

# RUTGERS

Mason Gross School  
of the Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## Rutgers University Choir

### OUR GARDEN

*a benefit concert for the  
Mason Gross Student Emergency Fund*

Stephanie Tubiolo, conductor  
Justine Langman, pianist

**Monday, April 29, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.**

Kirkpatrick Chapel  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

# A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Friends, Family, Alumni, and Supporters of the Rutgers University Choir,

It is with great honor and privilege that we present to you the fruits of the incredible journey our choir has embarked upon, beginning from the first notes of our rehearsals to the final chord of our repertoire we have prepared for all of you here tonight. As we conclude this semester together, we take time to reflect on the precious moments spent within the University Choir, the friendships made, the community built, and the music created together through the unification of the gift of our voice.

As the executive board, we are wholeheartedly grateful to be able to contribute to enriching the experience of our choir, fostering an environment of inclusion, and ultimately, sharing the heart of the community which we all care for so deeply.

This performance represents an extraordinary moment in our lives; however, none of it would have been possible without the incredible direction of our faculty instructor, Dr. Stephanie Tubiolo, who nurtured the musical talents of our singers and guided us towards realizing the potentiality of our unique sound. She was able to unite these gifted musicians into a voice that has further deepened all of our passions for music and changed us forever.

For many of our members, tonight represents not just the closing of a semester but also the closing of a significant chapter in their lives at Rutgers University. Our graduating seniors have been a vital part of our choir, bringing passion, dedication, and leadership that has enriched us all. We are immensely thankful for their contributions and the legacy they leave behind. As they continue onward, we celebrate their achievements and look towards their future successes—which will surely be as bright and impactful as their time with us.

We thank you again for joining us to celebrate and share in the music of not only our voices, but also our community, and we hope it reaches you as it has us.

Sincerely,

The Rutgers University Choir Executive Board

Steven Packard, *President*

Charlie Stephens, *Vice President*

Chris Ayers, *Treasurer*

Romit Bhaumik, *Secretary*

Samantha Allotey, *Social Chair*

Ernest Tsim, *Marketing Chair*

# SUPPORT THE FUND

## Support the MGSA Student Emergency Fund

While the members of University Choir represent areas of study all across Rutgers, we sing this concert in support of our community at Mason Gross School of the Arts, our choir's home.

### MGSA Student Emergency Fund



SCAN TO  
LEARN MORE

Increasingly, MGSA students are facing unanticipated challenges that negatively impact their academic career. These sudden disruptions not only have an emotional and mental impact, but they often also demand financial resources. This inevitably leads to additional pressure and anxiety as students struggle to support themselves while simultaneously striving to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Please consider making a gift to the **Mason Gross Student Emergency Fund** to support our students. The fund provides access to necessary financial relief for all Mason Gross students for food, housing, transportation, travel, and other basic needs crucial to their success.

Have questions? Please contact the Office for Advising & Student Success at [advisement@mgsa.rutgers.edu](mailto:advisement@mgsa.rutgers.edu).

Give now at [go.rutgers.edu/givemgsa](https://go.rutgers.edu/givemgsa)

# PROGRAM

## **Prelude**

Sam Wilson, *piano*

## **Tchaka**

Sydney Guillaume  
Carlos Vazquez, Sophie McNeal, and Justine Langman, *percussion*

## **To Yiasemi (The Jasmine)**

Traditional Cypriot Song  
arr. Erasmia Voukelatos  
Mavrothi Kontanis, *oud*  
Manasvi Chilakapati and Halee Dani, *soloists*

## **Sto Pa Ke Sto Ksanaleo**

Traditional Song from Asia Minor  
arr. Erasmia Voukelatos  
Mavrothi Kontanis, *oud*  
Amelia Cunningham, *violin*  
Paige Liloia, *soloist*

## **A Slice of Pie**

Melissa Dunphy  
Solomon Tyson, *saxophone*  
Stef Haas, *trombone*  
Carlos Vazquez, *percussion*  
Anthony Vizcarra, *soloist*

## ***Slice of Pie* Jazz Interlude**

Jeremy Alie León, *saxophone*  
Sam Wilson, *piano*  
Reid Nitzche, *bass*

## **Bayanihan**

Arianne Abela  
Carlos Vazquez, *percussion*

**Somewhere**

Leonard Bernstein  
arr. Robert Edgerton

Byron De Leon, *conductor*

**Arirang**

Traditional Korean Folksong  
arr. Hyo-Won Woo

Carlos Vazquez, *percussion*

**Make Our Garden Grow**

Leonard Bernstein

Heejae Kim, *tenor*  
Lauren Barchi, *soprano*

**Bridge Over Troubled Water**

Paul Simon  
arr. Kirby Shaw

Amy Smith and Izzy Macasaet, *soloists*  
Carlos Vazquez and Sophie McNeal, *percussion*  
*featuring the seniors of University Choir*

—

featuring poetry by Halee Dani  
and lighting design by David Dizdari

*with thanks to Devorah Zambas, Izzy Macasaet, and Heejae Kim  
for their coaching in Greek, Tagalog, and Korean*

# RUTGERS UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Steven Packard, *President*  
Charlie Stephens, *Vice President*  
Chris Ayers, *Treasurer*  
Romit Bhaumik, *Secretary*  
Samantha Allotey, *Social Chair*  
Ernest Tsim, *Marketing Chair*

Stephanie Tubiolo, *Director*  
Justine Langman, *Pianist*

Tayo Adelekan	Isha Gullapalli	Giaminh Phan
Samantha Allotey	Stef Haas	Marco Pires
Marcus Babasola	Colin Hinkle	Sophia Quinonez
Cassidy Baumann*	Roger Hummel	Anna Rehberg
Rachel Berenshteyn	Kathryn Illenye	Gianella Rosado*
Romit Bhaumik	Ian Jagnandan	Christian Roser
Estella Burke	Navneet Kaur*	Mukhilan Saravanakumar
Dylan Byrne	Heejae Kim**	James Schadt
Reese Campbell	Mayu Kimura	Amelia Schirmer
Nava Chefitz	Sakshi Koul*	Yumna Siddique
Manasvi Chilakapati	Matthew Liguori	Amy Smith*
Baz Cho	Paige Liloia	Leah Spector
Jungmin Choi	Alden Lipiarski*	Hana Steiner
Shannon Coleman	Isabel Macasaet*	Charlie Stephens
Kailey Crotty	Kayleigh Magistre	Andrew Stroud
Emily Dalacio	Kyra Mehta	Emily Sullivan
Halee Dani	Jonathan Mendes	Fern Tatum*
Teresa DeCandia	Le Meng	Averie Testerman
Kaetana DeGiovanni*	Lee Millan	Ernest Tsim
Paige DeGiovanni	Emily Milo	Solomon Tyson
Byron De Leon**	Nishka Narang	Isabela Valle
Finola Dickson	Kelly Nolan	Anthony Vizcarra*
Maddie Elliott	Cecilia O'Connell	Maria Walsh
Samantha Emmanuel	Lea Oduro	Sean Wang*
Julian Esquivel	Steven Packard*	David Weintraub
Aaron Fromm	Seoyoung Park	Naya White
Giselle Gonzales	Pankti Patel	Devorah Zambas
Sarai Gonzalez	Lara Pena*	
Hazel Griffee	Hazel Penner	

\* *Class of 2024*

\*\* *Teaching Assistant*

# GUEST ARTISTS

*in order of appearance*

Sam Wilson, *piano*

Carlos Vazquez, *percussion*

Sophie McNeal, *percussion*

Mavrothi Kontanis, *oud*

Amelia Cunningham, *violin*

Solomon Tyson, *saxophone*

Stef Haas, *trombone*

Jeremy Alie León, *saxophone*

Reid Nitzche, *bass*

Heejae Kim, *tenor*

Lauren Barchi, *soprano*

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Mavrothi Kontanis** is an eternal student of music on a range of instruments and voice, focused especially on the older music of Greece and the Near East. Based in the US but with roots in Halkidiki, Greece, he is known better as a singer in some circles or a teacher in others, but feels most at home crafting a melody with an oud in his hands.

By keeping an open mind and drawing from his diverse experiences as both a Greek and an American, Mavrothi makes music that is both Eastern and Western – old and new.

**Carlos Vazquez** is a graduate of the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and Psychology and a Master's degree in percussion performance. Carlos has been a percussion educator in New Jersey for over 15 years teaching in several high schools, private lessons, clinics, and the Rutgers University Drum Line. He is an active freelance musician in the New York and New Jersey area, specializing in classical and Latin percussion. He has played on the national tour of *Hair!* the musical and currently plays snare drum for the NY Giants Drum Line as an employee of Blue Devils Entertainment. He has had the honor to play for former President Obama, and alongside musicians such as Eddie Palmieri and Delfeayo Marsalis. Carlos has also recorded with the Wu-Tang Clan and most recently recorded on a Disney film entitled *Chang Can Dunk* on Disney+.

**Justine Langman** is a sought-after collaborative pianist, chamber musician, and teacher in the central New Jersey area. After graduating with high honors from Rutgers University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, she was hired as a staff accompanist at the Mason Gross School of the Arts. She is proud to be the pianist of choice in the studios of esteemed musicians from the New York Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Justine is currently the music director at United Reformed Church in Somerville, New Jersey.



Conductor and educator **Stephanie Tubiolo** recently completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Rutgers University, where she won the *Irene Alm Memorial Prize for Excellence in Performance and Scholarly Research*. She directs the Rutgers University Choir, the Rutgers Voorhees Choir, teaches courses to undergraduates studying music education and performance, and works collaboratively with the opera department and New Brunswick Public Schools. From 2011-2023, she worked with the Yale School of Music's *Music in Schools Initiative*, where she was the founding director of Morse Chorale, a free choir for New Haven Public School students in grades 2-12. In recognition of her work with the Music in Schools Initiative, she received the *Yale Distinguished Teaching Artist Award* in 2023. Dr. Tubiolo holds a B.A. in Music from Yale College and an M.M. in Choral Conducting from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music. She is especially passionate about building non-selective choral communities at all levels and currently serves as the Inclusivity Chair on the board of NJ-ACDA.

# ABOUT THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The **Rutgers University Choir** is a large mixed ensemble that performs a wide variety of music from around the world, often interspersed with poetry and other interdisciplinary artistry. United in their love of communal singing, its members currently form the largest choir at Rutgers and represent dozens of areas of study across the university. In recognition of its vibrant sense of community, the University Choir was recognized with the Spirit of Rutgers Award in 2020.

The mission of the **Music Department** at Mason Gross School of the Arts is to develop well-educated professional musicians who have a deep historical and theoretical understanding of all aspects of music. With access to all the resources of a music conservatory situated within a nationally ranked research university, students receive traditional, well-grounded conservatory training and preparation for the ever-changing world of the arts. The Music Department's 33 fulltime and approximately 50 part-time faculty include principals and members of the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, among other distinguished ensembles. Approximately 500 students are enrolled in the department's seven degree programs: bachelor of music, bachelor of arts, master of music, master of arts, artist diploma, doctor of philosophy, and doctor of musical arts.

# ABOUT MASON GROSS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

**Mason Gross School of the Arts** is a vibrant community of artists and scholars committed to pursuing excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. Its mission is to create socially relevant art, foster diverse programming and curricula, cultivate community partnerships, and advance the arts through teaching, creative activity, advocacy, and research that contributes to the public good. Comprising 1,200 undergraduate and graduate students across programs in music, theater, dance, filmmaking, and art & design, Mason Gross is housed within Rutgers–New Brunswick, a premier Big Ten research university that serves some 50,000 students and is the flagship campus of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

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**MAKE A GIFT**

