
¡BAILA Y CANTA!
ORLANDO SINGS
Apollo | Harmonia
Orlando Sings Symphonic Chorus
NOVEMBER 13, 2026 | 7:30PM

WHAT'S NEXT?

HANDEL'S

MESSIAH

BY CANDELIGHT

ORLANDO SINGS

Solaria Singers & Players

DECEMBER 5, 2026 | 8PM

Broadway United Methodist Church

SAVE THE DATE!

HANDEL'S BELOVED MASTERPIECE, ILLUMINATED BY CANDLELIGHT.

ORLANDOSINGS.ORG/SEASON/

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of Orlando Sings,

Welcome to *¡Baila y Canta!* It is a joy to welcome you to Steinmetz Hall as we celebrate our sixth season—a season that reflects the growing imagination, ambition, and heart of Orlando Sings.

Since our first concert in 2021, we have been building a musical community rooted in the belief that singing together can change lives. I see that belief come to life in rehearsals each week: in friendships formed, challenges met, and the satisfaction of creating something beautiful together. Your presence tonight completes that experience. Music prepared with care and conviction becomes something even more meaningful when we share it with you.

Tonight's program celebrates the irresistible connection between singing and movement. Apollo and Harmonia lead us through music that gathers people together, crosses cultures, and invites us to dance. The Symphonic Chorus brings that energy into Martín Palmeri's *Misa a Buenos Aires*, known as *Misatango*, where the words of the Mass meet the passion and rhythmic vitality of Argentine tango. We are delighted to welcome bandoneonist Emmanuel Trifilio and mezzo-soprano Erika Vasallo to share this remarkable work with us.

This evening also marks a particularly meaningful milestone: the debut of the Orlando Sings Youth Choral Artists. Welcoming these young singers into our musical family has been one of the great joys of this season. They bring curiosity, enthusiasm, and a fresh sense of possibility. As they share the stage with our adult ensembles, we see the beginnings of relationships that can sustain a lifetime of music making. To their families and teachers, thank you for encouraging them and entrusting us with a part of their musical journey.

Our sixth season carries this spirit of discovery forward through beloved masterworks, rarely heard treasures, a world premiere, and collaborations that expand what a choral concert can be. Throughout it all, we want our music to reflect the creativity and diversity of the community we call home—and to give people a reason to come together, listen deeply, and discover something new.

To our singers and supporters: thank you. Your talent and generosity make this work possible. And to everyone in the audience, whether you have been with us since the beginning or are joining us for the first time, welcome. I hope you will return throughout the season, bring a friend, and consider supporting the continued growth of Orlando Sings.

For tonight, let the rhythms carry you. We are so glad you are here.

With gratitude,

Andrew Minear, D.M.A.

Artistic & Executive Director

Orlando Sings

To learn more about the rest of our season, scan the QR code or go to:

OrlandoSings.org/Season/

ORLANDO SINGS ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Help us create a thriving choral community by giving at **orlandosings.org/support**!

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Jennifer Bloomer
Mary Katherine Boring
Joanne Bosley
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Enna Carlisle
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Elisha Carpenter
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Cyril Cerbas
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Shannon Cho
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Paula Conklin
Nancy Constant
Dorea Cook
Holly Cooper
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Lynn Darcey
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Rebecca Frakes
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Mariuxi Gutierrez
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Robert Lawrence
Ashley Lee
Grant Lewis
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Lance Lindner
Chevalier Lovett
Jennifer Marlow
Brianna Martin
Pam Matheson
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McKay Medders
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Ann Hicks Murrah
Claire Olinik
Connie Ivette Pabon
Jamielee Page
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Colin Wansink
Sarah Wansink
Darren Warren
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Myia Williams
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Amanda Yon
Warren Yon



AUDITIONS ARE **OPEN!**

JOIN THE ORLANDO SINGS **YOUTH CHORAL ARTISTS**

ORLANDOSINGS.ORG/YOUTH-CHORAL-ARTISTS/

¡BAILA Y CANTA!

PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 13, 2026 | 7:30 PM

APOLLO

Zachary Pecore, conductor

Modimo	Traditional Sesotho | isiZulu arr. Michael Barrett
Tuba *Sean Willis, soloist*	Traditional Xitsonga arr. Michael Barrett
We Shall Not Be Moved *Gregory Johnson, soloist*	Traditional Spiritual arr. Adam and Matt Podd
Plakatap	Sydney Guillaume
¡Bailará!	Dan Davison

COMBINED APOLLO AND HARMONIA

Will the Circle Be Unbroken *Ryan Knight, soloist*	Traditional Appalachian arr. J. David Moore

HARMONIA

Sandra Shafer, conductor

Voice Dance	Greg Jasperse
Sigue	Ivette Herryman
Salmo 150	Ernani Aguiar
Flight	Craig Carnelia arr. Ryan Murphy
El Vito *Cecilia Skrocki, soloist*	Traditional Spanish Folk Song arr. Joni Jensen

INTERMISSION

ORLANDO SINGS YOUTH CHORAL ARTISTS

Brianna Martin and Alex Pollard, conductors

I Sing Because I'm Happy — Charles H. Gabriel, arr. Rollo Dilworth

Cantemos! (Con el Corazón) — Daniel Jose Arredondo II

ORLANDO SINGS SYMPHONIC CHORUS
SOLARIA PLAYERS

Andrew Minear, conductor

Erika Vasallo, mezzo-soprano | Emmanuel Trifilio, bandoneonist

Please hold your applause until the conclusion of the final movement.

Misa A Buenos Aires (MisaTango) — Martín Palmeri

I. Kyrie
II. Gloria
III. Credo
IV. Sanctus
V. Benedictus
VI. Agnus Dei

TRANSLATIONS

Modimo

God we praise you
Everything is created by you
He took away my burden

Tuba

Look at the dove on that tree!
(a reference to Noah and the olive branch)

Plakatap

Children of all countries,
Youth from everywhere,
Sing, jump, dance!
On foot or by bike,
Our bags on our backs,
Plakatap – Plakatap,
Plakatap – Plakatap!

United in the same love,
Let us go day by day,
Singing, jumping up and down, dancing
The Fraternal Dance
Of the children of the World.
Plakatap – Plakatap,
Plakatap – Plakatap!

Let's party, let's sing!
Let's celebrate Humanity with one heart,
And let us all sing our Fraternity in chorus!

Regardless of what's happening,
In spite of the distance,
We are one family
Of young men and women.
Let us dwell in the Unity
Of one Humanity.
Plakatap – Plakatap!

Bailara! (She will dance!)

Dance with fervor. Dance with love.
She will dance all night.

With emotion. With precision.
She will dance all night.

She will dance! She will dance!
She will dance with a lot of heart!
She will dance! She will dance!

With emotion. With precision. With compassion.
With imagination. She will dance!

Serenity. Vitality.
Look at how handsome, and look at how lovely.

Peace. Happiness.
Everyone is watching her liveliness.

Look at her footsteps. She dances fast!
Look at her emotion, her love.
Look at her face. How energetic!
Look how expressively she dances.

She will dance! She will dance! She will dance!
I watch with all my heart.

Dance on, dance on, dance on, and she will dance.

Sigue

Original Text: Nicolás Guillén (1902-1989)

Walk traveler, continue walking;
Walk and do not stop, continue walking.
When you pass by her house, do not tell her that you saw me, walk traveler, continue walking.
Continue and do not stop, continue walking.
Do not look if she calls out to you, continue walking. Remember that she is bad, continue walking.

Salmo 150

Praise the Lord in His Sacred places:
Praise Him in the firmament of His power.
Praise Him for His might acts:
praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet:
praise Him with the psaltery and the harp.
Praise Him with the timbrel and the dance:
praise Him with strings and pipes.
Praise Him with high-sounding cymbals:
praise Him with cymbals of joy:
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

El Vito

Chorus
With the vito, vito, vito,
with the vito, vito, it goes.
With the vito, vito, vito,
with the vito, vito, it goes.

Verses
I don't want them to look at me
for I blush.
I don't want them to look at me
for I blush.

Single ladies are of gold
married ladies are of silver.
The widows are of copper
and the old ones are of tin.

Don't look straight at my face
for I blush.
I don't want you to look at me
for I'm going to fall in love.

A Malaguean lady went to
Sevilla to see the bulls.
And in the middle of the way
the Moors captured her.

Cantemos! (Con el Corazón)

I have a beautiful song within my heart.
This song makes me move; I dance to the music.
Let us sing with our hearts; this is why we dance:
We feel the music, and everyone is welcome.

MISATANGO

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.
Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

You take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
You take away the sins of the world:
receive our prayer.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
have mercy on us.

For you alone are holy,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Credo

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one substance with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven.
By the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

And I believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
And I await the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

SYMPHONIC CHORUS

* SECTION LEADER

SOPRANO

Joan Bissell
Katelyn Bocarro
Mary Katherine Boring
Pamela Carlson
Martha Isabel Castrillon
Melinda Fradley*
Leslie Gallagher
Sophia Gannaoui
Ryleigh Graber
Kellie Greene Bailey
Brittany Gress
Holly Hodges
Madison Hubbart
Irene Kaplan
Ananda Mancen
Brianna Martin
Claire Olinik
Anna Padrino
Meredith Rice
Jennifer Rodrigues
Alessandra Sayers
Kristen Shealy
Michelle Toro
Allie Van Buskirk
Madison Whelan
Mandi White
Erica Yanek
Zoey Zancara

ALTO

Indhira Acosta Minear
Ali Bernards
Ginger Blomberg
Ariana Brannen
Nyasha Brice
Hillary Brown
Mary Beth Constant
Ciara Cotey
Olivia Davis
Adriana DuPont
Courtney Eyman Hunt
Alex Fisher
Emma Floyd
Cameron Frye
Heidi Inder
Sydney Leduc*
Danielle Lindner
Chiara Marcario
Elisabeth McGuire
Miranda Schubert
Laurie Seely
Lindsay Taylor Stough
Quinn Tong
Mara Torres
Ashley Uhland
Rayah Yehnert
Jenna Zunz

TENOR

Ryan Aceituno
Alexander Bilka
Richard Bissell
Julio Cesar Borges
Kevin A. Borges
Paul Braithwood
Lucca Conceicao
Richard Connor-Villa
Nathan De Oliveira
Andrew T Francis
Daniel Hill
Alexander Knapp
Brian Knollman
Zane Menendez
Eric Patterson
Ezra Prather
Ralph J Pugh
Elias J Quintos
Rishi Rane
Jeremy Roldan
Chris Salina
Wesley Schafer
Kristopher Schave*
Reiner Wolf

BASS

Joe Bellino
Dalton Bowles
Ian Chan
Nick Chase
Dwayne Cole
Chris Farwell
Fenton Froom
Mark Gage
Alex Glover
Carter Henry
Michael Hodges
Lane Hollingsworth
Cameron Ivie
Aaron Kass
Ryan Knight
Robert Lane
Ryan Lumm
Justin McGill
Ryan Murray
Sean Nicolaysen
Andrew Osson
Alex Pollard*
Nathan Selikoff
Josh Sousa
James Thompson
Jonathan Watts
David Wooten

APOLLO

TENOR

Colton Belter
Kevin A. Borges
Paul Braithwood
Chad Cochran
Richard Connor-Villa
Andrew T Francis
Daniel Hill
Alexander Knapp
Brian Knollman
Yihua Liu
Chad McMillen
Kelvin Nguyen
Nicholas Nunez
Ezra Prather
Elias J Quintos
Chris Salina
Wesley Schafer

BASS

Joe Bellino
Jeffry Belnap
Dalton Bowles
Ian Chan
Nick Chase
Dwayne Cole
Joseph Cosgrove
Chris Farwell
Mark Gage
Carter Henry
Lane Hollingsworth
Gregory Johnson
Malcolm Katzen
Ryan Knight
Robert Lane
Jeffrey Lee
Ryan Lumm
Zach Mandernach
Ryan Murray
Brandon Mustain
Sean Nicolaysen
Eric Sandy
Nathan Selikoff
John Valencia-Londono
Jonathan Watts
Sean Boykin-Willis
Adam Wright

HARMONIA

SOPRANO

Maggie Bailey
Erin Baird
Kris Bays
Judeine Binns
Mary Katherine Boring
Ramnie Cabrera
Carolina Campero
Tara Carey
Pamela Carlson
Martha Isabel Castrillon
Cyvi-Lauren Cerbas
Cyvi-Nairene Cerbas
Rebecca Clancy
Sarah Clark
Louise Cooper
Adrienne Cutway
Jada DeJesus
Leslie Gallagher
Erin Gersbach
Kellie Greene Bailey
Holly Hodges
Ashley Lee
Sabrina Naomi Miller
Anna Padrino
Sarah Paiva
Elora Pfriender
Shirley Piercy
Katherine Puzone
Meredith Rice
Hannah Salcedo
Cecila Skrocki
Elise Smith
Kasey Stephens
Michelle Toro
Allie Van Buskirk
Sarah Burns
Madison Whelan
Caitlyn Wisser
Zoey Zancara
Luana Viana

ALTO

Joyce Ackey
Nikolas Acuna Aguilar
Meredith Ayson
Lee Berman
Ali Bernards
Ginger Blomberg
Ariana Brannen
Nyasha Brice
Julie Cooper
Ciara Cotey
Addison Cursey
Olivia Davis
Vanessa Davis
Adriana DuPont
Sylvia Duryea
Devin Elliott
Alex Fisher
Amber Fleming
Emma Floyd
Cameron Frye
Nicole Garcia-Funk
Lanie Gillespie
Mary Sue Halligan
Erin Haworth
Grace Hayes
Heidi Inder
Sydney Leduc
Cara Lee
Chiara Marcario
Queen McCoy
Elisabeth McGuire
Hannah Miller
Janice D Moreno
Cheri Morris
Esther N. Mukiama
Emily Perez
Mia Perez Interiano
Janice Peters
Gabrielle Peterson
Renee Pruiksma Davis
Janet Pursley
Carolyn Rosenblum
Jasmin Ruiz
Stacy Rumbaugh
Philicia Saint Hilaire
Brandi Selina Small
Kristal Smink
Elizabeth Smith
Carol Spears
Lindsay Taylor Stough
Mara Torres
Ashley Uhland
Mia Wesner

YOUTH CHORAL ARTISTS

Mateus Algarin
Olivia Amirzadeh
Coraliz Camacho
Alice Churchill
Dani Desjarlais
Isabel Eldridge
Eleanora Forrest
Eleanor Howell
Katie Latterell
Sienna Lemieux
Caleb Marquez
Emilia Minear
Maria Miro Rivera
Christian Morales
Londyn Murray
Emily Nguyen
Mika Parrilla
Eric Rimphison
Zoey Strauss
Alfonsina Valenzuela Pinto
Dominga Verdugo
Stefania Wood
Lila Wright
Grace Xu

SOLARIA PLAYERS

VIOLIN 1

Sarah Williams
Pepina Dell'ollio

VIOLIN 2

Alex Stevens
Jennie Rudberg

VIOLA

Tyler Pacheco
Anabel Tejeda

CELLO

Grace Gavin
Elliot May

BASS

Trent Harper

PROGRAM NOTES

I. GATHERING THE CIRCLE

What happens when music refuses to let us stand still? The first half of *¡Baila y Canta!* is a journey through the many ways music moves us—across cultures, through communities, within ourselves, and ultimately onto our feet. Apollo begins by gathering: finding strength in one another, standing together, discovering a shared pulse, and finally breaking into dance. Their journey grows beyond a single ensemble as Harmonia joins Apollo for *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*, reminding us that singing has always had the power to create community—to draw the circle wider and invite others in.

From that shared circle, Harmonia begins a new journey. The voice awakens, finds direction, erupts in celebration, and eventually takes flight before returning to the irresistible fire of dance. Across languages, continents, traditions, and musical styles, these singers tell one connected human story: we gather, we sing, we stand, we celebrate, we soar, and we dance.

Tonight, that dance takes many forms: the traditional South African movements accompanying Apollo's singing, the singers' physical response to a compelling rhythm, or the almost unconscious tapping of a foot in the audience. Sometimes it is simply the feeling of flowing with a musical phrase. Singing begins in the body, carried by breath and shaped by gesture, and its rhythms invite a response in those who listen. That connection carries us into the second half of tonight's program, where the debut of the Orlando Sings Youth Choral Artists brings new voices into the circle, and Martín Palmeri's *Misatango* joins the collective voice of the choir to the unmistakable pulse of Buenos Aires.

II. PRAYER IN THE LANGUAGE OF TANGO

Tango itself grew from an encounter among communities. In the working-class neighborhoods of Buenos Aires and Montevideo, European immigrants, people of African descent, and locally rooted *criollo* populations contributed to a developing culture of music, poetry, and dance. Its expressive range encompasses intimacy and defiance, longing and exhilaration—emotions held together by the connection between partners and the tension of the rhythmic pulse. In the twentieth century, Argentine composer and bandoneonist Astor Piazzolla expanded that language through *nuevo tango*, incorporating elements of jazz and classical music into works that brought tango's dramatic possibilities into the concert hall.

Born in Buenos Aires in 1965, Martín Palmeri inherited this tradition while developing a parallel life in choral music. A composer, pianist, arranger, and conductor, he worked both with choirs and with a tango orchestra. Members of his choirs attended his tango performances, and the possibility of bringing these musical communities together became increasingly appealing. Yet arrangements of existing tangos did not achieve the result he wanted: the distinctive phrasing of a solo tango singer proved difficult to translate into a collective choral voice. His solution was to compose a new work conceived from the outset for choir and tango ensemble. *Misa a Buenos Aires*, widely known as *Misatango*, received its premiere in Buenos Aires on August 17, 1996.

The choice of the Mass text offered Palmeri a familiar foundation. Latin belonged to the everyday musical experience of his choirs and connected his experiment to centuries of choral writing. He also valued its mystery and distinctive sound. The resulting work places the traditional movements of the Mass—Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei—within a musical world shaped by tango. Its scoring for mezzo-soprano, mixed chorus, bandoneon, piano, and strings allows each tradition to retain its character: the choir draws on the sustained lines and interweaving voices of sacred choral music, while the instrumental ensemble supplies tango's characteristic articulation, color, and rhythmic inflection.

Listen especially to the bandoneon, played tonight by Emmanuel Trifilio. Developed in nineteenth-century Germany and carried to the Río de la Plata region through immigration, this bellows-driven instrument became one of tango's defining voices. Its expressive possibilities extend from sharply accented attacks to expansive, singing phrases. In *Misatango*, it can seem to breathe alongside the singers, answering a vocal line or giving instrumental expression to the emotion of the text. Its exchanges with the mezzo-soprano, sung tonight by Erika Vasallo, bring a particularly intimate dimension to the larger choral sound.

Throughout the work, listen for the interplay between a steady underlying pulse and accents that arrive unexpectedly around it. This syncopation gives the music its forward pull, while sustained vocal phrases create space above the activity of the accompaniment. Palmeri's contrasts are equally important: incisive rhythms give way to lyrical reflection, and a passage of private supplication can open suddenly into a communal declaration. The instruments participate fully in the drama, giving the sacred words an urgency that is physical as well as emotional.

In the opening Kyrie, after a weighty introduction the choral voices enter successively from the lowest to the highest, building a fugue: a musical idea taken up and interwoven by different voice parts. The Gloria answers with buoyant energy, but its celebration pauses for a slower, more inward passage. Here the soloist sings Qui tollis peccata mundi —"you who take away the sins of the world"—and the music turns from public praise toward a tender plea for mercy.

At the center of the work, the Credo traces a particularly dramatic course through declaration, incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection. After passus et sepultus est —"suffered and was buried"—listen for the hollow sonority of the chord, a moment of stillness that can suggest the image of an empty tomb. The renewed motion at Et resurrexit —"and he rose again"—breaks that suspension with the energy of returning life. Later, voices gather gradually around the soloist, building momentum as individual affirmation becomes a collective declaration of faith.

The Sanctus brings a hopeful, joyful vision of praise: earthly voices joining with all the company of heaven to proclaim "Holy, holy, holy." The Benedictus follows with a beautiful, lyrical melody introduced by the soloist and taken up by the choir. Its intimacy recalls the gently expressive, soloistic Benedictus settings familiar from the Masses of Mozart and his contemporaries. Elsewhere, the melody's rhythm is echoed on a single pitch, suggesting the reciting tones of ancient chant and connecting Palmeri's music to more than a millennium of singing these sacred words. Here, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" unfolds with warmth and grace, carrying echoes of that long history within the living pulse of tango.

The Agnus Dei turns toward the plea for mercy and peace. Palmeri recalls the fugue theme of the opening Kyrie, joining the work's beginning and ending across the span of the Mass. The words Dona nobis pacem—"grant us peace"—become the sustained focus of the conclusion. After the accumulation of voices and instrumental energy, the final sound is a quiet, shared hum: the prayer seems to continue beyond the words themselves.

The circle drawn by tonight's opening music has widened to embrace different generations, musical traditions, and ways of expressing our common humanity. In Misatango, the impulse to dance and the impulse to pray share breath, rhythm, and an intensity of feeling. Whether we respond with a tapping foot, a gentle sway, or an inward stirring, we become part of that shared experience. Music asks us to listen, invites us to move, and sometimes moves us in ways we could not have anticipated.



BIOGRAPHIES

ANDREW MINEAR | CONDUCTOR

With appearances across the United States, Dr. **Andrew Minear** is an active conductor, music educator, and choir leader. He is the founding Artistic and Executive Director of **Orlando Sings** (orlandosings.org), where he conducts the Orlando Sings Symphonic Chorus and the professional vocal ensemble Solaria. He also serves as Director of Music Ministry at **All Saints Episcopal Church** of Winter Park. Under his leadership, the All Saints Choir served as choir-in-residence at Hereford Cathedral in Hereford, England, in July 2026.

Recent and upcoming engagements include Opera Orlando's *All Is Calm*; the National Concert Chorus at Carnegie Hall; the American Choral Directors Association Southern Region SSAA Honor Choir; Music and Worship Arts weeks in Lake Junaluska and Montreat; eleven all-state choirs; and service as chorus master for concerts with Opera Orlando and the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra. He has conducted multiple summers at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan and led the Florida Ambassadors of Music on performance tours of Europe. Dr. Minear's passion for expressive music-making has been cultivated through over two decades of work across children's, church, community, middle school, high school, collegiate, and professional choral settings.

Previously, Dr. Minear served as Director of Choral Activities at the University of Alabama, where he conducted the university choirs, oversaw the graduate choral conducting program, and taught courses in conducting and choral literature. Prior to joining the Alabama faculty, he earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from Michigan State University, where he directed the MSU Campus Choir and served as Assistant Director of the MSU Men's Glee Club. He was named a Michigan State University Distinguished Fellow, and his doctoral research focused on graduate choral literature curricula and pedagogy.

Over fourteen years in the Orlando-area public schools, including six years as Choral Director at Dr. Phillips High School—the Visual and Performing Arts Magnet program for Orange County Public Schools—his students were selected more than 180 times for Florida All-State and ACDA Honor Choirs. Cora Bella, the advanced SSAA choir, performed to critical acclaim at the 2011 State, 2012 Southern Region, and 2013 National Conferences of the American Choral Directors Association.

SANDRA SHAFER |
HARMONIA CONDUCTOR



Sandra Shafer is the Director of Choirs at her alma mater Apopka High School and has twice been named "Teacher of the Year" at Liberty Middle School (2014) and Apopka High School (2022). Student choirs under her direction have consistently received Superior Ratings at District Music Performance Assessment as well as toured throughout the United States. Most recently, Apopka High School's Treble Choir "Belles" was invited to perform at the 2021 Florida Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. Sandra is also the conductor for the newly formed SSAA ensemble, **Harmonia, with Orlando Sings**, and sings with the **Solaria Singers** and **Symphonic Chorus with Orlando Sings.**

Sandra is an active conductor, clinician and adjudicator throughout Florida, and has presented sessions at conferences of the Florida Music Educators Association and the Florida Vocal Association. She serves as the social media chair for both FL ACDA and Southern ACDA and is an active member of ACDA, FMEA and FVA. Sandra holds a bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education from Stetson University in DeLand, FL.



LEDEAN WILLIAMS |
REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST/ ORGAN

Ledean Williams is a collaborative pianist who performs throughout Central Florida alongside singers, choirs, and instrumentalists in solo recitals, choral ensembles, musical theatre productions, and church services. She frequently serves as an accompanist for school choral programs and has appeared with numerous honor choirs at state, regional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and Florida Music Education Association. She is also on faculty with Summer Performing Arts with Juilliard. Previously, Ledean served as staff accompanist for the Eastern Shore Choral Society, The Orlando Chorale, and Orlando Choral Society.



ZACHARY PECORE | APOLLO CONDUCTOR

Zachary Pecore, originally from Niceville, Florida, currently serves as the Director of Choirs at East River High School here in Orlando. He has consistently earned excellent and superior rating with his choirs both at the middle and high school level. A graduate from the Florida State University (FSU) with his bachelor's in choral music education, Zach immediately moved down to Orlando after graduating to experience the City Beautiful and the thriving arts scene that it has to offer. He has performed with several professional arts organizations in Orlando, and is excited to be returning to Orlando Sings for their second season as the tenor section leader.

Zach is an active member of the Florida Music Education Association (FMEA), Florida Vocal Association (FVA), American Choral Director's Association (ACDA), and is a past recipient of the Southern Division ACDA Colleen Kirk Award. Zach has served as the All-County Choir chair for Orange County Public Schools (OCPS), the head counseling and dorm supervisor for FSU Summer Music Camps, and is the current OCPS district chair for FVA.

BRIANNA MARTIN | YOUTH CHORAL ARTISTS DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR



Brianna Martin is a choral professional in the Orlando area with a passion for music education and singing. She is the chorus director at Timber Springs Middle School, where she enjoys working with her choirs, music directing the theatre program, and collaborating with other arts departments. Under her direction, Solare, the advanced treble choir at TSMS, was selected to perform at the 2025 FLACDA Fall Conference and was named a 2026 Bach Choir of Distinction.

As a lifelong choral music lover, she grew up participating in Lumina Youth Choirs, formerly known as Gulf Coast Youth Choirs, and since her 2021 graduation from Florida State University has enjoyed singing with various groups around Florida, including the **Orlando Sings Symphonic Chorus** and **Harmonia**. In her free time, she loves attending live music events of all kinds, enjoying nature, cooking for her friends, and cuddling her pup.

Brianna is extremely excited to embark on this new journey with Orlando Sings and hopes to inspire young singers through music.



ALEX POLLARD | YOUTH CHORAL ARTISTS CONDUCTOR

Alex Pollard, an Orlando native, serves as the Director of Choral Activities at Boone High School. Under his baton, the Boone High School choral ensembles have achieved sustained artistic excellence—earning consistent Superior ratings at district and state Music Performance Assessments (MPA) and receiving featured performance invitations from the Florida American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Notably, Boone's pop a cappella ensemble, Vocality, has earned regional and national acclaim from Varsity Vocals as one of Florida's premier high school contemporary a cappella groups. His choirs have graced prominent stages across Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, SeaWorld, and New York City.

In addition to his scholastic leadership, Alex serves as a Music Director at the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, contributing his expertise to their summer youth musical theater productions. Most notably, he served as Music Director for the inaugural Florida Musical Theatre Summer Intensive (FMTI), guiding top-tier student performers through rigorous vocal preparation and high-caliber musical production.

Beyond the podium, Alex is an influential voice in choral pedagogy as the creator and host of the Choirwire Podcast, delivering high-level insights on the art of teaching choir to music educators nationwide.

An accomplished vocalist, Alex serves as Section Leader for the **Orlando Sings Symphonic Choir**, having performed with the organization since its inaugural season. His professional singing career encompasses elite vocal ensembles across Central Florida, most notably the Solaria Singers and the premier a cappella group Voices of Liberty at EPCOT.

A sought-after clinician and adjudicator, Alex maintains active professional memberships with the ACDA, the Florida Vocal Association, and the Florida Music Educators Association. He holds both a Bachelor of Choral Music Education and a Master of Music Education from The Florida State University, where he studied under the mentorship of Dr. Judy Bowers, Dr. Kevin Fenton, and Dr. André Thomas.

ERIKA VASALLO |
MEZZO SOPRANO SOLOIST FOR MISATANGO



Erika Vasallo is an expressive, multifaceted Cuban-American mezzo-soprano born and raised in Miami, Florida. As a dynamic singing actor, she brings a diverse range of characters to life with passion and precision. Whether Erika is delving into the dramatic depths of opera repertoire or soaring through the rich textures of concert and oratorio works, her versatility shines through. A recent Studio Artist with Opera Orlando, Erika has also performed with St. Pete Opera, Opera Memphis, Finger Lakes Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Taconic Opera, Magic City Opera, Orchestra Miami, Opera Fusion, and Gran Teatro Nacional de la Habana among others.

This fall, Erika is thrilled to join **Orlando Sings** as the Alto Soloist in Martín Palmeri's Misa a Buenos Aires (Misatango). In December, she is excited to be singing with Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church as the Alto Soloist for their performance of Handel's Messiah. Erika will also sing in Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church's Christmas Spectacular Concert.

In the summer, Erika joined Opera Orlando, in partnership with the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation, for their Patriotism on Plant: A Musical Journey Celebrating America's 250th Concert. She also performed with Orchestra Miami for their Neue Musik – Art Nouveau Music in Germany Concert, where she sang lieder by Alma Mahler and Gustav Mahler. In the spring, she performed as the Alto Soloist in Pergolesi's Stabat Mater with Central Presbyterian Church. During the 2025-26 season, Erika made her company debut with St. Pete Opera as the cover for Mrs. Ott and a member of the chorus in their production of Carlisle Floyd's Susannah. She performed a cover run with the cover cast and also sang in St. Pete Opera's Broadway Cabaret Concert. Additionally, Erika has been named a semi-finalist in the Camille Coloratura Awards Competition. In the fall, she made her debut with The Florida Orchestra as the Alto Soloist in Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, followed by appearances as the Alto Soloist in Magic City Opera's Christmas Concert and a return engagement with Masterworks Chorus of the Palm Beaches for their annual performance of Handel's Messiah. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements as her 2026-27 season unfolds.



EMMANUEL TRIFILIO | BANDONEONIST

International bandoneonist and prolific tango composer, Argentinian **Emmanuel Trifilio** brings a fresh perspective to the traditional tango sound, both in performance and composition. Now based in Washington, D.C., Sr. Trifilio's career began as bandoneon soloist at venues such as the famous Cafe Tortoni in Buenos Aires. After establishing himself as an accomplished performer in Argentina, he was invited to join the Los Inmigrantes Tango Orchestra, which soon after won Buenos Aires's annual tango orchestra contest. Sr. Trifilio's career expanded across South America when he was invited to tour Chile with Maestro Tato Finocci.

Sr. Trifilio then traveled to Europe for booked performances; after extended residencies in Italy, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, he settled in the U.S. He has since appeared, as soloist, on the main stages of Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and Lincoln Center with small and large ensembles including the Choral Arts Society of Washington and National Philharmonic Orchestra. Sr. Trifilio has also been featured by Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, Pan American Symphony Orchestra, Endless Mountains Music Festival Orchestra, and Florida International University Orchestra and Chorus. He will appear with South Carolina Philharmonic in 2017, performing Astor Piazzolla's Concerto for Bandoneon.

Sr. Trifilio regularly performs with chamber group QuinTango, and collaborated as arranger and bandoneonist on their 2014 album Tango Lovers. He can be heard with esteemed cellist Gautier Capuçon on the soundtrack of the short film Le Petit Nuage. He toured to New Orleans and Lincoln Center with the Octavio Brunetti Tango Orchestra, traveled with the internationally-acclaimed band Otros Aires as solo bandoneonist in their 2014 U.S. tour, and performed with Alejandro Ziegler Quartet in their 2016 U.S.-Canada tour.

In addition to solo performing and arranging, Sr. Trifilio composes and presents original tangos with various ensembles across the East Coast. The world premiere of his Tango Suite No. 1: Five movements for Bandoneon, Cello, and Guitar, was featured at the Embassy of Argentina as part of Pan American Symphony Orchestra's 2015 Tango Festival. A founding member of New York Tango 6, a traditional tango sextet dedicated to premiering new tango works, Sr. Trifilio performed world premieres of several of his works at the group's debut concert. He is currently composing new works for the venerated bandoneonist Daniel Binelli.

Founded in 2015, his Trifilio Tango Trio presents virtuosic programs of all new and original tango music by Sr. Trifilio. Bandoneon, cello, and guitar, TTT has recorded two albums of Sr. Trifilio's original tangos and tours internationally. "Milonga de la Ausencia," from their first album, Original, is featured on the short film "Vuelve con nosotros," and was nominated for Best Original Score at MOFF Film Festival in Milan, 2016. TTT's booked appearances for 2017-2018 include D.C., NYC, San Francisco, Richmond, Havana, Miami, Houston, Denver, and Buenos Aires.

UPCOMING EVENTS





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A SOLARIA SOLSTICE

ORLANDO SINGS

Solaria Singers

DECEMBER 21, 2026 | 8PM

Orlando Museum of Art