

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

18, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, SRSU Band, CC
28, Saturday, 7:30 PM, Avenue Q, MCS \$
29, Sunday, 2:00 PM, Avenue Q, MCS \$

April

3, Friday, 7:30 PM, Avenue Q, MCS \$
4, Saturday, 7:30 PM, Avenue Q, MCS \$
5, Sunday, 2:00 PM, Avenue Q, MCS \$
10, Friday, 7:30 PM, Avenue Q, MCS \$
11, Saturday, 7:30 PM, Avenue Q, MCS \$
17, Friday, 7:30 PM, Faculty Tuba Recital, TBA
24, Friday, 7:30 PM, Choir Concert, FUMC
27, Monday, 7:30 PM, Music Program Recital, ST
28, Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Band Concert, MA
29, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Voice Studio Recital, ST

All student solo recitals are free and open to the public
Concerts/Performances marked with \$ are ticketed
Tickets may be purchased by calling 432-837-8218

CC = Alpine Civic Center
MA = Marshall Auditorium
MCS = Motion Capture Sound Stage
ST = Studio Theatre

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

Choral Ensemble “Cirque des Voix!”

Andrew Alegría, *conductor*
Steve Bennack, *piano*

Friday, February 28, 2020, 7:30 PM
Sul Ross State University
Marshall Auditorium

WELCOME

I am delighted to share with you our first spring choral ensemble concert. The program is entitled “Cirque les voix!” which is French for “Circus of Voices.” I remember my parents taking me to the circus. Seeing the entertainers and animals and hearing all the music was an amazing spectacle. In my child-like wonder I could not believe the beauty of the performance.

The program opens with an excerpt by Julius Fučík entitled *Entrance of the Gladiators*. This music became famous around the world as a way to introduce entertainers. While Fučík provides the grand entrance, Charles Ives’ *Circus Band* is from the perspective of the audience member watching the parade.

The show opens with three songs that showcase the entertainers in a circus. Cole Porter’s “Another Op’nin, Another Show” is one of the most popular tunes from *Kiss Me, Kate*. The song is sung by a cast of theatrical singers who perform in different cities around the U.S. *Lydia, the Tattooed Lady*, by Harold Arlen, became popular in the 1930s. Groucho Marx is known to have used this song as one of his signature tunes, and it appeared in his movie *At the Circus* (1939). In 1948, the film *The Pirate* featured “Be a Clown” by Cole Porter. The song became a hit with Gene Kelly and Judy Garland singing the song at the end of the movie.

Seeing the animals at the circus is always a highlight of the evening. These next four songs express the comedic side of choral singing through animal sounds. Adriano Banchieri’s *Capricciata e Contraponto bestiale alla mente* is a renaissance song that puts the sounds of the animals into a musical counterpoint. Eric Whitacre’s “The Panther” and “The Cow” are part of his choral set *Animal Crackers*. The set is a child’s imagination of the animals at a zoo or circus. *Duetto buffo di due gatti* is a duet for two treble voices that mimics the sounds of cats having a conversation. The work was composed by Gioachino Rossini as a comical song for two of his friends.

The final set is about the overall amazement of being at the circus. Stephen Schwartz’s “One Short Day,” from *Wicked*, portrays all the excitement of new surroundings. Ascher and Williams’s *The Rainbow Connection* express amazement at all the different colors through the song. Both Meredith Willson’s *Seventy-Six Trombones* and George Gershwin’s *Strike Up the Band* allow the listener to hear the different instrumental sounds during a visit to the circus.

DONOR LIST SPONSORSHIP

**this list includes the names of the individuals who donated in 2019*

Fermata

Ellen Boyd
Pam Breithaupt
First United Methodist Church, Alpine

Arpeggio

Mary Beth and Hugh Garrett

Crescendo

Sheila Ann Ness and Luana Kay Newman

Cadence

Ada and Richard Alegría
Samuel E. Davis
Linda K. Hedges
Bennye Meredith
Barbara Richerson *in memory of* Dr. Jim V. Richerson
Gary ("Silver") Schmidt
Sue Zukowski *in memory of* Martin Hammer

Grace Note

Imogene and Howard Chamberlain

Donor Levels:

Fermata (\$1,000 or more)

Arpeggio (\$500 or more)

Crescendo (\$250 or more)

Cadence (\$100 or more)

Grace Note (under \$100)

Giving to the Sul Ross State University Music Program

* Concert Artist Series contributions help fund the guest artist program, which brings musicians to the area for public performances and interactions with our music program students and faculty.

* 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 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 scholarship to vocal students beginning in fall 2020.

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."

Choral Ensemble Program

Andrew Alegría, *conductor*
Steve Bennack, *accompanist*

Welcome

Entrance of the Gladiators op. 68 (excerpt) Julius Fučík
(1872–1916)

Beth Krezee, *piano*

Circus Band Charles Ives
(1874–1954)

Steve Bennack and Beth Krezee, *four-hand piano*
Sul Ross Cheer Team



Entertainers

Another Op'nin', Another Show from *Kiss Me, Kate* Cole Porter
(1891–1964)
arr. Howard Cable
(1920–2016)

Lydia, the Tattooed Lady Harold Arlen
(1905–1986)
arr. Jay Althouse
(b. 1951)

Be a Clown Cole Porter
arr. Greg Gilpin
(b. 1964)



Animals

Capricciata e Contrappunto bestiale alla mente Adriano Banchieri
(1568–1634)

Animal Crackers
The Panther
The Cow

Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)

Sul Ross Cheer Team
Valerie Ortiz, *captain*
Antuan Washington, *faculty advisor*

Duetto buffo di due gatti

Gioachino Rossini
(1792–1868)

Crystal Baeza
Maggie Bange
Paola Gutierrez
Janelle Molinar
Jazmine Nieto
Jessica Noriega
Valerie Ortiz
Skie Vega
Isela Velez
Camryn Weaver

Treble Choir



Amazement

One Short Day from *Wicked*

Stephen Schwartz
(b. 1948)
arr. Rodger Emerson
(b. 1950)

April Crowder, *soprano*
Emma Morales, *mezzo-soprano*
Treble Choir

The Rainbow Connection

Paul Williams / Kenny Ascher
(b. 1940) (b. 1944)
arr. Hawley Ades
(1908–2008)

Seventy-six Trombones from *The Music Man*

Meredith Willson
(1902–1984)
arr. Clay Warnick
(1915–1995)



Closer

Strike up the Band

George Gershwin
(1898–1937)
arr. Kirby Shaw
(b. 1942)

Concert Choir Roster

Andrew Alegría, *conductor*
Steve Bennack, *accompanist*

soprano

Kaitlin Blalack - Horizon, TX
April Crowder - Presidio, TX
Carol Fairlie - Sleepy Hollow, NY ‡
Jessica Magallanes - El Paso, TX
Ashley Picon - Houston, TX

mezzo-soprano

Mayben Alexander - Bertram, TX
Kelsie C. Hines - Abilene, TX
Emma Morales - Uvalde, TX
Jennifer Miller-Ray - Stephenville, TX ‡
Justice Santa Cruz - Van Horn, TX
Marjie Scott - Oakland, CA ‡

tenor

Hunter Boxwell - Edna, TX
Jason Roman - Fort Davis, TX

bass

Omar Guerrero - Presidio, TX
Raul Rios - Presidio, TX

‡ SRSU Faculty or Staff

TRANSLATIONS

Capricciata e Contrappunto bestiale alla mente Bizarre Story and Contrapuntal Beasts of the Mind

Nobili spettatori, udrete or ora
quattro belli umori:
un cane, un gatto, un cucco, un chiù per spasso
far contrappunto bestiale alla mente sopra un basso

Dear listeners, you will now hear
four fine fellows:
a dog, a cat, a cuckoo, an owl for fun,
to make an amusing counterpoint on a bass.

Basso: Nulla fides gobbis,
similiter est zoppis;
si sguerzus bonus
est super annalia scribe.

Bass: Never trust hunchbacks,
Nor those who limp,
If a braggart is good,
Record it in the history books.

This poem is written in a mixture of
Latin and Italian words, which is
known as “Macaronic Italian.”
The story is to be ridiculous as
to how the language is written.

Duetto buffo di due gatti

Funny duet between two cats

Miau (Italian)

Meow (English)

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.

A longtime resident of Alpine, **Steven Bennack** has been an integral part of the Sul Ross Music faculty for 22 years. He is a multi-instrumentalist who has played in a wide range of styles: classical, rock 'n' roll, music theater, country, jazz, and blues. Steven received his B.A. from Sul Ross and continued his education at the University of North Texas, where he studied 3 semesters of jazz guitar with Jack Petersen and jazz improvisation with Mike Steinel and served as the guitarist for the 5:00 Lab Band for 2 semesters. His music theory professors included Dr. Gene Cho, Dr. Paul Dvorak, and Dr. Kevin Korsyn. Steven received his M.L.A. from Sul Ross in 2004.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Sul Ross Choral Ensemble wishes to thank the following people and organizations:

Valerie Ortiz - Captain of the Sul Ross Cheer Team
Sul Ross Cheer Team
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SRSU Custodial Staff