

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2022

19 Wednesday	7:30 PM	Concert Choir, FUMC
28, Friday	4:00 PM	Recital Hour, SJEC

November 2022

4, Friday	7:30 PM	Noëlle's Piano Recital, ST
11, Friday	7:30 PM	Concert Band, ST
16, Wednesday	7:30 PM	Vocal Studio Recital, ST
18, Friday	4:00 PM	Instru. Studio Recital, ST
19, Saturday	TBA	Tuba Christmas, TBA
29, Tuesday	6:30 PM	SRSU Tree Lighting, UC
30, Wednesday	7:30 PM	SRSU Holiday Concert, MA

All student solo recitals are free and open to the public

FUMC = First United Methodist Church, Alpine

MA = Marshall Auditorium

SJEC = St. James Episcopal Church, Alpine

ST = Studio Theatre

UC = SRSU University Center

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Sul Ross Music Program wishes to thank
the following people and organizations:

Music Program Student Workers

Brandy Cunningham — Secretary of Fine Arts and Communication

Prof. Marjorie Scott — Chair of Fine Arts and Communication

Department

Candes Ramon — Campus Activities Coordinator

SRSU Music Club

Big Bend Community Chorale

Victor Romero and the SRSU Physical Plant

SRSU Custodial Staff

Audience members are reminded to silence alarm watches and cellular phones before the performance. As a matter of courtesy and copyright law, no unauthorized recording or photography is allowed in the hall.

Please do not bring food or drinks into any performance venue.



Music Program presents

SRSU Concert Choir

“The River”

Andrew D. Alegría, *conductor*

Lana Potts, *piano*

Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 7:30 PM
First United Methodist Church of Alpine, Texas

WELCOME

I am delighted to share with you our first fall choral ensemble concert entitled “The River”. We have had an amazing start of the semester with several new music majors and non-music majors joining the SRSU Concert Choir. This choral program is a journey down the Mississippi River towards the River Delta in New Orleans, LA. It was not until my days at LSU when I witness the Mississippi River for the first time. I was amazed at the majestic size of the river and the power the river had on the Louisiana community.

The program opens with “Waitin' for the Light to Shine” from *Big River*, a musical adaptation of Mark Twains novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The music begins with the sunlight peering over the Mississippi River as day breaks. Starting off slow and hymn-like, Roger Miller transitions the tune into a fast gospel feel. *Dindirin, dindirin*, a 15th century secular motet, is a song in a mixture of Old French and Catalan and would have been composed in the region of Roussillon near the Mediterranean Sea. The motet describes a morning walk alongside the river and a nightingale telling a story of love & marriage.

Oh Happy Day (1755), a gospel hymn by Edwin Hawkins describes Jesus washing the sins away through the purification of the water. But although water can be a sign of joy, the Mississippi River has had its problems with flooding. In December of 1926, an excessive amount of rain caused the river to overflow in both Louisiana and Mississippi. Years later, Newman’s song Louisiana 1927, describes the devastation of the floodwaters. The song reemerged in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina landed in New Orleans, becoming a symbol of those affected by the flooding.

But for those that live near the river, they know that the water will recede. In Charles Tindley’s hymn, *The Storm Is Passing Over* (1905), the hymn provides encouragement to all who are trouble and confidence that soon their troubles will pass. “Hallelujah!” It is truly in those hard times when neighbors come together. In the 1945 song, *You’ll Never Walk Alone* composed by Richard Rogers, the words speaks of the power that a community can bring during hard times.

After a storm passes, rainbows are a depiction of better things to come. In *The Rainbow Connection* (1979) the song expresses its love of the rainbow and an understanding that our trouble times are behind us. Compose specifically for *The Muppet Movie*, Kermit the Frog sings on what is to be the swamps near the Mississippi River. As the river moves towards the Gulf of Mexico, the murky waters brings forth joy and celebration. In Rodger Miller’s “Muddy Water”, from *Big River*, the mixture of both gospel and bluegrass music culminates into a thrilling journey as the water rushes down towards the Mississippi River Delta.

♪♪ ADA ♪♪

Giving to the Sul Ross State University Music Program

* **Band Excellence** and **Music Excellence** funds are designated for student scholarships and program development. These funds are used to assist students majoring in music and/or performing in the university ensembles. Scholarships are based on both merit and need, and are awarded to vocal, guitar, and piano students (Music Excellence) or wind and percussion students (Band Excellence). Donations to the scholarship funds can help developing musicians reach their potential.

* The **Rex Wilson Choral Endowment** is in memory of Dr. Rex Wilson, Professor of music from 1976 to 2005. For 29 years he conducted the Sul Ross Concert Choir and taught classical vocal lessons. Donations to this endowment will provide scholarships to vocal majors.

* The **Dorthy Haines Music Endowment** was established in 2006 to continue the music traditions of SRSU Music Program. Mrs. Haines graduated with a Bachelor and Master Degree in Music from SRSU. Donations to this endowment will provide scholarships to all music students.

The resources for the above funds are largely dependent on donor support. We rely on the generous support of patrons like you to continue to make the SRSU Music Program a success.

Contributions can be made in person at the departmental office in the Francois Fine Arts Building room 106, or by mail to

Sul Ross State University
Box C-43
Alpine, Texas 79832

Please designate to which fund you would like your donations applied. Please make checks payable to “SRSU Music Program.”

Lana Cartlidge Potts holds the following degrees: B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin, J.D. from Columbia University, and M.A.T. in Choral Music from Trinity University. She also studied piano, organ, and composition at Baylor University, the University of Houston, and The University of Texas at San Antonio. Lana worked for several years as an estate planning and probate attorney and volunteered in immigration law clinics.

Lana has directed and accompanied ensembles and soloists in schools, churches, and universities throughout Texas. She was the Director of Worship, Music & Arts and the Organist for many years at Travis Park Church in downtown San Antonio. At SRSU, she has served on the Fine Arts faculty in both full-time and part-time capacities, accompanying student, faculty and guest recitals. She was the keyboardist for the following productions: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *Nunsense*; *The Fantasticks*; *Cabaret*; *Spamalot*; *Spring Awakening*; *Annie Get Your Gun*; *Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*; *Into the Woods*; *Assassins*; *The Pirates of Penzance*; *Xanadu*; and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Various schools, churches and universities have performed her choral compositions, and the Texas UIL Prescribed Music List includes some of her compositions.

Choral Ensemble Program

Andrew Alegría, *conductor*

Lana Potts, *accompanist*

<i>Waitin' for the Light to Shine</i>	Rodger Miller (1936–1992) arr. Mark Brymer
<i>Dindirín, dindirín</i>	Anonymous (c. 1500)
<i>Oh Happy Day</i>	Edwin R. Hawkins (1943–2018)
	Tyren Dews, <i>baritone</i>
<i>Louisiana 1927</i>	Randy Newman (b. 1943) arr. Jay Althouse
	Muriel Cotman, <i>mezzo-soprano</i> Justin Hinton, <i>tenor</i> Jose Flores, <i>clarinet</i>
<i>Storm Is Passing Over</i>	Charles Albert Tindley (1851–1933) arr. Barbara W. Baker
<i>You'll Never Walk Alone</i>	Richard Rodgers (1902–1979) arr. William Stickles
	Noëlle Karleen, <i>mezzo-soprano</i>
<i>The Rainbow Connection</i>	Williams/Ascher (b. 1944) arr. Hawley Ades
	Kaitlin Blalack, <i>student conductor</i>
<i>Muddy Water</i>	Rodger Miller (1936–1992) arr. John Leavitt
	Muriel Cotman, <i>mezzo-soprano</i> Justin Hinton, <i>tenor</i>

Concert Choir Roster

Andrew Alegría, *conductor*

Lana Potts, *accompanist*

soprano

Kaitlin Blalack - Horizon, TX
Rio Malam Deluca - Kerrville, TX
Carol Fairlie - Alpine, TX ‡
Jenna Reyes - Alpine, TX

alto

Muriel Cotman - Cuero, TX
Kelsie C. Hines - Abilene, TX
Noëlle Karleen - Alpine, TX
Ember Rutledge - Bellville, TX

tenor

Acey Elliott - Alpine, TX
Jorge Gonzalez Jr. - Houston, TX
Justin Hinton - Conroe, TX
Cristian Sanchez - Uvalde, TX

bass

Tyler Cruz - Zarata, TX
Tyren Dews - Orange, TX
Matthew Nuñez - Monahans, TX
Raul Rios - Presidio, TX

‡ SRSU Faculty or Staff

PERSONNEL

Andrew Alegría is an accomplished musician, choral director, soloist, and teacher. In 1998, he was accepted to Baylor University, where he furthered his music education. Dr. Alegría graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Music in Church Music. After graduation, he moved to Houston, Texas, where he taught private music lessons, sang with the Houston Grand Opera, and was the Director of Music Ministry at Westminster United Methodist Church.

His passion for music took him to New Mexico, where he studied under Prof. Bradley Ellingboe at the University of New Mexico. In 2012, he graduated with a Master of Music with distinction. While in New Mexico he stepped in during Professor Ellingboe's 2013 sabbatical as a Lecturer of Music and conducted the University Chorus and UNM Opera Chorus. While teaching at the university, he conducted several professional choral ensembles including Coro de Cámara, in Santa Fe, New Mexico; a children's chorus affiliated with the New Mexico Philharmonic Orchestra; and several musical theater companies in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Alegría also had the pleasure of conducting the Prague Orchestra and University of New Mexico Chorus at Dvořák Hall in Prague, Czech Republic.

Dr. Alegría completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts at Louisiana State University under Dr. John Dickson. His dissertation is on Ariel Ramírez's *Misa por la Paz y la Justicia*. While in Louisiana, he was the Director of Music Ministry at First United Methodist Church and Music Director at Ascension Community Theatre in Gonzales, Louisiana. Prior to moving to Alpine, he was an Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. While at Clarke University, he conducted the Collegiate Singers, Cantabile, Melos, and the Clarke Chamber Orchestra. He also taught voice lessons and lectured on American music history.

Currently, Dr. Alegría is the Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Studies at Sul Ross. At SRSU he conducts the Concert Choir and Musical Theatre Ensemble, teaches private voice, and lectures on vocal technique. He is also the artistic director of the Big Bend Community Chorale and the Big Bend Children's Chorus.