served with distinction as an adjudicator for the International Keyboard Odyssiad® & Festival.

Lin holds degrees in Piano Performance and Collaborative Piano from Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan, and The University of Texas at Austin, where she studied with Min-Hwa Chen, Gregory Allen, Anne Epperson, and Colette Valentine. During her graduate studies, she was awarded a full scholarship and appointed as a teaching assistant in collaborative piano. She is currently on the faculty of Colorado State University, where she serves as an Instructor of Collaborative Piano.

Praised by Opera News Online for her “...truly virtuoso performance....immaculate tone, good support and breath to spare.”, soprano, **DR. TIFFANY BLAKE**, received her D.M.A. in Vocal Performance with a minor in Opera Stage Direction from the Eastman School of Music, where she also earned her M.M. and was awarded the prestigious Performer’s Certificate.

Dr. Blake’s operatic roles include Desdemona in *Otello*, Marguerite in *Faust*, the title role in Carlisle Floyd’s *Susannah*, and Mercedes in *Carmen* among others. Solo engagements have included appearances with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Missouri Symphony Orchestra, and Opera Fort Collins. Dr. Blake has a special interest in song literature, and has given several recitals in Scotland, France, Salzburg, and across the U.S., appearances with Chicago’s Arts at Large and the Odyssey Chamber Music concert series in Columbia, Missouri, and a vocal chamber music recital with Salzburg International Chamber Music Concerts.

Students of Dr. Blake have been accepted at major conservatories and music programs across the United States, including the Eastman School of Music, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and the University of North Texas. She has served on the faculties of the University of Missouri-Columbia, Syracuse University, Alfred University, and Sonoma State University.

She currently serves as associate professor of voice and director of the Charles and Reta Ralph Opera Program at Colorado State University.

DR. NICOLE ASEL is a mezzo-soprano, educator, and passionate advocate for connection through music. She serves as Associate Professor of Voice at Colorado State University, where she teaches all things vocal—from technique and artistry to pedagogy and art song.

A finalist in the 2010 Rocky Mountain Regional Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions, Nicole’s performance career has taken her across the U.S. and abroad, from *Mahler’s Symphony No. 3* to Rufus Wainwright’s *Songs for Lulu*. Recent appearances include *Messiah*, Beethoven’s

Symphony No. 9, and Corigliano's *Fern Hill*. Her recording of Robert Livingston Aldridge's *LoveSongs* is available on all major streaming platforms.

Beyond the stage and classroom, Nicole champions new music—especially American opera and art song. She is currently developing *The Baby Book Project*, a filmed performance of Lauren Spavelko's *Baby Book*, a song cycle exploring early motherhood, in collaboration with Art Song Colorado. The short film premiered in October 2025 and is available for screening and viewings.

Whether mentoring young singers or exploring untold stories through music, Nicole brings care, curiosity, and advocacy to every facet of her musical life. Learn more at www.nicoleasel.net.

Having performed regularly with opera companies and orchestras in the United States and abroad, **JOHN LINDSEY** brings a thorough understanding of high-level musicianship, stagecraft, healthy and sustainable vocal technique, and professional singing experience to his students.

His scholarship and research focus on nonviolent communication, compassion, and trauma-sensitive pedagogy practices, offering students a safe and encouraging environment to develop resilience, insight, and self-awareness integrated with their vocal development. He has trained and worked as a meditation instructor, crisis counselor, and hospice volunteer, and holds multiple certifications in trauma-sensitive meditation and mindfulness.

He received a BM in Voice Performance from Colorado State University and an MM in Voice Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder and currently serves as Assistant Professor of Voice at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

DR. STUART DAMERON, a native of Denver, Colorado, is a regularly sought-after singer, conductor, director, clinician, vocal instructor, music educator, and performer. He is an active choral singer and soloist who has performed in over thirty concert solo engagements with distinguished choral ensembles throughout the state including the Vittoria Ensemble, Anima Chamber Ensemble, Colorado Bach Ensemble, and Fort Collins Opera.

He has performed over a dozen leading theatrical roles on the stage with Opera Fort Collins, CSU Opera Theater, Opera On Tap, and others, and has performed and toured with choirs around the world, including in England, South Korea, Germany and the Czech Republic. In

June of 2012 he participated in the inaugural performance of the Colorado Bach Ensemble and since then he has been a proud member and featured soloist.

Stuart is the Director of Worship at South Suburban Christian Church in Littleton, CO and previously served four years on the faculty of the Colorado State University School of Music. Prior to this he taught choral music in the public and private school systems of Colorado.

Stuart earned his Doctor of Music Arts in Choral Conducting with a Minor in Vocal Pedagogy from Louisiana State University, studying voice under Dr. Loraine Sims, and earned both his Bachelor's degree in Music Education and his Master's degree in Choral Conducting from Colorado State University, studying under Dr. James Kim and Prof. Cynthia Vaughn.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Psalm 150 (from *Hallelu Yah: Three Psalms of Praise*)

Dan Forrest

Hallelu Yah!

Praise Him in His sanctuary, Hallelu Yah!

Praise Him in His mighty heavens, Hallelu Yah!

Praise Him for His mighty deeds, Hallelu Yah!

Praise Him for His excellent greatness, Hallelu Yah!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, Hallelu Yah!

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet, Hallelu Yah!

Praise Him with the lute and the harp, Hallelu Yah!

Praise Him with the tambourine and dance, Hallelu Yah!

Praise Him with the strings and pipe, Hallelu Yah!

Praise Him with the sounding cymbals!

Oh, praise Him with the loud cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, Hallelu Yah!

—*Psalm 150*

Prayer

Morten Lauridsen

Echo of the clocktower, footstep

in the alleyway, sweep

of the wind sifting the leaves.

Jeweller of the spiderweb, connoisseur

of autumn's opulence, blade of lightning

harvesting the sky.

Keeper of the small gate, choreographer
of entrances and exits, midnight
whisper traveling the wires.

Seducer, healer, deity or thief,
I will see you soon enough—
in the shadow of the rainfall,

in the brief violet darkening a sunset—
but until then I pray watch over him
as a mountain guards its covert ore

and the harsh falcon its flightless young.

—Dana Gioia

For You I Will Be An Island

Jennifer Lucy Cook

For you I will be an island
A solo shelter
For you I will be an island
Miles away

For you I will be surrounded
With only water
For you I will be surrounded
By blue and gray

And when the coast is clear
Come let me know
Find me where love collides
With letting go

For you I will be uncharted
Except by starlight

For you I will be uncharted
Come what may

And when the coast is clear
Come let me know
Find me where love collides
With letting go
Now we divide to conquer
Only the waves for comfort

For you I will be an island
A solo shelter
For you, I will be an island
Miles away
Miles away

—Jennier Lucy Cook

Regina coeli, KV 276

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–91)

Latin:

Regina coeli, laetare, alleluia
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia

English:

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia
For He, whom you deserved to bear, alleluia
Is risen, as He said, alleluia
Pray to God for us, alleluia

—Ancient Christian Tradition, traced back to the 12th century

The Dreams That Remain

Thomas LaVoy

1. Song of a Dream

Once in the dream of a night I stood
Lone in the light of a magical wood,
Soul-deep in visions that poppy-like sprang;
And spirits of Truth were the birds that sang,
And spirits of Love were the stars that glowed,
And spirits of Peace were the streams that flowed
In that magical wood in the land of sleep.

Lone in the light of that magical grove,
I felt the stars of the spirits of Love
Gather and gleam round my delicate youth,
And I heard the song of the spirits of Truth;
To quench my longing I bent me low
By the streams of the spirits of Peace that flow
In that magical wood in the land of sleep.

2. In the Forest

Here, O my heart, let us burn the dear dreams that are dead,
Here in this wood let us fashion a funeral pyre
Of fallen white petals and leaves that are mellow and red,
Here let us burn them in noon's flaming torches of fire.

We are weary, my heart, we are weary, so long have we borne
The heavy loved burden of dreams that are dead, let us rest,
Let us scatter their ashes away, for a while let us mourn;
We will rest, O my heart, till the shadows are gray in the west.

But soon we must rise, O my heart, we must wander again
Into the war of the world and the strife of the throng;
Let us rise, O my heart, let us gather the dreams that remain,
We will conquer the sorrow of life with the sorrow of song.

3. Transience

Nay, do not grieve tho' life be full of sadness,
Dawn will not veil her splendor for your grief,
Nor spring deny their bright, appointed beauty
To lotus blossom and Ashoka leaf.

Nay, do not pine, tho' life be dark with trouble,
Time will not pause or tarry on his way;
To-day that seems so long, so strange, so bitter,
Will soon be some forgotten yesterday.

Nay, do not weep; new hopes, new dreams, new faces,
The unspent joy of all the unborn years,
Will prove your heart a traitor to its sorrow,
And make your eyes unfaithful to their tears.

—Poetry by Indian poet, Sarojini Naidu (1879–1949)

Grace Before Sleep

Susan LaBarr

How can our minds and bodies be
Grateful enough that we have spent
Here in this generous room, we three,
This evening of content?
Each, one of us has walked through storm
And fled the wolves along the road;
But here the hearth is wide and warm,
And for this shelter and this light
Accept, O Lord, our thanks tonight.

—Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

John the Revelator

arr. Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

Oh, tell me who is that writin'?
John the Revelator!
Writin' in the book of seven seals!

Oh, tell me what is he writin'
'Bout the Revelation,
Writin' in the book of seven seals!

When John looked over Calvary's hill,
Heard a rumblin' like a chariot's wheel
Tell us John, what did you see?
I saw a beast rise from the sea!

Oh, tell me who is that writin'?
John the Revelator!
Writin' in the book of seven seals!

Oh, tell me what is he writin'
'Bout the Revelation,
Writin' in the book of seven seals!

Talk to us, John! What's the good news?
The crippled can walk, the dumb are singing the blues.
John in the graveyard, wha-da-ya see?
The dead (The dead) are dancin' all around me!

Tell us who is writin'?
Tell us what he's writin'?
Tell us who is writin'?
Tell us why he's writin'?
Tell us who is writin'?
Time for Revelation
And for Jubilation!
Tell what you're writin'
Read it to us, John!

Well, John, just tell it in your book

Well, John, just tell it in your precious book

Well, John, write it down for us in that book.

Well, John, write it down in that book of seven seals!

—Traditional Delta Gospel Blues

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