MISSOURI CHORAL ARTISTS

Season Finale Concert

This Place

The power of intention, of being present, of holding space.
This program is designed to honor this place—the here and now, the present moment we share together through music.

Guest Conductor
Dr. Marques Jerrell Ruff

About Missouri Choral Artists

Missouri Choral Artists is a professional ensemble dedicated to creating intimate, innovative choral experiences that bring together exceptional singers with deep ties to Missouri and the surrounding region.

With a focus on artistic excellence and collaboration, MCA reimagines the traditional choral model by bringing artists together for focused project-based performances, allowing each program to be shaped by a unique blend of voices and perspectives.

Through thoughtfully curated repertoire and dynamic guest collaborations, Missouri Choral Artists seeks to create meaningful musical experiences that invite audiences to listen deeply, connect fully, and share in the transformative power of choral music.

Guest Conductor: Dr. Marques Jerrell Ruff

Marques Jerrell Ruff is an international musician and passionate music educator hailing from New England. He has been a featured soloist with numerous organizations, including the New World Symphony, National Chorus of Korea, Tallahassee Symphony, and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. The Hartford Courant marveled, “Ruff has a voice that has power, clarity, and brilliant shades of color.” Marques has also performed with several choral ensembles including the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Seraphic Fire, Conspirare, Exigence, and Chanticleer.

Marques earned his undergraduate degree from Central Connecticut State University, dual Master of Music degrees in Choral conducting and Voice Performance from the University of Missouri, and a Ph.D. in Music Education with an emphasis in Choral Conducting from Florida State University. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Vocal Music Education and the Associate Director of Choral Activities at Arkansas State University.

He can be found on all social media @marquesjruff

I. The Space We Enter

Locus iste — A. Bruckner
Sanctus — O. Gjeilo
Ave Maris Stella — J. Sabaté

II. Voices Gathered

Psalm 100 — F. Mendelssohn
Jesu dulcis memoria — T. Victoria

Intermission

III. Holding Space

With a Lily in Your Hand — E. Whitacre
Not One Sparrow — W. Hawley
Precious Lord — arr. N. Carter

IV. Awakening

The Unexpected Early Hour — R. Esmail
Light of a Clear Blue Morning — arr. C. H. Johnson
I Have Had Singing — R. Jeffers

Ensemble Roster

Sopranos
Brylan Finley
Amanda Hake
Taylor Herzog
Anna Mandina
Bethanie Ward

Altos
Krista Childs
Katie Crawford
Michal Dameron
Michaela Lovig

Tenors
Stewart Duncan
Reid Van Engen
JW Keckley
Tanner Munson
John Wilkins

Basses
Kelly Garrison
Zach Reece
Nick Stoppel
Asher Tillman
Blair Walker