

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2021

15, Friday, 7:30 PM, Concert Band, Studio Theatre
29, Friday, 4:00 PM, Recital Hour, Studio Theatre

November 2021

17, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Concert Choir, St. James Episcopal Church
19, Friday, 4:00 PM, Recital Hour, Studio Theatre

December 2021

1, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Vocal Studio Recital, Studio Theatre
5, Sunday, 5:00 PM, Music Program Recital, Studio Theatre

All student solo recitals are free and open to the public



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

Anime Manga Club
Dr. Alicia Trotman, Anime Manga Club's Advisor
Music Program Student Workers
Prof. Marjorie Scott - Chair of Fine Arts 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

Choral Ensemble "Hero's Journey"

Andrew D. Alegría, *conductor*
Karrin Ford, *piano*

Friday, October 1, 2021, 7:30 PM
Sul Ross State University
Francois Fine Arts Building - Studio Theatre

WELCOME

I am delighted to share with you our first fall choral ensemble concert entitled “Hero’s Journey”. As a little kid I have always enjoyed playing video games. My favorite game to date is still “The Legend of Zelda”. This past summer, I bought *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*, as a way to relax. But, while exploring the vast world and completing each shrine and defeating all the divine beast, I was reminded of Joseph Campbell’s *The Hero’s Journey*.

This choral program is one person’s journey from the ordinary into the unknown, and back to the beginning. The program opens with an excerpt from Chris Rishel’s *Heroes Listen*. The music conveys that everyone is a hero in their own way, but in order to be a true hero all they have to do is listen. In Disney’s *Moana*, the protagonist must also listen, not only to what is in her heart, but also the listen to the needs of her people. *How Far I’ll Go* sets the journey of the hero into the unknown. Once the hero begins the call to adventure, they are aided by a mentor. *That’s What Friends Are For* sets the tone that although the mentor cannot go on the journey, the hero is not alone. The mentor is always inside the hero’s heart, mind, and spirit.

After the meeting with the mentor, the hero crosses the threshold into darkness. The late German Renaissance composer Hans Leo Hassler, describes the start of the journey of the hero by singing and dancing in his madrigal *Tanzen und springier* (Dancing and Leaping). It is at the entrance of the inmost cave that our hero hears the lost souls singing Rutter’s “Pie Jesu” from *Requiem*. Their words provide a message to those who enter, that if they should perish they will receive everlasting peaceful rest. It is during the ordeal that the hero must fight. Both “Be Prepared” from *The Lion King*, and “Holding Out for a Hero” from *Footloose the Musical*, showcases the struggle between hero and foe.

After defeating the enemy, the hero begins the journey back home. *Somewhere Out There* brings to light the idea that the hero hopes that their love ones are also thinking about them and that they are both looking up at the same big sky. As the hero returns home, the music concludes with the music of Chris Rishel’s *Heroes Listen*. The hero fully understands that in order to be a true hero all they must do is listen.

♪♪ ADA ♪♪

Karrin Ford is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Keyboard Studies at Sul Ross State University. She holds a Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in Organ from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and the PhD in Music History and Music Theory from the University of Connecticut. She has previously served as a full-time faculty member at Baylor University, Belmont University, and The University of The South. Named to Who’s Who in American Music, her articles have appeared in *The American Organist*, *Piano Quarterly*, *Galpin Society Journal*, *Journal of Church Music*, and *American Music Teacher*. Her compositions for piano, organ, and children's voices have been published by Broadman Press, Harold Flammer, Brentwood Press, and Jubilate Music Group. She has presented lectures and lecture/recitals at national and regional meetings of The American Guild of Organists, Music Teachers National Association, American Musicological Society, and The College Music Society. Her principal research interests include feminist musicology and compositions by women composers.

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 help developing musicians reach their potential.

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.

For contributions by mail:

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.”

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.

Choral Ensemble Program

Andrew Alegría, *conductor*

Karrin Ford, *accompanist*

Call to Adventure

Heroes Listen (excerpt)

arr. Chris Rishel
(b. 1989)

How Far I'll Go

Lin-Manuel Miranda
(b. 1980)
arr. Ed Lojeski

Meeting with the Mentor

That's What Friends Are For

Carole Sager & Burt Bacharach
(b. 1947) (b. 1928)
arr. John Higgins

Crossing the Threshold

Dancing and Leaping

Hans Leo Hassler
(1564–1612)

Jaina Brooks, *soprano*

Approach

from Requiem

Pie Jesu

John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Kaitlin Blalack, *soprano*

The Ordeal

from The Lion King
Be Prepared

Kelsie Hines, *mezzo-soprano*

Sir Elton John
(b. 1947)

from Footloose the Musical
Holding Out for A Hero

Emma Morales, *mezzo-soprano*
Treble Choir

Thomas Snow
(b. 1947)

The Road Back

Somewhere Out There James Horner, Barry Mann, & Cynthia Weil
(1953–2015) (b. 1939) (b. 1940)
arr. Ed Lojeski
Jenna Reyes, *soprano*

Heroes Listen (excerpt) arr. Chris Rishel
(b. 1989)



Concert Choir Roster

Andrew Alegría, *conductor*
Karrin Ford, *accompanist*

soprano

Kaitlin Blalack - Horizon, TX
Jenna Reyes - Alpine, TX
Jaina Brooks - Odessa, TX
Carol Fairlie - Sleepy Hollow, NY ‡

mezzo-soprano

Joanna Barnett - Los Fresnos, TX
Kelsie C. Hines - Abilene, TX
Noëlle Karleen - Alpine, TX
Emma Morales - Uvalde, TX
Ember Rutledge - Bellville, TX

tenor

Thomas Levire - Del Rio, TX
Val Shindel - Sanderson, TX

bass

Raul Rios - Presidio, TX
Jonatha Guerra - El Paso, TX

‡ SRSU Faculty or Staff

The 12 steps of the hero's journey are...

1. The Ordinary World
2. The Call of Adventure
3. Refusal of the Call
4. Meeting the Mentor
5. Crossing the First Threshold
6. Tests, Allies, Enemies
7. Approach
8. Ordeal, Death & Rebirth
9. Reward, Seizing the Sword
10. The Road Back
11. Resurrection
12. Return with the Elixir

