LSU Tiger Glee Club
LSU Women’s Chorale

An Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving

Trey Davis, conductor
Richard Blumenthal, collaborative pianist
Rev. Dr. Jane Youtz Riecke, Senior Pastor
University United Methodist Church
Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge

Tuesday, November 22, 2016 | 7:30 p.m. | University United Methodist Church

LOVE PURPLE. LIVE GOLD.

music.lsu.edu #lsumusic
OPENING PRAYER

Eternal Source, Creator of all: you alone are worthy of our praise. Even as we call you by different names, we acknowledge together our common faith that only you are God. Give us grace to celebrate the heritage we share as the children of your covenant with Abraham. Give us wisdom to hear your truth in the teachings of Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, and to live by love according to your commandments. Lead us, gracious and merciful God, to love you above all others, and in our daily lives, to love our neighbors as our own kin. All praise be yours now and forever. Amen.

Niloufer Mohamed, Islamic Center of Baton Rouge

El Yivneh Hagalil

Hebrew Folk Song, arr. Peter Sozio

God will build Galilee.
Blessed is the building of Galilee.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: We give thanks to God our Creator for all God’s gifts so freely given to us.
For the beauty and wonder of creation, in earth and sky and sea.
People: We bless you, O God.

Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of women and men, revealing the image of God,
People: We bless you, O God.

Leader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
People: We bless you, O God.

Leader: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
People: We bless you, O God.

Leader: For students, teachers, administrators, librarians, custodians, coaches, cooks and all who work to make this university a special place,
People: We bless you, O God.

Leader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
People: We bless you, O God. Holy One, you overwhelm us with your goodness.
We are blessed to be a blessing. For all your gracious gifts, help us to learn how to live thankfully each day. Amen.

Celia Strickler, Congregation B’Nai Israel Synagogue

Shoshone Love Song

Roger Emerson
(b. 1950)

Fair is the white star of twilight,
And the moon, roving to sky’s end.
But she is fairer,
More worth loving.
She, my heart’s friend.

Shoshone text
READING: Iroquois Prayer

We return thanks to our mother, the earth, which sustains us.
We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with waters.
We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicine for the cure of our diseases.
We return thanks to the corn, and to her sisters, the beans and the squashes, which give us life.
We return thanks to the wind, which moving the air has banished diseases.
We return thanks to the moon and the stars, which have given us their light when the sun was gone.
We return thanks to the sun, that he has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.
Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in whom is embodied all goodness, and who directs all things for the good of his children.

Art Adams, St. Algyius Catholic Church

Song of Peace

Vincent Persichetti

Eric Rubinstein, conductor (1915-1987)

Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumb’ring on the brink of woe;
Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.
Then He’ll call us home to Heaven, at His table we’ll sit down;
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

- George Atkin

READING: A Turkey Speaks

I have never understood
why anyone would
roast the turkey
and shuck the clams
and crisp the croutons
and shell the peas
and candy the sweets
and compote the cranberries
and bake the pies
and clear the table
and wash the dishes
and fall into bed
when they could sit back
and enjoy a hamburger.

- Anonymous

Zoey Young, LSU Women’s Chorale

Nukapianguaq

Inuit Chants, adapted by Stephen Hatfield

Pods - The Wakening World

Small Dog Tied to the Porch

War Chant

Justin Langford, soloist

Christopher Barbee, conductor
READING: Chippewa Prayer for Hope

We pray that someday an arrow will be broken, not in something or someone, but by each of humankind, to indicate peace, not violence. Someday, oneness with creation, rather than domination over creation, will be the goal to be respected. Someday fearlessness to love and make a difference will be experienced by all people. Then the eagle will carry our prayer for peace and love, and the people of the red, white, yellow, brown, and black communities can sit in the same circle together to communicate in love and experience the presence of the Great Mystery in their midst. Someday can be today for you and me. Amen.

Breona Leonard, LSU Women’s Chorale

HYMN: Give Thanks from Union Harmony

William Caldwell

69 Give Thanks

1. Give thanks for the corn and the wheat that are reaped, for the barns that are heaped, for the work of our hands, for our well-deserved rest, for our country.
2. Give thanks for the mills and the farms of our land, for the harvests that are done and for the strength in the seasons' plenty.
3. Give thanks for the homes that with kindness are blessed, for the families that are happy, for the children that are cherished, for the joy that is shared, for the love that is given.

When I Was the Forest

Daniel Brewbaker (b. 1951)

When I was the stream, when I was the forest, when I was still the field, when I was every hoof, foot, fin and wing, when I was the sky itself,

no one ever asked me did I have a purpose, no one ever wondered was there anything I might need, for there was nothing I could not love.
It was when I left all we once were that
the agony began, the fear and questions came,
and I wept, I wept. And tears
I had never known
before.

So I returned to the river, I returned to
the mountains. I asked for their hand in marriage again,
I begged—I begged to wed every object
and creature,

and when they accepted,
God was ever present in my arms.
And He did not say,
“Where have you
been?”

For then I knew my soul—every soul—
has always held
Him.
- Meister Eckhart (1260-1328), Translation by Daniel Ladinsky

READING: The Peace of Autumn
Today the peace of autumn pervades the world.
In the radiant noon, silent and motionless, the wide stillness rests like a tired bird.
Spread over the deserted fields to all horizons its wings of golden green.
Today the thin thread of the river flows without song, leaving no mark on its sandy banks.
The many distant villages bask in the sun with eyes closed in idle and languid slumber.
In the stillness I hear in every blade of grass,
In every speck of dust, in every part of my own body, in the visible and invisible worlds,
In the planets, the sun, and the stars, the joyous dance of the atoms through endless time.
- Rabindranath Tagore

The Peace of Wild Things
When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.
- Wendell Berry
COMMISSION AND BLESSING

May the blessing of God Almighty rest and remain upon all God’s people, of every race and language; may the Eternal One meet in mercy all who seek him; may God comfort with tenderness all who suffer and mourn; and may the Almighty One hasten the day of his coming and give us the blessing of God’s peace. Amen!

Rev. Dr. Jane Youtz Riecke, Senior Pastor, University United Methodist Church

POSTLUDE: Thou My Everlasting Portion

Thou my everlasting Portion,
More than friend or life to me,
All along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with Thee.

Barbara Baker

Kristen Gant and Alana Scott, soloists

Oh Master, let me walk with Thee.

WITH SPECIAL GRATITUDE towards Rev. Dr. Jane Youtz Riecke for her wisdom and guidance in crafting tonight’s service of Thanksgiving, Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade, Executive Director of the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, and each reader from our varied interfaith traditions this evening.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

LSU Combined Choirs and Symphony Orchestra:
Candlelight Concert
Saturday, December 3, 2016 - 7:30 p.m. - LSU Union Theater

TREY DAVIS is the Associate Director of Choral Studies at Louisiana State University where he conducts the LSU Women’s Chorale and the LSU Tiger Glee Club and teaches courses in graduate and undergraduate conducting and literature. Dr. Davis formerly served as Associate Director of Choral Activities at University of Wisconsin-Platteville and as Associate Conductor to the Dubuque Chorale. Active as a guest artist and vocalist, he frequently conducts All-Region and festival honor choirs throughout the nation. Recent research interests include the choral works of David Lang, for which he is the recipient of the Julius Herford Dissertation Prize for outstanding research in choral music. His writing has been described as “exceptional for its level of details, insight, contextual grasp and elegance.” Dr. Davis completed graduate studies in choral conducting at Texas Tech University and Westminster Choir College of Rider University. While at Westminster Choir College, he prepared choirs for performances with many of the leading symphony orchestras of the world, including the New York Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony. He holds a degree in music education from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

As a recent transplant to Baton Rouge, RICHARD BLUMENTHAL is a staff pianist for Louisiana State University. A native of Syracuse NY, he has meandered his way southward, first graduating SUNY Fredonia with a bachelor’s in both Piano Performance and Music Education with a string concentration, and more recently completing a master’s degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Georgia. In addition to frequent collaborative and accompanying work, Richard maintains interest in performing in other diverse settings. He also has served as rehearsal pianist or music director for other theatre productions, voice classes, choirs, and the Nickel City Opera Company.

PERSONNEL

LSU TIGER GLEE CLUB
Trey Davis, conductor
Richard Blumenthal, collaborative pianist
Christopher Barbee and Eric Rubinstein, graduate assistant conductors

TENOR I
*Chet Andrews, Homer, LA
Austin Breaux, Des Allemands
Corey Green, Ruston, LA
*Anthony Jones, Washington, DC
Benjamin Morgan, Baton Rouge, LA
Eric Rubinstein, Smithtown, NY

TENOR II
Joel Alvarez, Mandeville, LA
Dustin Gonzales, Spring Branch, TX
Erik Gudiel, Baton Rouge, LA
Justin Langford, Austin, TX
*Hunter Niemeier, Marietta, LA, President
Noah Smith, Baton Rouge, LA
Richard Williams, Shreveport, LA

BASS I
Samir Alem, Baton Rouge, LA
Christopher Barbee, Birmingham, AL
Michael Castle, Meridian, MS
James Ensminger, Baton Rouge, LA
John Galatas, Baton Rouge, LA
Joshua Griffin, Zachary, LA
Julius Kyakuwa, Kampala, Uganda
Seth Lanier, Sulphur, LA
Oliver Lear, Lafayette, LA
Chandler Poché, Baton Rouge, LA
Tarus Tolbert, Pineville, LA

BASS II
Carlos Casilla, Santo Domingo, D.R.
Jack Green, Lake Charles, LA
Mitchell Kerns, New Iberia, LA
*Trey Levy, Luling, LA
Daniel Loving, Hammond, LA
Drake Rankin, West Monroe, LA
Brian Ritter, Houston, TX
Malcolm Smoot, Cottonport, LA
André Trahan, Lafayette, LA

* Choir Council Member
ARTISTS

LSU WOMEN’S CHORALE
Trey Davis, conductor
Richard Blumenthal, collaborative pianist
Elizabeth Keene and Aubrey Nelson, graduate assistant conductors

SOPRANO I
Allison Breaux, Harvey, LA
Grace Ciaston, Fulshear, TX
Gailynn Collins, Schriever, LA
Meghan Dawson, Houma, LA
Jenna Grissom, West Memphis, AR
Elizabeth Keene, Katy, TX
Olivia Russell, Norco, LA
Rachel Songy, New Orleans, LA
*Molly Toups, Baton Rouge, LA
Lizzie Vukovics, Baton Rouge, LA

SOPRANO II
Reagan Boritzki, New Orleans, LA
Adrienne Falgout, Decatur, GA
Simone Giroir, Belle Rose, LA
Daeja Hall, Houston, TX
Alex Hebert, Jeanerette, LA
Taryn Hill, Monroe, LA
Courtney Kline, Lafayette, LA
Jennifer McGee,Burleson, TX
Mikeila McQueston, Peachtree City, GA
Anna Merkl, Lafayette, LA
*Emily Owen, New Orleans, LA
Leslie Pennison, Napoleonville, LA
Rachel Punkay, Baton Rouge, LA
*Ali Schreckengast, Raceland, LA
Savannah Scott, Davis, CA
Michelle Stutes, Prairievile, LA
Katie Vukovics, Baton Rouge, LA
Reign Washington, Dallas, TX
Madison Weber, Destrehan, LA

ALTO I
Kiersten Baker, Hahnville, LA
Julia Boudreaux, Abbeville, LA
Adriana Bourgeois, Shreveport, LA
Zoey Cuseo, Slidell, LA
Cierra Fountain, St. Francisville, LA
Hailey Guillot, Marksville, LA
Calla Harper, Mandeville, LA
Miranda Heath, New Orleans, LA
Alexandra Larsen, Centennial, CO
Breona Leonard, Riverside, CA
Aubrey Nelson, Asheville, NC
Rachel Stuckey, Baton Rouge, LA
Arreyah Whitlock, Gulfport, MS

ALTO II
Samantha Aldridge, Manchester, OH
Claire Barnes, Baton Rouge, LA
Jenelle Bisquera, Lafayette, LA
Mallory deLanzac, New Orleans, LA
Kat Ferrer, Houston, TX
Kristen Gant, New Orleans, LA
Summer Hayes, Baton Rouge, LA
Lylee Hess, Gonzales, LA
Caroline Jarvis, St. Francisville, LA
*Linda Riley, Lafayette, LA, President
Anna Safko, Pensacola, FL
Alana Scott, Zachary, LA
Catherine Sirgo, Covington, LA
Elaina Williams, Alexandria, LA
Zoey Young, Lake Charles, LA

* Choir Council Member