



South America Tour 2026

Capital University Choir, Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.

Dr. Lynda R. Hasseler, conductor | Alexandre Marr, piano

The music of this concert is an invitation to seek – God, Light, Love, Joy – and the presence of the divine within and around us.

To be a seeker is to live with curiosity, humility, and courage. Seekers wonder. They question. They reach beyond what is familiar and known. They open themselves to discovery and tune their hearts to mystery. Their journeys are not defined by certainty, but by searching – by a longing to connect, to learn, to grow.

*We are often closer to God when we are asking questions
than when we think we have the answers.*
– Abraham Joshua Heschel

The compass artwork on our program mirrors both the inward and outward journey of seeking. It points toward our shared longing to find purpose and direction amid the uncertainties of our world. A timeless emblem of exploration, the compass embodies curiosity and courage – the will to chart new paths, to embrace new ideas, and to expand our hearts and minds. Its vividly colored needle reflects the beauty waiting to be discovered when we open ourselves to the search.

As you listen to the music that fills this space, may your heart be your compass, guiding you toward curiosity, healing, wonder, love, wisdom, meaning, understanding, light and the joy of sharing this time together.

What you seek is seeking you.
– Rumi

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.*
—Matthew 6:33



PROGRAM

to be selected from

Gloria

Athos Palma

Busca primero el reino de Dios

Karen Lafferty

Busca primero el reino de Dios

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Y su justicia perfecta,

And his righteousness,

Y lo demás añadido será.

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Alelú, Aleluya.

Allelu, Alleluja.

— *Matthew 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty*

I. Seeking God | *Buscando a Dios*

Sicut Cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

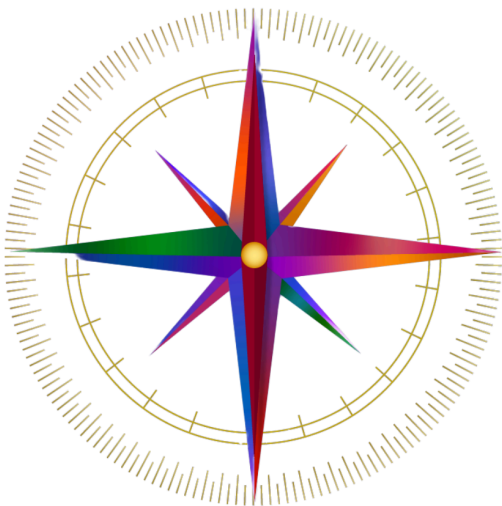
Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum:

As the hart yearns for the water springs:

Ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.

So longs my soul for thee, O God!

— *Psalm 42:1*



Cantemos al Amor de los Amores

Ignacio Busca de Sagastizábal

Arr. by Juan Pablo Rojas Saffie

Cantemos al amor de los amores,

Let's sing to the love of loves

Cantemos al Señor.

Let's sing to the Lord.

Dios está aquí.

God is here.

Venid a doradores,

Come worshipers,

Adoremos a Cristo Redentor.

Let's worship the Redeemer Christ.

Gloria a Cristo Jesús.

Glory to Christ Jesus

Cielos y tierra bendecid al Señor.

Heavens and earth bless the Lord.

Honor y gloria a Ti,

Honor and glory to you,

Al Rey de la Gloria.

King of glory.

Amor por siempre a Ti,

Love forever to you,

Dios del Amor.

God of love.

— *Restituto del Valle*

If With All Your Hearts

from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn

Beaux Baldwin, soloist

If with all your hearts ye truly seek me,

Ye shall ever surely find me;

Thus saith our God.

Oh! That I knew where I might find Him,

That I might come before His presence!

— *Jeremiah 29:13; Job 23:3*

Shema

No. 3 from *Sacred Place*
Alex Berko

*Gretchen Weber, John McClain,
Beaux Baldwin, soloists*

The earth says have a place,
Be what that place requires;
Hear the sound the birds imply
And see as deep as ridges
go behind each other.

The earth says every summer
Have a ranch that's minimum:
One tree, one well,
A landscape that proclaims a universe.
Sermon of the hills,
Hallelujah mountain,
Highway guided by the way
the world is tilted,
Reduplication of mirage,
Flat evening:
A kind of ritual for the wavering.

The earth says where you live
Wear the kind of color that your life is
And by listening
with the same bowed head that sings
Draw all things into one song,
Join the sparrow on the lawn,
And row that easy way,
The rage without
met by the wings within
That guide you anywhere the wind blows.
Listening, I think that's what the earth says.

—*William Stafford*



Mi Shebeirach

No. 4 from *Sacred Place*
Alex Berko

May the source of strength
Who blessed the ones before us
Help us find the courage
To make our lives a blessing
And let us say Amen

Bless those in need of healing
With *r'fuah sh'leimah*
The renewal of body,
The renewal of spirit.

—*Traditional Jewish Prayer*

God Is Love

Paolo Orlandi

Emi Hahn, soloist

Earth, with her ten thousand flow'rs,
Air, with all its beams and show'rs,
Heaven's infinite expanse,
Sea's resplendent countenance—
All around and all above
Bear this record: God is love.

Sounds among the vales and hills,
In the woods and by the rills,
Of the breeze and of the bird,
By the gentle murmur stirred—
Sacred songs, beneath, above,
Have one chorus: God is love.

All the hopes that sweetly start
From the fountain of the heart,
All the bliss that ever comes
To our earthly human homes,
All the voices from above
Sweetly whisper: God is love.

—*Thomas R. Taylor (1807-1835)*

II. Seeking Light | *Buscando la luz*

I Wonder As I Wander (excerpt)

Arr. by Kyle Pederson

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Savior had come for to die;
For poor orn'ry people like you and like I.

—*Kyle Pederson*

Olive Trees No. 1 from *Vincent's Sky*

Jake Runestad

Shine!
Pour down your warmth,
Great sun!
Shot gold, maroon and violet,
Dazzling silver, emerald, fawn,
The earth's whole amplitude
Consigned to colors;
Pure luminous color
Fighting the silent shadows
To the last.
Prepare my lengthening shadows,
Prepare my starry nights.

—*Walt Whitman*

The Sun Never Says

Dan Forrest

Even after all this time
The sun never says to the earth,
"You owe me."
Look what happens
With a love like that,
It lights the whole sky.

—*Daniel Ladinsky*



The Music of Stillness

Elaine Hagenberg

There will be rest,
And sure stars shining,
Rooftops crowned with snow,
A reign of rest,
Serene, forgetting.
The music of stillness,
Holy and low.
I will make this world of my devising,
I'll make this world out of a dream,
Lonely mind,
Dream in my mind.
Above me,
I shall find the crystal of peace,
And stars I shall find above me,
I shall find the music of stillness,
Holy and low.

—*Sara Teasdale*

Holding the Light

B.E. Boykin

Gather up whatever is glittering in the gutter,
Whatever has tumbled in the waves
Or fallen in flames out of the sky,
Holding the light.
For it's not only our hearts that are broken,
But the heart of the world as well.
Stitch it back together.

Make a place where the day
Speaks to the night
And the earth speaks to the sky.
Whether we created God
Or God created us.
It all comes down to this:
In our imperfect world
We are meant to repair
and stitch together what beauty there is,
Stitch it with compassion and wire.
See how everything we have made
Gathers the light inside itself and overflows?
A blessing.

—*Stuart Kestenbaum*

Radiance Untethered

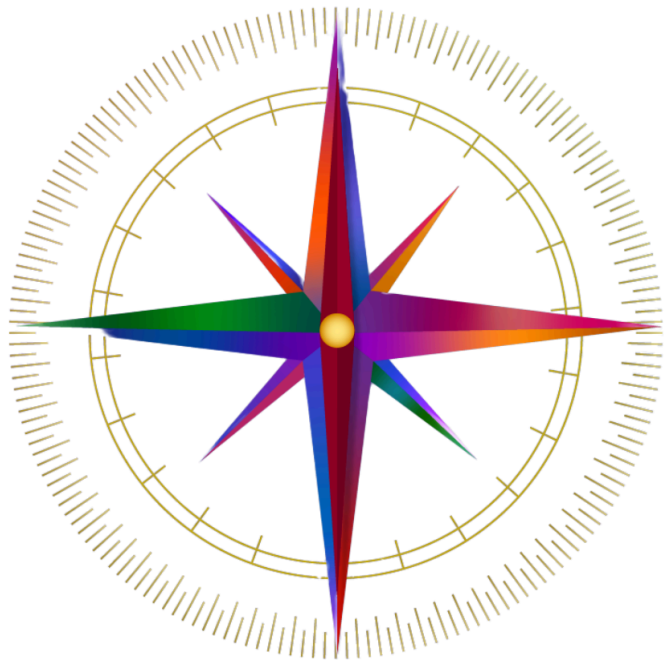
John Wykoff

Melissa Lawson; Emi Hahn, soloist

We are more
Than this world of love and music.
We are more
Than flesh and finitude.
We are more
Than space and time can compass,
More than mass and matter crude.

We are light, radiant, untethered.
We are spirit,
Here to feel the sun.
We are energy,
Focused for a moment,
Flesh and spirit briefly one.
We are merely travelers through infinity,
The earth an inn at the edge of forever.

—*Charles Anthony Silvestri*



III. Seeking Love | *Buscando amor*

What a Wonderful World (excerpt)

George David Weiss

Arr. by Craig Hella Johnson

I see skies of blue
And clouds of white,
Bright blessed day
And dark, sacred night;
And I think to myself,
“What a wonderful world.”

—Bob Thiele

Can't Help Falling in Love

George David Weiss, Hugo Peretti,
and Luigi Creatore Arr. by Kirby Shaw

Wise men say
Only fools rush in.
But I can't help falling in love with you.
Take my hand,
Take my whole life too.
For I can't help falling in love with you.

Tu sangre en la mía

Shawn Kirchner

Aquí está el pan,
Here are the bread and wine,
El vino, la mesa, la morada:
The table and the house:
El menester del hombre,
The needs of a man,
La mujer y la vida:
Of a woman, of life:
A este sitio corría
To this place, peace rushed in,
La paz vertiginosa,
Spinning round and round,
Por esta luza ardió,
To make this light,
La común quemadura.
A shared fire burned.

Honor a tus dos manos
Hail to your two hands
Que vuelan preparando
That fly, making
Los blancos resultados
The white creations
Del canto y la cocina,
Of kitchen and song,
Salve! La integridad
Hail! The virtue
De tus pies corredores,
Of your busy feet,
Viva! La bailarina
Long live the ballerina
Que baila con la escoba!
Who dances with her broom!

Aquellos bruscos ríos
Those rough rivers
Con aguas y amenazas,
with their currents and threats,
Aquel atormentado pabellón
Those tormented pavilions
De la espuma,
Of foam,
Aquellos incendiarios
Those hives

Panales y arrecifes,
And reefs aflame,
Son hoy este reposo
Today they are this respite
De tu sangre en la mía,
Of your blood in mine,
Este cauce estrellado
This path, star-strewn
Y azul como la noche
And blue as night
Esta simplicidad sin fin
This endless simplicity
De la ternura.
Of tenderness.

—Pablo Neruda

Amarraditos (excerpt)

Arr. by Ernesto Herrera

Vamos amarraditos los dos

We are wrapped together

Espumas y terciopelo,

Foam and velvet,

Tu con un recrujir de almidón

You with a creak of starch

Y yo serio y altanero.

And I am serious and haughty.

La gente nos mira

People look at us

con envidia por la calle,

On the street with envy,

murmuran las vecinas,

The neighbors whisper

los amigos y el alcalde.

As do the mayor and our friends.

Dicen que no se estila ya más

They say neither my hairdo nor my barrette

ni tu peinetón ni mi pasador,

Are in style any longer,

dicen que no se estila ya más

They say they're not in style

ni mi medallón ni tu cinturón.

Not my locket nor your belt.

Yo sé que se estilan

I know that what's in style are

tus ojazos y mi orgullo,

Your big eyes and my pride,

cuando vas de mi brazo

When I leave your arms

por el sol y sin apuro.

For the sun and unhurried.

Nos espera nuestro cochero

Out coachman awaits us

frente a la iglesia mayor,

In front of the Great Church,

y a trotecito lento,

And at a measured pace,

recora candan,

We stroll the promenade,

tú saludas tocando el ala

You greet with a touch of the brim

de tu sombrero mejor;

Of your best hat,

y yo agito con donaire mi pañuelo.

While I gracefully wave my handkerchief.

No se estila,

It is not in style,

yo sé que no se estila,

I know that it's not in style

que te pongas para cenar

That you dress for dinner

jazmines en el ojal,

With jasmine flowers on the button,

Desde luego pa rece un juego,

It certainly seems a game,

pero no hay nada mejor

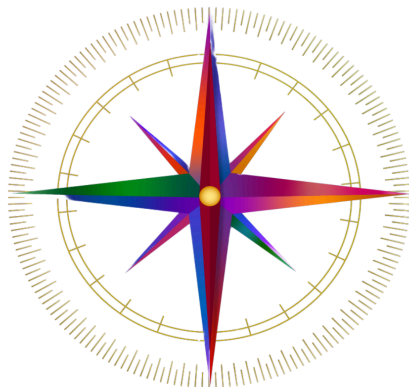
Yet there is nothing better

que ser un señor de aquellos

To be a lord of that which

que vieron mis abuelos.

My grandparents beheld.



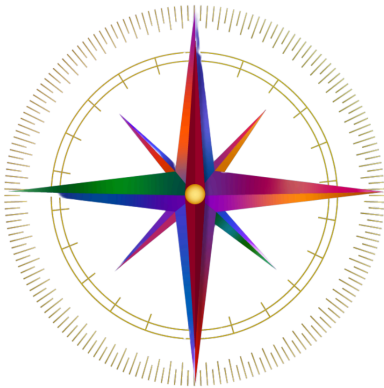
IV. Seeking Joy | *Buscando alegría*

It's the Climb (excerpt)

Jessi Alexander and Jon Mabe
Arr. by Jace Nguyen

The struggles I'm facing
The chances I'm taking.
Sometimes might knock me down,
but no, I'm not breaking.
I may not know it
But these are the moments,
That I'm gonna remember most,
Just gotta keep going.

There's always gonna be another mountain.
I'm always gonna wanna make it move.
Always gonna be an uphill battle
Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose.
Ain't about how fast I get there
Ain't about what's waiting on the other side.
It's the climb.



Take My Hand, Precious Lord

Thomas A. Dorsey
Arr. by Ed Lojeski

Precious Lord take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Thru the storm, Thru the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand Precious Lord
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear
Precious Lord linger near
When my life is almost gone.
Hear my cry, Lord hear my call,
Hold my hand, lest I fall.
Take my hand Precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is past and gone.
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, Lord, Hold my hand,
Take my hand Precious Lord,
Lead me home.

Ride On King Jesus

Moses Hogan

*Luke Bolyard, Jacob Jones,
Sam Owens, soloists*

Ride on, King Jesus,
Ride on, the conquering king.
Ride on, King Jesus,
No man can a-hinder thee.
He's the king, Lord of all.

Jesus is the first, and he's the last.
Jesus is the Lord, Lord of Lords.
Jesus is the Prince, Prince of peace.
No man can a-hinder thee.

— *Traditional Spiritual*

THE PERFORMERS

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY CHOIR

SOPRANO

Maya Carpenter
Haley Grilli
Emi Hahn
Melissa Lawson
Abigail Mayer
Baylee Richardson

ALTO

Sarah Bolyard
Kasey Burt
Mikayla Kinchen
Carissa Matson
Colleen Piccone
Andrea Rower
Brittney Russell
Jayden Steele
Gretchen Weber
Caitlin Witt

TENOR

Beaux Baldwin
Lucas Barnard
Oliver Belamy
Drew Hartley
Benny Iraheta
Rex Kohler
John McClain
Liam Paxton
Nathen Shea

BASS

Bryan Bolyard
Luke Bolyard
Jacob Jones
Isaac Lewis
Sam Owens
Henry Seifried
Drew Thomas



THE CONDUCTOR

LYNDA R. HASSELER, D.M.A., is a visionary educator and conductor with over three decades of experience shaping ensembles at the highest level. As Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Capital University, she has led the acclaimed Capital University Chapel Choir since 1990, guiding them to top honors in international competitions, performances at major national and regional conferences, and extensive tours. A sought-after guest conductor and clinician, Hasseler has conducted Festival and All-State choirs in Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Utah, New York, Georgia, South Dakota and California among others. She is recognized for her expertise in gesture-based rehearsal techniques, cultivating expressive choral tone and shaping deeply musical ensemble artistry. Hasseler collaborates with leading composers, including directing the premiere of Jake Runestad's *A Silence Haunts Me*, the ACDA Raymond W. Brock Commission, at the 2019 ACDA National Conference in Kansas City.

THE PIANIST

ALEXANDRE MARR enjoys a dynamic and multifaceted career as a solo pianist, music director, collaborator, artistic leader, and educator. Based in Northeast Ohio, he currently serves as Music Director for Congregation Mishkan Or and Church of the Western Reserve, Executive Artistic Director for both Music from The Western Reserve and the CWR Concert Series, Assistant Director of the Akron Symphony Chorus, and Owner/Founder of the Akron Music Institute, downtown Akron's premier school of music. In 2024, Alexandre was appointed Music Director and Pianist for four-time EMMY® and GRAMMY®-nominated musical satirist Randy Rainbow, leading both the 2024 and 2025 national tours.

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY CHAPEL CHOIR

Since its first appearance on Palm Sunday 1929, the Capital University Chapel Choir has upheld the rich Lutheran heritage of fine choral singing and enjoys national and international acclaim as a premier collegiate choral ensemble. The Chapel Choir is known for their performance of a broad and inclusive range of choral literature, flexible and expressive choral tone, and commitment to storytelling with song.

The Chapel Choir has been honored with invitations to perform for numerous state, regional, national and international conferences and conventions, including the American Choral Directors Association, the National Collegiate Choral Organization, the Ohio Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and for INTERKULTUR at the World Choir Games Competition held in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they won gold medals in the Mixed Choir and *Musica Sacra* competitions.

The choir's long-standing touring tradition has sent them around the world, leveraging the transformative power of music to connect people from diverse cultures including England, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, China, South Africa, Oman, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain. The Chapel Choir, along with the Choral Union, and composer Jake Runestad, was awarded the 2018 American Prize, Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music. The year 2019 was an especially exciting year for the choir. In February of 2019, the Chapel Choir was invited to perform the premiere of the Brock Commission *A Silence Haunts Me* by Jake Runestad at the ACDA National Conference in Kansas City. In March of 2019, the Chapel Choir performed under the direction of guest composer Eric Whitacre on Mees Hall stage in a Gala concert celebration of 100 Years of Music at Capital University.

On March 8, 2020, the Chapel Choir performed the Carnegie Hall premiere of *A Silence Haunts Me*, followed by a performance of *Dona Nobis Pacem* by Ralph Vaughan Williams with professional orchestra and featuring Capital University alumni as the soloists. In 2023, the choir performed for hundreds of people in multiple settings including the OMEA Professional Conference, ACDA National Conference, a Midwest Tour including Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, and Nebraska, and an International Concert Tour in Spain.

In 2025, the Chapel Choir joined forces with *ProMusica* Chamber Orchestra for a triumphant performance of Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang* and performed a premiere of Jake Runestad's *Vincent's Sky*, a deeply moving new work for band and choir inspired by the life and art of Vincent van Gogh. Continuing its longstanding touring tradition, in 2026 the Chapel Choir will embark on a concert tour to South America, adding a new continent to its global performance history.

Through collaborations and international outreach like these, the Chapel Choir continues to embody Capital University's commitment to artistic excellence, innovation, and the transformative power of choral music.

CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Creative minds find their home at the Conservatory of Music & School of Communication. We graduate composers, actors, artists, stage musicians, news anchors, directors, producers, and engineers, to name a few. Others become educators or pursue degrees at the nation's finest graduate schools. Students explore how the arts have developed – and where they're headed – via theory and thorough discussion. Enriched by its metropolitan location and Lutheran heritage, the Conservatory offers 17 undergraduate majors and emphases and a graduate music education degree. Throughout the year, the Conservatory sponsors nearly 200 concerts, recitals, workshops, and clinics, including annual events such as the Christmas Festival, Jazz and World Music Festival, and the NOW New Music Festival.

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY

Located in the Columbus, Ohio, neighborhood of Bexley, Capital University is a comprehensive, private four-year undergraduate institution and graduate school. Centered in contemporary Lutheran values, Capital offers undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professions. At Capital, we transform lives through higher education with an immersive, high impact and convergent approach to teaching and learning. The vibrancy of Capital University's music program is rooted in the balance between the academic rigor of our acclaimed Conservatory of Music and the numerous opportunities for study and performance by students from all academic disciplines.



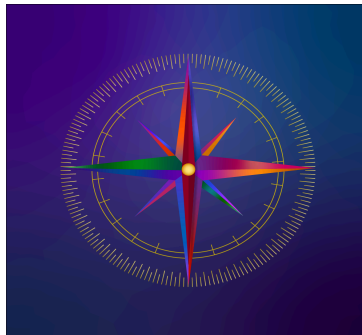
Our voices take Capital across the globe.

From Carnegie Hall to music halls in South Africa, the Capital University Chapel Choir's longstanding touring tradition has taken more than a collection of beautiful voices across the world. We have taken powerful messages of joy, hope, and positive social change to thousands of different people and places. And from the stories we continue to hear from people touched by the choir's performances, we know our impact infinitely resounds.

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South America Tour 2026 | Buscar y Cantar



Sunday, May 31 – 5:00 pm

Farewell Concert

Gloria Dei, Trinity Seminary

Friday, June 5 – 6:00 pm

Concert: Iglesia Evangelica Luterana el Redentor ILCH

Address: Lota 2330, Providencia, Región Metropolitana, Chile

Monday, June 8 – Time TBA

Concert: Basilica Nuestra Senora de la Merced

Address: 25 de Mayo, 83, Ciudad de Córdoba, Argentina

Tuesday, June 9 – 12:00 pm Argentina Standard Time

Informal Performance: Escuela de Niños Cantores de Córdoba

Tuesday, June 9 – 8:00 pm

Concert: Compania de Jesus Church

Address: Caseros 141, Ciudad de Córdoba, Córdoba, AR, 5000

Thursday, June 11 – 9:00 pm

Concert: Sisters Servants of the Sacred Heart Church

Iglesia Corazón Eucarístico de Jesús

Address: 1372 Montevideo, C1018ACD, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires