

UA LITTLE ROCK

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC

We Sing! A Celebration of Women's Heritage

March 14, 3pm

***Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
UA Little Rock***

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We Sing! A Celebration of Women's Heritage

UA Little Rock Women's Choir

Dr. Lorissa Mason, conductor

Leann Hatley, piano

Welcome: Dr. Johanna Lewis, Music Department Chair

“Song of the Women”.....Florence Kiper
Jade Keathley

One Voice.....Ruth Moody
UA Little Rock Women's Choir
Soloists: Reanna Jiles, Kenshayla Robinson, Carmen Ramirez

Speaker: Dr. Kristin Mann, UA Little Rock History Department

“Womanhood”.....Ariel Hudson
Ariel Hudson

Gestalt at 60.....Gwyneth Walker
Prof. Yslan Hicks, narrator
Dr. Linda Holzer, piano

The March of the Women.....Ethel Smyth (1858-1944)
Ed. Amelia Nagoski
UA Little Rock Women's Choir

One Voice (excerpt)

Hope Lingers On.....Lissa Schneckenburger
arr. Andrea Ramsey
UA Little Rock Women's Choir
Dr. Justin Bunting, percussion

Program Notes

***Song of the Women* and Florence Kiper**

Florence Kiper was an American poet and author who lived from 1885 to 1976. Her first published sonnet appeared in 1904, and she published a number of poems during World War I. She was a graduate of the University of Chicago. She married Judge Jerome Frank in 1914 and continued to write and publish her work through 1956. Florence Kiper wrote her poem, *Song of the Women*, in 1914, the same year the National Federation of Women's Clubs, which had over two million women members throughout the U.S., formally endorsed the suffrage campaign. The excerpt used here highlights the strength and vision of women as they continued to fight for equality.

- Program note by Dr. Lorissa Mason

***One Voice* and Ruth Moody**

Ruth Moody is an Australian-born, two time Juno Award winning singer-songwriter from Winnipeg, Canada. Founding and current member of the internationally renowned trio The Wailin' Jennys, she has performed in sold-out venues around the world, made numerous critically-acclaimed albums, and has appeared more than a dozen times on the popular American radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*. Although best known for her work with the Wailin' Jennys, Ruth is an artist of exceptional depth and grace in her own right. Critics have lauded her ethereal vocals, impressive multi-instrumentalism, and insightful songwriting. Written with a maturity and wisdom that belies her age, her songs are timeless, universal, and exquisitely crafted, all sung with an intimacy and honesty that is unmistakably hers. Her song, entitled *One Voice*, captures the spirit of women coming together to build each other up and influence the world around us.

- Program note from ruthmoody.com

“Womanhood” and Ariel Hudson

Ariel Hudson is a UA Little Rock student majoring in Music and studying Voice. She was born and raised in Meridian, Mississippi before moving to Little Rock, Arkansas, where she attended and graduated from Little Rock Central High School. In regard to the inspiration behind this poem, Ariel states: “I was inspired by my own journey into womanhood, learning who am as a person and as a woman.”

- Program note by Dr. Lorissa Mason

***Gestalt at 60* and Gwyneth Walker**

New England native Gwyneth Walker is well-known to audiences in Arkansas. She was commissioned by the Arkansas Symphony's Quapaw Quartet, as well as the Arkansas Chamber Singers under John Yarrington in the 1990s. Mariposa and friends performed two of her trios around the turn of the 21st century, and premiered two new trios and gave the world premiere of a duo for violin & piano in September 2016 at UA Little Rock with the composer in attendance. On today's program, we feature her piece for narrator and piano, *Gestalt at 60*. The setting of a poem by May Sarton is a reflection on the meaning of life and aging. *Gestalt* is a German word that means “unified whole.” In English we may think of it as looking at the whole of something, and realizing that all the components that go into creating the whole, bringing them together, “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

- Program note by Dr. Linda Holzer

March of the Women and Ethel Smyth

Ethel Smyth was an English composer and a member of the women's suffrage movement. She studied music and pursued it as a career despite the disapproval of her father. By the time she returned to England around 1890, she was composing large scale works. England was even more repressive to women as professional musicians than Europe and America, so Smyth found it easier to get her work performed further from home. Her opera, *Der Wald*, was the first opera composed by a woman to be performed at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and remained the only one for the next 113 years. In 1910, Smyth met British suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst. *Songs of the Sunrise* was written for the suffragettes in England, and "The March of the Women" is its final movement.

- Program note by Editor Amelia Nagoski

Andrea Ramsey

Dr. Andrea Ramsey enjoys an international presence as a composer, conductor, scholar and music educator. Before leaping into full time composing and guest conducting, Andrea held positions at The Ohio State University and the University of Colorado Boulder, respectively. An award-winning composer with approximately 100 works to date, she believes strongly in the creation of new music. A native of Arkansas, Andrea has experienced in her own life the power of music to provide a sense of community, better understanding of our humanity and rich opportunities for self-discovery.

- Program note from andreamramsey.com

Hope Lingers On

Hope Lingers On, originally performed by "Low Lily" and written by Lissa Schneckenburger is arranged here by Andrea Ramsey. The song carries a timely message of encouragement and perseverance for justice, equality, honor and love. This piece has become the signature piece for UA Little Rock Choirs during the 2020-21 school year.

Click [here](#) to view our fall video project with the full UA Little Rock Concert Choir performing this piece. The experience of putting this project together sparked some incredible conversations with this group of young people, and the singers became closer and developed a deeper understanding for each other as we continue our own journeys in today's world. I believe our experiences and the finished product in this video capture our university's outlook in the social and political environment we live in.

- Program note by Dr. Lorissa Mason

Personnel

UA Little Rock Women's Choir

Established in 2020, the UA Little Rock Women's Choir is a select choral ensemble that performs and celebrates choral repertoire for women's voices. Each of these singers became a member of the ensemble through audition. Members share an enthusiasm for new and challenging repertoire, along with a love for adventurous programming. The Women's Choir will join UA Little Rock's Concert Choir in June of 2022 for a performance of Poulenc's Gloria at Carnegie Hall, with Dr. Mason conducting.

Members

Chaney Callahan
Kyndal Collins
Ariel Hudson
Reanna Jiles
Jade Keathley

Mya Little
Yvonne Melendez
Carmen Ramirez
Kenshayla Robinson

Dr. Johanna Lewis

Johanna Miller Lewis is Professor of History, interim chair of the Music Department, and Associate Dean for Curriculum and Student Success in the College of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education. She has a book, *Artisans in the North Carolina Backcountry*, a documentary, "Time of Fear," and numerous articles and exhibits to her credit. She received UALR's 2002 Student Choice Faculty award, UALR's 2004 Faculty Excellence Award in Service, and the National Education Association's 2009 Ellison Onizuka Memorial Award. Dr. Lewis has been at UALR since 1991.

Dr. Kristin Mann

Kristin Dutcher Mann, a faculty member since January 2003, is a specialist in the history of Colonial Latin America and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. She currently serves as the coordinator for the department's social studies education program. Dr. Mann was honored for her outstanding work in the community with UA Little Rock's Faculty Excellence Award in Public Service in 2014. Her current research interests include Colonial Latin American borderlands; bells, music, religion and identity, mission music and dance; Arkansas politician and businessman Mifflin W. Gibbs, as well as relations between Arkansas and Mexico.

Professor Yslan Hicks

Prof. Yslan Hicks recently retired from the UA Little Rock Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, where she served most recently as department chair. As a theatrical costume designer and educator, she has worked throughout the United States. She is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829.

Dr. Linda Holzer

Pianist Dr. Linda Holzer is a professor of music at UA Little Rock. An active soloist and chamber musician, she has performed in 30 states, as well as abroad in Europe, Asia, and Canada. This is her 27th year on the Music Department faculty at UA Little Rock.

Leann Hatley

Leann Hatley has been a collaborative pianist at the University of Arkansas Little Rock since 2007. She also serves as accompanist for The Arkansas Repertory Theater Education musical theater classes and plays for kids during the summer at Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts WAMA summer camps. Ms. Hatley enjoys performing as a soprano singer and soloist, singing with various ensembles including The Arkansas Chamber Singers.

Dr. Lorissa Mason

Dr. Lorissa Mason is the current Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Department Chair at the University of Arkansas Little Rock. During her conducting career, she has conducted in workshops and performances throughout the United States and in Italy. Dr. Mason will make her Carnegie Hall debut in June, 2022, conducting Poulenc's *Gloria*, with UA Little Rock Choirs and additional singers from around the United States.

Music Faculty

Dr. Justin Bunting

Percussion,
Music Theory

Wai-Kay Carenbauer

Audio/Video Specialist,
Concert Hall Manager

Mary Alice Chambers

Woodwinds

Lisa Doss

Flute

Dr. John Garst

Voice

Dr. Ken Goff

Director of Bands

Dr. Rolf Groesbeck

Musicology,
Ethnomusicology

Dr. Naoki Hakutani

Piano

Leann Hatley

Collaborative Pianist

Meredith Hicks

Violin

Dr. Linda Holzer

Piano Studies and
Aural Skills

Diane Kesling

Voice

Dr. Johanna Lewis

Interim Department Chair

Dr. Lorissa Mason

Director of Choral Activities

Karen Palmer

Administrative Specialist

Tom Richeson

Jazz Studies and
Music History

Dr. Michael Underwood

Low Brass, Music Theory,
and Jazz Ensemble

Special Thanks to:

Dr. Justin Bunting

Wai-Kay Carenbauer

Dr. Ken Goff

Dr. Linda Holzer

Karen Palmer

Dr. Michael Underwood

Peggy Harstvedt

UALR Diversity Council

Dr. Johanna Lewis

Associate Dean of Curriculum & Student Success and Interim Music Department Chair

Dr. Sarah Beth Estes

Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, Social Science, and Education.

Dr. Ann Bain

Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

Dr. Christina Drale

Chancellor

Texts

“Song of the Women” by Florence Kiper (excerpt)

This is the song of the women, sung to the marching feet,
Mothers and daughters of mothers out in the crowded street,
Yea, and the mothers of mothers, tired with the passing years –
This is the chant of the women and wise is he who hears.

We have visioned a distant vision that has lured us with its gleam,
And the marching lines and the tramping feet are hot on the trail of a dream.
We have visioned a social justice that shall know the end of might,
The weak and the poor and the thwarted we have seen in living light.

This is the song of the women, sung to the marching feet,
Mothers and daughters of mothers out in the crowded street,
Yea, and the mothers of mothers, tired with the passing years –
This is the chant of the women and wise is he who hears.

***One Voice* by Ruth Moody**

This is the sound of one voice
One spirit, one voice
The sound of one who makes a choice
This is the sound of one voice
This is the sound of voices two
The sound of me singing with you
Helping each other to make it through
This is the sound of voices two
This is the sound of voices three
Singing together in harmony
Surrendering to the mystery
This is the sound of voices three
This is the sound of all of us
Singing with love and the will to trust
Leave the rest behind it will turn to dust
This is the sound of all of us
This is the sound of one voice
One people, one voice
A song for every one of us
This is the sound of one voice
This is the sound of one voice

“Womanhood” by Ariel Hudson

Womanhood

This is something often misunderstood
How should a woman act?
How should a woman speak?
Am I to be quiet and not seen?

Womanhood

It comes in many categories
Learning to be bold yet meek
It's more than the eye may ever see
More like an allusion to me

Womanhood

Outspoken but calm
Not always right but
Make sure you're not wrong
Be sure you're pleasing to see
Please others
Then you can be happy

Womanhood

How am I supposed to be me?
When I have to
Fake the image that others see
Am I my own woman?
Or who you meant for me to be?

Womanhood

I take back my name
I take back my claim
I take back woman
And insert extraordinary
Extraordinary woman who
Triumphs her adversary

Womanhood

I am me
Unapologetically
I am woman

***Gestalt at 60* by Gwyneth Walker (poem by May Sarton)**

For ten years I have been rooted
in these hills,
The changing light on
landlocked lakes,
For ten years have called a
mountain, friend,
Have been nourished by plants,
still waters,
Trees in their seasons,
Have fought in this quiet place
For myself.

I can tell you that first winter
I heard the trees groan.
I heard the fierce lament
As if they were on the rack
under the wind.
I too have groaned here,
Wept the wild winter tears.
I can tell you that solitude
Is not all exaltation, inner peace
Where the soul breathes and
work can be done.
Solitude exposes the nerve,
Raises the ghosts.
The past, never at rest, flows
through it.

Who wakes in a house alone
Wakes to moments of panic.
(Will the roof fall in?
Shall I die today?)
Who wakes in a house alone
Wakes to inertia sometimes,
To fits of weeping for no reason.
Solitude swells the inner space
Like a balloon.
We are wafted hither and thither
On the air currents.
How to land it?

I worked out anguish in
a garden.
Without the flowers,
The shadow of trees on snow,
their punctuation,
I might not have survived.
I came here to create a world
As strong, renewable, fertile. As
the world of nature all
around me
Learned to clear myself as I
have cleared the pasture,

Learned to wait,
Learned that change is always in
the making
(Inner and outer) if one can
be patient,
Learned to trust myself.

The house is receptacle of a
hundred currents
Letters pour in,
Rumor of the human ocean,
never at rest,
Never still....
Sometimes it deafens and
numbs me.

I did not come here for society
In these years
When every meeting is collision,
The impact huge,
The reverberations slow to
die down.
Yet what I have done here
I have not done alone,
Inhabited by a rich past of lives,
Inhabited also by the great dead,
By music, poetry
Yeats, Valery stalk through
this house.
No day passes without a
visitation
Rilke, Mozart.
I am always a lover here,
Seized and shaken by love.

Lovers and friends
I come to you starved
For all you have to give,
Nourished by the food of
solitude,
A good instrument for all you
have to tell me,
For all I have to tell you.
We talk of first and last things,
Listen to music together,
Climb the long hill to the
cemetery
In autumn,
Take another road in spring
Toward newborn lambs,

No one comes to this house
Who is not changed.

I meet no one here who does not
change me.

How rich and long the hours
become,
How brief the years,
In this house of gathering,
This life about to enter its
seventh decade.

I live like a baby
Who bursts into laughter
As a sunbeam on the wall,
Or like a very old woman
Entranced by the prick of stars
Through the leaves.

And now, as the fruit gathers
All the riches of summer
Into its compact world,
I feel richer than ever before,
And breathe a larger air,

I am not ready to die,
But I am learning to trust death
As I have trusted life.
I am moving
Toward a new freedom
Born of detachment,
And a sweeter grace
Learning to let go.

I am not ready to die,
But as I approach sixty
I turn my face toward the sea.
I shall go where tides replace
time,
Where my world will open to a
far horizon.

Over the floating, never-still
flux and change.
I shall go with the changes,
I shall look far out over golden
grasses
And blue waters....

There are no farewells.

Praise God for His mercies,
For His austere demands,
For His light
And for His darkness.

***The March of the Women* by Ethel Smyth (verses 1, 3, 4)**

Shout, shout, up with your song!
Cry with the wing, for the dawn is breaking.
March, march, sing you along,
Wide blows our banner, and hope is waking.
Song with its story, dreams, with their glory,
Lo! They call, and glad is their word!
Loud and louder it swells,
Thunder of freedom, the voice of the Lord.

Comrades, ye who have dared.
First in the battle to strive and sorrow.
Scorned, spurned, nought have ye cared,
Raising your eyes to a wider morrow.
Ways that are weary, days that are dreary,
Toil and pain by faith ye have borne;
Hail, hail, victors ye stand.
Wearing the wreath that the brave have worn.

Life, strife, these two are one,
Nought can ye win but by faith and daring;
On, on that ye have done
But for the work of today preparing.
Firm in reliance, laugh at defiance,
Laugh in hope, for sure is the end.
March, march, many as one.
Shoulder to shoulder and friend to friend.

***Hope Lingers On* by Lissa Schneckenburger, arr. Andrea Ramsey**

My mother, when love is gone
My mother, when love is gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on
My father, when peace is gone
My father, when peace is gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on
I will not hate and I will not fear, in our darkest hour, hope lingers here
My sister, when equality's gone
My sister, when equality's gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on
My brother, with tolerance gone
My brother, with tolerance gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on
I will not hate and I will not fear, in our darkest hour, hope lingers here
My love, when honor is gone
My love, when honor is gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on
My country, when justice is gone
My country, when justice is gone, in our darkest hour, hope lingers on
I will not hate and I will fear, in our darkest hour, hope lingers here
I will not hate and I will fear, in our darkest hour, hope lingers here