

EMU CHOIRS PRESENT

THE CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021 | 7:30 PM
PEASE AUDITORIUM



EASTERN
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



WELCOME TO EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S CANDLELIGHT CONCERT



The Candlelight Concert is Eastern Michigan University's signature December Holiday concert event. Although the literature changes each year, the name "Candlelight Concert" and its mission stays the same.

This year's Candlelight Concert entitled "Renewed, Inspired, Connecting" will draw musicians and audiences alike close together while celebrating traditional holiday music of the season. We will focus our music, dance, and readings on the warm feelings the holiday season creates. Each of us has hope for the future, each of us loves, and has been loved, and we all seek peace.

Tonight you will hear artistic work by students, community members, and faculty. The Candlelight Concert includes people from all walks of life, working together to celebrate the season. Each artist is working to help everyone feel Renewed, Inspired and Connected with the music and each other.

We are excited to include student, community, and faculty artistic work from across the region so that the environment is one of a community in celebration. This concert is a terrific opportunity for EMU to contribute the the southeast Michigan musical community.

Brandon Johnson
Director of Choral Activities
Artistic Director of the EMU Candlelight Concert



Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright.

Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.

Holy infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

Let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare Him room

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing





2021 EMU CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

RENEWED ~ INSPIRED ~ CONNECTING

PRELUDE (solo instrument, organ, trumpet, guitar)

Chimes

Carol of the Bells

I Saw Three Ships

Mack Wilberg

MUSIC OF STILLNESS

The Music of Stillness

Silent Night

Discendi Amor

Allegro, *Trumpet Concerto in D*

Snowflight

Silent Music from *Living with Silence*

Elaine Hagenberg

Sally Lamb McCune

Georg Phillip Telemann

Andrew York

Traditional

SOUL RESTLESSNESS

Soon Ah Will Be Done / I Wanna Die Easy

Jerusalem Luminosa

A Christmas Song

Candlelight

arr. C. Hella Johnson

Abbie Betinis

Wells & Tome

Andrew York

HOPING

Alleluia

Greensleaves, Dr. Romero

Hope Lingers Here

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes, Alleluia

Elaine Hagenberg

Traditional

Andrea Ramsey

Adolphus Hailstork

CELEBRATION

Joy to the World, Audience, Trumpet, Organ

Alleluia

Ring Out!

Hallelujah Chorus

Chimes

Traditional

Eurydice Osterman

Jennaya Robison

George Fredrick Handel





CANDLELIGHT ENSEMBLES

EMU CHOIR

The internationally acclaimed Eastern Michigan University Choir is a highly select auditioned ensemble comprised of students from across the university, most of whom are music majors whose principal area is voice study. They maintain a rigorous rehearsal and performance schedule and focus predominantly on choral art music for advanced choral ensembles.

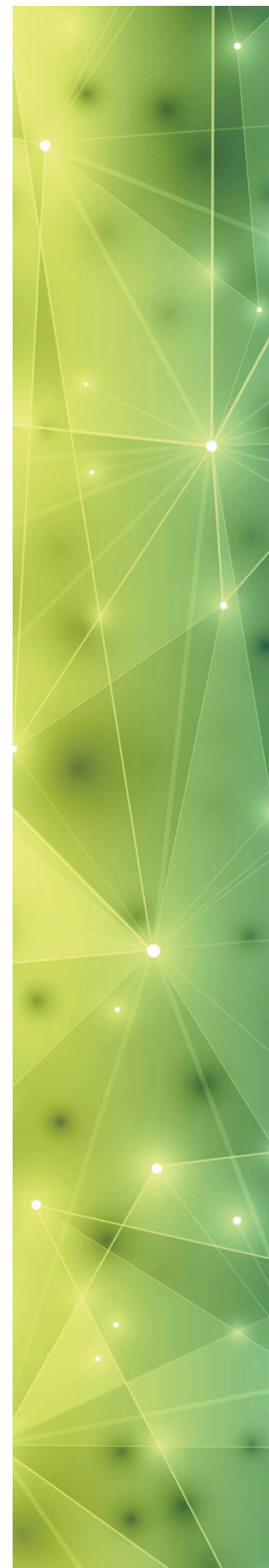
With its tradition spanning back to 1854, singing at EMU has a long tradition of musical excellence. Under the direction of Dr. Johnson recent activities have included two European Concert Tours, three performances with Grammy-nominated tenor, Andrea Bocelli, 2018 Carnegie Hall Performance, 2018 Central/ North Central American Choral Directors Association Conference, 2018 Michigan Music Conference, 2017 Michigan ACDA State Conference, finalist in the American Prize and the release of four recordings in the past six artistic seasons.

EMU VOICES

A new addition to the choral program this year, EMU Voices is the university's premiere auditioned chamber ensemble for SSA literature. With membership between 16 to 24 voices this high level performing ensemble dedicates itself to choral art music for soprano and alto voices.

EMU VISION

Formally known as Women's Choir, EMU Vision is a choral ensemble open to all treble voices (soprano/alto). The ensemble requires no audition and welcomes students from all majors and disciplines. The choir sings music from a diverse assortment of composers, time periods, and genres and actively engages in equity conversations. They collaborate with other EMU ensembles, as well as choirs and artists throughout the state. They are an accepting space for anyone who wishes to join, regardless of gender, sexuality, race, religion, or musical background. This choir enhances students' own vocal technique and helps them become a part of a diverse community during your time at EMU.



CONDUCTORS

DR. BRANDON JOHNSON



Dr. Brandon Johnson is the Director of Choral Activities at Eastern Michigan University and is one of the nation's most flexible choral artists. He has conducted choral ensembles in every facet of the profession and takes pride in pursuing excellence in the choral art to enrich and affirm musicians of all ages. Professional appointments have included: The Director of Choral Activities appointments at Eastern Michigan University and Houghton College in New York, Founder and Artistic Director of the semi-professional vocal ensemble of Vox Lumine, Artistic Director of the Detroit Performing Artists, the Conductor of the Symphonic Choir at the University of Arizona, the Director of Choirs at Duluth East High School and Springfield Public Schools, and multiple sacred music appointments.

Choirs under his direction have been invited to perform for multiple state and regional

American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and National Association for Music Education (NAFME) conferences. He has performed in the most prestigious concert halls across the country, including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the renowned Carnegie Hall. International performance tours and guest appearances have taken him to Austria, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Scotland, South Korea, Spain, and Wales.

He has led honor choirs and held master classes in Europe and throughout the U.S., including Alabama, Arizona, California, Idaho, Iowa, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. At home in Michigan, he has collaborated with thousands of high school singers across the state during dozens of choral events, including Michigan's first Sing for Justice concert held in 2017, choral festivals with renowned composers, and hundreds of concerts supporting local music educators.

Dr. Johnson's choral-orchestral training includes study with German conductor Helmuth Rilling and American conductors Neil Varon and Dr. Bruce Chamberlain. In addition to his work with university orchestras at EMU and Houghton, he has received invitations to conduct the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus, Buffalo Choral Artists, Continuo Arts Orchestra of New York, Michigan Sinfonietta, Oregon Bach Festival Chorus, and Orchestra, Rochester Oratorio Society, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Syracuse Symphony, Cordancia, and The Southern Tier Symphony on collaborative projects.

Respected by his faculty colleagues, he has been awarded multiple teaching and artistic awards. At Eastern Michigan University, he was selected to receive the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Creative Activity Award, the highest honor the University presents to an individual faculty member. At Houghton College, he accepted both the Excellence in Teaching Award and was the inaugural recipient of the first fully endowed chair at Houghton College, the Horne-Blanchard.

PROF. KATHERINE ROHWER

Katherine Rohwer is currently pursuing a DMA in Choral Conducting at the University of Michigan, where she studies under Dr. Eugene Rogers. At Michigan, Katherine serves as the music director of Out of The Blue Prison Outreach Choir and co-conductor of Orpheus Singers. Previously, she was the Director of Choirs at Stevensville Lakeshore High School, where she conducted four curricular ensembles, directed the musical theater program, and taught music theory. In addition, she has directed the Collegium Musicum of Western Michigan University, the Lake Michigan College Concert Choir, and prepared choruses for the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra.

Ensembles under her direction have consistently received superior and excellent ratings at District and State Festivals and have been honored with performances at the American Choral Directors Association Michigan State Conference (2018) and the Michigan Youth Arts Festival (2016, 2018, 2019). Katherine was selected as the R.J. Johnson Distinguished Educator in 2019 by Lakeshore Public Schools.



An active chorister, Katherine is an alumna of the World Youth Choir, with whom she explored and performed a vast array of musical styles under the direction of renowned conductors, including a performance at the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Awards Ceremony. She recently served as the alto section leader for the World Youth Choir's 2018 session in China. She is also a regular member of the international chamber choir, Time Ensemble.

Katherine earned a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Michigan (2021) and a Bachelor of Music degree in Choral Music Education and Vocal Performance from Western Michigan University (2009). She is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association and has served the Michigan School Vocal Music Association as Secretary for the Board of Directors, State SATB Honors Choir Supervisor, and District 6 Manager.

EMU VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM

ENSEMBLE CONDUCTORS

- Brandon Johnson, DMA University of Arizona
- Katherine Rowher, MM University of Michigan

MUSIC EDUCATION FACULTY

- Brandon Johnson, DMA University of Arizona
- Heather Shouldice, Ph.D. Michigan State University

VOICE FACULTY

- Emily Benner, MM University of Michigan
- MeeAe Man, DMA University of Colorado Boulder
- Robert Peavler, DMA Florida State University
- Carol Perry, MM Colorado State University
- Curt Peters MM University of Michigan



MUSICIANS

EMU CHOIR

SOPRANO:

Salma Bawardi, 2022, Ann Arbor, MI-
Music Performance

Emily Beggs, 2024, Canton, MI- Music
Education

Hazel Biggers, 2024, St Joseph MI-
Music Performance

Juliette Harrison, 2025, Dexter, MI-
Music Education

Catherine Lietz, 2024, Buchanan, MI-
Music Performance

Alyssa Malbon, 2024, Canton, MI- Music
Education

Madelyn May, 2024, Sylvania, OH-
Music Therapy

Clare McCloskey, 2022, Pinckney, MI-
Music

Myranda Nichter, 2022, Macomb, MI-
Music Education

Zoe Spencer, 2024, Escanaba, MI- Music
Education

Emily Spitzza, 2022, Northville, MI- Music
Education

Zoe Zdrojewski, 2022, Farmington Hills,
MI- Music Performance

ALTO:

Cara Berg, 2022, Shelby Township, MI-
Music Therapy

Dominique Cooper, 2022, Novi, MI-
Music Performance

A'Lyssia Dunnell, 2022, Detroit, MI- MM
Conducting

Grace Frielink, 2023, Sycamore, IL-
Music Therapy

Jeannette Houston, 2022, Saline, MI-
Music

Dineen Marshall, 2022, Centennial, CO-
Music Education

Nicole Mroczek, 2024, Mattawan, MI-
Music

Nichole Sayer, 2022, Three Rivers, MI-
Music Therapy

Sydney Timmer, 2022, South Lyon, MI-
Music Education

Emma Willerup, 2024, Cockeysville, MD-
Music Education

TENOR:

Troy Birdsong, 2025, Ypsilanti, MI- Music

Mavis Clawson, 2025, Parma, MI-
Biology

Matthew Cook, 2024, Martin, TN- Music

Joshua Danielson, 2022, Midland, MI-
Music Education

Anthony Davis, 2023, Milford, MI- Music
Education

Jacob Fagerstrom, 2023, Ilio MI- Biology

David Garvey, 2023, Canton, MI- Music
Education

Justin Hatt, 2024, Lansing, MI- Music

Thomas Larner, 2023, Grand Ledge, MI-
Music Education

Austin Neikirk, 2023, Dundee, MI- Music
Education

Ravel Ray, 2024, Akron, OH-
Neuroscience

Luke Schleuning, 2025, Wyandotte, MI-
Music Education

Conor Waterman, 2025, Saline, MI-
Recreational Therapy

BASS:

Simeon Berger, 2023, Adrian, MI- Music Therapy

Merrick Breckler, 2025, Farmer, OH- Music Education

Troy Dawson, 2024, Farmington Hills, MI- Music Education

Bryan Gilbey, 2023, Tecumseh, MI- MM Music Education

Nicolas Guzman, 2025, Clinton Township, MI- Music Performance

Austin Hadwick, 2022, Ann Arbor, MI- MM Conducting

Isaiah Meriweather, 2024, Dearborn Heights, MI- Digital Media Productions

Trevor Miner, 2022, Ann Arbor, MI- Music Education

Zach Moorhaus, 2022, Woodhaven, MI- Music

Charlie Moynihan, 2022, Toledo, OH- Music Education

Reilly Nietering, 2024, Grand Rapids, MI- Music Education

Sean Ryan, 2025, Northport, NY- Exploratory

Phillip Solis, 2024, Harper Woods, MI- Computer Science

James Wohlfert, 2022, Fowler, MI- Theatre Arts

EMU VOICES

Katerina Bainbridge, 2024, LaGrange, IN- Music Therapy

Breonna Barabe, 2024, Monroe, MI- Recreational Therapy

Sophia Bird, 2023, Bowling Green, OH- Music Therapy

Elaina Braunm, 2025, Canton, MI- Music Therapy

Rachael Cupples, 2023, Brighton, MI- Music Education

Morgan Dillingham, 2022, Ypsilanti, MI- Music

Taylor Lethorn, 2025, Brighton, MI- Music Therapy

Stevie McIntyre, 2025, Rockwood, MI- Music Education

Laynie Plews, 2024, Grand Rapids, MI- Music Education

Oliver Randazzo, 2025, Kalamazoo, MI- Geotourism

Meagan Richardson, 2024, Ypsilanti, MI- Exploratory

Kaylee Stokley, 2025, Jackson, MI- Music Education

Sydney Timbrook, 2025, Iron River, MI- Music Education

Julia Tully, 2025, Wyandotte, MI- Social Work

Vivian Vargas, 2025, Adrian, MI- Music Therapy

Daniela Walbridge, 2025, Ann Arbor, MI- Political Science

Jamie Wolfin, 2025, Swartz Creek, MI- Music Education





MUSICIANS

EMU VISION

SOPRANO 1:

Salome Buzguta, 2025, Ann Arbor, MI-
Music

Veronica DeLaHarpe, Marine City, MI-
Psychology

Sarah Fisher, 2024, Plainfield, IL-
Music Therapy

Jandyn Hassenrik, 2024, Ypsilanti, MI-
Exploratory

Hailey Johnson, 2024, Ann Arbor, MI-
Music Therapy

Priya Kothari, 2024, Walled Lake, MI-
Secondary Education

Rachel McNamara, 2023, Garden City,
MI- Music Therapy

Olivia Palazzolo, 2025, Warren, MI-
Exploratory

SOPRANO 2:

Neeharika Aniruddh, 2024, Novi, MI-
Music Therapy

Abbey Byrne, 2025, Petoskey, MI-
Music Therapy

Hope Combs, 2024, Livonia, MI- Music
Education

Peyton Forgach, 2024, Woodhaven,
MI- English

Faith Moore, 2024, Detroit, MI- Music
Therapy

Deena Raptis, 2024, Ypsilanti, MI-
Exploratory

Lily Richey, 2025, Flushing, MI-
Dietetics

Emmy Seth, 2024, Ann Arbor, MI-
Theatre Arts

Katherine Steger, 2025, Canton, MI-
Paralegal Studies

ALTO 1:

Hannah Allie, 2025, Brownstown, MI-
Music Education

Sammi Ballmes, 2023, Newport, MI-
Music Therapy

Grace Beebe, 2025, Tustin, MI- Music
Therapy/ Psychology

Abigail Belanger, 2022, Wolverine
Lake, MI- Music

Savannah Danis, 2025, Clinton
Township, MI- Music Therapy

Athena Goppold, 2022, Ann Arbor, MI-
Music Therapy

Molly Malec, 2024, Petoskey, MI-
Clinical Laboratory Science

Amanda Norman, 2022, Garden City,
MI- Music Therapy

Jade Vargo, 2025, Rochester, MI-
Music Therapy

Christina Walsh, 2022, St. Claire
Shores, MI- Music Therapy

ALTO 2:

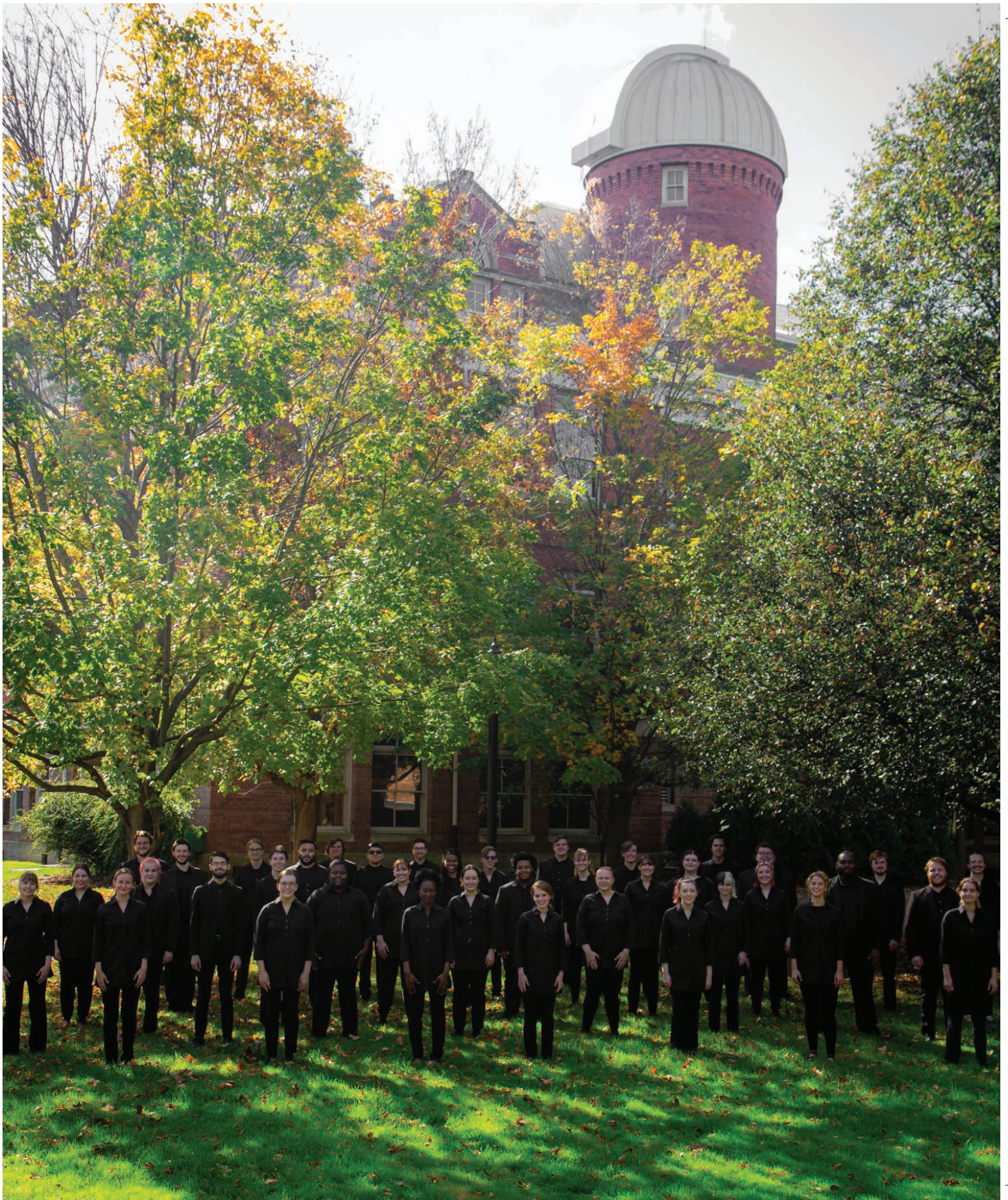
Hannah Berberoglu, 2023, Milan, MI-
Exploratory

April Boucké, 2022, Waterford, MI-
Music Therapy

Ashley Hafeli, 2023, Orion Township,
MI- Music Therapy

Courtney Johnson, 2022, Jackson, MI-
Music Therapy

Ebony Swain, 2022, Detroit, MI- Music
Therapy



2021 CANDLELIGHT ARTISTIC TEAM

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Dr. Christopher Barrick, Director, School of Music & Dance

Dr. Dana Heller, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

Dr. James Smith, President

COLLABORATIVE ARTISTS

Joseph Csicsila, Literature Coordinator

Justin Hatt, Guitar

Amy Hutchinson, Dancer and Choreographer

Stephen Lynn, Piano and Harpsichord

Kristin Peavler, Narration

Robert Peavler, Narration

Anderson Romero, Trumpet

CONDUCTORS

Austin Hadwick, Choral Graduate Assistant

Brandon Johnson, Candlelight Artistic Director, and EMU Choir

Katherine Rowher, EMU Vision and EMU Voices

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING TEAM

Darcy Gifford, Executive Director, Integrated Content

Bryan Gilbey, Choral Graduate Assistant

Walter Kraft, Vice President for Communications

Susan Shine, Senior Multimedia Designer



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Support the EMU Choral program's artistic and educational initiatives with a sponsorship package that works as an integrated part of your business development plan. We invite you to talk with Jeff Guyton, our development officer, to design a customized package with benefits that meet your objectives and budget. Sample benefits include:

- Brand visibility in EMU Choir brochures and print materials
- A welcome message from the stage by EMU Director of Choral Activities
- Complimentary tickets and event invitations
- Partnership recognition on EMU Choir's digital platforms

PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISING

The EMU Choir Concert program provides the opportunity for your organization to demonstrate its commitment to the community. Our program books have thousands of readers and we would love to highlight your gifts and commitment to all. Logos will be printed in the program at the level of Friend support.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Make EMU Choir concert-goers your own customers while supporting an important nonprofit organization in our community.

HOW TO GIVE

To give online, please visit: tiny.emich.edu/ChoirFund

To send a check, please mail to: Dr. Brandon Johnson, Eastern Michigan University Choral Program, N 101 Alexander Music Building, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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☐ I would like a private meeting with Jeff Guyton, Development Officer or/and Brandon Johnson, Director of Choral Activities to discuss the details of this gift. To set up a meeting please email emu_choirs@emich.edu

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