

Make We Joy! — Sac State Choirs Carol Concerts

Celebrate the season with the Sacramento State University Chorale and Choral Union! Enjoy an evening of beautiful choral music, traditional carols, and holiday favorites.

Sunday, December 6 & Sunday, December 13
7:00 PM | Capistrano Concert Hall

These popular concerts sell out, so purchase your tickets early through the Sacramento State School of Music!

Sac State Choirs Headed to Carnegie Hall!

The Sacramento State Choirs are headed to Carnegie Hall in New York City on Memorial Day, May 31, 2027! Our singers will join singers from across the country to perform *Alive Poems*, a major choral-orchestral work by composer Dr. Scott Perkins, Director of the Sac State School of Music. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will allow our students to perform on one of the world's most celebrated stages. We are seeking financial support to help make this experience possible for as many students as we can.

If you are interested in helping send our students to Carnegie Hall, please contact Dr. Brett Judson at brett.judson@csus.edu. He would be delighted to discuss ways you can support our students and help make this extraordinary experience a reality!

Sing with the Sacramento State Choirs!

The Sacramento State Choirs are more than performing ensembles—they are welcoming communities where singers develop their musicianship, build lasting friendships, and share their love of music.

We invite students, faculty, staff, and community members to join us! Whether you're an experienced choral singer or looking to return to singing, our ensembles offer opportunities for musical growth, meaningful collaboration, and memorable performances.

Interested in joining? We would be delighted to welcome you to a trial rehearsal so you can experience our choral community firsthand. For more information, contact Dr. Brett Judson, Director of Choral Activities, at brett.judson@csus.edu

Songs of Earth and Sky

Sacramento State Choirs

Dr. Brett Judson, director

with guests

Granite Bay HS Chamber Choir

Susanna Peebles, director

SUNDAY, 7:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 25, 2026
CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

Granite Bay High School Chamber Choir

Jonathan Dorman, piano

Light of a Clear Blue Morning Dolly Parton (1946-2026)
arr. by Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

Soloist: Suri Ernenputsch

A Mural of Change Timothy Takach (b. 1978)
words by Julia Klatt Singer (b.1963)

No Color Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)
and Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1962)

Choral Union

Aida Elkhazade, piano

Matona, mia cara Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)
Conductor: Rachel Ashlin (M.M. Student in Choral Conducting)

Contraponto bestiale alle mente Adriano Banchieri (1568-1634)

The Music of Stillness Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)
words by Sarah Teasdale (1184-1933)
Conductor: Rachel Ashlin

The Word Was God Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)
text: John 1:1-3

Let Everything That Hath Breath Jeffery L. Ames (b. 1969)
from various Psalm texts
Soloist: Morgan Short

Department Chair of the Performing Arts Department at Granite Bay. She was voted Granite Bay High School's Teacher of the Year in 2021-2022 and in that same year was honored as the CCDA Early Career Conductor of the Year. She was awarded the CMEA Capitol Section Choral Educator of the Year in 2022. Most recently, she was awarded the CMEA State Pearson/Scott Foresman/Silver Burdett Choral Educator Award in 2026. In addition to choir, Susanna has taught piano, guitar, and AP Music Theory. Susanna earned her B.A. in Vocal Music from UC Davis, and her M.M. in Music Education from University of the Pacific. Though she loves teaching music to students, she is most proud when they become better humans *through* music.

Dr. Brett Alan Judson is a conductor, organist, and educator whose work is embedded in the musical life of the Sacramento region. He serves as Director of Choral Activities at California State University, Sacramento, where he conducts the University Chorale and Choral Union and mentors graduate conducting students. Under his leadership, the University Chorale was invited to perform at the American Choral Directors Association Western Regional Conference Collegiate Consortium (2026) and has collaborated with Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera (2026).

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, the Yale School of Music, and The Hartt School (D.M.A., Edward Bolkovac), Dr. Judson brings a distinguished choral and organ pedigree to his work. His training includes study with Donald Neuen and Pamela Perry, and his experience includes assistant directorship with the New Haven Chorale, where he prepared Orff's *Carmina Burana* and conducted Handel's *Messiah*. At Sacramento State he has shared the podium for major works including Beethoven's *Mass in C* and Duruflé's *Requiem*.

As an organist, Dr. Judson has performed across the United States and internationally and has appeared on nationally broadcast programs including *Pipedreams!* and the *Hour of Power*. He serves as Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Folsom and remains active as a clinician and adjudicator in the Sacramento region. Beyond music, Brett enjoys weightlifting and tennis. Explore more at www.brettjudson.com.

Aida Elkhazade holds a master's degree, with distinction in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Baku Music Academy, Azerbaijan. Aida's first public performance as a solo pianist came when she was eleven, when she performed Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor with the Azerbaijan State Symphony Orchestra. She subsequently gave numerous solo and chamber concerts throughout Azerbaijan.

Aida is a prizewinner of piano competitions in Azerbaijan and was awarded certificates from the Institute of Eurasian Studies for the Best Interpretation of Russian Music. She has participated in masterclasses with Vladimir Viardo and Oxana Yablonskaya. After moving to the US in 2014, she successfully started her private piano studio in Sunnyvale, CA, and obtained her membership with the Music Teachers Association of California. Aida moved to Roseville, CA, in 2018 and relocated her music studio there, where she enjoys teaching piano to students of all ages and levels. Aida continues performing solo and collaborating with other musicians in the greater Sacramento area, performing at the Nevada County Composers Cooperative, FeNAM Local Voices, Saturday Club, and the Music at Noon series.

Jonathan Doram is a conductor, composer, writer, and accompanist living in Sacramento. He is the new Artistic Director of the Northern California Youth Chorus. He teaches piano lessons at his studio, Jonathan Doram Music Studio (jdoramstudio.com). His choral works are published through Hinshaw Music and Gentry Publications. In his free time, he likes to read fantasy, play tennis, and dodge the relentless attempts by his dog Ollie to lick his entire face.

Susanna Peebles is in her ninth year as the Vocal Music Director at Granite Bay High School teaching the Baritone, Treble, Concert, and Chamber Choirs as well as Musical Theatre. The award-winning Granite Bay Choirs have toured to Hawaii, New Orleans, New York, and Southern California for featured performances and festivals, consistently scoring gold ratings. Previously, she led award-winning choirs at McNair High School in Stockton where she taught for six years.

Susanna currently serves as one of the CCDA All-State Co-Chairs as well as Director of K12 Programs on the CCDA Board. She also serves as

University Chorale

Aida Elkhazade, piano

The American Road Shawn Okpebholo (b. 1981)

I. Prepare Me One Body traditional
Soloist: Ryan Fong

II. Little Cuckoo text and tune by Rhiannon Giddens
Soloist: Lillian Crain

III. He's Got the Whole World in His Hands traditional

IV. Left Foot, Peg Foot traditional

V. Shall We Gather at the River text: Robert Lowry
tune: Hanson Place

VI. Shine! Traditional
Soloist: Ryan Fong

Combined Choirs

Let the River Run Carly Simon (b. 1943)
arr. by Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

Percussionists: Jesse Barba, Ryan Fong, Mia Lorei Cortez

The Road Home Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)
text by Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

Soloist: Allisen Fong

View the texts online:

Granite Bay High School Chamber Choir

Theo Andersen	Gavin Leonhardt
Maya Bognot	Maddie Liu
Kirsten Daranouvong	Raphael Lubong
Joey DeFreece	Jocelyn Mays
Suri Ernenputsch	Kaylee Nguyen-Phuc
Cody Ferrara	Micah Okon
Miriam Frank	Abby Redmond
Maddy Homitz	Avery Rodriguez
Natalie Hoyt	Kasia Smith
Erik Humphress	Marleigh Tidiane
Addy Kim	Ethan Torres
Skyler Kim	Eva Trueblood

University Chorale**Sopranos**

Rachel Ashlin
Lilly Crain
Allisen Fong
Kahlan Gentry
Hsuan-Lin Liang
Rebecca Kong
Yiyuan (Annie) Wu
Saxon Webster

Altos

Emi Bravo
Sky Carlos
Ellie D'Elia
Jordan Powell
Thea de Sá Campos
Dennis Saenz
Ailani Stotts

Tenors

Brandon Bagley
Ryan Fong
Ivan Villalobos

Basses

Anthony De Lise
Miyon Grasso
Kyle Saly
Aryan Singh
Marcus Teixeira

Student Assistant

Lillian Crain

Graduate Assistant

Alissa Prince

Choral Union**Sopranos**

Rachel Ashlin
Flynn Blasco
Ayana Bonifacio
Faith Brittmon
Yana Cole
Susan Davis *
Belle Efkarpidis
Marya Endriga +
Nika Ivko
Molly Jesus
Kateryna Kachalova
Sofia Kappen
Rin Lee
Susan O'Connell *
Morgan Short
Thailani Sumner
Catherine Whitener
Mary Ann Wong +
Natalie Yurchak *

Altos

Danielle Assenza *
Jasmine Castillo
Diana Chaidez
Cecilia Contreras Vasquez
Jisel Corrales
Jocelyn Deppner
Keely Dorran *
Amelia Faress
Hailey Fernandes
Tayli Herrvun
Cassandra Lane
Kyla Matutat

Altos (cont.)

Anke Mueller-Solger *
Angelica Pascual
Deidre Sessoms +
Tinashe Stacey
Zanae Tarver
Andrea Terry +
Julie Torres *
Skyler Wie +
Pia Wong +
Rebecca Yurchak *

Tenors

Dayed Amituanai +
Armando Muse
Jorge Silva
Daniel Thomason

Basses

Gene Cha *
Pierre Crosby Jr.
Tim Erdenesaikhan
Justin Fontanilla
Jeremy Greene
Artur Kravchuk
Salvador Lopez
Skylar Manzanetti *
Kaung (Kevin) Naung
David Pshichenko *
Easton Serrano
Jacob Smith
Nicholas Ungurjans
Daniel Valadez
Jason Vang
Charles Wltermood *

* Community Member + Faculty Member

Texts and Translations

Choirs - October 25, 2026

Granite Bay High School

Light of the Clear Blue Morning – Dolly Parton

It's been a long dark night
And I've been a-waitin' for the morning
It's been a long hard fight
But I see a brand new day dawning
I've been looking for the sunshine
You know I ain't seen it in so long
But everything's gonna work out just fine
And everything's gonna be alright
That's been all wrong
'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Oh, and everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay
It's been a long, long time
Since I've known the taste of freedom
Those clinging vines
That had me bound, well, I don't need 'em
Oh, I've been like a captured eagle
You know, an eagle's born to fly
Now that I have won my freedom
Like an eagle, I am eager for the sky
'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Oh, and everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Oh, and everything's gonna be alright
Everything's gonna be alright
Everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay
But I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Oh, and everything's gonna be alright
Everything's gonna be alright
Everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay
'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning

I can see the light of brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be alright
Everything's gonna be alright
Everything's gonna be alright
It's gonna be okay

A Mural of Change – Timothy C. Takach

From the black and white
we pluck
burnt umber, raw sienna,
feel the blues
and the burning.

Stories have wings
the power to show us
what is
in pale pinks
succulent scarlets--
no longer abstractions--
what is
more pleasant than that?

Oh the outrage
to paint
what everyone
sees, what everyone
knows, but refuses
to speak.

Oh the joy
truth and respect
acceptance
and kindness
bring.

To be
the indigo of falling
rain, the ruby breast
of a robin,
to be colored
forever
by the world.

No Color – Stacey V. Gibbs

No color can come between us,
No shade to be thrown.
No tone be taken to demean us,
No hue of hate to be shown,
No color, no shade no tone;

Let me be transparent with you.

Whose history is whose?
Who's walking in whose shoes?
Who's making whose rules?
Who's learning in whose schools?
Whose history, whose shoes, whose rules?
Let me be transparent with you.

More love is our intention,
Stop-did we forget to mention that
We are more alike than we are different?
United we take a stand,
Ignited with hand in hand,
To build a band of harmony.
No time to wait, don't hesitate!

Within me there's a love so strong,
Within me there's a hope to belong,
Within me there's a fire to right all wrongs.
Within me there's a love to share,
Within me there's a need to care,
Within my heart is a risk to dare.

Choral Union

Matona, mia cara – Orlando di Lasso

Original Text	Translation
Matona, mia cara, Mi follere canzon, Matona, mia cara, Mi follere canzon, Cantar sotto finestra, Lantze buon compagnon. Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don, Ti prego m'ascoltare Che mi cantar de bon, E mi ti foller bene, Come, grecoe e ca pon. Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don, Comandar alle cacce, Cacciar con le falcon Mi ti portar becazze,	My dear lady, hear my song, My dear lady, hear my song, Sung under your window, to win you as companion. Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don, I beg you to hear the good things I sing, And I wish you well like the Greek did the chicken Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don, When I go to hunt, to hunt with the falcon, I will bring you woodcocks ¹

Grasse come rognon. Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don, Si mi non saper dire, Tante belle razon, Petrarcha mi non saper, Ne fonte d'Heli con. Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don, Se ti mi foller bene, Mi non esser poltron, Mi friccar tutta notte, Urtar, utar come monton Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don,	fat as foie gras² Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don, If I don't know how to say all the beautiful phrases, it's because I don't know Petrarch or the muses of Helicon. Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don, If you wish me well, you won't want me to look a fool, I shall kiss all night, dancing like a bronco. Don, don, don, Diri, diri, don, don, Don, don, don, don, Diri, diri, don don, ¹A story well-known at the time ²Fat as kidneys
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Contraponto bestiale alla mente – Adriano Banchieri

Original Text	Translation
Fa la la la la. Nulla fides gobbis Similiter est zoppis Si squerzus bonus est, Super annalia scribe. Fa la la la. (Chiù Cu cu Gnaù Ba bau)	Fa la la la. Don't trust the hunchback, Nor the hobbler, If a squinter is good, he's good, Write this down in the annals! Fa la la la. (The call of an owl The call of a cuckoo The meow of a cat The bark of a dog)

The Music of Stillness – Elaine Hagenberg

Poem by Sara Teasdale

There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow
A reign of rest, serene forgetting
The music of stillness holy and low

I will make this world of my devising
Out of a dream in my lonely mind
I shall find the crystal of peace, – above me
Stars I shall find

The Word Was God – Rosephanye Powell

John 1:1-3

¹In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

²The same was in the beginning with God.

³All things were made by Him;
and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

Let Everything That Hath Breath – Jeffery L. Ames

Sing unto the Lord a new song.
Sing unto the Lord all the earth.
Declare His glory among the nations.
Let everything that hath breath,
Everything that hath breath
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

Magnify the Lord with me
And exalt His name together.
Hallelujah, bless His name
For He's worthy to be praised.
Clap your hands all ye people.
Shout with a voice of triumph!
For the mighty lord is great
And greatly to be praised.
Let everything that hath breath,
Everything that hath breath
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

Come on and praise the lord.
Praise Him. The Lord.
Let's all praise His name.
Praise Him, give Him the highest praise.
Praise Him with the timbrel,
Praise Him with the dance.
Stand up on your feet and just lift up holy hands.
Sing "Hallelujah," Praise His holy name.
For the Lord is worthy to be praised!

Let's praise the Lord. Let's praise the Lord
Let's praise the Lord. Let's praise the Lord
Let's praise the Lord. Let's praise the Lord
Let's praise the Lord. Let's praise the Lord
Let everything that hath breath,
Everything that hath breath,
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.
You oughta, you oughta praise Him!

University Chorale

The American Road – Shawn Okpebholo

I. Prepare Me One Body

Prepare me one body,
I'll go down an' die.
The man of sorrows, sinners, see;
He died for you an' He died for me,
I'll go down an' die, my Lord!
Prepare me one body, I'll go down an' die.

II. Little Cuckoo

Text by Rhiannon Giddens

Go to sleepy little baby,
Go to sleepy little baby.
Lay your head upon my breast,
Not the time to leave the nest,
Little cuckoo, little baby

Purty blue eyes, little baby,
Purty blue eyes, little baby.
Let them close a little more,
Soon enough the world is yours
Little cuckoo, little baby

Such a beauty little baby,
Such a beauty little baby.
Soft as rose, and pale as milk,
Yet her hair is fine as silk
Little cuckoo, little baby

Such a shame now little baby,
Such a shame now little baby.
That you are not my own
But I'll nurse you till you're grown
Little cuckoo, little baby.

You'll be grown soon little baby,
You'll be grown soon little baby.
And go out into the world
If you see my darling girl
Treat her nice now

III. He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the little, tiny baby in His hands,
He's got the little, tiny baby in His hands,
He's got the little, tiny baby in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me brotha in His hands,
He's got you and mer sista,
My motha, my fatha, in His hands,
He's got everybody in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

IV. Left Foot, Peg Foot

Follow, follow, follow,
Travelin' on.
Left foot, peg foot
Follow the drinking gourd
For the old man is a waitin'
For to carry you to freedom,
If you follow the drinking gourd

When the sun comes back
And the first quail calls,
Follow the drinking gourd
For the old man is a waitn'
For to carry you to freedom
If you follow the drinking gourd.

The riverbank makes a mighty good road.
Dead trees will show you the way
And the left foot, peg foot, travelin' on
Just you follow the drinking gourd.

V. Shall We Gather at the River

Text by Robert Lowry
Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing from the throne of God?

Yes, we will gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows from the throne of God.

At the smiling of the river
Mirror of the Savior's face.
Saints, whom death will never sever,
Lift their songs of saving grace.

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease
Soon our happy hearts with quiver
With the melody of peace.

VI. Shine

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Hide it under a bushel, no!
I'm gonna let it shine.
No hiding under a bushel, no!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, no!
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Some day when I'm free,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Some day when I'm free,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Combined Choirs

Let the River Run – Carly Simon

Coming to the edge running on the water,
Running, running, running,
Water, we're running on the water

Let the River run,
Let all the dreamers wake the nation.
Come the new Jerusalem.

Silver cities rise;
The morning lights the streets that meet them
And silence calls them on with a song

It's asking for the taking,
Trembling, shaking.

Oh, my heart is aching.
We're coming to the edge, running on the water
Coming to through the fog, your sons and daughters

The Road Home – Stephen Paulus

Tell me where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost,
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong,
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.