

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

HONOR

Festival

Dr. Simona Barbu
Honor Strings Conductor

Dr. Casey Behm
Mixed Honor Choir Conductor

Dr. James Popejoy
Honor Band Conductor

Mrs. Melanie Popejoy
Treble Honor Choir Conductor

JANUARY 25, 2026 • 1:30 PM
CHESTER FRITZ PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

41ST
ANNUAL

<i>Confitemini Domino</i>	Hyun Kook
<i>How Can I Keep From Singing</i>	Quaker Hymn/arr. Gwyneth Walker
<i>Apple Tree</i>	Aurora Aksnes, Odd Martin Skålnes & Magnus Skylstad/arr. Katerina Gimon
<i>Time After Time</i>	Rob Hyman & Cyndi Lauper/arr. Andy Beck
<i>Love, the Greatest Gift</i>	Diane White-Clay

Treble Honor Choir

Concerto for Strings in G minor RV 156	Antonio Vivaldi
<i>I. Allegro</i>	
<i>II. Adagio</i>	
<i>III. Allegro</i>	
Two Elegiac Melodies, Op.34	Edvard Grieg
<i>1. The Wounded Heart</i>	
<i>2. The Last Spring</i>	
Suite for Strings	John Rutter
<i>I. A-Roving</i>	
<i>II. I have a bonnet</i>	
<i>III. O waly, waly</i>	
<i>IV. Dashing away</i>	

Honor Strings

<i>When Music Sounds</i>	Connor J. Koppin
<i>Rolling On</i>	Traditional Shaker/arr. Kevin Siegfried
<i>Richte mich, Gott</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
<i>Bend</i>	Kyle Pederson
<i>Still I Rise</i>	Rosephanye Powell

Mixed Honor Choir

<i>Fanfare Nueve</i>	John Fannin
<i>Toccata</i>	Gaspar Cassadó/Slocum
<i>El Capitan</i>	John Philip Sousa
<i>Canticle of the Creatures</i>	James Curnow
<i>Prologue</i>	
<i>Brother Sun</i>	
<i>Sister Moon and Stars</i>	
<i>Brother Fire</i>	
<i>Mother Earth</i>	
<i>Epilogue</i>	

Honor Band

<i>Battle Hymn of the Republic</i>	setting by Peter J. Wilhousky
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Combined Band, Choirs & Strings

HONOR BAND

Dr. James Popejoy, *conductor*

Flute/Piccolo +

Ellayna Berg • *Dickinson*
Max Burin • *Grand Forks Central*
Lee Cable • *Grand Forks Red River*
Peyton Dutenhafer • *Minot North*
Sidney Enerson • *Stanley*
Madalynn Grim • *Jamestown*
Dakota Holm • *Ulen-Hitterdal*
Hailey Kennedy • *Minot North* +
Mataya LaFromboise • *Bottineau* +
Alexis Laparra • *Stanley*
Lily Lemar • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Julia Moberg • *Roseau*
Ruby Osweiler • *Roseau* +
Darian Tyan • *Minot North*
Lenee Volker • *MLS-Mohall*

Oboe

Adison Flynn • *Beulah*
Lilia Mason • *Fargo North*
Jada Vetter • *Washburn*

Bassoon

Gretchen Bain • *Ulen-Hitterdal*
Bryleigh McBride • *Minot North*
Hudson McLain • *Bottineau*
Lily Nelson • *Fargo Davies*
Emily White • *St. Mary's Central*

Clarinet

Dan Althoff • *West Fargo*
Peyton Anthony • *Grand Forks Central*
Clara Bale • *Minot*
Aralyn Hernandez Kienast • *Devils Lake*
Kyle Hodnefield • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Halle Holen • *Lake of the Woods*
Aurora Holt • *Watford City*
Owen Huntington • *St. Mary's Central*
Codey Irwin • *Minot North*
Merryn Johnson • *Fargo Davies*
Julian Kibler • *Minot North*
Avery Mann • *Center-Stanton*
Ava Mattison • *Moorhead*
Alissa McBride • *MLS-Mohall*
Aubrey Neis • *Carrington*
Ailyn Ordonez • *Divide County*
Nevaeh Pierce • *Dickinson*
Noralyne Reyles • *Devils Lake*
Magdalenna Robinson • *Hazen*
Fatima Sandez Baltazar • *Watford City*
Olivia Stark • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Olivia Syverson • *Grand Forks Central*

Bass Clarinet

Naomi Cables • *Minot North*
Daizy Simek • *Grand Forks Central*
Koleton Smith • *Watford City*
Marlee Winkelspecht • *Dickinson*

Alto Saxophone

Owen Cummings • *Roseau*
Auden Rey Domingo • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Gavin Dvorak • *Dickinson*
Claire Fiala • *Grand Forks Central*
Raymond Lundstrom • *Beulah*
Andrew Miller • *Minot North*
Katie Mogard • *Surrey*
Jocelynn Olson • *Bismarck Legacy*
Enoch Orukotan • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Samantha Smith • *Divide County*

Tenor Saxophone

Benjamin Dawson • *Central Cass*
Danica Freeberg • *May-Port CG*
Keenan Hopper • *Grand Forks Central*
Spencer Morgel • *West Fargo*
Joseph Ndayisenga • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Dagan Slade • *Dakota Prairie*

Baritone Saxophone

Evan Carriere • *Grand Forks Central*
David Gutierrez • *North Border*
Brayden Harris • *Langdon*
Lillian Holt • *Watford City*
Will Wiest • *Fargo Davies*

Trumpet

Marcos Archuleta • *Bismarck Legacy*
Gavin Demmerly • *Grand Forks Red River*
Lincoln Goettle • *Dickinson*
Catherine Greenley • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Clara Harms • *Montpelier*
Gabriella Herrman • *Dickinson*
James Jordet • *Fargo Davies*
Josie Kensinger • *Dickinson*
Joey Klemetson • *West Fargo*
Oliver Lemke • *West Fargo*
Levi Repnow • *Underwood*
Ethan Snyder • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Joseph Sprenger • *Grand Forks Central*
Easton Tibbs • *Divide County*

Horn

Kyle Albers • *Center-Stanton*
Truett Bundy • *Fargo Davies*
Maya Clark • *Bismarck Century*
Adyson Dahlgren • *Minot North*
Eve Hashbarger • *Fargo South*
Isaiah Lucas • *Roseau*
Lainey Martin • *Minot North*
Connor Ronning • *Fargo Davies*
Rachel Schmidt • *Center-Stanton*
Madison Solberg • *Minot North*
Amelia Swanson • *Washburn*

Trombone

Mohammad Alghazo • *Grand Forks Red River*
John Blondo • *Ellendale*
Emma Hay • *Divide County*
Tyler Marvin-Nichols • *Roseau*
Matthew Michels • *Homeschool*
Adeline Skoglund • *Bismarck Century*
Vedant Srivastava • *Grand Forks Red River*
William Tange • *Lake of the Woods*
Beck Ulven • *Oak Grove Lutheran*
Ria Waldon • *Grand Forks Central*

Euphonium

Kallen Albers • *Center-Stanton*
Ella Clark • *Bismarck Century*
Clara Kjelland • *Park River*
Aidan Swenson • *West Fargo*

Tuba

Levi Dieter • *Roseau*
Kinley Gruenberg • *Minot North*
Cohen Lauf • *Hazen*
Riley Love • *Northwood*
Aric Newman • *Williston*
Jacob Peterson • *West Fargo*

Percussion

Athena Buseth • *Minot North*
Callum Dcamp • *West Fargo*
Christian Duchscher • *Dickinson*
Leif Juhl • *Oak Grove Lutheran*
Cali Lindseth • *Grand Forks Central*
Leah Meyer • *West Fargo*
Reese Semingson • *Roseau*
Oleksandra Tarnavchyk • *Fargo North*

MIXED HONOR CHOIR

Dr. Casey Behm, *conductor*

Dr. Ling Lo, *collaborative pianist*

Soprano 1

Kendall Anderson • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Eden Ellingsen • *Jamestown*
Samantha Ernst • *Fargo Davies*
Lydia Janssen • *Devils Lake*
Bethany Jensen • *Bismarck Legacy*
Alissa Johnson • *Hazen*
Charlotte Rae • *Dickinson*
Evelyn Roberts • *Rugby*
Emma Thune • *Bismarck High*
Makayla White • *Lewis and Clark Berthold*

Soprano 2

Madilyn Crump • *Langdon*
Ava Erhardt • *Center-Stanton*
Ashlyn Follman • *Bottineau*
Brooklynn Gerszewski • *Larimore*
Clara Kranz • *Fargo Davies*
Samantha Parkhurst • *Cavalier*
Havyn Quintanilla • *Bowman County*
Sophia Sandy • *Minot*
Jovi Taylor • *Jamestown*
Sigrid Tweten • *Jamestown*
Ava Weisenberger • *East Grand Forks*
Clara Withers • *Minot North*

Alto 1

Hailee Cree • *Velva*
Jaclynn Heck • *Bismarck Legacy*
Emma Hoke • *Jamestown*
Malory Jastremski • *Williston*
Mya Judah • *Bismarck High*
Elizabeth Malott • *Grand Forks Central*
Aleah Olson • *Bismarck Legacy*
Isabella Peatross • *Minot*
Adalyn Picken • *Wahpeton*
Miya Pretzer • *Richardton-Taylor*
Shaya Steinwand • *Ellendale*
Thea Thompson • *Park River*

Alto 2

Addison Bergeman • *Sargent Central*
Emmerson Boyeff • *Devils Lake*
Victoria Davis • *Bowman County*
Shelby Dunwoody • *Jamestown*
Liza Erickson • *Bismarck High*
Mairi Ferguson • *Grand Forks Central*
Ackenna Hoffman • *Minot*
Josephine Kargbo • *Bismarck High*
Ella Martin • *Bismarck Legacy*
Emme Matcha • *Fargo Davies*
Alaina McKenna • *Hazen*
Aubri Morlock • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Liam Orloske • *West Fargo Sheyenne*

Tenor 1

Lucas Farstad • *Bismarck High*
Andrew Hoke • *Bismarck Legacy*
Branson Jund • *Bismarck Legacy*
Cameron Kittelson • *Hillsboro*
Tucker Leibrand • *Williston*
Braden Li • *Fargo Davies*
Aiden Lorenz • *Jamestown*
Oscar Pruitt • *Grand Forks Red River*
Easton Scherr • *Bismarck Legacy*
Lawrence Smith • *May-Port CG*
Bishop Vetter • *Bismarck Legacy*
Noah Welch • *Hankinson*

Tenor 2

Luke Ahlberg • *North Star*
Adrian Barrera • *Wahpeton*
Samuel Bentley • *Bottineau*
Marshall Bourbonis-Carter • *Park River*
Aiden Getty • *MLS-Mohall*
Andromeda Green • *Grand Forks Central*
Henry Kahlhamer • *Grand Forks Red River*
Jackson Lunder • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Liam Nordick • *Wahpeton*
Camden Ree • *May-Port CG*
Isaac Richter • *Grand Forks Red River*
Ayden Senum • *Marshall County Central*
Salem Yates • *Northwood*

Bass 1

Lukas Anderson • *Ashby*
Jaded Halvorson • *Grand Forks Central*
Logan Hartze • *Grand Forks Red River*
Koby Kaiser • *Sacred Heart*
Andrew Matt • *Carrington*
Tim Miller • *Bismarck Legacy*
Michael Olson • *Stevens Point*
Caiden Quinlivan • *Center-Stanton*
Gabriel Ricks • *Dickinson*
Austin Saxowsky • *Bismarck High*
Maddox Thiele • *Bismarck Legacy*
Landen White • *Williston*
Charlie Wisthoff • *Bismarck High*

Bass 2

Braden Hipp • *East Grand Forks*
Hoyt Jensen • *Ulen-Hitterdal*
Isaac Knudson • *Fargo Davies*
Cole Lardy • *Bismarck High*
Jonathan Lill • *Langdon*
Jacob McClenahan • *May-Port CG*
Kaj Naujokas • *Fargo Davies*
Austin Saari • *West Fargo*
Jason Shappell • *Minot*
Lane Silha • *Bismarck Legacy*
Asher Suriano • *Grand Forks Red River*
Jaiden Timm • *Marshall County Central*

TREBLE HONOR CHOIR

Mrs. Melanie Popejoy, *conductor*

Dr. Yukyung Hwang, *collaborative pianist*

Soprano 1

Emily Anderson • *Bismarck Century*
Emily Burkel • *Badger*
Ashley Carr • *Minot North*
Taylor Cavett • *Bismarck High*
Jena Chahal • *Grand Forks Red River*
Ada Dachtler • *Grand Forks Central*
Sara Garver • *Minot North*
Braelon Geerdes • *Jamestown*
Liberty Griggs • *Bismarck Legacy*
Gracyn Hornung • *North Border*
Grace Keck • *Williston*
Madyson Lines • *Lake of the Woods*
Jorja Love • *Marshall County Central*
Eden McFadden • *Rugby*
Kaylee Nistler • *Bismarck Century*
Hannah Ostlie • *May-Port CG*
Ciara Perleberg • *Jamestown*
Danielle Ricks • *Minot*
Kaetlyn Ring • *Shiloh Christian*
Emily Samuelson • *Larimore*
Addie Schmidt • *Bismarck Legacy*
Sophie Vaagen • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Kelsey Voightman • *Central Cass*

Soprano 2

Madison Anderson • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Brooke Bjorgaard • *Marshall County Central*
Miren Burbank • *Grand Forks Red River*
Reese Dever • *Bismarck High*
Callie Dockter • *Bismarck Legacy*
Abby Erbele • *Bismarck Legacy*
Ella Erdmann • *Bismarck High*
Leah Goyne • *Surrey*
Aspyn Hendrickson • *Center-Stanton*
Ella Langseth • *Fargo Davies*
Avery Madsen • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Masha Mayer • *Trinity Catholic*
Clara Meline • *Fargo Davies*
Lucy Miller • *Bismarck Legacy*
Miabella Nelson • *Grand Forks Red River*
Josephina Ray • *Watford City*
Anya Richard • *Surrey*
Tatum Sondeland • *Bismarck Legacy*
Rilyn Thompson • *Grand Forks Red River*
Jersie Vivier • *Northwood*
Emily Walker • *Watford City*
Annabelle Wohl • *Bismarck Legacy*
Lauren Wolf • *Central Cass*
Kaylee Yearian • *Surrey*

Alto 1

Kylah Anderson • *Bismarck Legacy*
Mylee Condit • *Bottineau*
Lucy Crosland • *Minot*
Grace Ellertson • *Bismarck High*
Chloe Frase • *Bismarck High*
Adysen Gregerson • *Badger*
Rea Halimah • *Jamestown*
Rylee Jalbert • *Bismarck High*
Siera Langsjoen • *Dickinson*
Leah Massmann • *East Grand Forks*
Joanie McCormack • *Bismarck Legacy*
Rena McLean • *Larimore*
Abrielle Michel • *Lewis and Clark Berthold*
Kenleigh Monley • *Minot*
Lilly Nygard • *Des Lacs Burlington*
Lillian Reinarts • *Jamestown*
Allison Schiessl • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Avery Spartz • *Grand Forks Central*
Isabel Springer • *Fargo Davies*
Ellie Underdahl • *Marshall County Central*
Alerah Walker • *Minot*
Annabelle Wingate • *Lake of the Woods*

Alto 2

Avni Banerjee • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Jamie Bean • *Bismarck High*
Natalie Bina • *Grafton*
Addison Carnevale • *East Grand Forks*
Kasha Conley • *Williston*
Lorelei Emter • *Trinity Catholic*
Marley Featherstone • *Dickinson*
Elexis Haring • *Oakes*
Peyton Heald • *Central Cass*
Ava Hoornaert • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Miatta Kenneh • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Matilda Lawson • *Langdon Area*
Maddison Messer • *Mott-Regent*
Anna Nachatilo • *Bismarck Legacy*
Lyla Prestwich • *Minot*
Brynlee Ressler • *Bismarck Legacy*
Skyla Rustad • *East Grand Forks*
Emma Sander • *Minot*
Kara Schily • *Bismarck High*
Alyssa Senger • *Bismarck Legacy*
Addison Stiefel • *Bismarck High*
Ruth Thompson • *Grafton*
Brooklyn Tomlinson • *Turtle Lake-Mercer*
Vivian Weber • *Washburn*

HONOR STRINGS

Dr. Simona Barbu, *conductor*

Violin 1

Oliver Tackling • *Fargo North*
Katelyn Hur • *Grand Forks Red River*
Zaine Breidenbach • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Leonardo Yan • *Fargo North*
Miah Tyson • *Jamestown*
Nikolai Astvatsaturov • *Williston*
Leiah Rojas • *Minot North*
Aven Worrel • *Bismarck Legacy*
Sudhan Grinolds • *Bismarck Century*
Maggie Stegmiller • *Jamestown*
Alexis Hoff • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Laeni Marthaller • *Bismarck Century*
Dafne Da Canal • *Central Cass*
Emma Upgren • *Bismarck High*
Cooper Wolverton • *Bismarck Legacy*
Krista Wojcik • *West Fargo Sheyenne*

Violin 2

Kolton Harris • *Bismarck Century*
Demenuh Golijikaye • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Isabelle Hay • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Val Kuhn • *Bismarck Century*
Livia Nelson • *Devil's Lake*
Leilani Smith • *Minot North*
Anthonette Wisseh • *West Fargo*

Sheyenne

Kiera Lund • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Ryan Kopp • *Bismarck High*
Keirah-Belle Dagman • *Bismarck Legacy*
Dennis Boyko • *Bismarck Century*
Gabby Hanson • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Christian Torres • *Williston*
Ahnna Piersol • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Josie Karch • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
William Barker • *Williston*

Viola

Alexis Chong • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Braxton Kucera • *Williston*
McKenna Solberg • *Minot North*
Katie Straub • *Bismarck Century*
Dreyden Waind • *Minot*
Trent Hamilton • *Bismarck Century*
Evan Guilmino • *Minot North*
Jasmin Einrem • *Bismarck High*
Maddy Jackson • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Nathan Negaard • *Williston*
Piper Hanson • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Joseph Leibel • *Bismarck Century*
Emery Bailey • *West Fargo Sheyenne*

Cello

Izhavel Nelson • *Devil's Lake*
Dylan Knell • *Bismarck Legacy*
Jacob Gross • *Bismarck Century*
Travis Middleton • *Grand Forks Red River*
Isaac Hong • *Grand Forks Red River*
Zeah Park • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Isaac Rach • *Fargo North*
Kjell Andersen • *Minot*
Liam Arens • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
(Valo)Rosa Bloom • *Minot*
Nathaniel Berte • *West Fargo Sheyenne*
Jayla Roberts • *Williston*
Sebastian Lesmeister • *Grand Forks Red River*
Lainey Martin • *Minot North*

Bass

Zeke Weaver • *Bismarck High*
Aletheia Bloom • *Minot*
Aliyah Tyson • *Jamestown*
Teddy Andrist • *Bismarck Century*
Frances Schoepf • *Bismarck Legacy*
Marissa Moltzen • *Jamestown*
Nicholas Debowey • *Minot North*
Reese Spadgenske • *Bismarck Century*



Simona Barbu - Honor Strings Conductor

An international cellist and educator, Dr. Simona Barbu began her musical studies at age seven and gained public attention as a member of the leading string quartet of the Conservatory of Timisoara in her native Romania, where she made her solo debut in Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rocooco Theme with the conservatory's symphonic orchestra.

Barbu has traveled to Europe, Asia, and the United States as a soloist, chamber musician, clinician, and most recently she held residencies at conservatories and universities in China (Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Zhengzhou, Wenzhou and Hong Kong), in Hungary (Budapest and Kecskemet) and Romania (Timisoara and Cluj). She has also been an active orchestral musician, performing with Memphis Symphony Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony, Fargo Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, and serving as principal with the Eroica Ensemble in Memphis, Starkville Symphony Orchestra, Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra and Bismarck-

Mandan Symphony Orchestra.

After graduating from her undergraduate as the Music Conservatory valedictorian from Lynn University in Florida, Dr. Barbu continued her graduate studies with a Master of Music in Cello Performance at Southern Methodist University under the tutelage of Nathaniel Rosen and Christopher Adkins. Subsequently, she earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Memphis where she studied with Leonardo Altino. Barbu has performed in master classes with Janos Starker, Lynn Harrell, Aldo Parisot, Pieter Wispelwey, Carol Ou, Timothy Eddy, Amit Peled and Yehuda Hanani.

A dedicated teacher, Dr. Barbu has served as the string faculty at Mississippi State University for four years, where she taught strings and conducted the symphonic orchestra. In 2011, she was appointed Burgum Endowed Chair at the University of North Dakota, where she currently teaches cello, string bass and chamber music. During the summers, she teaches and performs at the Summer Music Academy (Warsaw IN), at the International Music Camp (Dunseith, ND) and at the Medora Music Academy (Medora, ND)."



Casey Behm - *Mixed Honor Choir Conductor*

Dr. Casey Behm is Director of Choral Activities at the University of North Dakota where he directs the UND Concert Choir, Enõxa chamber choir, the UND Varsity Bards, and the Goliards in addition to teaching classes in choral conducting and choral literature. A native of Fingal, North Dakota, Behm taught public school music in North Dakota at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels before beginning his graduate studies. He earned his M.M. in Choral Conducting from North Dakota State University, and is a recent graduate of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln where he completed his DMA in choral conducting while studying with Drs. Peter Eklund, Rebecca Gruber, and Marques L. A. Garrett.

As a clinician, Behm has conducted honor choirs in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska. As a church musician, Behm has directed youth groups, adult choirs, and bell choirs in addition to accompanying ensembles on the piano and organ. As a collaborative pianist, he also enjoys playing in musical theater pit orchestras and served as music director for the Gooseberry Park

Players in Moorhead, Minnesota. Behm is an active member of American Choral Directors Association, National Collegiate Choral Association, and College Music Society.



James Popejoy - *Honor Band Conductor*

Dr. James Popejoy is Director of Bands and Professor of Music at the University of North Dakota where he conducts the Wind Ensemble, University Band, and Chamber Players, and instructs graduate and undergraduate courses in conducting, instrumental literature, and jazz pedagogy. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Central Missouri State University; the Master of Arts in Conducting from the University of Iowa; and earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting with a minor in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas. Among numerous honors, he has received two Outstanding Faculty awards from the UND Greek Council; a CMSU Distinguished Alumnus award; selection as Educator of the Year by the North Dakota Music Educators Association; two North Dakota Spirit Faculty Achievement Awards; a UND Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award; and the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association. Dr. Popejoy regularly contributes to the “Teaching Music through

Performance in Band” series, having also served as a production assistant and performer on the recordings that accompany these resource materials. In his twenty-sixth year at UND, he served as Director of Bands and Percussion Studies at McLennan Community College in Texas for five years; was a public school music educator in Missouri for nine years; and has founded and conducted numerous community ensembles. Dr. Popejoy is a member of CBDNA, WASBE, NBA, NAFME, JEN, PAS, Manitoba Band Association, North Dakota Band Directors Association, and the North Dakota Music Educators Association, and has served on the Executive Boards for NDMEA, NDBDA and CBDNA. Past President for the North Central Division of the College Band Directors National Association, he maintains an active schedule as a jazz vibist, clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor.



Melanie Popejoy - *Treble Honor Choir Conductor*

Melanie Popejoy is Associate Director of Choral Activities at the University of North Dakota where she conducts the Allegro Choir and Vivo Chamber Ensemble, and instructs courses in music education methods, as well as supervising student teachers. In addition, she is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Grand Cities Children’s Choir, serving as conductor of the elite Primo Voce choir. She holds the Bachelor of Music Education degree and the Master of Arts degree in Music Education from Central Missouri State University, and has taught in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas prior to coming to North Dakota. In her 40 years of teaching, Mrs. Popejoy has taught at the elementary, middle school, high school, and collegiate levels. She has conducted numerous honor and festival ensembles, including the North Dakota ACDA JH/MS Mixed All-State Choir, and the Missouri Choral Directors Association 9-10 Honor Choir.

Mrs. Popejoy has earned numerous teaching awards throughout her career, including the Community Leadership Award from the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce; Wal-Mart/Sam’s Club Teacher of the Year; the Distinguished Alumnus Award from CMSU; an Athena Award for Professional Excellence and Community Leadership; the Phenomenal Woman Award from UND Multicultural Student Services; and selection as the North Dakota Music Educator of the Year and Choral Director of the Year. She has been nominated twice for a the UND Undergraduate Teaching Award. Her Waco Girls Choir was selected to perform at the 1997 Texas Music Educators Association Conference, while her Grand Cities Children’s Choir has presented concerts at the 2003 North Dakota Music Educators Association Conference, the 2006 American Choral Directors Association North Central Conference, the 2009 North Dakota ACDA Conference, and in 2020 at Carnegie Hall. The UND Vivo Chamber Ensemble was selected to present featured performances at the 2015 and 2019 ND-ACDA Conferences.

THE UNIVERSITY

The University of North Dakota is the state's most comprehensive research university and the primary center for professional education and training. Founded six years prior to statehood by the Dakota Territorial Assembly in 1883, UND has remained a university with a strong liberal arts foundation, surrounded by a variety of professional and specialized programs. One of only 47 public universities in the nation with both accredited graduate schools of law and medicine, UND is admired for its spacious, beautiful campus, extensive resources, and an international reputation for its academic and research programs. With over 15,000 students, UND offers academic programs in 225 fields of study through ten major academic units: John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences; College of Arts & Sciences; College of Business & Public Administration; School of Entrepreneurship; College of Education & Human Development; College of Engineering & Mines; School of Graduate Studies; School of Law; School of Medicine & Health Sciences; and the College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines. The Graduate School offers master's degrees in 56 fields, doctoral degrees in 29 fields, and the Specialist Diploma. Forty-six percent of the students who attend UND come from North Dakota, while the rest represent all other states, eight Canadian provinces, and more than 50 nations.

UND ADMINISTRATION

Andrew Armacost, PhD, President of the University
Eric Link, PhD, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Brad Rundquist, PhD, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

UND MUSIC FACULTY/STAFF

Thomas Anderson, MM • Guitar
Simona Barbu, DMA • Burgum Endowed Chair/Cello/String Bass
Casey Behm, DMA • Director of Choral Activities
Whitney Berry, PhD • Music Theory/Aural Skills
Lisa Bost-Sandberg, DMA • Flute
Anne Marques Catarin, MM • Keyboarding Skills
Anne Christopherson, DMA • Voice/Opera
Alejandro Drago, DMA • Director of Orchestral Studies/Violin/Viola
Cory Driscoll DMA • Asst Director of Bands/Jazz Studies/Trumpet
Janice Engen • Administrative Officer
Kelly Entzel • Music Library
Carly Flaagan • Music Therapy
Christopher Gable, PhD • Music Theory/Composition/Technology
Josh Gillen, DMA • Assist. Director of Bands/Dir. Pride of the North
Janelle Huber, MM • Woodwind Methods
Yukyung Hwang, DMA • Collaborative Piano

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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